



10 December 2013

Fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA
24 – 25 June 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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

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

1. The fifth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 24 and 25 June 2013. The meeting was attended by all 21 Council members: Cameroon, Egypt, Germany, Grenada, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Niger, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Sudan, Sweden, Tonga, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay; as well as the four alternates: Australia, Fiji, France and Greece. Also in attendance were 60 other IRENA Members and observers.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the fourth meeting of the Council of IRENA, Mr. Thani Al Zeyoudi of the United Arab Emirates, opened the meeting on Monday, 24 June 2013.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

(a) Election of officials

3. **The Council elected by acclamation Germany, represented by Mr. Karsten Sach, as Chair, and Uruguay, represented by Mr. Ramón Méndez, as Vice-Chair of the fifth meeting of the Council. The Chair, Mr. Karsten Sach, assumed the chairmanship of the Council.**

4. **The Chair appointed Egypt as Rapporteur of the fifth meeting of the Council.**

(b) Adoption of the agenda (C/5/1; C/5/1/Add.1)

5. The Council considered the provisional agenda for its fifth meeting.

6. **The Council adopted the agenda for its fifth meeting.**

Agenda Item 3: Progress report: Implementation of the 2013 Work Programme (C/5/CRP/5; C/5/CRP/6)

7. IRENA's Director-General, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, welcomed the delegations in attendance and reflected that the Agency has reached a level of organisational maturity that would allow for Council discussion to

focus on the substance of renewable energy issues and the programmatic aspects of IRENA's work. He drew attention to the fact that this meeting of the Council included not only Council members and alternates, but a total of 85 countries with approximately 250 participants, including four delegations at the ministerial level. He underscored that the Agency's rapid growth is continuing, with a total of 115 Members, 45 additional countries in the process of ratification or accession, and a number of other countries including China that recently applied for IRENA membership.

8. He remarked that the 2013 Work Programme has allowed for an increasingly substantive focus, with emphasis on the three cross-cutting functions identified by the Medium-term Strategy for developing IRENA as a centre of excellence, as a renewable energy advisory resource for countries and as a global hub for renewable energy. He reported that the programmatic implementation rate is increasing, with close to full performance expected by the end of the year.

9. The Director-General then highlighted IRENA's engagement with countries by noting the wide geographical coverage of the Agency's work in its first two and a half years of existence. He observed that worldwide commitment to renewable energy remains strong, despite global economic difficulties. In this respect, he provided details of his participation in the launch of the 'Renewables Club' initiated by Minister Peter Altmeier of Germany, which brought together 10 countries that accounted for 70 percent of renewable energy investment in 2012.

10. The Director-General then provided details of some of the Agency's regional involvement, mentioning as examples the ongoing plans for a Clean Energy Corridor in Africa, increasing engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean, plans for the upcoming Southeast European Conference in Montenegro and continued initiatives with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Middle East North Africa (MENA) countries. He emphasised the key role that Members play in the development of future IRENA engagements.

11. The Director-General provided updated information on some of IRENA's main projects such as the Global Atlas for renewable energy potentials (Global Atlas); the IRENA Renewable Energy Learning Partnership (IRELP), a global initiative which aims to increase awareness and accessibility of renewable energy education opportunities and resources; and the REMAP 2030 initiative to create a roadmap for doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. He also highlighted the IRENA Renewable Costing Alliance, which will create a framework for providing definitive information on the actual cost of renewable energy uptake, and explained IRENA's engagement with the private sector in this regard. He noted that IRENA is also engaging with the private sector on a number of other relevant topics such as financing.

12. Furthermore, he noted that IRENA's Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) process continues to generate high levels of attention and interest from countries, and that the RRA is not only becoming a mechanism for facilitating renewables uptake but also a means of initiating collaboration among countries and potential development partners. He mentioned that additional voluntary contributions from Members would support continued growth of this activity in additional locations.

13. The Director-General introduced some of the Agency's programmatic activities which would be elaborated in presentations during this two-day meeting of the Council, including the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN). He explained how GREIN's work within interest clusters is moving forward, and in this context referred to the recent meetings of Pacific Leaders in both Tonga and New Zealand. He also highlighted IRENA's initial examination of renewable energy possibilities in refugee

camps, as well as a project to examine the intersection between food security and renewable energy focusing on food drying, and he noted the work being undertaken by interested Members in developing ideas on the water-energy-land nexus. He reiterated that IRENA has been designated as the hub for renewable energy within the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL), and expressed thanks for Members' strong support for IRENA in this role.

14. The Director-General highlighted the need to strengthen communications to enhance the visibility of the Agency's activities as well as the global recognition of the role of renewable energy. He pointed to IRENA's institutional publication as a mechanism for developing the Agency's voice. He closed by encouraging Member feedback on the progress of the implementation of the 2013 Work Programme.

15. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), Mr. Nick Clements of the United Kingdom, reported on the Committee meeting which took place the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/5/CRP/6 for a full account of the meeting. He noted that the PSC welcomed the progress made by IRENA since its establishment and the increasing number of activities directly related to addressing country needs. The PSC also emphasised the importance of IRENA's effective engagement with partners, to ensure maximum value-added and to avoid duplication of efforts, as well as of enhanced communication and outreach to Members in order for them to be fully engaged in IRENA's work.

16. In the discussion that followed, many delegations congratulated IRENA on its rapid growth and the substantive progress made on the 2013 Work Programme. One delegation noted with appreciation that its work with the Secretariat since the last Assembly had moved from governance issues to substantive projects, and encouraged the Agency to maintain its bottom-up approach to working with Members. One delegation intervened in support of IRENA's multi-faceted approach to renewable energy issues, at the analytical, policy and advisory levels, from the perspective of different economies. One delegation stressed the importance of assuring that the projects IRENA undertakes have real substance and are practical, especially in light of budget constraints. One delegation noted the need to assess the impact of IRENA's work. Other delegations complimented IRENA's increasing regional involvement, particularly in GCC countries, Asia, the Pacific region, and Africa.

17. A few delegations also emphasised the importance of enhanced communications and outreach for the Agency's work, in order to allow for more sharing of expertise, and which would enable the Secretariat to share key information with the membership. One of these delegations added that the timeliness of communication is also important, to allow sufficient notice for countries to plan their budgets and participation in IRENA events.

18. Delegations also commended the Agency's efforts on specific projects, including the Global Atlas, GREIN, capacity building, economic value creation (EconValue), REMAP 2030, and the progress to date on costing. One delegation expressed its readiness to sign the Global Atlas, and another encouraged all Members to contribute data to the project. Another delegation suggested that more resources be devoted to research, especially studies pertaining to developing countries and off-grid areas, while another requested IRENA to provide assistance on markets and financing. Another delegation requested that IRENA further investigate ways to harness wave energy, and another stressed the importance of geothermal energy projects. Several delegations expressed appreciation for RRAs that have been completed or that are currently in progress, as a means toward energy improvements in countries with limited access to conventional energy, especially in rural areas. One delegation emphasised the importance of broad Member participation in the Agency's flagship programmes.

19. A number of delegations commented on the need for meaningful partnerships to coordinate efforts in promoting renewable energy, to share best practices and data, to create synergies, to avoid duplication of effort and to develop policy frameworks. Two delegations encouraged IRENA's cooperation with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Clean Energy Solutions Center, particularly on policy challenges. Several delegations made requests that IRENA facilitate collaboration and information-sharing among the membership. One delegation requested advice on how to fully utilise wind and geothermal energy potentials. Another delegation supported the creation of a database for sharing information related to island energy, specifically with regard to developing financial mechanisms for attracting private sector investment in renewable energy. One delegation referred to its capacity building work in Africa, and invited IRENA to continue to be part of the effort.

20. One delegation reported that it was in the process of ratifying the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities, and encouraged other countries to do the same.

21. One delegation highlighted the need to ensure the sustainability of the Fund for Developing Country Representatives (FDCR) to support full participation at future governing body meetings.

22. With regard to IRENA's budget, one delegation proposed that links between programmatic activities and expenditures be shown, and remarked that the future work programme would need to balance programmatic demands with the budget. Delegations encouraged countries to further strengthen IRENA's work by making additional voluntary contributions.

23. In response, the Director-General thanked delegations for their support. He stressed the importance of communications, which would be part of a programmatic discussion later in the Council, and noted that IRENA had received funding from the Agency's host country for a special 'Voice of Renewables' media campaign, which would assist in developing the communications of the Agency. He also noted that RRAs had become powerful tools for informing countries' energy plans and strategies, and that there were ongoing discussions about the possibility of regional RRAs as the demand for country RRAs continues to rise exponentially. He underscored the importance of Privileges and Immunities for operating in an international setting, and noted that, as general practice, international organisations benefit from privileges and immunities in order to be able to carry out their functions.

24. The Council took note with appreciation of the Director-General's update on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2013.

Agenda Item 4: Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2014-2015 (C/5/2; C/5/CRP/6)

25. The Director-General opened the discussion by underscoring that this is a transformational period for IRENA because 2013 marks the first year of moving beyond institutional and foundational issues, and of focusing on the substantive and programmatic agenda—building partnerships, refining initiatives, assessing new areas of opportunity and building on past successes.

