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Eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA
3 – 4 November 2014, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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Report of the eighth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. The eighth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 3 and 4 November 2014. The meeting was attended by 20 Council members: Cameroon, Cyprus, France, Greece, Grenada, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Tonga, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Uruguay; as well as four alternates: Fiji, Germany, New Zealand and Poland. Also in attendance were 67 other IRENA Members and other countries.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the seventh meeting of the Council of IRENA, Dr. Ramon Mendez of Uruguay, opened the meeting on Monday, 3 November 2014.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

(a) Election of officials

3. At the end of its seventh meeting, the Council had designated Uruguay as Chair and India as Vice-Chair of the eighth meeting of the Council.

4. The Council elected by acclamation Mr Ramón Méndez of Uruguay as Chair, and Mr Upendra Tripathy of India as Vice-Chair of the eighth meeting of the Council.

5. The Chair appointed Malaysia as Rapporteur of the eighth meeting of the Council.

(b) Adoption of the agenda (C/8/1)

6. The Council considered and adopted the provisional agenda for its eighth meeting (C/8/L.1).

(c) Report of the seventh meeting of the Council (C/7/SR/1)

7. The Secretariat noted that one delegation had requested a change to part of the draft Report of the seventh meeting of the Council under Agenda Item 5(a), the Programmatic Discussions of 'REmap 2030 – A Global Renewable Energy Roadmap', on page 10, second sentence, paragraph 61. As distributed, referring to a representative of France, that sentence stated: 'The representative mentioned the importance of using REmap in international policy discussions such as in the context of European Union 2020 goals or in the G20 arena.' The Secretariat noted that France proposed to change this sentence to the following (changes indicated in italics): 'The representative mentioned the importance of using *REmap results to carry a more positive message about the potentials of renewable energy* in international policy discussions such as in the context of European Union 2020 goals or in the G20 arena.'

8. The Council approved the draft 'Report of the seventh meeting of the Council' (C/7/SR/L.1), as amended orally.

9. The Council Chair drew attention to the approval process for the report of the eighth Council meeting, and noted that, pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Council shall approve its reports in order for them to become official. He also informed that previous reports of the Council had been approved at the subsequent Council meeting. Since, at its ninth meeting, the Council may not have the same composition as for its eighth meeting, the Council Chair proposed a modified approval process for the report of the eighth meeting of the Council. He proposed that the Secretariat, immediately upon approval by the Rapporteur and the Chair, would make the draft report of the eighth Council meeting available to all Members of the Agency. Following the transmission of the draft report to all Members of the Agency, the members of the Council would have 15 days to review the draft report. If no objection is received from Council members within the prescribed deadline, the report would be considered to be adopted.

10. The Council endorsed the approval process for the report of the eighth meeting of the Council as outlined orally and agreed to proceed accordingly.

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget (C/8/2)

11. The Director-General opened by welcoming delegations to the eighth meeting of the Council and extended congratulations to the Chair and Vice-Chair for their election. He presented his Progress Report for the 8th Council of IRENA (C/8/2) and reflected on the Agency's achievements to date, noting that the report would be updated prior to its presentation at the Assembly. The Progress Report highlights included

- a) the delivery of nearly 40 programmatic activities around the globe as part of IRENA's work programme implementation and knowledge dissemination strategy;
- b) additional Renewables Readiness Assessments conducted in 2014 to bring the total to 22 countries; and
- c) growth in Agency membership to 135 Members with 36 in the process of accession, and 26 accredited Permanent Representatives.

12. The Director-General highlighted a number of programmatic achievements, such as the launch of IRENA's first institutional publication 'REthinking Energy', the launch of the REmap 2030 report and subsequent REmap country reports and the Jobs annual review for 2014. He also noted IRENA's

contributions to important events, such as the Renewable Energy Forum, which took place prior to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the UN Climate Summit where two programmatic activities were presented, namely, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the Africa Clean Energy Corridor.

13. The Director-General provided an overview of the current staffing situation. He thanked Ms Gauri Singh, the outgoing Director of the Country Support and Partnerships (CSP) Division, for her commitment and service to the Agency since its inception. He noted with thanks the voluntary contributions received to date, expressing his gratitude to those Members who provided additional voluntary contributions since the Assembly, including Belgium, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand and Norway. The Director-General assured Members that the Agency would continue to strive to detail in a more impact-oriented manner the delivery of IRENA programmatic activities as it seeks to advance its mission to accelerate deployment of renewables worldwide. Finally, the Director-General, further noted, that, by the end of this biennial work programme, an evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of the work programme will be conducted.

14. Lord Tu'ivakanō, Prime Minister of Tonga, noted that this marked Tonga's last year as a Council member and expressed his thanks for the support and assistance provided.

15. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), Mr Martin Schoepe of Germany, reported on the Committee meeting held the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/8/CRP/2 for a full account of the meeting. He noted that the PSC recognised progress made in the implementation of the biennial Work Programme and that achievements to date indicate that programme delivery is on track. He added that the Committee reflected on the Agency's flagship products of this year, commended the high quality of publications, expressed its satisfaction with the Agency's contribution to relevant key global activities, and encouraged further participation in global debate on diverse issues to promote the use and deployment of renewable energy. The Chair also reported that the Committee supported the Secretariat's focus on the qualitative assessment of programmatic activities contributing to the long-term evaluation of the Agency's work. The Committee also welcomed reporting transparency on the status of deliverables, including clear identification of those deliverables that are subject to voluntary funding.

16. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Mr Conrod Hunte of Antigua and Barbuda, reported on the Committee meeting also held the day before the Council. He noted that the AFC had considered the Progress Report of the Director-General and that no additional comments on the item had been made.

17. In the discussion that followed, several delegations commended the Agency for work done to date referencing initiatives such as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, the work on renewable energy Costing, the Global Atlas, the Jobs report, the Knowledge Gateway, 'Rethinking Energy', REmap 2030, the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative, and socio-economic impact studies. Delegations expressed satisfaction with both the implementation of the work programme and the structure and presentation of the Progress Report.

18. On current programmatic activities, several delegations noted strong appreciation for 2014 outreach and cooperation initiatives, stating that successful events such as the Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States can be an example to follow in the future. One delegation stressed the need for increased communications efforts, including through IRENA's regional officers, and that there remains a need for continuous improvements to the Agency's methods of recruitment.

19. It was noted that with an increased demand for services, a greater effort by both Members and the Secretariat is required to determine priorities and focus. Several delegations noted the importance of energy security work, and other delegations pointed to climate change work as a way for the Agency to raise the profile of renewable energy and engage countries through research, analysis and education to lead the global community to effective climate change mitigation. One delegation expressed its willingness to share knowledge and experience in deployment of renewables and asked that IRENA consider actively engaging country institutions and ministries. A second delegation invited IRENA to take up work on enabling low-cost financing of renewable energy, while another delegation encouraged IRENA to share with Members the plans for the implementation of its initiatives such as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor so that Members can consider their engagement and possible contributions thereto. This delegation also expressed interest in Middle East and North Africa market activities.

20. Several delegations noted the desire to see a further increase in results-oriented reporting with two delegations adding that an indication of barriers encountered while implementing the work programme would be valuable. One delegation underlined the importance of clearer linkages between future work programmes and strategy, with budgetary allocations and key milestones. Another delegation asked how programmes of activity marked as ‘subject to voluntary contribution’ would be secured next year. As a response, some delegations encouraged Members to consider committing additional voluntary contributions for unfunded deliverables in the work programme. The importance of ratifying the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities to protect the Secretariat when working in Member countries was emphasised. One delegation requested that countries which have already paid their assessed contributions be given priority, if eligible, for support from the Fund for Developing Country Representatives (FDCR).

21. In response, the Director-General assured delegations that all comments had been noted, and he expressed appreciation for the feedback and strong support Members had provided. He recognised that there is a need for increased communication, as well as reporting on the impacts of programmatic activities, and invited Members to share ideas and best practices on this matter. He also encouraged Members to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities in order to further enable the Agency’s work. The Director-General concluded by assuring Members that the Agency would continue to expand its range of activities in a responsible and transparent manner.

22. The Council took note with appreciation of the ‘Progress report for the 8th Council of IRENA - Report of the Director-General’ as contained in C/8/2, and decided to submit it, including any relevant updates made by the Secretariat, to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 4: Programmatic Discussions

(a) Renewable Energy: from the Climate Summit to Paris 2015 (C/8/DN/1)

23. The Director-General introduced this topic by drawing attention to the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report. He pointed out that this was the most sobering report to date, noting that greenhouse gases are at their highest recorded levels, and that emissions will need to fall by 40-70% by 2030 if global temperature change is to be kept to below 2 degrees Celsius. The Director-General recalled the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit held in September 2014 in New York, in which IRENA was leading renewable energy efforts. He noted that the IRENA initiatives, the Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) and the SIDS Lighthouses Initiatives, were well

received by the Summit participants, with many attesting to the importance of and interest in renewables in the context of finding solutions to the climate change challenge.

24. The Director-General highlighted climate finance as an area that also featured prominently at the Summit, with emphasis being placed on the vital importance of the initial resource mobilisation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He noted that the GCF, together with other climate finance mechanisms, can make a decisive difference to renewable energy projects in developing countries. He also noted that it will be of critical importance to identify how IRENA can best assist countries, as well as the climate process, to adequately address prioritise renewable energy projects in their climate strategies.

25. With regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, the Director-General said that IRENA has not been actively engaged in the process, but rather focused on demonstrating the business case for renewables. He noted that, with the recent developments, it is becoming inevitable for IRENA to take part in the climate efforts relevant to its mandate. While engagement in the climate change context comes with a risk of renewables being unnecessarily embroiled in international negotiating processes of no direct relation to the Agency's work, he underscored that IRENA's involvement would not interfere in the negotiation process. It would rather focus on relevant climate action which provides a great opportunity to advance the deployment of renewables as the global awareness of and attention to renewable energy solutions in this context increases.

