

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Eighth meeting of the Council

Abu Dhabi, 3-4 November 2014

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the progress made in the implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015 (A/4/DC/1), as reflected in the Director-General's progress report (C/8/2). The PSC also considered the Director-General's note on 'Financing of the Agency - strategy for the future' (C/8/CRP/1).

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 3 November 2014.

Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting

The main objective of this session was to review and discuss for the Council's consideration in its deliberation the progress made in the implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015. The following views and comments were made by participants.

Implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015

- The Secretariat informed of the progress made in the implementation of the biennial work programme and noted that achievements to date indicate that programme delivery is on track.
- The Secretariat expressed its gratitude for Members' participation in, and contribution to specific programmatic activities, and emphasised that Members' engagement strengthens the Agency's knowledge base and credibility of its work.
- The Secretariat noted that the Project Management Office (PMO) tool enables effective internal management, monitoring and evaluation, but stressed the importance of evaluation of the work of the Agency beyond the quantitative and financial reporting to assess the qualitative impact of its mandate, which will feature in reporting the biennial programme outcomes.
- The PSC welcomed visible progress made by IRENA and noted that the report reflects a level of maturity that the Agency is reaching.
- The PSC reflected on the Agency's flagship products of 2014, including REmap 2030, REthinking Energy, and Jobs Annual Review and commended the high quality of publications.
- The PSC expressed its satisfaction with the Agency's contribution to key global events in 2014, such as the Climate Summit and the Third International Conference of Small

Island Developing States in Samoa, and encouraged further participation in global debate on diverse issues to promote the use and deployment of renewable energy.

- The PSC supported the Secretariat's focus on the qualitative assessment of the impact of the programmatic activities which will assist in a long-term evaluation of the Agency's work.
- The PSC welcomed the transparency in reporting on the status of deliverables, including clear identification of those subject to voluntary funding, and encouraged Members to provide additional voluntary contributions for deliverables that are not yet funded.

Options for future funding for IRENA

The objective of this session was to enable early engagement of Members in discussions on future financing in the context of the preparation of the Work Programme 2016-2017 and in determining programmatic priorities and corresponding budgetary envelope.

- The Secretariat noted that the draft framework for 2016-2017 work programme and budget will be submitted at the 9th meeting of the Council for its consideration to guide programmatic orientation and the level of ambition for funding for 2016-2017.
- The PSC recognised the growing membership of the Agency, widening scope of the programmatic work and the need for in-depth follow up on the existing activities will have an impact on the resources required in the core budget.
- The PSC noted the dynamic nature of the sector and emerging priorities, such as the climate change debate, and stressed the importance of determining the areas that need to be funded by the core budget and those that could be resourced, in part or fully, through voluntary and other contributions.
- The PSC welcomed the Secretariat's proposal for a greater engagement of Members in the implementation of the Work Programme, including through the in-kind provision of expert advice and other support.
- The PSC encouraged exploration of the avenues to further engage the private sector, while ensuring the Agency's independence and impartiality.
- The PSC noted that the resource mobilisation strategy should be developed in parallel with the development of the next biennial work programme.
- The Secretariat noted that informal consultations will take place under auspices of the President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council, with support of the PSC Chair, with the view to further developing of the financing options for IRENA and development of the work programme and budget for 2016-2017.