26. He remarked that in developing the Framework for the biennial Work Programme, IRENA considered how to best build upon work to date, and how to ensure the complementarity of work between different divisions, to maximise the impact and benefits for Members, within the perimeters of the Medium-term

Strategy. He described three themes to guide the selection and implementation of IRENA's programmatic activities in the coming years: integration, transformation, and enabling growth. Activities will be directed at catalysing common action to accelerate renewable energy deployment, in collaboration with partners and based on country-defined needs, national and regional institutions and operations, policy and regulatory frameworks and technology solutions. IRENA will look at innovative policy frameworks, financing instruments for both public and private institutions, methods of employment generation, market access and risk reduction for renewables investment. IRENA will investigate how to drive initiatives that can stimulate development not only in the renewable energy sector, but also through investments in renewable energy that will feed into other facets of local, national and regional economies.

27. The Director-General noted that the Framework contains a more detailed account of planned activities, and that he would highlight an illustrative few, for each of IRENA's three programmatic divisions: the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC); the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC); and Country Support and Partnerships (CSP).

28. Under the Framework, KPFC would strengthen its knowledge work on information collection and analysis, as well as the ways that knowledge is made available to Members and other audiences. This would include the establishment of the 'Knowledge Gateway' – a single point of entry to IRENA's substantive work. KPFC would also address topical issues such as the structure of energy sector ownership, carbon-based economies' transitions toward renewable energy, and de-risking renewable energy finance. It would also build upon the success of the International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC) to advance the work on rural energy.

29. IITC would broaden its work on REMAP 2030 to integrate the socio-economic impact of accelerating renewable energy deployment and to stimulate action at the country and regional levels in cooperation with a wide range of partners. Based on the feedback received from countries, it would focus on grids and storage, among others, including by providing technical assistance when requested. It would update the existing, and introduce new costing studies.

30. CSP would continue supporting countries by undertaking activities such as Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs). It would seek to provide practical applications for the analytical work undertaken by KPFC and IITC through post-RRA modules and advisory services. The regional focus would be expanded to include other regions. It will also provide capacity-building services based on the requests received from countries and driven by the work undertaken by KPFC and IITC.

31. The Director-General noted that, in the coming biennium, the programmatic workload would be broadened—particularly in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia—and that communications and outreach functions would be strengthened to reflect and promote this work. The Director-General closed by emphasising that the proposed Framework highlights key components of IRENA's activities, refines the programme of work based on experience gained in the previous years and Members' input and feedback, and positions the Agency well for the evolution of the organisation.

32. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) reported on the Committee discussions related to the Framework, and referred delegations to document C/5/CRP/6 for a full account of the meeting and comments specifically directed at the three programmatic divisions. He noted that in general the PSC welcomed collaboration with regions and encouraged the geographical expansion of regional and sub-regional work to provide tailor-made support and solutions for countries, including renewable energy status reports and regional seminars in cooperation with regional organisations. He also reported that PSC

supported IRENA's continued engagement with stakeholders and partners to ensure synergy and complementarity with other activities. PSC also encouraged IRENA to propose activities that countries could support with additional voluntary contributions and to continue to engage in activities that link the use of renewables to broader development goals.

33. In the discussion that followed, many delegations supported the proposed Framework as a positive continuation of the previous two years and of the clear structure and focus it provides to the Agency's upcoming programmatic activities. One delegation emphasised that this is a foundational time for the Agency, and stressed the importance of the flagship activities upon which IRENA would build its global reputation.

34. Several delegations encouraged IRENA's plans for regional, sub-regional, and inter-regional linkages, especially in Africa, Latin America and on islands, noting that new cooperation models and additional synergies would be welcome. One delegation supported inter-regional collaboration in which experts could be shared between regions for communicating experiences and knowledge. Two delegations encouraged specific cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations, especially those in the United Nations family, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, and the International Energy Agency (IEA), as well as with the private sector. Some delegations noted that they were interested in looking into renewable energy best practices in a systematic way, especially at the international level, so that value creation could transcend local contexts.

35. A number of delegations welcomed the continuation of IRENA flagship activities, including the Global Atlas, grids and storage, RRAs, costing studies and the Costing Alliance, REMAP 2030, EconValue and GREIN. Some noted the importance of cooperation with other organisations and initiatives, including with SE4ALL. Two delegations welcomed the proposals for new work on GREIN and one delegation suggested to further strengthen work in Southeast Europe and MENA. Other delegations recommended additional work on rural energy, including rural electricity initiatives in Latin America, renewable energy in the transport sector, and active engagement with the private sector on concrete projects, such as PV Legal, to make use of industry knowledge and involve this sector more actively. One delegation enquired about the potential for a greater focus on Central Africa.

36. Following a recent regional meeting organised by IRENA in Montevideo, Uruguay, one delegation introduced proposals for IRENA's engagement in Latin America that were agreed on in that meeting. These included suggestions for: 1) initiatives for other renewable energy technologies in addition to current hydropower projects; 2) studies on technical aspects of renewables technologies including demand-side management, grid management, operational procedures and forecasting; 3) studies on local content including job creation, technology transfer and industrial development; 4) the development of a set of criteria typically required by financial institutions to facilitate access to credit for renewable energy projects and thus encourage the flow of funds to the region for these projects; 5) capacity-building programmes tailored to the region; and 6) a regional status report that could be presented at the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) Ministerial Assembly.

37. Some delegations requested sufficient time for Members to consider the draft Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015, since they felt that a 30-day timeline would not allow enough time for internal discussions before the next Council meeting. One delegation noted the importance of looking at ways to make Members' comments available to the membership to facilitate inter-sessional communication.

38. On the topic of the budget, some delegations requested budget figures for the 2014-2015 Work Programme, while pointing out the importance of prioritising activities and of balancing wishes and demands with the resources available. Three delegations noted that they strongly support the ongoing work of IRENA but may not be able to increase their financial contribution in the next two years due to national fiscal constraints. One delegation noted that specific figures for the activities proposed in the biennial framework would be needed so that countries could get a better sense of the budget increase they could be facing. Two delegations noted that they understood the budget constraints that some countries are facing, but stressed the importance of continuous growth especially considering the nascent stage of IRENA's development. They urged countries to increase their support, including through voluntary or in-kind contributions wherever possible, and stressed that limiting the growth of the budget could also limit the expansion of activities that are crucial to the Agency as a developing organisation. One delegation indicated that it would provide a voluntary contribution in the biennium and would discuss with the Secretariat programmatic priorities for such contribution.

39. The Director-General noted that Members shape the work of the Agency, including by striking a balance between the level of ambition and resources that could be given for the Agency's programmatic activities. He indicated that, bearing in mind the continuation of ongoing activities approved by Members, the re-costing of the budget and the membership's requests for deepened engagement by the Agency, the proposed Framework is estimated at USD 23-24 million for each year of the biennium.

40. The Chair closed the discussion by noting that the proposed Framework would be elaborated in the coming months into a full-fledged work programme and budget. He noted that Members would need additional time for internal discussions and coordination, so he proposed and the Council agreed that 1) the Secretariat would circulate the draft 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget by mid-October 2013, preferably by 10 October 2013; 2) Members would provide comments by the end of October 2013; and 3) the Secretariat would circulate a revised version of the draft 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget by mid-November 2013.

41. The Council took note of the Preliminary Framework of the Work Programme and Budget 2014-2015 (C/5/2) and requested that the Secretariat take into consideration its feedback and guidance when elaborating the 2014-2015 draft Work Programme and Budget, to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item 5: Programmatic discussion I – IRENA as the Global Hub for renewable energy (C/5/CRP/1/Rev.1)

Renewable energy hub for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)

42. The Director-General opened the programmatic discussion by introducing IRENA's current engagement in the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) and its role as the Initiative's renewable energy hub. He introduced two of IRENA's activities that substantively contribute to the work of SE4ALL: the global roadmap for renewable energy (REMAP 2030) and the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN). The Director-General noted that IRENA's hub role facilitates complementarity of effort between SE4ALL stakeholders and IRENA's programmatic activities, based on Members' needs and priorities. He also mentioned that close cooperation with the SE4ALL Global Facilitation Team and other regional and thematic hubs is critical to achieving broader SE4ALL goals.

43. A representative of Denmark spoke on the energy efficiency hub of the SE4ALL Initiative, which Denmark is hosting. He welcomed close cooperation between IRENA and the energy efficiency hub. He added that the efficiency hub focuses on sharing knowledge and cooperating with other organisations, including efforts to compile a database on the energy efficiency activities in SE4ALL countries and to facilitate new investment in energy efficiency improvements.

44. A representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) presented the SE4ALL regional hub for Africa, which is hosted by the AfDB in cooperation with the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The role of this hub will be to facilitate the implementation of the Initiative, and to promote information-sharing, mobilisation of financing, outreach, knowledge management, and monitoring, evaluating, and reporting. The hub's guiding principles are African ownership, a light structure and action-oriented activities. He noted that many IRENA activities, including the Africa Clean Energy Corridor (CEC), are highly relevant to the Africa hub, and he suggested that IRENA and the AfDB explore the possibility of joint activities.

45. A representative of the World Bank presented the SE4ALL knowledge hub, hosted by the World Bank. The aim of this hub is to develop the details of the SE4ALL Global Tracking Framework presented in May 2013. He noted that this hub, which will have close linkages to other hubs and country-level partners, would rely on information feeds by IRENA to track progress on renewables.