26. The Director-General noted that Members have increasingly requested the Agency's engagement and recalled that this was already confirmed by the Assembly, which had requested IRENA to closely cooperate with the Climate Technology Network Centre (CTCN). He also recalled the request at the last Council for IRENA to seek further synergies between the Agency's programmatic work and the global climate efforts. He said that the Agency is well placed to respond to these requests by providing knowledge and tools to countries who wish to accelerate the deployment of renewables as part of their national strategies. He added that the Agency was also well placed to identify regional and global opportunities and to use IRENA's convening power and knowledge to catalyse action and stimulate partnerships. He highlighted COP 21 in Paris as a decisive moment for climate policy, noting that IRENA would work with the French Syndicate of Renewable Energy (SER) to organise an event dedicated to renewable energy and climate during the Conference.

27. Ms. Angela Churie Kallhauge, Senior Programme Officer on Climate Change in CSP, presented an overview of where the Agency could align some of its programmatic activities with the climate change efforts in the coming year and beyond. She outlined four objectives for IRENA's work on climate change:

- a) to make visible and present in a relevant manner the opportunities and benefits of renewable energy to addressing climate change;
- b) to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy technologies as a means of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions;
- c) to facilitate efforts that would lead to tangible and actionable initiatives that will accelerate the deployment of renewable energy technologies, including through the development of new markets, in order to drive emission reduction and resilience building; and
- d) to leverage and form strategic partnerships with a range of stakeholders and institutions, both in the public and the private sector.

28. She added that IRENA will also provide countries, upon request, with technical advice and support to enable them to formulate and prepare renewable energy targets and strategies as part of their overall climate

strategies and action plans, work that will be relevant to preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs).

29. On climate finance, she said that the Agency is responding to the request made at the previous Council meeting, and is already undertaking work to develop financing risk mitigation instruments and approaches to enable the blending of public and private finance for renewable energy activities. The Agency will also facilitate the development of a pipeline of renewable projects from different regions that could benefit from climate finance. In this context, she mentioned that the Agency was in dialogue with the GCF to initiate collaboration on how to contribute to supporting developing countries, in particular in assisting them with renewable energy project pipeline development and country readiness work.

30. In conclusion, she said that IRENA will continue to undertake its climate work in collaboration with relevant organisations at the regional and international level, as well as continue to catalyse action and engagement of other constituencies, including through organisation of meetings and events. She said that one potential event that is being looked into is a Conference on Women and Renewable Energy.

31. A representative of the host country of the upcoming COP 20, Peru, stated that addressing climate change requires the mobilisation of the right partnerships in order to foster development that addresses climate change. He expressed the hope that countries could agree on the outline of elements for the global agreement to be finalised in 2015 in Paris. To do this, he said that there is a need to strengthen the financial mechanism of the Framework Convention on Climate Change through the capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund as well as to find different ways to implement the agreement, and support Public Private Partnerships as well as private initiatives, including those that were announced at the Climate Summit. He underscored the need for IRENA to play a role in contributing to advancing the climate agenda, including through the greater dissemination of its analysis and by encouraging its Members to incorporate clean energy in their development.

32. A representative of the host country of COP 21, France, said that the goal would be to achieve an agreement that will create long-term momentum for the transition to a lower carbon world, and which should be both universal and balanced – so as to take into account needs of all countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. He went on to say that France would like the agreement to be dynamic, so as to enable it to be strengthened over time. He said that IRENA should play a role in galvanizing Members toward a solution involving renewable energy to address climate change and that the Agency has a contribution to make, especially with regards to reinforcing capacities for knowledge transfer, including in the context of clean energy corridors.

33. In response, the Director-General invited the Council to identify possible avenues that could be explored to turn the commitments made during the Climate Summit into action. He also solicited views on how IRENA should position its work that is related to climate change in the context of the upcoming preparations of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017.

34. In the ensuing discussions, several delegations welcomed the plan that had been outlined in the Director-General's note and the Secretariat's presentation. There was broad agreement on the need for IRENA to engage in climate action, with many Members cautioning against direct involvement in the negotiations. A number of delegations encouraged IRENA to continue making a strong business case for renewable energy in the climate context as well as to sharpen arguments for renewables as a means for mitigating climate change. IRENA's role in work-stream 2 of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform was lauded and many delegations welcomed the Agency's continued engagement in this regard. Two countries

suggested that IRENA should engage more in the CTCN, with one suggesting that the Agency consider taking on a lead role on renewable energy issues.

35. Several countries suggested that IRENA should play a role in facilitating climate finance, including through technical support to develop a stream of bankable projects that could be put to different funds for support. While there was agreement on the role the Agency can play in facilitating investment in renewables, some countries stressed that IRENA should not assume the role of a funding agency.

36. Several delegations lauded the Agency for the ACEC and SIDS Lighthouse initiatives and one country suggested that IRENA inform Members on how they can further support these initiatives.

37. In his concluding remarks, the Director-General acknowledged the clear message from the membership that IRENA should strengthen its engagement on climate change. He said that the Agency will develop a suite of products that will support enhancing action around renewables and to strengthen the business case for renewables. He recognised the call to enhance the work around climate finance, and noted that attracting private finance into the renewables market in developing countries, in addition to public financing, will be a game changer. He said that IRENA will look into its relationship to the GCF, fully cognisant of the fact that the Agency is neither a financing nor implementing agency, but acknowledging the role it can play in facilitating Members' efforts to develop financially feasible projects and strategies.

38. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussions.

(b) Regional approaches and initiatives (C/8/DN/2)

39. The Director-General introduced the discussion by highlighting IRENA's engagement at the regional level as an important avenue to set the stage for an accelerated deployment of renewable energy. He emphasised that as the membership base rapidly expanded across regions, so did the demand for IRENA's services, and that IRENA's engagement at the regional level has become an important avenue to set the stage for deployment of renewable energy at scale. The Director-General further noted that regional initiatives extend from the Clean Energy Corridors to those thematic programmes targeting a cluster of countries with similar power sector challenges and/or renewable energy technology potentials.

40. The Director-General underscored that, in its engagement with Member countries, IRENA customises its approach to the specific opportunities and constraints of each region, as well as within each region, taking into account synergies with IRENA's overall programmatic activities, with the view for regional efforts to be translated into solutions at a national level. He also noted that, in advancing its regional activities, IRENA focused on those regions that could benefit most from the strengthening of existing or development of new initiatives. He pointed out that the Agency's engagement with regions that contain predominantly industrialised countries is oriented towards providing targeted inputs to support specific knowledge gaps or to bring a global perspective into the regional context.

41. The Director of the Country Support and Partnerships (CSP) Division, Ms Gauri Singh, reiterated that IRENA's approach involves efforts to create a framework of complementary activities at the global, regional, and national levels. She provided additional details of IRENA projects with regional scope, including:

- In the course of its capacity building activities in West Africa and the Pacific Islands, IRENA has worked with financial institutions and entrepreneurs to develop capacity for technology risk assessments, engaged with regional institutions to create a certification scheme for PV installers to increase local skilled manpower, and worked with policy-makers to share best practices on policy and regulation so that efforts for renewable energy deployment could be sustained.
- The Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) has enabled ongoing engagement with governments, regional organisations, development partners, the private sector, and financial institutions to systematically work towards developing a regional market to attract investment in renewable energy.
- Engagement has begun with the five Andean countries (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru) to shape a geothermal initiative that could build capacities on the technical and regulatory side, and frame enabling conditions for investments. Engagement thus far has included practitioners from these countries to share experiences and expertise, which has helped IRENA anchor the Global Geothermal Alliance led by Iceland.
- In Central America, possibilities of a clean energy corridor are under discussion.

42. She also provided details of IRENA projects that support work on regions, with cross-cutting emphasis and impact:

- To facilitate access to finance and on-the-ground support, the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility has been operationalised and has provided concessional loans amounting to USD 41 million to co-finance renewable energy projects that have the potential to be transformative, innovative and replicable in developing countries.
- To help countries access the latest in renewable energy costing information, IRENA launched the Costing Alliance, which engages actively with industry, reaching out to a new audience with the message that renewable energy is increasingly the economic choice for new capacity installation.
- The REmap 2030 analysis currently covers 26 countries and is now being expanded to many more.
- Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs) have now been completed or are in progress in 22 countries, with this number expanding.
- The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, which was launched at the 2014 Climate Summit, is a comprehensive approach that prioritises support to islands based on their energy needs.
- A Coalition for Action has been formed to enhance public support worldwide for renewables.

43. The CSP Director closed by noting that a key characteristic of IRENA's approach to regions is the recognised need to keep innovating in order for engagement to remain relevant, to attract support and to have tangible impact. She added that IRENA strives to involve all relevant stakeholders to ensure that Agency activities have a strong foundation, and expressed thanks for the time and resources that Members have spent to support IRENA take these initiatives forward. She further noted that IRENA is a small Agency that cannot work in isolation but rather must cultivate strategic partnerships that will allow the Agency to leverage its resources, and to cross-pollinate the finding and sharing of best practices across institutions.

44. Mr Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer for Regions in CSP, presented a detailed overview of the IRENA engagement strategy customised to each region, including a sense of the key regional and country specific initiatives in each region. The key points of this presentation on Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Island States, Sub-Saharan Africa and the industrialised countries are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

45. In **Asia**, given the vast geographic area and diverse economic development of the countries, IRENA takes a regional/sub-regional approach to provide assistance to those Members in sub-regions such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), or with a smaller geographical scope such as in the Greater Mekong sub-region, while also engaging with Members bilaterally. As examples of regional diversity, he noted the growing markets in China and India, the focus on development and energy access in Bangladesh, early-stage renewable energy development in Pakistan, and the largely untapped renewables potential in Central Asia. He remarked that there have been two RRAs in Asia, that is, in the Philippines and Mongolia, and pointed out that the second International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC) took place in June 2014 in Manila, the Philippines. He noted that capacity building activities in this region emphasised solar resources assessments, and that further engagement in Central Asia would be important for IRENA's future engagement in the region.

