

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Ninth meeting of the Council

Abu Dhabi, 10-11 June 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the progress made in the second year of implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015 (A/4/DC/1), as reflected in the Director-General's progress report (C/9/CRP/1). The PSC also considered the 'Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017' (C/9/2), 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris' (C/9/DN/2), and the 'Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017' (C/9/3).

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 10 June 2015.

**Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the
Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting****Implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015**

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work in implementing the Work Programme 2014-2015. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's progress made in the implementation of the first four months of the second year of the biennial work programme. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the progress made both in the biennium and since the establishment of the Agency, stressing that IRENA's knowledge products coupled with direct engagement with, and support to countries and regions has underpinned its role as the global voice for renewables.
- The PSC expressed its satisfaction with the Agency's active participation in fora such the G7, G20, the Clean Energy Ministerial, and climate action activities, as well as events organised by its Members.
- The PSC members informed of their national deployment strategies and ambitious targets. They emphasised benefits of the diverse IRENA products, such as on socio-economic issues, efficient policy design, technology cost reduction and finance instruments that assist in advancing their renewable energy agendas.
- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on the business case for renewables and on the energy transformation, including on off-grid and mini grid solutions, and encouraged additional focus on these solutions.
- The PSC highlighted the contribution of the REmap country analysis to respective national strategies. It also encouraged IRENA to work further on energy security and energy transformation.
- The PSC encouraged Members to participate in IRENA's programmatic activities, and to contribute financially and otherwise to those programmatic activities of particular interest to them.

Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on the preliminary framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017. The Secretariat presented IRENA's proposal for the work programme framework. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The Secretariat emphasised that early consultation with Members had been vitally important for the formulation of the Framework and programmatic priorities.
- The Secretariat presented the work envisaged within six thematic areas and explained the realignment of programmatic components, which reflect the priorities identified through the consultative process.
- The PSC welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to streamline programmatic components to take into account priorities and concerns previously identified by Members.
- The PSC agreed that the Framework provides a good balance between knowledge, advisory and support functions of the Agency, and welcomed clear focus of thematic areas that reflect priorities discussed in previous meetings.
- The PSC noted the dynamic nature of the sector and emerging priorities, and emphasised the need to remain responsive to Members' needs, including the geographical expansion of the regional work. The importance of engagement with the private sector was also emphasised.
- The PSC noted great discrepancies in the cost of renewables in different settings and recommended that IRENA examine the ways to cost reduction to assist Members in their decision-making.
- The PSC articulated the need to be mindful of the work and mandates undertaken by other entities to avoid duplication of work and ensure synergies in the development of the next work programme.
- The PSC stressed the importance of allocating core resources to ensure the continued availability of key products, such as the institutional publication.
- The PSC further noted that Members have to recognise the Agency's limited resources in determining expectations for the coming biennium.
- The PSC recommended that in the course of the Council, Members should give an estimate of the budgetary envelope, so that the Secretariat has guidance regarding potential budgetary levels.
- The Secretariat stressed that Members' feedback in PSC and the Council is vital to the Agency's ability to articulate programmatic activities in the coming months.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on climate. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's plans for the upcoming COP 21 in Paris and presented options for engagement with the climate finance institutions, namely the Green Climate Fund. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC noted that the speed of disbursement of public funds was a critical issue and that IRENA should assist in accelerating these processes. It stressed that IRENA should also assist in the development of risk mitigation instruments to reduce costs, including those arising from changing exchange rates over time.
- The PSC stressed that IRENA, based on its comparative advantage of knowledge excellence and experience with countries, could provide advice to climate financing institutions for

renewables deployment, to countries in application for such funding, or in project implementation.

- The PSC recommended that IRENA should analyse further these options to help define its optimal function, taking into account substantive and financial implications.

Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on the review of the Medium-term Strategy. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's plans for the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 in anticipation of the development of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The Secretariat presented the process for the review of Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017. In this context, the Secretariat informed of the upcoming evaluation of the agency's impact that will be provided to the Council at its 10th meeting.
- The PSC welcomed the process that had been put forward which ensures participation of Members in the review process. It also recommended that Council considers the development of the next Medium-term Strategy in the course of the biennium.