46. Delegations affirmed IRENA's position as the centre for global renewable energy activities and its role as the renewables hub for SE4ALL. One delegation noted that IRENA's renewable energy hub role as described by the Director-General should now be translated into action. One delegation emphasised the importance of country engagement and the development of effective enabling frameworks at the national level. Another delegation agreed, adding that the ambitious renewables targets of SE4ALL would require cooperation at the global and regional levels as well.

47. Delegations welcomed a more concrete plan on the related resource implications for IRENA's activities, and highlighted the need to continue to cooperate with the other SE4ALL hubs and organisations working on this Initiative in order to avoid duplication of work and to maximise possible synergies.

48. The Director-General thanked delegations for their support and stressed the need for coordination with relevant partners within the Initiative and with different hubs to develop methodology and synergies, and that the presence of some of those parties at the Council meeting showed this commitment. He informed the Council that discussions would continue with Austria and with SE4ALL's Global Facilitation Team regarding potential co-location of an IRENA office in Vienna, which would mean that IRENA's presence in Austria would not have an impact on the Agency's core budget.

REMAP 2030

49. The Director of IRENA's Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) presented IRENA's progress on its global roadmap for renewable energy – REMAP 2030. Through REMAP 2030, IRENA is demonstrating possible pathways and priority actions for meeting the aspirational target articulated in the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) of doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. He pointed out that REMAP 2030 is being developed through nationally-nominated REMAP experts and thanked the countries that have already assigned REMAP experts. He highlighted the results of the technical REMAP report, published in January 2013, as well as the progress made with the 25 country and

the end-use sector analyses. He concluded by noting that the launch of the global roadmap would be targeted for the next IRENA Assembly in January 2014.

50. A representative of Japan, invited to speak on the subject, explained the ways in which his country's engagement in REMAP 2030 is already assisting in its consideration of new options for renewables within the country, including the introduction of a feed-in tariff, resources allocated to wind power production and domestic geothermal development. He noted that REMAP 2030 could assist in addressing the technical aspects of renewable energy and other critical elements such as cost implications, investment opportunities, country-specific situations and end-use opportunities. The delegation noted that IRENA should continue its collaboration with regional partners, including regional financial institutions, for REMAP 2030.

51. A representative of Germany, invited to speak on the subject, mentioned that REMAP 2030 would be an important instrument for national debate and sectoral recommendations, specifically for analysis of renewable energy in cities, in the manufacturing sector, and for experience and best practice comparisons by region. The delegation expressed the expectation that REMAP 2030 would also serve as an instrument to guide the international debate on renewables, specifically with global actions, concrete recommendations and specific tools to further elaborate the spread of renewable energy, including visual tools.

52. Speakers from the World Bank and the African Development Bank pointed out that REMAP 2030 could provide comprehensive country analyses to prospective investors, and that it could also inform assessments of investment needs for decentralised renewables solutions to improve access to modern energy services in rural regions. This point was reiterated by several delegations, which stressed that REMAP 2030 could also become a useful tool for assessing implications for financing, new business models, and investments in small- and large-scale renewable technology deployment projects within their countries or regions.

53. Several delegations commented on their existing engagement within REMAP 2030 and highlighted the importance and usefulness of the roadmap. One delegation supported the bottom-up approach used by REMAP 2030, and emphasised that in order to take into account specific national and regional conditions, each individual country would require a differentiated yet comparable approach. Furthermore, several delegations agreed that REMAP 2030 could be used to identify technology priorities, guide global investment streams, and highlight opportunities for renewables in end-use sectors. Another delegation suggested that IRENA Members could assist in regional analyses for REMAP 2030.

54. In conclusion, the Director-General stressed the importance of country ownership in REMAP 2030 and the central role that it could play in partnering with other organisations – including the SE4ALL constituency – to build a guiding framework for the future of renewables.

Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN)

55. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN) which was launched at the Assembly in January 2013 as a global platform to share best practices among islands and accelerate their renewable energy deployment. He noted that the initiative welcomes participation by all islands – not only Small Island Developing States (SIDS) but also other island states, countries with islands, and countries with virtual islands far from power grids. He added that GREIN also provides an opportunity for donors with an interest in islands to channel their support using GREIN's thematically-focused interest clusters, and that GREIN would cooperate with SIDS DOCK and other

partners through a Global Islands Virtual Knowledge Network (GIV Knowledge Network) to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

56. He reported on two interest clusters launched in March 2013 at the Pacific Energy Summit in Auckland, New Zealand: roadmaps and grid integration. He noted that the roadmaps cluster would be outlining a standard ‘GREIN’ roadmap, which would focus on practical renewable energy options and would be applied on three islands in the upcoming year. He explained that the grid integration cluster could play a critical role in unlocking renewable power investments on islands, and that already the grid stability exercise that IRENA conducted in Palau revealed that up to a 30 percent share of renewables generation, mostly photovoltaic, could be accommodated with little adjustment to grid operation. A third cluster on tourism, to be launched later in 2013, would focus on opportunities such as solar water heating for showers and solar absorption chillers for air conditioning that could serve as profitable investments for island hotels around the globe. He noted that additional clusters were planned on resource assessment, geothermal energy, waste-to-energy and desalination.

57. H.E. Mariyam Shakeela, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Maldives, invited to speak on the subject, emphasised the importance of renewable energy for replacing fossil fuels on the islands of the Maldives, because fossil fuels consume 35 percent of the Maldives’ gross domestic product. She also noted that 80 percent of diesel imports are used for electricity generation, driving up costs in the key economic sectors of tourism and fisheries that account for 60 percent of electricity use. The GREIN initiative could help transform islands from carbon-intensive to low-carbon economies by encouraging renewable options to displace diesel imports, for example by building local capacities to plan, install and utilise these options on power grids, as well as by combining cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in hotels. She introduced the ‘Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme’ (SREP), supported by multilateral banks on 40 islands, which aims to make the power sector on 10 islands fully renewable. She reiterated the Maldives’ commitment to transforming its energy sector through investment in renewable energy technologies and its support for IRENA and GREIN.

58. A representative of SIDS DOCK explained that the SIDS DOCK initiative was formed to help SIDS face the challenge of costly adaptation to rising sea levels. It aims to restructure the energy mix of SIDS by 2033, to achieve 25 percent improvement in energy efficiency compared to a 2005 baseline, and to achieve 50 percent of power and at least 25 percent of transportation fuel from renewable energy sources. He informed delegations that SIDS DOCK is working to establish a revolving fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments on islands, and that it intends to work closely with GREIN through the GIV Knowledge Network.

59. A representative of the Clean Energy Initiative of the Clinton Climate Initiative expressed his support for IRENA and its mission. He presented key activities undertaken by the Initiative, including the collaboration with GREIN and SIDS DOCK to accelerate deployment of renewable energy on islands. He noted that the Clinton Climate Initiative is supporting renewable energy projects that utilise geothermal, biomass, wind energy, waste-to-energy and renewable desalination technologies on a number of islands. He emphasised the importance of the Third SIDS Global Conference, to be hosted by Samoa on 1-4 September 2014 with support from the United Nations, as a decisive milestone for GREIN and renewable energy on islands.

60. Several delegations intervened to express their support for GREIN. Some delegations noted that GREIN could help islands determine how best to meet their renewable energy targets. Two delegations also remarked on the importance of sharing credible, up-to-date information for energy planning and forecasting.

One Member added that the Pacific Islands have sought assistance from development partners to create a Regional Data Repository for up-to-date information that can be shared pertaining to island energy.

Agenda Item 6: Institutional matters

Report of the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee

61. At the invitation of the Council, the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee, Undersecretary of State Ms. Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik of Poland, reported from the second meeting of the Advisory Committee (Committee) on 23 June 2013.

62. The Committee Chair informed the Council that the Committee had reviewed the status of the selection process for the first funding cycle and had discussed recommendations to improve the IRENA/ADFD project facility. She thanked Committee members, alternates and the Panel of Experts (Experts) for their involvement, commitment and valuable input. She highlighted their collective efforts in pursuing an open, transparent and consultative process to improve and implement selection procedures. She informed the Council that from over 80 project summaries received, 19 were short-listed, of which 16 full project proposals were submitted for further consideration by the Experts. The process focuses on the selection of projects that address energy access, are replicable and innovative, are geographically diverse, comprise various technologies and are in line with government priorities. The recommended projects would then be provided to the ADFD for final selection. The Committee Chair noted that the election of a new Committee was scheduled to take place at the next session of the Assembly in January 2014, referring Members to the deliberations reflected in the Second Assembly report (A/2/SR).

63. The Committee Chair listed the following as main areas of agreement from the Committee meeting:

- A report on the first funding cycle would be given at the sixth Council. This is expected to include reporting on the selection of projects for the first funding cycle.
- Outreach to the IRENA membership and a webinar for all potential applicants would be planned to assist applicants in the second funding cycle.
- Proposals for the improvement of ‘Selection procedures for projects applying for funding from the ADFD’ would be considered by the Committee prior to the sixth Council. The Council would review the proposal and submit its recommendations to the Assembly at its fourth session.
- The second funding cycle is scheduled to open its application phase around the sixth Council.