46. In **Latin America**, with further expansion of the IRENA membership there, the Agency's level of engagement in the region is expected to increase. Interventions are expected to be designed in close dialogue with the countries of the region in priority areas such as sustainable development of hydro resources, transition to modern use of biomass, grid integration, and renewables in the end-use sectors. Further engagement with countries and regional organisations is needed to shape specific interventions. RRAs have been conducted in Peru and Nicaragua, work with the Andean countries continues, and IRENA is engaged in initial work on the Central America Clean Energy Corridor.

47. In the **Middle East and North Africa**, the IRENA affiliation of a large proportion of countries¹ has allowed the Agency to develop a strategic approach that is based on creating synergies between countries and fostering interest in regional integration to attract investment in renewable energy at scale. Capacity-building activities have focused on solar assessment training, for example, one training is scheduled to take place in Kuwait later this year, and an energy market assessment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is planned. Oman was the first country in which IRENA conducted an RRA, which focused on exploring options for sustainable and secure pathways for the deployment of renewable energy, as well as the formulation a business case for renewable technologies.

48. Disconnected from mainland electricity grids, small **islands** are especially vulnerable to price fluctuations for imported fossil fuels, among other distinct challenges such as limited land availability, and frequency of natural disasters. The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative provides a framework for action for SIDS and partners to move away from a piecemeal approach and transform their energy system through a structured, holistic and sustainable approach. It provides the overall framework for IRENA's various activities in the SIDS.

49. **Sub-Saharan Africa** has been an early programmatic priority of IRENA work programmes, as evidenced through fast-growing membership base in the region. IRENA has already been and will continue to be extensively engaged with the countries of the region through a number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives, with both on-grid and off-grid focus. This includes, among others, RRAs, the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, capacity building as well as plans for further engagement in the Central Africa region.

50. Considering the level of development and resources of **industrialised** countries, IRENA's technology, policy and socio-economic work, including the central component renewable's impact on job creation, has clear focus on industrialised countries.

¹ 18 out of 23 MENA countries.

51. In the discussion that followed, India drew attention to 'RE-Invest', a renewable energy investment promotional meeting and exposition, which will take place in New Delhi on 15-17 February 2015. Several delegations welcomed IRENA's approach to various regions as a way to pool resources in an effective way and scale up interventions in regions where membership is expanding. Strategic collaboration with other organisations was underlined as fundamental for the implementation of the regional approach. Two delegations noted the importance of collaborating with ASEAN, in the case of Asia, and another encouraged collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) for data collection. One representative noted that the main cross-cutting projects per region should be identified in order to coordinate support and regional action.

52. Regarding regional initiatives, a delegation noted that the Clean Energy Corridors should be considered a priority. One delegation noted the importance of South-South cooperation and the Latin American region's preparedness to share its experiences with other countries. Several delegations noted that the creation of different regional offices has to be examined in the light of the need for ensuring efficiency. In this context embedding an IRENA officer in existing regional organisations may be an option worth further examination.

53. Delegations provided feedback on what they considered key priorities to be addressed in the next phase of growth in IRENA's regional activities. Several delegations expressed support for the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, and one delegation expressed that the Agency should strive to give continuity to this initiative. One delegation noted the importance of renewable energy in providing access to modern energy services, especially for Eastern Europe. Another delegation requested assistance regarding renewable off-grid applications to increase rural electrification levels. A number of delegations pointed out the importance of considering transport, hydropower, biomass and biofuels, as well as key technology issues such as energy storage and low enthalpy geothermal applications. Some delegations stated that bankable business models for renewable energy projects are key.

54. Summing up the discussion, the Director-General recognised the importance of a tailored approach to the specific barriers and opportunities in each region. In this context, he suggested to have a focused exchange of best practices and analysis of experience customised to each region. He thanked the members for their inputs which will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the next work programme and budget.

55. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussions.

(c) Off-grid and energy access (C/8/DN/3)

56. The Director-General opened the discussion by emphasising that access to modern energy services is a vital pre-requisite to stimulate socio-economic development and achieve development goals associated with poverty eradication, enhancing healthcare and education services, and promoting general well-being. He highlighted that, despite some progress over the past decades, more than a billion people still lack access to electricity. There is, therefore, an urgent need to substantially scale-up efforts to unlock the transformative development potential of electricity access. In this endeavor, he emphasised that renewable energy will have a crucial role to play, as the technology is increasingly becoming cost-competitive, modular, adaptable and environment-friendly. The Director-General noted the importance of creating an enabling environment that attracts investments into the sector. He noted that IRENA's programmatic

activities focus on the key pillars of energy access – policy, financing, technology and capacity building. To present further insights from IRENA’s activities in the field, he gave the floor to the Acting Director of IRENA’s Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) and the Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC).

57. The Acting Director of KPFC, Ms Rabia Ferroukhi, began her presentation by highlighting that over the past two decades, the rural electrification rate only grew from 61 to 70 percent globally. This global number hides geographical disparity with rural electrification rates in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia, which reached 18 and 75 percent, respectively. To achieve universal access by 2030, the rate of electrification would need to double. Off-grid renewable energy solutions will be central to expanding access in rural areas given their decentralised nature and that they already represent the economic option for off-grid electrification in most areas. Translating this opportunity into deployment requires all stakeholders to collectively identify context-specific barriers and to formulate appropriate solutions.

58. To facilitate this engagement, she noted that IRENA’s International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC) serves as a crucial platform. The Acting Director recalled that the focus of the first edition of the Conference, held in 2012, was on Africa. With IOREC 2014, the focus expanded to South and South East Asia. Some key messages from the Conference, which was held in Manila, the Philippines, were presented. The Acting Director highlighted a number of key points that are important to the future work on off-grid. These included the need to recognise the role of off-grid solutions within national electrification strategies, the importance of moving away from a project-by-project approach towards one that is market-based, and the importance of enhancing the sustainability of energy access efforts. Furthermore, attracting private sector participation requires an environment that is based on an enabling policy, regulatory and institutional framework, along with tailored financing models and adapting technologies to rural contexts. She emphasised that it is only when these key building blocks come together that an ecosystem can be created to catalyse the growth of local energy enterprises with the necessary outreach. The Acting Director also underlined the importance of capacity building, and some of the key initiatives undertaken by IRENA to enhance skills development were presented, including certification of technicians in the Pacific Islands and the ProSPER initiative in the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

59. The Director of IITC, Mr Dolf Gielen, continued the presentation by focusing on the economics and technology aspects of off-grid renewable energy. He stated that the future energy system will comprise of a mix of centralised and decentralised solutions. He highlighted that the grid investment component of centralised system development is expensive, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimating that investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure between now and 2035 will need to be in the range of USD 7-8 trillion. This figure can be substantially reduced by introducing decentralised, off-grid solutions. He introduced a working paper – *Renewable energy off-grid systems status report and methodological issues* – which finds that the current use of off-grid renewable energy systems is already significant, but it is not well captured in existing energy statistics. He highlighted that nearly 25 million households are served through off-grid systems globally, with two key markets emerging for further renewable energy development:

- a) hybridisation and replacement of existing diesel systems (nearly 1000 GW capacity in place today, with 23 GW as mini-grids); and
- b) expanding electricity access to the 1.3 billion people who lack it through solutions such as solar home systems and mini-grids, among others.

60. Comprehensive global data on renewable energy deployment for off-grid applications is limited and inconsistencies in definitions exist (e.g. for mini-grids). He noted that IRENA can play an important role to address these limitations. From an economic perspective, renewable energy is now increasingly cost-competitive in the islands context. IRENA conducted a tariff study for Tonga which found that use of solar PV is less expensive than diesel, with similar experiences in other islands. Rooftop PV systems are attractive options, but issues relating to utilities need to be considered. As the share of solar PV increases in the electricity mix, measures, such as the development of storage infrastructure, will be needed to enhance the grid's ability to cope with variable generation. He highlighted that ongoing work on grid stability will expand its focus from islands to more complex electricity systems in the future. Moreover, he noted that the storage market is growing and costs are dropping, and there is a need to further explore business models for storage deployment.

61. In the discussion that followed, several delegations commended IRENA's work on off-grid renewable energy and emphasised that the topic at hand was of importance. Several delegations appreciated the success of the IOREC 2014, with delegations highlighting that it serves as an important platform for interaction between the public and private sector as well other key stakeholders. In this context, one delegation highlighted that cooperation with the Alliance for Rural Electrification is crucial.

62. Delegations shared their experiences on expanding electricity access through off-grid solutions and highlighted several challenges that require careful attention. One delegation highlighted that the hesitation of local communities in adopting off-grid solutions is high, given the perception that off-grid power is inferior compared to conventional power. Another delegation noted that in its country, the experience had instead been that communities were requesting off-grid solutions from the government. A delegation stated the need to ensure that beneficiaries find renewable energy systems reliable, cost-efficient and environment-friendly and therefore worth investing in them. One delegation also shared that financing is a major barrier as the domestic cost of capital is too high and funding from international financing institutions has significant hedging costs associated with it. One delegation emphasised that there is a need to develop innovative financing mechanisms that can reduce the cost of capital and that IRENA can support countries in this endeavor. Legal frameworks associated with defining electricity access were also identified as a challenge. Several delegations highlighted that a key challenge is to ensure sustainability of off-grid renewable energy projects and that commercial models for long-term operations have not yet been tested.

63. One delegation highlighted that progress in this field requires efforts in different areas including policy and regulatory frameworks, financing, capacity building and engagement with different stakeholders. A delegation highlighted the importance of dedicated policies and institutions to propel investments in off-grid renewable energy. One delegation highlighted that in expanding electricity access through off-grid solutions, a learning-by-doing approach is being adopted, with a number of failures that could have been avoided if rural electrification guideline principles were in place to assist governments in evaluating the local and geographical realities, different electrification approaches that can be adopted, and technology options that are feasible.

