

THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to promote the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. Since its founding in 2009 in Bonn, 149 states and the European Union signed the Statute of the Agency and 84 States and the European Union are ratifying Members of the Agency.

IRENA facilitates access to renewable energy information, including technological expertise, economic data, renewable resource potential data and renewable energy scenarios. IRENA supports countries in sharing experiences on best practices regarding policy frameworks, capacity-building projects, available finance mechanisms and renewable energy related energy efficiency measures.

BACKGROUND TO THE CREATION OF IRENA

First calls for an international agency dedicated to renewable energy were already made in the early 1980s. As a result of an increasing interest in renewable energy globally, this call had become steadily louder and was made again at the 2004 Bonn International Conference for Renewable Energies.

The combined efforts of multiple governments brought this idea to life when IRENA was officially founded on 26 January 2009 in Bonn, Germany. The first session of the Assembly took place on 4-5 April 2011 in Abu Dhabi, when the Agency became a fully-fledged international organisation. Abu Dhabi was designated as the permanent seat of the Agency.

PRINCIPAL ORGANS

IRENA has three principal organs. The **Assembly**, comprising all ratifying Members, is the supreme decision-making authority of IRENA. The **Council**, currently comprised of 21 Members, considers and submits documents and reports, including the IRENA work programme and

budget, to the Assembly for decision. The **Secretariat** assists the Assembly, the Council and their subsidiary organs in the performance of their functions and implements the Agency's work programme. The Secretariat has offices in Abu Dhabi and Bonn. The Secretariat is led by the Director-General. The first **Director-General**, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin of Kenya, was appointed by the Assembly in April 2011 for the initial term of four years.

More detailed information on principal organs can be found in the IRENA Statute.

WORK PROGRAMME

IRENA's work programme consists of three programme areas:

The **Knowledge Management and Technology Cooperation** programme (KMTC) establishes a knowledge base; encouraging regional collaboration; setting up platforms for industry stakeholders; and encouraging north-south and south-south technology cooperation.

The **Policy Advisory Service and Capacity Building** programme (PASCBS) encourages an enabling environment for renewables. IRENA is developing an understanding of the enabling conditions so investments can be leveraged in a sustainable way. PASCBS is also responsible for the IRENA scholarship Programme.

The **Innovation and Technology Centre** (ITC) programme aims to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy technology. IRENA is creating a framework for technology support, work on cost reduction potentials and the wider use of standards.

IRENA'S ROLE IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY

IRENA is an international organisation with global reach, created to act as the focal point for international cooperation and to underpin the effort to dramatically increase the deployment of renewable energy technologies on a global scale. Governments, national and international institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector are indispensable partners.

THE IRENA INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (IITC)



IITC'S ROLE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF IRENA

The Secretariat of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is headquartered in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. IRENA also has an office in Bonn, Germany – the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC).

IRENA's work programme consists of **three programmatic areas**, of which the IITC implements the **programme on 'Innovation and Technology'**.

The IITC works under the supervision of its Director, Dolf Gielen, who reports directly to IRENA's Director-General, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin.

WHAT IS THE IITC'S SCOPE OF WORK?

The IITC seeks to provide governments with the means for an accelerated renewable energy technology uptake tailored to their specific needs, considering national economic conditions and resource endowment. Analysis of current technology costs and standards will be conducted. Scenarios, strategies and technology roadmaps are being developed to support governments in designing effective technology and innovation policy.

In fulfilling its part of the IRENA work programme, the IITC works closely with the two other sub-programmes, 'Knowledge Management and Technology Cooperation (KMTC)' and 'Policy Advisory Service and Capacity Building (PASCb)' based at the headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

IITC's current staff of 10 consists of a mix of regular staff, consultants, secondees and interns.

LOCATION OF IITC?

Situated in the international city of Bonn, the IITC supports IRENA in liaising with other institutions active in the area of sustainability such as the various international, as well as other organisations active in the field of renewable energy. Its central position in Europe also facilitates the linkage to European centres of technological expertise in renewable energy.

The preliminary premises of the IITC are located at Robert-Schuman-Platz 3, 53175 Bonn, Germany.