64. The Council Chair thanked the Committee Chair, noting that the Council looked forward to receiving an update on the matter at its next meeting. The Council Chair also thanked the host country for making funding opportunities available through the ADFD. One delegation highlighted its continuous commitment to working with the Chair and the other members of the Committee. The Director-General expressed his appreciation to the Committee Chair and underscored the importance of her determination in putting the selection procedures on a solid foundation, ensuring fairness and transparency throughout the process.

65. The Council took note with appreciation of the Report of the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee.

(a) Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012 (C/5/3; C/5/CRP/7)

66. Introducing the matter, the Director of Administration and Management Services explained that the financial statements covering the year ending 31 December 2012 have been prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and, after having been audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, were submitted to the Council for its review and onward transmission to the Assembly. It further informed the Council that:

- The auditors have submitted a positive–unqualified audit opinion, attesting that the financial statements properly present the financial performance and the financial position of IRENA for fiscal year 2012;
- Information and explanations given within the period in the accounts and accompanying notes were consistent with the financial statements of IRENA as of 31 December 2012; and
- In the auditors' opinion, in all material respect, expenditure and income for IRENA for fiscal year 2012 have been spent for the purposes intended, and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities governing them.

67. The Secretariat informed the Council that the 2012 core budget cash surplus amounts to USD 1,277,454.00 and explained that it would be apportioned to Members as of 1 January 2014

68. In her report from the meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Minister Mariyam Shakeela of the Maldives, who chaired the meeting of the committee, informed the Council that the Committee welcomed the positive audit opinion and noted its appreciation for the continued compliance with IPSAS. She highlighted the Committee's appreciation for the work undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway. She noted that, in response to a related question, the Director-General had explained that the lower budget utilisation under the Policy Advisory and Capacity Building programme component compared to the approved 2012 budget was mainly due to the early stages in programme implementation. She noted that the AFC had inquired about the availability of the Management Letter from the auditors. She informed the Council about the Secretariat's confirmation that the Management Letter did not point at any serious weaknesses or shortcomings in the internal controls, and that the Secretariat would provide a status report to the next Council meeting on audit recommendations and actions taken. She noted that the Secretariat had also indicated that in case of deficiencies in the internal controls, these would be brought to the attention of the membership through the report of the external auditor. She noted that the Director-General agreed to consider the request of some Members that the letter itself be provided to Members along with the status report on audit recommendations and actions taken. She closed with the Committee's recommendation to the Council to take note of the document and to transmit it to the Assembly.

69. One Member noted that it has become a Member of IRENA on 1 April 2011, at which point it has become subject to provisions of Article XII of the IRENA Statute on mandatory contributions. That Member asked that a footnote be inserted in Annex 1 of the Audited Financial Statements of the Agency for 2012 which relates to that country's date of membership and its implications on that country's mandatory contribution to the Agency's budget in 2011.

70. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012' as contained in document C/5/3, and the interventions at Council, and decided to submit the document to the Assembly for its consideration at its next session in January 2014.

(b) Interim Financial Regulations (C/5/4; C/5/CRP/7)

71. In his introduction, the Director of Administration and Management Services recalled that the Assembly at its third session had approved the introduction of a biennial work programme and budget cycle, effective 2014-2015, and that it had requested the Director-General to submit amended Interim Financial Regulations (Regulations) reflecting this change to the fourth Assembly for its consideration and adoption. He presented the proposed changes to Council members. He explained that, besides the changes necessitated by the introduction of a biennial cycle, additional amendments were proposed in order to align the Regulations to international best practices and enhance compliance with IPSAS, as well as to reflect Assembly decisions on specific matters since the Regulations were initially promulgated, in addition to making editorial corrections. The Secretariat closed by proposing that the approved revised Regulations become effective 1 January 2014.

72. The Chair of the meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) informed the Council that the AFC welcomed the progress made in the development of the Agency's administrative policies and processes and that it recognised that there was no longer a need for the Regulations to be labelled 'Interim'. She explained that in response to a related question from participants, the Secretariat had clarified that annual assessments would approximate half of the approved biennium appropriations and that the total assessment for two years would not exceed the biennium budget approved by the Assembly. She underlined that participants had generally expressed support for the proposed amendments, with one Member, while endorsing the amendments in general, asking for additional time to consult internally on Regulations 4.5, 6.2 and 6.4. She closed by noting that the Committee had endorsed the proposed revisions and that it had recommended that the Council recommend to the Assembly to approve the proposed revisions at its fourth session, subject to confirmation by one Member of its position on the said regulations.

73. In the ensuing discussion, another Member asked for more time to consult internally on Regulations 4.5, 6.2 and 6.4 and noted that it would communicate any proposed revisions.

74. The Council took note of the 'Proposed revisions of the Interim Financial Regulations of IRENA' as contained in document C/5/4 and recommended to the Assembly to approve the proposed revisions at its fourth session, subject to the confirmation of two Members of their position on Regulations 4.5, 6.2 and 6.4.

75. The Council further requested the Director-General to amend the Financial Procedures accordingly and report on them to the Council at its sixth session.

(c) Administration of Justice (C/5/5)

76. The Director of Administration and Management Services explained that the third Assembly had requested the Director-General to submit to the fifth Council meeting, after consultation with the staff representative body, a list of at least six qualified candidates for inclusion in the Arbitration Panel. He noted that the names and *curricula vitae* of candidates were set out in document C/5/5 which has been circulated to the membership and is available on the 'Delegates Area' of the IRENA website and that, in accordance with Rule 7(3) of the Provisional Arbitration Rules, the Council was invited to consider the proposed candidates for inclusion in the Arbitration Panel for a renewable term of two years.

77. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’ as contained in document C/5/5 and approved the list of candidates contained therein for inclusion in the Arbitration Panel.

(d) Appointment of Ethics Advisory Board members

78. The Council appointed Grenada, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America as members of the Ethics Advisory Board.

(e) Appointment of committee members

79. In his introduction to the matter, the Council Chair recalled that IRENA Members, Signatories and States in Accession have been invited to express their interest in becoming a member of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) or the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) and that the Chair of the fourth meeting of the Council set a deadline of 29 May 2013 for responses. He informed the Council that within this deadline, thirteen expressions of interest had been received. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America had expressed their interest in becoming members of the AFC, with Antigua and Barbuda offering to assume the position of AFC Chair. Denmark, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sudan have expressed their interest in becoming members of the PSC with Denmark offering to assume the position of PSC Chair. The Chair noted that additional expressions of interest, surpassing the number of available seats, were received after the close of the deadline.

80. The Chair recalled that both committees were open to the active participation of all interested Members, Signatories and States in Accession, regardless of any formal committee membership, and that communications regarding the activities of both committees as well as invitations to participate in committee meetings would continue to be transmitted to all those interested. The Chair proposed to accept the expressions of interest received within the deadline and to take note of, welcome and encourage others to participate. He called upon both committees to keep all interested countries informed of and involved in committee activities, regardless of formal membership.

81. One delegation noted the importance of such deadlines being set and communicated clearly and widely to fully enable all Members to take part in the Agency’s decision-making processes. That delegation expressed its agreement with the Chair’s statement that all interested countries have the opportunity to participate equally and in a transparent manner in committee activities. The Chair underlined that the necessary measures would be taken to ensure that all delegations have clarity on procedural requirements.

82. The Council appointed Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America as members of the Administration and Finance Committee, and elected Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

83. The Council further appointed Denmark, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sudan as members of the Programme and Strategy Committee, and elected Denmark as Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

Agenda Item 7: Programmatic discussion II – IRENA-Gateway to renewable energy knowledge (C/5/CRP/2/Rev.1)**84. The Vice-Chair of the fifth meeting of the Council, Mr. Ramón Méndez of Uruguay, assumed the chairmanship of the Council.****Institutional Publication**

85. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the proposed concept, process, outline and format of IRENA's institutional publication, as well as examples of visuals to represent elements of the analysis. She explained that the publication aims to present sound evidence on the critical importance of renewable energy, building on the existing literature (from the World Bank, United Nations agencies, the International Energy Agency and REN21, among others) and offering detailed insights based on some of IRENA's programmatic activities (socio-economic benefits of renewable energy, costing, REMAP 2030, cities and grids, among others). It would also seek to identify potential topics of interest for future programmatic cycles of the Agency (mini-grids, hybrid solutions, new roles for biomass). She explained that the publication would articulate clear messages, aiming to dispel some misconceptions related to renewable energy, and to raise awareness among high-level policy-makers of the costs and benefits of renewable energy.

86. She further explained that it is envisioned to divide the publication into three main building blocks. The first would look at the role of renewable energy in the broader context of the economy, environment and development, providing factual background and conveying the opportunities represented by renewable energy. The second building block would consider new actors and their roles in changing energy markets, in particular the changing ownership structure and business models brought on by renewable energy technologies, and the role of decentralised actions in different types of communities. The last building block would place renewables in the broader context of infrastructure including transmission, distribution, storage and smart grids, and would expound on the necessity of considering water and land uses from other sectors of the economy.