64. Several delegations noted that IRENA has an important role to play in global efforts to achieve universal access to modern energy services. Delegations underscored that IRENA could work, in partnership with industry and other stakeholders, as a platform to exchange experiences, discuss technical matters and share information and best practices to facilitate development of off-grid renewable energy. It was highlighted that such efforts could contribute to the climate agenda and the SE4ALL Initiative. Several delegations pointed out that IRENA could analyse best practices from country experiences on aspects such as mechanisms to use public funds to leverage private capital in the off-grid sector. Several delegations

underlined the important role of IRENA in supporting capacity building initiatives and in raising awareness among the private sector on the feasibility of renewable energy projects. One delegation expressed interest in the analysis of financing mechanisms that can enable rural communities to afford off-grid solutions.

65. The Director-General concluded the session by stressing that there is a common understanding that off-grid electricity access is a development imperative. Going forward, information sharing on best practices and experiences will be crucial. By establishing the IOREC platform, IRENA provides an opportunity at a regional level to exchange information, learn from the experience of different practitioners and facilitate engagement between potential investors, private sector developers and governments. He noted that IRENA's work in the field could be further expanded towards a global knowledge framework built on policy, regulations, financing and technology issues. The Director-General appreciated the support extended by Members for programmatic activities in this field and highlighted that the discussion identified additional focus areas that could further strengthen existing activities.

66. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussions.

Agenda Item 5: The Global Energy Transformation: The increasing relevance of renewable energy and the evolving role of IRENA

67. The Council Chair opened by remarking that the energy sector is facing a triple challenge: energy security, energy access and climate change. He pointed out that renewables can provide solutions for each of these challenges, but that important investments are needed in order to enable a transformation. Among other barriers, he added, are the subsidies on fossil fuels in many countries that distort regular market rules, and which are estimated at up to USD 500 billion annually worldwide. The Council Chair highlighted that, with this backdrop, IRENA Members need to decide how to advance the mission of the Agency in this evolving and challenging context.

68. The Council Chair noted that, with its first years of experience as a solid foundation, IRENA can now play a central role in the energy transformation, and that adequately defining this role would be crucial for the preparation of the next biennial work programme and budget. The Council Chair recalled that, at the seventh meeting of the Council, he had expressed the commitment to continue active consultations with Members on this subject.

69. The Council Chair provided a brief report of the main outcomes of a meeting held on 2 November 2014, which examined the global energy transformation, the increasing relevance of renewable energy, and the evolving role of IRENA. The meeting had opened with presentations from three external experts:

- a) Mr Christof Rühl, Global Head of Research, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA);
- b) Mr Eric Martinot, Professor, Beijing Institute of Technology, School of Management and Economics; and
- c) Mr Keisuke Sadamori, Director for Energy Markets and Security, International Energy Agency (IEA).

70. The Council Chair noted that these experts had presented respective views on the future of the energy sector and the expected role of renewable energy, after which delegations discussed the energy system of the future and reflected on IRENA's role in this context. The Council Chair summarised the key reflections of the meeting:

- Delegations strongly supported the idea that IRENA should play a role in facilitating the energy transformation, with focus on actions that can complement other existing initiatives and organisations.
- Delegations emphasised the importance of working with other international organisations in the energy sector, not only at the decision-making level but at the technical level. They also proposed the idea of developing joint activities with such organisations, and stressed that stakeholders, such as regulatory bodies and transmission system operators, are crucial partners.
- Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and the Green Climate Fund could be utilised in order to facilitate the activities promoted by IRENA.
- Delegations discussed the most cost-effective way to support countries and regions in enhancing the share of renewable energy in their energy mix. Many delegations noted the importance of concentrating the Agency's efforts in the upstream, performing analysis and preparing relevant information to face challenges, to share best practices and to disseminate success stories, including an analysis of the reasons for success and/or failure. Topics could include policies, regulation, technology options, costing and financing. In addition to these general upstream activities, many delegations also emphasised the necessity of direct support to Member States.
- Delegations noted that the Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) is an efficient tool and that it could also consider business models and renewable energy integration policies for buildings, transport, and power generation, such as possibilities for integrated design and infrastructure.
- IRENA should support countries on financial issues, contributing to the development of bankable projects and linkages to financing sources.
- Delegations mentioned that the Agency should focus on actions that can add value to other existing initiatives and organizations.

71. The Council Chair also noted that, following the meeting, there were still open questions, which include:

- How should IRENA navigate the balance between focusing on the power sector and enhancing the participation of renewables in the end-use sectors (industry, buildings and transport)?
- Should IRENA have closer contact with industry? If yes, how?
- Should IRENA have closer contact with financing institutions? If yes, how?
- Should IRENA advise on technologies or only facilitate linkages?
- What is the optimal balance between concentration on the upstream and support to individual countries?
- Is there a need to adjust the Agency's work programme and the profile and size of its staff, in order to achieve its mission?

72. The Council Chair noted that there is a common understanding that IRENA is not an implementing agency, but that its country-level engagement would be centered on facilitating and providing analysis, information and contacts with countries to carry out their own transformations, and partnering with other international organisations.

73. In his intervention, the Director-General also reflected on the internal pre-Council discussion, and the importance of having outsiders' voices at the table to challenge preconceptions about renewable energy. He noted that the discussion combined comments about the emerging challenges in the energy sector and the almost four years of experience of the Agency's work in advancing renewable energy. He noted that, emerging from the discussion, it had become clear that the traditional approach focused on conventional energy does not account for the pace of technological change or of institutional and policy innovation in the energy sector.

74. He reflected that the imperative to address global challenges was clear, and that IRENA has a variety of instruments with which to respond and to assist countries, without becoming involved in negotiations. He added that IRENA's role could be to continue supporting and enabling the positive developments that are happening in the world, to provide the bases to reinforce them, and to bolster Members' efforts with knowledge products and with direct interaction to find solutions. He added that the precise role of the Agency would need to be delineated with Member guidance and in the light of ongoing developments in the energy sector.

75. The Director-General listed some of the thoughts that emerged, around which various perspectives converged and on which the Agency would seek further input from Members. These include:

- End-use sectors and rural electrification could be considered more directly in the context of IRENA's work programme, specifically as an instruments for development, growth and empowering the poor in rural areas of developing countries.
- As the share of renewable energy in the global mix is increasing, the importance of integrating renewable energy into the energy system as a whole was noted, both for smaller-grid systems and in industrialised countries where the costs of transitioning an established system will pose additional economic challenges.
- Current economic models are not yet able to internalise the external costs of conventional energy. To address this, IRENA could also pursue the development of the strong policy frameworks needed to compensate for market failures which affect competitiveness of renewables.
- Predictable policies and regulatory frameworks are needed for investment and private sector engagement, and both the political will and these policy frameworks are critical for the transition in energy systems to take place. In this context, IRENA would strengthen its finance work to contribute to the development of instruments for risk mitigation, especially as climate financing instruments come on-stream.
- IRENA would continue to analyse and disseminate information about success factors, best practices, policy, and regulatory and technology options that have worked, that have had a transformational aspect on accelerating deployment of renewables and specific markets, and globally.
- IRENA's Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) has emerged as a unique methodology that has important possibilities for the future, and that could be further refined and focused. In addition, tools from the climate regime such as NAMAs and the analysis of the INDC (Intended nationally determined contributions of Parties) could inform IRENA of the commitments countries are planning to undertake, and could serve as a vehicle for advancing renewable energy.
- IRENA would continue to develop its collaboration with international institutions to develop synergies regarding work on innovations in transmission and storage.

76. The Director-General closed by underscoring the importance of finding an optimal balance, between ensuring that IRENA continues to be relevant in an immediate sense to countries at the national level, while strengthening its analytical and upstream work. On climate change, he reiterated that IRENA should consider what the implication of this global priority would be on future work programmes.

77. In the discussion that followed, a delegation acknowledged the challenges that renewables' supporters are currently facing, including an established infrastructure that is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, falling costs of conventional carbon-based fuels which could reduce the sense of urgency for shifting to renewables, and the longer time horizon required to realise the financial benefits of renewables. In this context, this delegation expressed support for REmap 2030 and for IRENA's efforts in addressing these

challenges and in achieving its vision for a transition toward renewable energy by making the business case for renewables. One delegation pointed out that renewables would out-compete alternatives in the longer term, and accordingly emphasised the need for longer-term targets and policies, along with technical integration, to encourage their uptake.

78. Another delegation noted that IRENA's role would become even more significant in light of the structural changes required for the energy transformation, requiring focused efforts to transform three levels: institutions, ideas, and actors.

79. One delegation underscored that, with the relative small size and modest budget of the Agency, prioritisation would be crucial, and that Members should help focus the Secretariat's attention on tangible outcomes. Several delegations recommended areas for future focus. One highlighted the importance of technology innovation, for example, through the development of storage or technology solutions for off-grid islands and rural areas in developing countries. Another delegation encouraged IRENA to continue its efforts to help bridge the knowledge gap, and one delegation stressed the need to standardise data collection methods, especially for biomass. Following up, one delegation added that IRENA's work could help show that renewable energy is a pathway to longer-term energy prosperity and future job creation.

80. Another delegation pointed to the considerable opportunities for private sector investment in renewables, given the falling cost of capital and lower interest rates, and that IRENA should approach engagement with business carefully, with the potential for greater outreach to the business community. Two delegations underscored the importance of risk mitigation mechanisms in order to bolster investor confidence, and that IRENA could identify ways to manage and address risk.

81. One delegation suggested that IRENA formulate a questionnaire to identify programs that countries are already funding, as well as potential areas of overlap. It also suggested that the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) could be a source of funding for Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs) and other projects in developing countries. Two delegations expressed support for international cooperation, in which IRENA could be a platform for comparative analysis of worldwide developments, and a platform of advice based on lessons learned. Another delegation encouraged cooperation with the G20.

82. Delegations also supported IRENA's participation in the climate change discussion, in order to emphasise renewable energy as a means to combat climate change, but urged that the Agency be very specific about the scope and level of its involvements. One delegation requested an early outline of preliminary cost projections for strategic activities in order to facilitate budgeting for the next work programme, given that country's 2016 budget limitations.

83. The Director-General responded to these comments by summarising ways for IRENA to focus its efforts in the areas identified. He mentioned specifically IRENA's role in facilitating the exchange of experiences and dissemination of information to countries, as well as the refinement of tools such as the Global Atlas for resource assessment and field-level measurement, which is required for investment. He also underscored the importance of addressing how to mobilise institutional investment and how to provide targeted advice to countries to help lower the cost of capital for renewable energy investment so that renewables projects are attractive for both short and long term investors. He noted that IRENA is ready to support the G20 Presidency, and he called on Members to invite the CTCN to work with IRENA. He closed by expressing his gratitude for the different perspectives shared with the Council, and positively reflected that there is a meeting of the minds on some of the key driving issues for the future work of IRENA.

84. In his concluding remarks, the Council Chair raised the point of system integration, underscoring the need to share information and best practices in order to draw benefits from all over the world, and share mistakes to guide developments in other regions. He concurred with comments about the role for IRENA as a platform for sharing experiences, and about the importance of having stable policies for investors. He thanked Members for helping to define both a more ambitious and a more targeted role for the Agency, noting that consultations would continue on these strategic considerations.

85. The Council took note of the presentation and the discussions.

86. The Council Chair indicated his commitment to report, together with the Director-General, to the Assembly on the elements that emerged during the discussion at this Council meeting, reflecting the opinions of all delegations.

Agenda Item 6: Options for future funding for IRENA (C/8/CRP/1)

87. The Director-General opened the session by stressing that the financing discussion is a strategic matter, underscoring the longevity of the overarching vision of IRENA as the global voice for renewable energy. He noted that the current Medium-term Strategy, in place until 2017 (as per A/3/DC/14), continues to be a framework to help focus the Agency's programmatic work, but that the Agency endeavours to remain flexible to respond to Member feedback and developments in this dynamic field.

88. He drew attention to the 'Note of the Director-General: Financing of the Agency - strategy for the future' (C/8/CRP/1), which was prepared in the light of ongoing discussions with Members to date. He referred to some of the programmatic priority areas included in this note that would need to be sustained and strengthened, according to feedback received, experience in working with countries, and from lessons learned in IRENA's analytical activities. Some of the feedback, in addition to those items mentioned under the previous Agenda Item in paragraphs 67 to 73, includes:

- IRENA's involvement in action on climate change, rather than negotiations, is the right approach, and should continue both in terms of analytical work and support to countries.
- Initiatives such as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) and SIDS Lighthouses are potentially transformational and should be sustained.
- IRENA should participate in global efforts in the deployment of off-grid renewables, to share best practice and analysis.
- Direct engagement with countries through Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs), advisory services and capacity building has an impact on the ground, and the demand for these services continues to grow.
- Islands work, strengthened by the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and connected to the knowledge platform of the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN), is demonstrating the change and concrete results that renewable energy can bring.
- It is increasingly important to strengthen IRENA's substantive work on biomass and end-use sectors.
- It should be a priority for IRENA to strengthen and leverage its partnerships with other organisations and entities.

89. The Director-General noted that an in-depth review of the Agency's financial needs would be undertaken in the process of developing the next work programme, but that it is evident already that some limited additional resources would be necessary to strengthen IRENA's core functions, as well as to increase non-core resources. He added that the United Arab Emirates' annual Bid contribution of USD 5.8 million for research and operations ends in 2015, which would have a significant impact on future programming. He also highlighted that voluntary contributions are being received from an increasing number of Members, which helps to strengthen the Agency's ability to expand its programmatic reach.

90. He observed that a key objective in considering the future funding options would be to secure a sustainable balance between core budget and voluntary contributions and other resources in a way that the needs for programme expansion and delivery capacity are adequately ensured. The Director-General drew the attention of the meeting to some of the options for financing models that Members may wish to consider, as well as possible additional sources of funding. Some of these are:

- Voluntary contributions, whose base could be further expanded with a targeted resource mobilisation strategy, including with governments at the local level, international intergovernmental funding entities, independent foundations, and leveraged resources of cooperating entities.
- Non-governmental funding sources, including private companies, in accordance with criteria that preserve the independence and impartiality of the Agency.
- In-kind contributions from Members, such as secondment of personnel and targeted contribution of expertise.
- In the current biennial Work Programme, a number of activities were proposed but remained subject to additional voluntary contributions, and this model could be used for future programmatic cycles.
- Establishment of multilateral thematic trust/special funds to be sponsored by different donors over several financial periods.

91. He added that, in parallel to the preparation of the next programmatic cycle, it would be important to clearly identify the areas that would require additional resources, while ensuring that the Agency possesses sufficient core capacity to perform critical programmatic and administrative functions.

92. He closed by stressing that he looked forward to continuing Member consultations and feedback, as the outcome of this discussion would be critical for the development of the next biennial work programme and budget. The feedback also would shape the future of the Agency in the years to come.

93. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) reported on the Committee meeting which took place the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/8/CRP/2 for a full account of the meeting. He informed that the PSC had 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, which will have an impact on the resources required in the core budget. He added that the PSC noted the dynamic nature of the sector and emerging priorities 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. He further added that the PSC had 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, as well as further engagement between the Agency and the private sector, while ensuring IRENA's independence and impartiality. The PSC Chair also reported that the Committee had noted that the funding strategy should be developed in parallel with the development of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017, in consultation with Members.

94. In the discussion that followed, a delegation reflected that the Agency is witnessing growing Member expectations for it to help address international challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy technologies. That delegation stressed that the enhancement of the core budget would require efficient and optimal use of funds already available to the Agency, as well as more quantitative details about the Agency's spending and budget needs, so that Members would have the information necessary to make prioritisation decisions. The delegation also expressed support for the Agency's efforts at diversification of financial sources, in the hope that this would eventually help IRENA avoid a possible increase in assessed contributions, even in the face of growing expectations and needs for the Agency's functions.

95. Two delegations reiterated the importance of precisely linking the work to be carried out in the next few years to the budget, noting that additional detailed financial information would assist Members in justifying any budget increase and assist IRENA as a whole in obtaining the necessary funds. These delegations also pointed out the connection between financing, prioritisation and the effectiveness of the Agency's work.

96. One delegation encouraged further investigation into work that could be accomplished with other organisations in order to maximise efficiency and avoid duplication, and also recommended coordination with international donors to enhance synergies and deployment in the context of sustainable development and poverty mitigation.

97. Another delegation stressed the importance of recognizing the in-kind contributions made by a number of countries, and noted that a policy to govern the conditions in which private contributions could be accepted is needed to guide the voluntary contributions process going forward. That delegation also underscored the significance of the bid funding's conclusion in 2015, and the increased importance voluntary contributions would have after this date. One Council member encouraged all delegations to pay any outstanding contributions promptly.

98. In response, the Director-General agreed that it was important to demonstrate the efficient and optimal use of funds as a precondition to gaining Member confidence, and that the Secretariat would make every effort for the next biennium to provide both qualitative and quantitative details to Members. He added that the Agency would continue its efforts to ensure that expenditure is in accordance with best practices and to seek value for all funds that are spent. The Director-General also noted the importance of a balance between voluntary contributions and core contributions for the credibility of the Agency, which will be an important part of the upcoming biennial budget discussion. He stressed that, even as voluntary contributions grow, they should not become the rationale of the direction the Agency takes, but rather amplify the impact of the agreed programme of work and core functions. He concluded by stressing the importance of financial reporting and the assessment of the impact of the Agency's work, which would be included in the biennial work programme outcomes.

99. The Council took note of the 'Note of the Director-General: Financing of the Agency - strategy for the future', as contained in document C/8/CRP/1, and the discussions.

Agenda Item 7: Institutional matters**(a) IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (C/8/3)**

100. The Director-General introduced the topic by noting that the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility enables financial support for renewable energy projects to improve energy access and provide other socio-economic benefits such as creating jobs and facilitating sustainable livelihoods. He also pointed out that the projects that have been selected through the facility are potentially transformative, replicable and scalable. He underscored the contribution that the facility makes to IRENA's finance work, which is focused on catalysing public and private finance and scaling up finance in renewable energy globally through data, analysis and direct facilitation.

101. He reported that IRENA has continued to work closely with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) to implement the first and second funding cycles of the project facility. For the first funding cycle, USD 41 million was allocated to six renewable energy projects, leveraging USD 42 million from other funding sources, for projects in Ecuador, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Samoa and Sierra Leone. He noted that, during the second cycle, more projects had been recommended to ADFD for funding, representing a wider geographic area and more technological diversity including the inclusion of geothermal energy.

102. The Director-General thanked Minister Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik of Poland for continuing her exemplary leadership as Chair of the Advisory Committee of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility also for the second funding cycle.

103. He informed Members about the launch of the third funding cycle later in November 2014, and noted the expressions of interest received from the following IRENA Members to be members of the Advisory Committee in its third cycle: Egypt, France, Kuwait, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Swaziland, and Trinidad and Tobago. He noted further that five IRENA Members have informed the Secretariat of their availability to serve as alternates: Argentina, Jordan, Mauritania, Pakistan and Portugal. The Assembly at its upcoming session is expected to appoint members and alternates of the Advisory Committee for the third funding cycle.

104. The Director-General reported that ADFD is due to make its selection decision from the IRENA-recommended projects in the second funding cycle in December 2014. He noted that there remains a high demand for concessional finance as demonstrated by the total of over USD 1.5 billion in loans requested in the first and second cycles of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility. He noted that IRENA is now looking at a range of options on how finance can be mobilised in the area of renewable energy, especially in terms of how risk mitigation instruments and innovative financial models can help scale up investments. He ended by thanking the Advisory Committee for its work during the second cycle.