87. Several delegations highlighted the opportunity represented by the institutional publication to build a robust knowledge framework for the Agency, establishing IRENA as a trusted source of renewable energy information and data. Many delegations expressed strong support for the first edition of the publication to be completed by the next Assembly. Some delegations stressed that it would take time for the publication to build its reputation and authoritativeness, and that continued support from Members was needed during the establishment stage. They noted that in-depth analysis of emerging topics and specific regions would add value and differentiate it from existing energy publications. Delegations agreed on the importance of looking at the experience of other institutional publications. One delegation underlined the importance of not overloading the publication with too many topics, but rather preparing the publication in a manner that reflects the topics on which IRENA speaks with authority. Another delegation suggested that special attention be given to highlighting the identity and specificity of IRENA, based on its flagship activities such as the Global Atlas and REMAP 2030, among others. Several delegations recommended that IRENA develop a number of specific key messages applicable to a broad audience, to position itself with respect to other international organisations. Many delegations supported an approach that considers renewable energy in the broader context of other energy sources, and endorsed a cross-cutting approach examining implications for infrastructure, linkages with energy efficiency, and the nexus between food, land and water.

88. One delegation stressed the important role of the publication in debunking the myths surrounding renewable energy and fostering a common understanding of renewable energy across generations, noting that renewable energy technologies would trigger a paradigm shift, in particular for the power sector. Further to this point, one delegation agreed that it was important for the publication to target a wider audience outside the renewable energy community. Finally, some delegations expressed the wish to have an opportunity to provide comments before the official launch of the publication.

89. The Director-General thanked Japan and the UAE for their voluntary contributions towards the institutional publication. He stressed the need to institutionalise the publication by creating a more dedicated structure within IRENA. He noted that the Secretariat would invite Members to consult on the development of IRENA's first institutional publication, to be launched at the fourth session of the Assembly in January 2014. Regarding the communication and dissemination of the publication's key messages, he recognised the importance of reaching out through an appropriate communication campaign to the broader voting public, which would play a critical role in the future of renewable energy.

Communications and outreach

90. The Director-General introduced the programmatic discussion on communications and outreach by highlighting the Agency's efforts over the past two years to create awareness of IRENA's work and of renewable energy issues worldwide. He noted that the Agency has been focusing on developing substantive products and messages, and that the Agency has progressed in establishing itself as the authoritative voice for renewable energy issues. He highlighted the timeliness of this discussion and the importance of exchanging views with IRENA Members and stakeholders such as the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21). He went on to explain that the synergies among different renewable energy actors need to be explored to develop communication alliances and to establish joint advocacy initiatives for renewable energy. The Director-General concluded that in order to achieve the desired global impact for IRENA's communications and outreach, greater Member collaboration and additional resources would be required, which would in part be used to enhance the communications division's human resources. He also expressed gratitude to the Agency's host-country for providing resources to strengthen IRENA's communications through the 'Voice of Renewables' project.

91. A representative of REN21 presented an overview of REN21's communication and outreach efforts. She stressed the importance for the REN21 Secretariat to collaborate with REN21 members, as well as other networks and stakeholders to ensure consistency, successful products and effective communications activities. She used the international launch of the 'Renewables Global Status Report' and the joint launch of the 'MENA Renewables Status Report', in collaboration with IRENA and the UAE, as examples of successful communications and outreach. She then discussed the importance of utilising a variety of innovative communications channels, given available resources, such as virtual press conferences, webinars and social media. She also noted that an important part of communications strategies is identifying target audiences and producing clearly-defined and consistent messaging. She also suggested that constituents could be involved in the framing of these messages to broaden the public appeal and increase the social acceptance of organisational messages, as well as ensure their relevance in national contexts. As a closing remark, she highlighted that investing in communications and outreach would yield fast and effective results, whose impact would be easy to evaluate if progress and outputs are monitored.

92. In the discussion that followed, delegations emphasised the central importance of communication among the Secretariat, Members and other stakeholders in order to exchange data, to collaborate effectively, to publicise key Agency messages and to promote awareness among a wider audience.

93. Regarding communication between the Secretariat and the membership, some delegations expressed their belief that communications could be a joint effort by the Secretariat in cooperation with Members, and that there was a role for focal point involvement, especially in making connections with experts and existing networks. Some delegations intervened with proposals on areas for improvement, including a more timely distribution of updated information from the Secretariat – including through a renewable energy and IRENA events calendar – so that Members stay informed of current projects in a way that enables full participation and knowledge exchange.

94. Several delegations agreed on the importance of enhancing resources for communications, including by creating additional institutionalised capacities in the Secretariat, to accommodate growing demands for additional volume and variety of communication activities. Some delegations emphasised that substance matters, noting the importance of using concrete data and statistics produced by IRENA to bolster Agency messages.

95. A delegation noted that, in addition to the Secretariat's communication with its Members and focal points, there are three layers of communications to consider: political communication, communication with energy experts, and dissemination of IRENA's message to the general public. Delegations commented on the need to target publications to each of these groups, and to consider the intended audience in deciding how and where certain publications are launched. In this respect, some delegations underlined the necessity for IRENA to extend its message to a broader audience outside of the renewable energy community. Other delegations emphasised the importance of using existing communication networks to reach this broader audience.

96. One delegation welcomed the incorporation of communications and outreach in more detail in the Work Programme, noting that this would be a way to ensure that specific goals are met and that this topic is discussed in concrete terms and not just in an abstract way. Finally, one delegation suggested declaring an international Renewable Energy Day to engage with the wider public.

97. The Director-General thanked delegations for their insights and underlined the importance attached to enhancing the Agency's communications capabilities. He noted that progress on communications and outreach would be shared with Members at the Assembly in January 2014.

Agenda Item 8: Programmatic discussion III – Potentials for investment and implementation (C/5/CRP/3)

Africa Clean Energy Corridor

98. The Director of IRENA's Country Support and Partnerships Division (CSP) reported on the development of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor initiative, which aims to accelerate the deployment of renewable power options in Africa. The initiative will initially focus on the region covered by the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), extending from Egypt to South Africa. Since 80 percent of electricity generated in SAPP is from coal and 80 percent of electricity generated

in EAPP is from a mix of gas and oil, there would be ample opportunity for hydro, geothermal, biomass, wind and solar power flowing along such a corridor to reduce fossil fuel use and power plant operating costs. She explained that demand for electricity is on pace to double in SAPP and quadruple in EAPP within 25 years, and that the opportunity for renewable power options therefore is growing.

99. The Director then reported on the Executive Strategy Workshop that was organised by IRENA on 22-23 June 2013 prior to the Council. At the workshop, representatives of regional bodies, power pools, utilities, independent power producers, ministries, financial institutions and development partners discussed ways to increase the renewables share of electricity generation in Africa. It was decided that more coordinated planning of generation and transmission infrastructure would help the region take advantage of cost-effective renewable power options. In addition, renewable power development zones could be identified, based on IRENA's Global Atlas for renewable energy potentials, to allow for investment in high-volume, low-unit-cost transmission lines that would link major renewable power resources with major load centres. More open markets could accelerate the introduction of renewables generation by independent power producers. In addition, loan guarantees and other risk-reduction measures could reduce the cost of power plant financing. She closed by announcing the preparation of an action agenda, which would be based on discussions at the workshop, for consideration by a meeting of African energy Ministers around IRENA's fourth Assembly in January 2014.

100. A representative of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA), noted the African paradox of abundant energy resources and widespread energy poverty. He pointed out that technology improvements are reducing the costs of renewable power technologies while fossil fuel costs are rising, and that renewables generation has thus reached grid parity in a number of countries. He asserted that renewable energy in Africa makes business sense now and would make even greater business sense in the future. He added that IRENA could play a significant role in assessing the extent to which national energy systems can integrate renewable energy. He remarked that it is also necessary to pursue policies that reduce risks for renewable energy business, to implement regulations that allow cost recovery, and to design cost-reflective tariffs so renewables could compete on a level plane with other types of energy. He suggested that IRENA could help utilities integrate cost-effective renewable energy into their grids and with capacity-building and information-sharing on best practices.

101. A representative of the Kenya Transmission Company (KETRACO) commended the workshop for dealing with important issues and expressed support for the Africa Clean Energy Corridor. He stressed that renewable energy is vital to daily life in East Africa, especially hydropower and more recently geothermal. By working to help connect Africa's power pools, he asserted, IRENA could help provide electricity to some of the five out of six people in Eastern and Southern Africa who still lack access.

102. In the ensuing discussion, several delegations commended the Africa Clean Energy Corridor initiative as a means for ensuring energy security and providing access to clean energy, especially for isolated communities. One delegation highlighted the importance of identifying gaps where IRENA could make a difference, and of designing an initiative to encourage both large hydro schemes and smaller-scale renewable power developments. Some delegations suggested that the initiative could be extended to the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

Follow-up to the ‘International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference’

103. The Director of IRENA’s Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) presented the key findings from the first International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC) and the publication ‘IOREC 2012: Key Findings and Recommendations’. He stressed that traditional approaches to grid extension alone would not suffice to meet the target of universal electricity access by 2030, and that off-grid renewable energy technologies are reliable and increasingly cost-competitive. He noted the presence of several successful business models and stressed the need for dialogue between different stakeholders in an effort to sufficiently scale up deployment of these technologies. He emphasised that IOREC could provide a platform for connecting practitioners, investors and the public sector.