105. A representative of Poland, speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Advisory Committee, extended appreciation to the ADFD for its continuing efforts in improving the facility and supporting renewable energy projects in developing countries. He referred the Council to the detailed Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee, set out in document C/8/3, and reported that the second cycle was launched in November 2013, and that the Advisory Committee had met in February and June 2014, to address operational and procedural issues and areas of improvement.

106. He provided a summary of the shortlisting process and reported that the projects recommended by the Advisory Committee to the ADFD in October 2014 for selection represent over 40 MW of new capacity and USD 70 million in requested loans, and are seeking more than USD 106 million in co-financing. The projects represent USD 176 million in total project costs, which is USD 50 million higher than in the first cycle. He confirmed that efforts to improve the facility will continue to assist projects seeking finance and support for feasibility studies and co-financing.

107. He reported that, in the week prior to the eighth Council meeting, the Advisory Committee had convened for a presentation by the Secretariat on the project results feedback framework that is being integrated into the third cycle. This framework aims to enhance learning by building up project case studies that will in turn serve to improve the selection process and project implementation. He closed by providing special thanks to the members and alternates of the second cycle Advisory Committee

108. A representative of the United Arab Emirates emphasised the importance of the partnership between IRENA and ADFD as a unique and powerful tool for change and made a special announcement on the reduction in loan rates from 2% and 6% to 1% and 2% respectively, with a 20-year term and 5 year grace period.

109. During the ensuing discussion, on the topic of the management of the facility, one delegation welcomed the greater diversity of countries that submitted project proposals, and expressed hope that this trend would continue. The delegation also stressed the importance of continuous improvement in the project management aspects of the facility and expressed its appreciation for the one-month extension for the submission of project proposals as part of the effort to be more accommodating to applicants.

110. On the topic of the government guarantee, a number of delegations noted that this requirement could limit access to financing for private and public sector developers. These delegations expressed the hope to see other mechanisms replace the government guarantee as the instrument to secure the loan. On the other hand, one delegation emphasised the importance of the government guarantee as a strong indication of the political support provided by the respective government for the execution of the project, and encouraged applicant countries especially from Africa to increase their efforts to raise co-financing for their projects.

111. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the second project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility’ as contained in document C/8/3 and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration. The Council also took note of expressions of interest received for membership in the Advisory Committee for the next funding cycle.

(b) Candidacies for Council membership – update from Regional Groups

112. The Council Chair introduced the discussion by noting that the term of the present IRENA Council would come to an end at the upcoming fifth session of the IRENA Assembly, at which time the IRENA membership would be requested to decide on the composition of a new Council for 2015-2016. He added that, at its third session in January 2013, the Assembly had agreed on a procedure to facilitate the election of a new Council every two years, as per the IRENA Statute, and that this procedure is set out in Rules 69 and 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as contained in document A/3/6.

113. The Council Chair also recalled that, in order to ensure a successful outcome at the fifth session of the Assembly, the Council had agreed at its seventh meeting in June 2014 to invite the President and the Vice-Presidents of the fourth session of the Assembly to start consulting within their respective regional groups (see paragraph 173 of C/7/SR/1). As per that process, each group would decide internally on its representation to the Council, and was invited to report back to the eighth Council meeting. Accordingly, the Council Chair invited each regional group to provide an update on progress made on this issue.

114. For Group A (Europe and Others), which were allocated 7 seats, Germany reported that the group had reached an agreement, and that the final list of candidates for this group will be transmitted to the Council Chair soon.

115. For Group B (Asia and the Pacific), which were allocated 6 seats, the United Arab Emirates reported that the group had reached an agreement on the 5 seats allocated to Asia, and the seat reserved for Members from the Pacific Islands was still under discussion. The group would share the final slate with the Council Chair as soon as there is agreement on the seat.

116. For Group C (Africa), which were allocated 5 seats, South Africa reported that the group had met and that the discussions were going well. South Africa informed that the group had agreed on co-facilitation within the five sub-regions, to make sure that the process is fair and transparent. The final slate would be transmitted to the Council Chair before the end of November.

117. For Group D (Latin America and the Caribbean), which were allocated 3 seats, Mexico reported that a preliminary list existed but that the group was still in discussions regarding one of the seats allocated to Latin America.

118. The Council Chair expressed gratitude to the facilitators of each regional group for carrying this matter forward and noted that the Secretariat would continue to be available to provide clarifications on the process, as necessary.

119. The Council took note of the reports from the four groups and requested that the final lists be sent to the Council Chair as soon as possible, but not later than the end of November 2014, so that the full slate of Council members for 2015-2016 may be circulated to Members 30 days prior to the Assembly.

(c) Rules of Procedure for subsidiary organs of the Council (C/8/4)

120. The Secretary of the Governing Bodies, Mr Mohamed El-Farnawany introduced the topic by noting that, at its seventh meeting, the Council had requested that the Secretariat draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Council for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Council. The recommended amendments included the following:

- To limit participation in committee meetings to Members of the Agency, starting at the ninth meeting of the Council;
- To appoint committee members and elect committee Chairs, and if appropriate the Vice-Chairs, at each first Council meeting following the Assembly's election of a new Council.

121. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Council regarding subsidiary organs of the Council' as contained in document

C/8/4, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraph 4 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

Agenda Item 8: Administrative matters

(a) Staff Provident Fund (C/8/5, C/8/6)

122. The Director of the Administration and Management Services Division of IRENA, Mr Jayantilal M. Karia, in his capacity as Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board, presented two Reports of the Provident Fund Management Board on ‘Amendments to the Charter and Administrative Rules of the IRENA Staff Provident Fund’ (C/8/5) and ‘Proposal on a revised Investment Policy of the Staff Provident Fund’ (C/8/6), to the Council.

123. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported that the Committee had considered the report, had no comment thereon and agreed with the proposals contained therein.

124. The Council took note of the Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on ‘Amendments to the Charter and Administrative Rules of the IRENA Staff Provident Fund’ as contained in document C/8/5, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraph 11 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

125. The Council took note of the ‘Proposal on a revised Investment Policy of the Staff Provident Fund’ as contained in document C/8/6, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraph 5 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

126. The Council took note of expressions of interest received from Germany and the United Arab Emirates for membership in the Provident Fund Management Board.

(b) Staff Regulations and Rules (C/8/7)

127. The Director of the Administration and Management Services Division introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules’ (C/8/7) to the Council. He presented the proposed amendment to Staff Regulation 4.3(a) and new Staff Rule 104.11, both of which are related to reimbursement of taxes imposed on salaries and allowances paid to staff members by the Agency. He also reported on a number of technical amendments to Staff Rules 104.9 and 110.8.

128. The Chair of the AFC reported that the Committee had considered the report, had no comment thereon and agreed with the proposals contained therein.

129. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules’ as contained in document C/8/7, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraphs 8 and 15 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

(c) Secondment of personnel and related matters (C/8/8)

130. In response to Assembly decision A/2/DC/5 requesting the Director-General to report to the Assembly at its third session, and thereafter on a biennial basis, on the implementation of its decision on secondment of staff, the Director of the Administration and Management Services Division presented the 'Report of the Director-General on secondment and related matters' (C/8/8) to the Council and provided an update on how the arrangements for secondment and loan have been implemented since January 2013.

131. The Chair of the AFC reported that the Committee had considered the report and had no comment thereon.

132. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on secondment and related matters' as contained in document C/8/8 and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

(d) Administration of Justice (C/8/9)

133. The Legal Advisor, Ms Marianne Lavergne, referred to the request of the Assembly that the Director-General report at its fifth session on the operation of the arbitration system established by decision A/3/DC/7. She reported that, since the establishment of this arbitration system, no request for arbitration has been received and, accordingly, the system has not been tested. She noted that an Arbitrator however identified an inconsistency in the wording of certain Provisional Arbitration Rules and that, for the purpose of removing such inconsistency, the Council was invited to consider a proposal to amend Rules 14(1) and 15(1) and to recommend to the Assembly that it approve such amendments. In addition, with a view to giving an opportunity to the governing bodies to review the operation of the arbitration system once tested, the Legal Advisor noted that the Council may wish to recommend to the Assembly further reporting by the Director-General on this matter at the seventh session of the Assembly.

134. The Chair of the AFC reported that the Committee had considered the report, had no comment thereon and agreed with the proposals contained therein.

135. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the operation of the arbitration system for IRENA' as contained in document C/8/9, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraph 7 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

(e) Report of the Ethics Officer (C/8/10)

136. Pursuant to paragraph 9.1 of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/2/13), the Ethics Officer, Ms Salma Khalid, presented her 'Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest' (A/8/10) to the Council which covers the implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest and the Disclosure of Interest for the reporting period 1 October 2013 to 1 October 2014.

137. The Chair of the AFC reported that the Committee had considered the report and had no comment thereon.

138. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’ as contained in document C/8/10 and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

(f) Report of the Director-General on internal audit (C/8/11)

139. Pursuant to Financial Regulation 11.4(b), the Director-General presented his ‘Report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office’ (C/8/11), outlining the audit activities performed by the Internal Auditor.

140. The Chair of the AFC reported on the discussions held at the Committee meeting pertaining to this matter as set out in his Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting (C/8/CRP/3).

141. In the ensuing discussion, one delegation elaborated further on its request to enable Members’ access to internal audit reports and to post internal audit summary reports on a publicly accessible website, citing recommendations of relevant United Nations system oversight bodies as examples in this respect. That Member closed by expressing the hope that IRENA would consider adopting such practices in order to achieve the same level of transparency and accountability.

142. In his response, the Director-General agreed that maximum transparency engenders trust of the membership. He proposed to make, with the participation of that delegation, an assessment of the current practice in the international system in order to submit recommendations to IRENA’s inter-governmental bodies for further action on this matter. He noted that such report could be prepared in time for the next meeting of the Council to enable it to prepare its recommendation to the Assembly.

143. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office’ as contained in document C/8/11.

(g) Status of the implementation of audit recommendations (C/8/12)

144. The Director-General presented the report on the ‘Status of the Implementation of Audit Recommendations’ (C/8/12).

145. The Chair of the AFC reported that the Committee had considered the report and had no comment thereon.

146. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of Audit Recommendations’ as contained in document C/8/12 and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

(h) Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015 (C/8/13)

147. The Director of the Administration and Management Services Division reported on the ‘Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015’ (C/8/13) totaling USD 20 million and based on 135 Members. He noted that the scale would be adjusted should additional Members join IRENA by the time of the fifth

session of the Assembly when the final indicative IRENA scale of contributions for 2015 is expected to be adopted.

148. The Chair of the AFC reported on comments made at the Committee meeting pertaining to the investigation into alternative funding options and the matter of outstanding contributions. The discussions are set out in his Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting (C/8/CRP/3), with a list showing the status of outstanding assessed contributions as of 2 November 2014 in the Annex.

149. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015’ as contained in document C/8/13, agreed with the recommendations specified in paragraph 5 therein, and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.

Additional matters raised during the meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee

150. The Chair of the AFC reported on comments made at the Committee meeting under the item ‘Any other business’. The comments are set out in his Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting (C/8/CRP/3).

151. The Council took note of these comments.

Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the fifth session of the Assembly (C/8/14)

152. The Director-General presented plans for the fifth session of the Assembly, including discussions on climate change and renewable energy, which would also take into account the outcome of COP 20 in Lima and the global actions that have to be taken before the COP 21 in Paris. He noted that the issue of energy access and the scaling-up of off-grid renewable energy deployment for rural electrification will also be considered. He informed the Council about a planned pre-Assembly day on 16 January 2015, during which the Secretariat will host a number of programmatic events. He noted that the Assembly meeting will again coincide with the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, in which IRENA will participate actively –continuing a practice which enables cross-fertilisation between the intergovernmental and private sector spheres of activity.

153. The Director-General noted that special high-level segments of the Assembly plenary are being planned in order to present and discuss IRENA’s global, regional and national activities in support of the uptake of renewable energy. Building on the success of past meetings, there will be two Ministerial Roundtables; the first will explore the transformation of the power sector and the increasing share of renewables in power generation, as well as the developments in storage and smart technologies. The second roundtable will discuss renewable energy and energy security.

154. A representative of Japan emphasised that Japan is honoured and pleased to serve as President of the fifth session of the IRENA Assembly and underlined that it will continue its support to enable the Agency to move to the next stage of its development. He emphasised Japan’s commitment to ensure the success of the upcoming Assembly by working closely with Members and the Secretariat and expressed his country’s

appreciation for the support and advice received from Members to date which, he hoped, would continue through to the Assembly.

155. The Council took note of the interventions made on the matter.

Agenda Item 10: Arrangements for the ninth meeting of the Council

156. The Council decided to hold its ninth meeting on 10 and 11 June 2015.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

157. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates extended an invitation to the IRENA membership to attend the events during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), including the World Future Energy Summit (WFES), which would coincide with the fifth IRENA Assembly and continue until 24 January 2015. Delegates were encouraged to pass along this information to their Ministers.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting

158. In closing the meeting, the Council Chair said that he was extremely pleased with the outcome of the eighth Council meeting. He pointed out that there was considerable space dedicated to substance, with more occasions to discuss specific activities that the Secretariat is developing according to the Work Programme, and that this had helped Members to have a closer look at the Agency's work and the Secretariat to receive inputs from Members to better focus its work on ongoing activities. He emphasised the importance of two specific exchanges during the Council meeting: the discussion of the future role of IRENA and the preliminary discourse on innovative options for future funding of the organisation. He thanked delegations for their engagement and participation, which provided productive feedback for the activities of the Agency and guidance on strategic considerations going forward. He closed the eighth meeting of the Council with a vote of thanks to all delegates.

Eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA

3 – 4 November 2014, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

3 November 2014

Agenda of the eighth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of work
 - a. Election of officials
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
 - c. Report of the seventh meeting of the Council
3. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget
4. Programmatic Discussion
 - a. Renewable Energy: from the Climate Summit to Paris 2015
 - b. Regional approaches and initiatives
 - c. Off-grid and energy access
5. The Global Energy Transformation: The increasing relevance of renewable energy and the evolving role of IRENA
6. Options for future funding for IRENA
7. Institutional matters
 - a. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
 - b. Candidacies for Council membership – update from Regional Groups
 - c. Rules of Procedure for subsidiary organs of the Council

8. Administrative matters
 - a. Staff Provident Fund
 - b. Staff Regulations and Rules
 - c. Secondment of personnel
 - d. Administration of Justice
 - e. Report of the Ethics Officer
 - f. Report of the Director-General on internal audit
 - g. Status of the implementation of audit recommendations
 - h. Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015

9. Arrangements for the fifth session of the Assembly

10. Arrangements for the ninth meeting of the Council

11. Any other business

12. Closing of the meeting

Eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA

3 – 4 November 2014, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

31 December 2014

List of participants

Council members (20)

No.	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Cameroon	Iya Tidjani	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in Saudi Arabia
2	Cyprus	Elpidoforos Economou	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
3		George Partasides	Industrial Extension Officer	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
4	France	Michel Miraillet	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
5		Charles Hullot	Director	Association pour le Développement des Échanges en Technologie Économique et Financière (ADETEF)
6		Elois Divol	Climate Change Officer	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
7		Martine Kubler Mamlouk	Deputy Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
8		Philippe Geiger	Deputy Director	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
9		Stephen Marchisio	Head of Division	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
10	Greece	Dionyssios Zois	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
11	Grenada	Nickolas Steele	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12	India	Upendra Tripathy	Secretary to the Government	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
13		Dilip Kumar Khare	Director	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
14		Namrata Kumar	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
15		Thettalil Parameswaran Pillai Seetharam	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
16		Vijay Krishnamoorthy	Director for Energy Security	Ministry of External Affairs
17	Israel	Ron Adam	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
18	Italy	Matteo Romitelli	Director of Energy and Environment Unit	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
19		Alessandro Rizzo	Energy Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

No.	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
20		Caterina Gigliuto	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
21		Giorgio Starace	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
22		Riccardo Toxiri	Policy Advisor	Ministry of Economic Development
23	Japan	Yoshihiko Kamo	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
24		Jiro Kida	Director	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
25		Kazuto Nakamura	Senior Assistant Director	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
26		Keiichi Sugita	Deputy Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
27		Kenichiro Matsubayashi	Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
28		Kentaro Kaneto	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
29		Nobuhisa Edamura	Deputy Director	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
30		Tetsuro Oi	Deputy Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
31		Tomoyoshi Hisamori	Deputy Director	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
32		Tsuyoshi Tanaka	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
33	Malaysia	Datuk Loo Took Gee	Secretary General	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
34		Azah Ahmad	Director for Renewable Energy Technology	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
35		Catherine Ridu	Chief Executive Officer	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
36		Dato' Ahmad Anwar Adnan	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
37		Gladys Mak	Director	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
38		Jaya Singam Rajoo	Undersecretary	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
39		Mazita Marzuki	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
40		Nor Azlan Shah Ahmad Shah	Head of Division	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
41		Nurhafiza Mohamed Hasan	Head of Division	Energy Commission
42	Mexico	Margott C. Galván Encinas	Director for Africa, Middle East and International Oil Market	Ministry of Energy
43		Eduardo René Narváez Torres	Deputy Director for Energy Sustainability	Ministry of Energy
44		Francisco Javier Alonso Escobar	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
45	Mozambique	Tomé Fernando Bambo	International Affairs Officer	Ministry of Energy
46	Nigeria	Eli Jidere Bala	Director-General	Energy Commission
47		Abubakar Malah Umar	Acting Director	Energy Commission
48		Adesoye Samotu	Official	Diplomatic Mission in UAE

No.	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
49	Republic of Korea	Hyung-jong Lee	Deputy Director-General of Global Economic Affairs Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
50		Chang-wan Kim	Deputy Director	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy
51		Duk-ryul Park	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
52		Jin-young Soh	Director	Korea Energy Economics Institute
53		Sang-keun Yu	Assistant Manager	Korea Energy Management Cooperation
54		Sung-ho Bae	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
55	Romania	Adrian Măcelaru	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
56		Dorian Prisăcaru	Minister Plenipotentiary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
57	Tonga	Lord Tu'ivakanō	Prime Minister	Government of the Kingdom of Tonga
58		'Inoke F. Vala	Director of Tonga Energy Roadmap	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
59		Viliami Va'inga Tone	Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
60	Uganda	Simon Giw D'Ujanga	Minister of State for Energy	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
61		Aggery Dhamuzungu	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
62		Godfrey Ndawula	Assistant Commissioner	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
63		Irene Florence Persis Wekiya	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
64		Mbabazi-Alali	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
65		Michael Ahimbisibwe	Senior Energy Officer	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
66	United Arab Emirates	Thani Ahmad Al Zeyoudi	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
67		Ali Ozair Al-Shaffar	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
68		Ameirah Al Dahmani	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
69		Dane Clinton McQueen	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
70		El Waleed Mohamed Hamad El-Malik	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
71		Ghalia Humaidan	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
72		Ghanem Humaid Hamad Al Dhaheri	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
73		Ghasag Yousif Shaheen	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
74		Hannes Alexander Reinisch	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
75		Naoko M. Kubo	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
76		Tina Latif	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
77		Mohammad Bastaki	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
78		Sausan Salem Al Jaberi	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

No.	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
79		Shaima Sharif Al Aydarous	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
80	United States of America	Timothy G. Williamson	Deputy Director	Department of State
81		Mark E. Motley	Economic Officer	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
82		Moira Thomas	Economic Officer	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
83	Uruguay	Ramón Méndez	Secretary of Energy	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining
84		Nelson Yemil Chabén Labadie	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
85		Stephanie Grunvald Balter	International Affairs Advisor	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining

Council Alternates (4)