104. For the biennial Work Programme 2014-15, he proposed establishing IOREC as a flagship conference to be held biennially, with the next conference to be hosted in 2014 in collaboration with the Alliance for Rural Electrification. He also proposed initiating systematic engagement with rural electrification agencies to facilitate cross-regional exchange of best practices, as well as a practitioner advisory group for supporting IRENA’s off-grid related activities.

105. A representative of SELCO-India stressed the need to find effective solutions to inadequate progress achieved thus far in extending electricity access globally. He highlighted that decentralised energy is the most sensible choice from a social, financial and environmental perspective, since it provides the unique opportunity to promote both social equality and job creation. He added that the social cost of not providing electricity access would have immense implications for future generations. He emphasised that IRENA has a niche position, unlike any other multilateral institution, to act as a bridge between successful processes. IRENA could act as a centre for best practices and practical solutions derived from global successes and failures. He noted that IOREC, as a platform, would be critical in fulfilling this role.

106. Several delegations commended IRENA’s initiative in organising IOREC and highlighted that the conference was well-conceptualised with good outreach, and served its mandate to promote dialogue between different stakeholders involved in rural electrification. One delegation stated that such activities should be supported and extended to other regions where electricity access challenges exist. Another delegation highlighted the importance of mini-grid deployment in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Interest in hosting future IOREC meetings was expressed by several delegations.

107. Several delegations recognised the important role of off-grid solutions in rural electrification efforts. One delegation noted that widespread telecommunication infrastructure and mobile devices are adding to the urgency of extending electricity access in rural areas, and that there is a need to develop an appropriate business case for private sector investment in off-grid renewable energy projects. Referring to domestic experience, one delegation highlighted the remarkable economic benefits of integrating renewable energy into existing fossil-fuel based installations. Other delegations emphasised the need for reliable information on the relative costs and benefits of renewable energy technologies in order to enable governments and investors to accurately assess technologies and support structures.

108. Several delegations noted the important role that IRENA could play in better aligning activities between different actors working on off-grid renewable energy, as well as in supporting the development of appropriate environments for attracting private investment in the sector. Delegations emphasised the importance of IRENA’s role in supporting capacity-building activities in developing countries, which is critical to sustainable off-grid renewable energy deployment models. Delegations expressed satisfaction with the action agenda proposed for following up on the conference.

109. In closing, IRENA's Director-General stressed the importance of extending universal electricity access as a means of achieving equity, empowerment and development. He also stressed the need for an environment in which entrepreneurs could thrive and off-grid solutions could be deployed. He emphasised the need to promote ownership among rural communities by identifying adequate policy frameworks, funding solutions and empowerment mechanisms. The Director-General encouraged Members to work with the Secretariat to develop the next stages of the initiative.

IRENA Renewable Costing Alliance

110. A representative of the Secretariat presented the rationale for IRENA's costing analysis work, emphasising that reliable information on the relative costs and benefits of the available renewable energy technologies is crucial for enabling governments and investors to accurately assess appropriate technologies and support levels for their particular circumstances. He noted that IRENA's costing analysis forms an important part of making the business case for renewables, by demonstrating through data that renewable energy is reliable and increasingly affordable, and that it contributes to improved electricity access, promotes development and reduces energy price volatility.

111. He noted that the analysis of 8000 renewable power generation projects released at the Assembly in January 2013 has received considerable attention and will be followed by reports on the transport sector and stationary applications.

112. He also remarked that the IRENA Renewable Costing Alliance (Alliance) is an important part of the Agency's outreach, particularly to the business sector, because it would bring together governments, companies, industry associations and researchers in order to share, confidentially, their data for real world renewables projects with IRENA for the mutual benefit of Alliance members. He also underscored that the analysis to date has been achieved by collecting data from easily-aggregated sources. However, gathering additional and more detailed data would take focus away from IRENA's analysis work going forward, and thus the Alliance would rely on organisations to provide their data in a systematic way.

113. In this respect, the Alliance would have three membership tiers: 1) Member countries will be invited to work closely with the Secretariat through a steering group for costing analysis, with an annual workshop to discuss the work, and to nominate a domestic organisation to deliver data; 2) businesses and other organisations will provide data, confidentially, to IRENA and will be able to query the database; and 3) observers will be able to follow the work of the Alliance.

114. He explained that the structure, operational details and confidentiality protocol for the Alliance is being finalised based on feedback received from an expert meeting on 19 June 2013 in Bonn, Germany. Once this is completed, IRENA would contact organisations that have already expressed an interest in the work of the Alliance, with the goal of officially launching the Alliance at the Assembly in January 2014.

115. A representative of the United Arab Emirates, invited to speak on the subject, expressed the country's appreciation and support for the Alliance, noting that the costing of renewable energy technologies is crucial in developing renewable energy projects. He pointed out that once governments realise the importance of deploying renewable energy, setting policy levels requires concrete data, and that this is the gap the Alliance could fill. The delegation remarked further that, as a local and international investor in renewable energy, it appreciates both the difficulty of accessing accurate data with regard to costing, as well as the value of this data in helping countries take the next steps in renewable energy projects. That delegation closed by

emphasising the importance of confidentiality, which would encourage companies to participate, and urged IRENA Members to become actively involved in the Alliance by providing data.

116. In the discussion that followed, one delegation intervened to stress the Alliance's role as one of IRENA's flagship projects and highlighted its potential for future growth. This delegation also noted that the graphics and spreadsheets developed, especially with regard to costing spreads for different regions, could be an interesting tool and starting point for a debate on the reasons for these differences and for discussions on cost reduction.

Agenda Item 9: Programmatic discussion IV – Emerging opportunities in renewable energy applications (C/5/CRP/4)

Renewable energy and refugees

117. A representative of the IRENA Secretariat introduced the topic with a discussion of how examining renewable energy options in refugee camps aligns with IRENA's mandate, noting that refugees are especially affected by energy scarcity and the lack of energy security, and that their quality of life and basic safety could be dramatically improved by renewable energy options. He emphasised that, although IRENA was not an implementing agency, there is a role for it to play as a source of energy expertise and to connect relevant organisations to find solutions to the challenges identified. He noted that IRENA's involvement in energy solutions in refugee camps would also enhance awareness of the Agency, its work, and renewable energy.

118. He then provided some initial observations that emerged out of a mission to a pilot location in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia, on 3-6 June 2013 – conducted jointly by IRENA and Masdar, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – which identified several issues. These included: 1) limited natural resources, especially firewood, accelerating local environmental degradation and creating security concerns; 2) limited access to energy for refrigeration of vaccines and other medications, lights for schools and other public areas, and streetlights for safety/visibility; and 3) other sustainability issues such as considerations of equity between the camps and concurrent enhancements for local Ethiopian populations.

119. Another representative of the Secretariat then provided an initial assessment of renewable energy options in the immediate, medium, and long term. These options include possibilities for renewably-sourced electric power (solar, wind, hydro) for public institutions, household lighting and water pumping, among others under discussion.

120. A representative of UNHCR then reflected that energy challenges are exponentially more difficult when a displaced population is affected. He noted this as an issue of utmost urgency, especially regarding four challenges: providing appropriate technologies, providing appropriate fuel, securing funding, and considering the development needs of host communities. He concluded by stressing that UNHCR places high value on cooperation with IRENA, and that this project would enhance the lives of refugees by bridging the gap between immediate solutions and longer-term sustainability.

121. In the discussion that followed, several delegations congratulated IRENA for taking initial steps in addressing this issue, noting their strong commitment to humanitarian objectives and alleviating the dangers

that refugees face. They emphasised that this project showed the human side of IRENA's work, and that the Agency should continue to foster these linkages. Some delegations, after expressing support for IRENA's involvement in this project, advised caution with regard to the Agency's limited resources and competing activities. These delegations called for further details to assure an appropriate scope for the Agency's involvement, including an outline for a partnership that would allow IRENA to share its expertise, and that would define the resources needed from Members.

Renewable energy and food security

122. IRENA's Deputy Director-General highlighted the significant number of people across the globe suffering from malnutrition. He noted that the global food crisis is not due to lack of food but rather due to inequitable distribution and considerable losses along its value chain. He explained that in developing countries, substantial food losses (up to 50 percent) occur along the post-harvest stages of processing, storage and transport and that food drying is an effective food preservation method which could be performed using modern solar or geothermal energy technologies. He noted that fish drying in Iceland is a leading example where geothermal energy has been used to dry almost all edible parts of the fish, resulting in reduced losses, more productivity and improved livelihoods. In comparison to traditional open sun drying, modern drying technologies using renewable energy could considerably reduce contamination and rotting while improving quality and price.

123. He informed delegations that a consortium of IRENA, Masdar, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNDP's Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) is considering a project to demonstrate the viability of such technologies in several markets to enable rapid scale-up. Several donors have indicated their interest in supporting the initiative, with other commitments already received.

124. A representative of Iceland, invited to speak on this subject, explained the Icelandic fish drying model, which has achieved considerable reduction in food losses by drying fish using geothermal energy. Iceland, having gained extensive expertise in food drying, is willing to facilitate technology transfer and capacity building through IRENA's initiative.

125. Two delegations expressed support for this initiative and emphasised the significance of the global food crisis and the need to reduce food losses to enhance food security.