No.	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Fiji	Peceli Nakavulevu	Director of Department of Energy	Ministry of Transport Works and Energy
2		Emosi Rakai	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
3		Ravindran Robin Nair	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
4		Sarika Lata	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
5	Germany	Martin Schöpe	Head of Division	Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
6		Alexander Haack	Team Leader	German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
7		Eckhard Lübke-meier	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
8		Ellen von Zitzewitz	Deputy Head of Division	Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
9		Ralf Schröer	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
10	New Zealand	Michael Burrell	Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
11		Merinda-Lee Hassall	Development Manager	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
12	Poland	Kinga Szafrankowska	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission in UAE
13		Marcin Ścigan	Expert	Ministry of Economy
14		Bożena Czaja	Minister Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission in UAE

Members of IRENA

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Azerbaijan
8. Belarus
9. Belgium
10. Benin
11. Bosnia and Herzegovina
12. China
13. Czech Republic
14. Denmark
15. Egypt
16. Ethiopia
17. European Union
18. Finland
19. Indonesia
20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
21. Iraq
22. Jordan
23. Kazakhstan
24. Kenya
25. Kiribati
26. Kuwait
27. Latvia
28. Lesotho
29. Luxembourg
30. Maldives
31. Montenegro
32. Netherlands
33. Niger
34. Norway
35. Oman
36. Pakistan
37. Peru
38. Philippines
39. Portugal
40. Qatar
41. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
42. Senegal

43. Serbia
44. Seychelles
45. Sierra Leone
46. Slovakia
47. South Africa
48. Spain
49. Sudan
50. Swaziland
51. Sweden
52. Tajikistan
53. Turkey
54. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
55. Yemen

Observers

Signatories / States-in-Accession

1. Afghanistan
2. Austria
3. Colombia
4. Ireland
5. Lebanon

UN Member States: Non Signatories / Non States-in-Accession

1. Thailand
2. Ukraine

Eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA

3 – 4 November 2014, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

03 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.

Eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA

3 – 4 November 2014, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

03 November 2014

Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting

The following comments and recommendations were made at the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) meeting held on 2 November 2014:

1. Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget
 - The Director-General introduced the 'Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget', contained in document C/8/2.
 - The AFC considered the report, had no comments and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.
2. Staff Provident Fund
 - The Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board presented the 'Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Amendments to the Charter and Administrative Rules of the IRENA Staff Provident Fund', contained in document C/8/5.
 - The Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board also presented the 'Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on the Proposal on a Revised Investment Policy of the Staff Provident Fund', contained in document C/8/6.
 - The AFC took note of both reports, agreeing with the proposals therein and decided to submit them to the Council for its consideration.
3. Staff Regulations and Rules
 - The Secretariat presented the 'Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules', contained in document C/8/7.
 - The AFC took note of the report, agreeing with the proposals therein and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.
4. Secondment of Personnel
 - The Secretariat presented the 'Report of the Director-General on secondment and related matters', contained in document C/8/8.
 - The AFC considered the report, had no comments and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

5. Administration of Justice

- The Secretariat presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the operation of the arbitration system for IRENA’, contained in document C/8/9.
- The AFC took note of the report, agreeing with the proposals therein and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

6. Report of the Director-General on Internal Audit and Status of the Implementation of Audit Observations and Recommendations

- The Director-General presented his report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, contained in document C/8/11, as well as his Report on the Status of Implementation of Audit Recommendations, contained in document C/8/12.
- One member made two suggestions, one for amending the Internal Audit Charter pertaining to provisions for Public Disclosures of Internal Audit Activities in line with practices in the UN Common System and secondly to securely publish internal audit reports on a website accessible to Members. In response, the Director-General requested that the proposal be submitted in writing to the Secretariat to fully understand the implications, along with examples of UN Common System referenced practices, so that the proposal could be circulated to Members for their feedback and any potential decision of the IRENA Assembly.
- The AFC took note of both reports and decided to transmit them to the Council for its consideration.

7. IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015

- The Secretariat presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2015’, contained in document C/8/13.
- A suggestion was made for IRENA to investigate alternative funding options in addition to the funding through core budget such as using cash surplus credits as voluntary contributions to fund activities. It was further requested that the Secretariat report back to the Council on these funding options.
- It was also noted that there were a number of countries that had not settled their annual assessed contributions, and a question was raised regarding the repercussions for those Members. In response, the Secretariat confirmed that a Member shall have no right to vote if its arrears reach or exceed the amount of its contribution for the two preceding years (Article XVII of the IRENA Statute). The Secretariat also informed the Committee that *Notes Verbales* have been sent to Members who could potentially face such situation and that it will be reporting on this issue to the Assembly at its fifth session, as appropriate.
- The Secretariat distributed a list showing the status of outstanding assessed contributions as of 2 November 2014 (attached).
- The AFC took note of the report and while encouraging Members to pay outstanding assessed contributions, decided to transmit it to the Council for its consideration.

8. Any other business

- One Member made comments on recruitment and retention of staff. While that Member expressed its appreciation for efforts made by the Agency in attracting and identifying competent candidates, it suggested that additional funding be made available for recruitment-related efforts and activities in order to attract and recruit a higher number of eligible candidates.
- On staff retention, suggestions were made to further encourage the Agency to look into ways to encourage the retention of staff, including strengthening the support provided for facilitating the settlement of new joiners into a new environment and providing advice regarding opportunities for spouse employment.
- Another aspect on staff retention was to consider a review of the current education grant entitlement to include support for child care and pre-school education.
- The Secretariat clarified that vacant positions are being advertised through different channels, including specialized channels for the types of jobs being advertised; however, the response while positive was not very significant. The Secretariat took note of the above suggestion and will continue its efforts to identify additional channels and venues for outreach.
- The Secretariat further clarified that the current education grant entitlement follows the UN common system as per the Staff Regulations and while the Agency has to remain within that framework, it would further consider this matter.

IRENA STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS						
As of 2 November 2014						
(Amounts in USD)						
Members	Unpaid Working Capital Fund	Balance of Assessed Contributions			Credits*	Outstanding as of 2 November 2014
		Prior to 2013	2013	2014		
Members with Outstanding Contributions 2014 and Prior Years						
1 Argentina	8,128.00	-	30,888.00	101,595.00	(10,281.46)	130,329.54
2 Benin	62.00	53.00	702.00	780.00	-	1,597.00
3 Cape Verde**	16.00	228.00	175.00	195.00	(51.40)	562.60
4 Côte d'Ivoire	203.00	-	351.00	2,535.00	(376.13)	2,712.87
5 Cuba	-	-	2,874.92	16,185.00	(93.00)	18,966.92
6 Dominican Republic**	-	10,505.12	9,301.00	10,530.00	(2,249.42)	28,086.70
7 Eritrea	16.00	-	175.00	195.00	(47.40)	338.60
8 Ethiopia	-	156.00	1,755.00	1,950.00	-	3,861.00
9 Iran	-	-	6,296.75	83,655.00	-	89,951.75
10 Iraq	-	-	2,059.12	15,990.00	(1,170.12)	16,879.00
11 Marshall Islands**	16.00	228.00	175.00	195.00	(47.40)	566.60
12 Niger	-	-	326.65	390.00	(35.47)	681.18
13 Palau**	16.00	228.00	175.00	195.00	(173.40)	440.60
14 Panama	47.00	-	4,568.44	6,045.00	(390.11)	10,270.33
15 Rwanda	25.00	-	175.00	390.00	-	590.00
16 Saint Kitts and Nevis	15.00	-	88.00	195.00	-	298.00
17 Senegal**	109.00	1,474.32	1,404.00	1,365.00	(321.44)	4,030.88
18 Slovenia**	1,888.00	23,448.00	22,640.00	23,595.00	(5,516.38)	66,054.62
19 Solomon Islands	15.00	-	58.67	195.00	-	268.67
20 Spain	-	-	181,880.94	698,490.00	(62,419.95)	817,950.99
21 Swaziland	62.00	-	702.00	780.00	(160.72)	1,383.28
22 Togo**	16.00	361.00	175.00	195.00	(62.21)	684.79
23 Vanuatu	15.00	-	132.00	195.00	-	342.00
Subtotal	10,649.00	36,681.44	267,078.49	965,835.00	(83,396.01)	1,196,847.92
Members with Outstanding Contributions 2014						
1 Bahrain	-	-	-	9,165.00	(31.00)	9,134.00
2 Burkina Faso	62.00	-	-	780.00	-	842.00
3 Cameroon	-	-	-	1,086.23	(195.06)	891.17
4 Gambia	-	-	-	195.00	(17.73)	177.27
5 Georgia	-	-	-	1,560.00	(106.40)	1,453.60
6 Greece	-	-	-	149,955.00	(1,482.00)	148,473.00
7 India	-	-	-	61,554.57	(9,469.12)	52,085.45
8 Israel	-	-	-	93,015.00	(6,856.26)	86,158.74
9 Italy	-	-	-	195,808.92	(13,916.00)	181,892.92
10 Kenya	-	-	-	2,301.92	(212.79)	2,089.13
11 Lesotho	-	-	-	195.00	(17.73)	177.27
12 Monaco	156.00	-	-	2,730.00	(53.20)	2,832.80
13 Pakistan	-	-	-	17,191.00	-	17,191.00
14 Samoa	-	-	-	195.00	(17.73)	177.27
15 Sri Lanka	94.00	-	-	5,850.00	(336.92)	5,607.08
16 Tonga	-	-	-	176.34	(17.73)	158.61
17 Zambia	-	-	-	449.66	-	449.66
Subtotal	312.00	-	-	542,208.64	(32,729.67)	509,790.97
GRAND TOTAL	10,961.00	36,681.44	267,078.49	1,508,043.64	(116,125.68)	1,706,638.89

* Credits pertain to distribution of operating reserve, cash surplus and credits resulting from working capital fund adjustment.

** Members with more than 2 years outstanding assessed contributions. Note verbale notifying Members on possible temporary suspension of voting rights in accordance with IRENA Statute has been sent.