Water-energy-land nexus

126. A representative of the Secretariat opened the discussion by defining the 'nexus' and underlining the high level of interconnectedness between water, energy and food resources, all vital components of a sustainable economy. She highlighted that external factors such as demographic growth, consumption patterns, rapid urbanisation and climate change are imposing strains on specific elements of the nexus, which have wide-reaching impacts on the viability of other elements, resulting in competition for resources. She noted that a compelling case exists to adopt a nexus approach to policy formulation, in which renewable energy would be central to any solution that aims to achieve green growth. Renewable energy presents significant and expanding opportunities, but there is a need to better understand its role and to provide policy-makers with methodologies to assess its impacts.

127. A representative of the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) highlighted that by 2030, global water requirements would increase by 40 percent, mostly to meet food demand which is expected to grow by 50 percent. Additionally, the energy infrastructure would need to provide 40 percent new power generation. He explained that the high level of interconnectedness between water, energy and food resources requires a complex, multi-sector, multi-level approach in policy formulation and planning. He highlighted the need for analytical methodologies that could quantitatively assess this interconnectedness, provide an indication of trade-offs and the resource footprint of specific development targets. The absence of such tools, he stated, could represent a threat to socio-economic sustainability and resilience. He noted that IRENA could contribute to studying renewable energy's role in improving water, energy and food security, and to developing an empirical tool to estimate the impact of renewable energy on the nexus.

128. A representative of the UAE, invited to speak on the subject, highlighted that the water-energy-food nexus is emerging as a priority for the UAE and the region in general. Low rainfall has led to extreme water scarcity and the need for water desalination to meet demand. Over 70 percent of the food in the UAE is imported, yet agriculture continues to account for over 60 percent of domestic water consumption. The UAE's population has tripled over the last 15 years, and energy demand continues to grow. He highlighted the importance of regulation, alternative technologies and knowledge dissemination in paving the way to sustainability. The UAE commended IRENA for considering renewable energy in the broader framework of the water-energy-food nexus, and highlighted that the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2014 would be an appropriate platform to further discuss the nexus.

129. A representative of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) noted that the nexus discussion has expanded substantively and geographically since the 2011 Bonn Conference and is now being viewed at the local, national and global levels. He presented GIZ's ongoing activities in this respect, including a more systematic approach to projects within the development portfolio. In this context, GIZ has initiated work with 10 countries in the ASEAN region to help city and municipal planning systems consider a nexus approach. He suggested that IRENA engage with the 'High Impact Opportunity' group on nexus in the SE4ALL initiative, which focuses on concrete approaches to project implementation from a nexus perspective and highlights best practices. He indicated that possible linkages could also be identified with IRENA's ongoing cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

130. Several delegations commended IRENA's efforts in initiating discussions on this important and challenging issue. Several delegations expressed hope that the tool developed through IRENA's ongoing work will support national development planning that takes into consideration the nexus approach. One delegation stated that the nexus should continue to be an important part of future Council discussions. Several delegations mentioned that IRENA could provide a platform to facilitate sharing of country experiences, as well as disseminate knowledge on the benefits of renewable energy in the nexus. One delegation highlighted that improved synergies between IRENA activities and other stakeholders involved in the nexus discussion will be crucial. Several delegations stressed upon the need for expanding the nexus discussion to address both local and global nexus-related challenges.

131. Other delegations stated that nexus considerations were central to their planning and decision-making efforts, as listed examples promoting interactions between different government entities, adopting measures to promote water sustainability without relying on energy intensive desalination. One delegation highlighted the challenges it faces regarding food and energy security and stressed the need for developing national plans that use a scientific and quantitative approach and that take into consideration the interdependencies between resources as well as existing resource constraints.

132. The Director-General emphasised that in a resource-constrained world, it is vital to identify approaches to decision-making that take into account resource trade-offs. The Director-General stated that IRENA's work will focus on renewable energy's role in the nexus, considering the significant resource potential and declining costs of renewables. He closed by noting that IRENA's nexus initiative would bring together partners in an effort to create an information base that takes into consideration the three nexus elements to develop sustainable solutions.

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

133. The Council designated Germany Chair, and Uruguay Vice-Chair of the sixth meeting of the Council, and decided to hold its sixth meeting on 10 and 11 December 2013.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

134. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting

Fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA
24 – 25 June 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

26 May 2013

Agenda of the fifth 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

3. Progress report: Implementation of the 2013 Work Programme

4. Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2014-2015

5. Programmatic discussion I – IRENA as the Global Hub for renewable energy

- Renewable energy hub for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)
- REMAP 2030
- Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN)

6. Institutional matters

- a. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012
- b. Interim Financial Regulations
- c. Administration of Justice
- d. Appointment of Ethics Advisory Board members
- e. Appointment of committee members

7. Programmatic discussion II – IRENA - Gateway to renewable energy knowledge

- Institutional Publication
- Communications and outreach

8. Programmatic discussion III – Potentials for investment and implementation

- Africa Clean Energy Corridor
- Follow-up to the ‘International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference’
- IRENA Renewable Costing Alliance

9. Programmatic discussion IV – Emerging opportunities in renewable energy applications

- Renewable energy and refugees
- Renewable energy and food security
- Water-energy-land nexus

10. Arrangements for the sixth meeting of the Council**11. Any other business****12. Closing of the meeting**

Fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA

24 – 25 June 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

22 August 2013

List of participants

Council members (21)

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Cameroon	Adama Saidou	Director	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainability
2		Iya Tidjani	Ambassador	Embassy of Cameroon to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
3	Egypt	Tamer Mansour	Ambassador	Embassy of Egypt
4		Ahmed Yousry	Official, Regional Economic Relations	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5		Mohamed Kandil	Second Secretary	Embassy of Egypt
6		Rasha Hassan	Foreign Affairs Agreements Specialist	Ministry of Electricity and Energy
7	Germany	Karsten Sach	Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
8		Alexander Haack	Energy Policy Advisor, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
9		Ellen von Zitzewitz	Counselor	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
10		Marian Andrawes	Official, Economic Energy Affairs Department	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
11		Mike Enskat	Senior Programme Manager	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
12		Ralf Schroeer	Chargé d'Affaires <i>ad interim</i>	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
13		Sonja Roeder	Advisor	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
14	Grenada	Simon Steill	Minister of Environment	Ministry of Environment
15	Iraq	Rabab Al-Shouk	Attaché	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
16	Japan	Yo Osumi	Director, Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17		Keiichi Sugita	Deputy Director, Environment Policy Division, Minister's Secretariat	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
18		Kenji Kato	First Secretary	Embassy of Japan
19		Nobuhisa Masuda	First Secretary	Embassy of Japan
20		Tetsuro Oi	Deputy Director, Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21		Toshiaki Nagata	Deputy Director	Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
22	Malaysia	Datuk Loo Took Gee	Secretary-General	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
23		Dato Ahmad Anwar	Ambassador	Embassy of Malaysia
24		Mazita Marzuki	Counselor	Embassy of Malaysia
25		Lim Shean Pin	Principal Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
26	Mexico	Margott Galvan-Encinas	Director for Africa, Middle East and International Oil Market	Ministry of Energy
27		Arturo Rueda	Deputy Head of Mission	Embassy of Mexico
28		Francisco Alonso	Ambassador	Embassy of Mexico
29	Mozambique	Marcelina Mataveia	Deputy Director for Renewable Energy	Ministry of Energy
30		Bruno Senguaio	Advisor for International Relations	Ministry of Energy
31	New Zealand	Michael Allen	Special Envoy for Renewable Energy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
32		Malcolm Millar	Ambassador	Embassy of New Zealand
33		Stuart Calman	Deputy Director Energy and Infrastructure	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
34	Niger	Mahaman Laouan Gaya	Secretary-General	Ministry of Energy and Petroleum
35		Maidagi Issa	Director-General	Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
36	Poland	Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik	Undersecretary of State	Ministry of Economy
37		Adam Krzymowski	Ambassador	Embassy of Poland
38		Andrzej Lysiak	First Counselor	Embassy of Poland
39		Kinga Szafrankowska	Senior Expert	Ministry of Economy
40		Marcin Scigan	Expert for Renewable Energy	Ministry of Economy
41	Republic of Korea	Sung-hwan Oh	Director, International Energy Security Division	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
42		Duk-ryul Park	First Secretary, Energy Attaché	Embassy of the Republic of Korea
43		Sang-keun Yoo	Assistant Manager	Korea Energy Management Corporation
44		So-eun Hwang	Researcher, Global Energy Cooperation Center	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
45		Yung-soo Shin	Deputy Director, New and Renewable Energy Promotion Team	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy
46	Sudan	Amal Babiker	Director of International Organizations Directorate	Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity
47		Noureldaiem Hamadelniel	Minister Plenipotentiary	Embassy of Sudan
48	Sweden	Erik Brandsma	Director-General	Swedish Energy Agency
49		Lisa Lundmark	Senior Advisor for International Affairs	Swedish Energy Agency
50	Tonga	'Inoke Vala	Director TERM-IU (Tonga Energy Roadmap – Implementation Unit)	Government of Tonga
51	Turkey	Vural Altay	Ambassador	Embassy of Turkey
52		Caner Can	Energy Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
53		Cem Dogan	Expert	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
54		Melih Bora	Deputy Director	General Directorate for Energy, Water and Environment
55		Mustafa Erkec	Assistant Expert	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
56		Sebahattin Öz	Official	Embassy of Turkey
57		Yunus Emre Bayrak	First Secretary	Embassy of Turkey

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
58	United Arab Emirates	Thani Al Zeyoudi	Director of Energy and Climate Change	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
59		Ali Al Shafar	First Secretary	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
60		Dane McQueen	Energy Advisor	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
61		Hind Al Ali	Chemical Engineer	Ministry of Energy
62		Kholoud Al Naqbi	Office of the Undersecretary	Ministry of Energy
63		Maitha Al Kaabi	Official	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
64		Majid Hassan Al Suwaidi	Official	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
65		Omran Taryam	Official	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
66		Sausan Al Jaber	Official, IRENA Section	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
67		Shahad Al Hamadi	Official	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
68		Shaima Al Aydaros	Third Secretary	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
69		Shaima Al Habsi	Second Secretary	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
70		Rowda Al Otaiba	Head of Section	Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
71	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Thomas Wintle	Head, International Oil and Low Carbon	Department of Energy and Climate Change
72		Diana Roehrle	Economics Advisor	Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
73		Nick Clements	Head of International Low Carbon Policy	Department of Energy and Climate Change
74	United States of America	Timothy G. Williamson	Deputy Director, Office of Alternative and Renewable Energy, Bureau of Energy Resources	Department of State
75		Brandon Pierce	Economic Officer	Embassy of the United States of America
76		Joseph Murphy	Deputy Director, Office of Global Systems, Bureau of International Organization Affairs	Department of State
77	Uruguay	Ramon Méndez	National Director of Energy	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining
78		José Luis Remedi	Ambassador	Embassy of Uruguay
79		Stephanie Grunvald	International Relations Advisor	National Direction of Energy, Ministry of Industry

Council Alternates (4)

No	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Australia	Veronica Westacott	Manager Multilateral Engagement	Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
2	Fiji	Aliki Salusalu	Counselor	Embassy of the Republic of Fiji
3		Emosi Rakai	First Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Fiji
4		Robin Nair	Ambassador	Embassy of the Republic of Fiji
5	France	Remy Tiroutouvarayane	Counselor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6		Martine Kubler-Mamlouk	Counselor	Embassy of France
7		Philippe Geiger	Deputy Director European and International Affairs	Ministry of Energy
8		Cyril Vial	Policy Advisor, Energy and Climate Changes	Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of Energy
9		Alain Azouaou	Ambassador	Embassy of France
10	Greece	Charalampos Pippas	Director for International Affairs	Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Members of IRENA

1. Albania
2. Algeria
3. Angola
4. Antigua and Barbuda
5. Argentina
6. Belarus
7. Benin
8. Cyprus
9. Denmark
10. Djibouti
11. Dominican Republic
12. Ecuador
13. Ethiopia
14. Finland
15. Gambia
16. Iceland
17. India
18. Israel
19. Italy
20. Kenya
21. Luxembourg
22. Maldives
23. Mali
24. Mauritania
25. Montenegro
26. Netherlands
27. Nigeria
28. Norway
29. Oman
30. Pakistan
31. Philippines

32. Portugal
33. Qatar
34. Romania
35. Senegal
36. Seychelles
37. Sierra Leone
38. South Africa
39. Spain
40. Sri Lanka
41. Swaziland
42. Switzerland
43. Uganda

Observers

Signatories / States-in-Accession

1. Austria
2. Azerbaijan
3. Belgium
4. Chad
5. Colombia
6. Ireland
7. Jordan
8. Kazakhstan
9. Kuwait
10. Lebanon
11. Morocco
12. Peru

Applicants for membership

1. China
2. Indonesia

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

1. Brazil
2. Thailand
3. Ukraine

Fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA

24 – 25 June 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

24 June 2013

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

Context: Pursuant to decision A/1/DC/10/Rev.1, the Programme and Strategy Committee met to review and provide recommendations to the Council on the progress in implementing the Work Programme and Budget 2013 (C/5/CRP/5), and in discussing the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2014-2015 (C/5/2).

Objective: The main objective of this meeting was to review the progress in implementing the Work Programme and Budget 2013, and priority themes for the Council's consideration in its deliberation on the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2014-2015.

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 24 June 2013.

The following views and comments were made by participants.

1. Work Programme and Budget 2013 (WPB2013)

- Welcome progress made by IRENA since its establishment, as well as in the implementation of the Work Programme Budget 2013.
- Welcome the increased number of activities directly related to meeting countries needs in response to their requests.
- Support IRENA's effective engagement with partners to ensure maximum value added and avoid duplication.
- Recognize efforts made by the Secretariat on communication and outreach, and stress the need for further enhancement.
- Encourage the Secretariat to engage collaboratively with Members to communicate IRENA's work.
- Encourage the assessment of impact of IRENA's programmatic activities.

2. Preliminary Framework for Work-Programme and Budget for 2014-2015

- Welcome collaboration with regions and encourage the geographical expansion of the regional work. Specifically, regional activities should be expanded in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and Asia.
- Encourage sub-regional work to provide tailor-made support and solutions for countries, including renewable energy status reports and regional seminars in cooperation with regional organizations.
- Continue to engage with stakeholders and partners to ensure synergy and complementarity with other activities.
- Propose activities that countries could support with additional voluntary contributions.
- Continue to engage in activities that promote links to the use of renewables to broader development goals.

2.1 Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC)

- Welcome the activities in addressing the critical issues around policy design, socio-economic and environmental impacts of renewable energy deployment.
- Welcome the plans to continue the work on rural energy, including on financial models around mini-grids.
- Create a hub for exchange of best practice and policy implementation to support the creation of an enabling environment.
- Encourage engagement with multilateral and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector, to stimulate investment.

2.2 IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC)

- Welcome the plans for the development of end-use sector roadmaps within REMAP as an important part of IRENA's engagement with developed and emerging economies.
- Encourage the countries to contribute to the development of REMAP and in supporting the Costing Alliance.
- Welcome the proposed work for energy storage and grids, standards, costing, and energy planning.
- Recommend that additional work be done on specific technology issues around transport solutions, marine technologies and desalination.

2.3 Country Support and Partnerships

- Welcome the work on islands and encourage GREIN to initiate additional clusters, tourism in particular.
- Invite IRENA to contribute to regional, intra-regional and global initiatives, including by supporting the SE4ALL efforts and the SIDS Global Conference in Samoa in 2014.
- Facilitate exchange of experiences and cross-pollination between countries and regions.
- Encourage further work in regions, including the Americas, Asia and Eastern Europe.
- Promote the work of KPFC and IITC through the development of projects on the ground.

Fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA

24 – 25 June 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

24 June 2013

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 23 June 2013:

1. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012

- The AFC welcomed the positive audit opinion on the Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012 and noted its appreciation for the Agency's continued compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
- Inquiry was made on the lower budget utilisation under the Policy Advisory and Capacity Building programme component compared to the approved 2012 budget. The Director-General explained that this was mainly due to the early stages in programme implementation which had necessitated a longer phasing-in period for certain activities in order to maximise their impact.
- The AFC expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway.
- The AFC recommended that the Council take note of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012 and recommend its onward transmission to the Assembly.

2. Proposed revisions to the Interim Financial Regulations of IRENA

- The AFC welcomed the progress made in the development of the Agency's administrative policies and processes. It recognised that there is no longer a need for the financial regulations to be labelled "Interim".
- With respect to the proposed amendment to Regulation 6.2, a query was raised on how contributions for each year would be assessed in relation to the overall approved biennial appropriations, and confirmation was sought that it would not result in exceeding the approved biennium budget. The Secretariat clarified that annual assessments would approximate half of the approved biennium appropriations, considering any adjustments required for uneven implementation of multi-year projects

during the two years of the biennium, and also confirmed that the total assessment for the two years will not exceed the biennium budget approved by the Assembly.

- Members generally expressed support for the proposed amendments. One Member, while endorsing the amendments in general, commented that its delegation required more time to consult internally on Regulations 4.5, 6.2 and 6.4 and would respond to the AFC in case it has any proposed revisions.
- The AFC endorsed the proposed revisions of the Interim Financial Regulations and recommended that the Council agree to recommend to the Assembly to approve the proposed revisions to the Interim Financial Regulations of IRENA, at its fourth session, subject to confirmation by one Member of its position on the said regulations.

3. Any other business

External audit Management Letter

- The AFC inquired about the availability of the Management Letter from the Auditors on the Financial Statements of IRENA for 2012. The Secretariat confirmed that the Management Letter indicates that the Auditors do not have any overall findings pointing to serious weaknesses or shortcomings in the internal controls. The Secretariat confirmed that it would provide a status report on audit recommendations at the next Council meeting, including recommendations and actions taken by the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat stressed that serious deficiencies in the internal controls would be brought to the attention of the membership through the report of the external auditor.
- The Director-General agreed to consider the request of some Members that the letter itself be provided to Members along with the status report on audit recommendations and actions taken.

Staff entitlements for the host country nationals

- The Host Country requested that the issue of providing entitlements and benefits, such as housing and education grants, to its nationals at the level applicable to the internationally-recruited IRENA staff should be considered in future AFC discussions.
- The AFC encouraged efforts to ensure diversity and high competence in staff recruitment.