

IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy

IRENA Ninth Assembly 2019

Participants in the special event on *Gender in the Energy Transformation* held on 12 January 2019 during the ninth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), have adopted the *IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy*.

The on-going energy transformation, driven by the imperatives of sustainable development and climate change, is bringing far-reaching change to our societies. Renewables are the backbone of this transformation, offering us the opportunity to create energy systems that can reconcile social, developmental, environmental and climate objectives. It is an opportunity that we must seize to build more inclusive, equal and prosperous societies.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 places the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Renewables can play a significant role in this respect. As a powerful vehicle for development, they can have a transformative impact on the inclusion and livelihoods of women, including in the access context.

Women's equal participation in all aspects of the on-going transformation is a question of fundamental fairness. Women's perspectives, expertise and leadership are also critical to ensuring informed and inclusive decision-making and a larger pool of talent in the renewable energy sector.

We welcome IRENA's report on *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective*, which examines barriers to women's participation in the renewable energy sector and outlines action areas to address the gender gap.

We appreciate that the share of women in the renewable energy sector is higher than in the conventional energy sector. We also recognise that it is still lagging behind.

We believe in the importance of strengthening international cooperation to advance gender equality in the energy transformation and commit to undertake the following:

1. Raise awareness about the centrality of gender equality and the increased participation of women to achieve an inclusive and fair energy transformation at the local, national, regional and international levels;
2. Share experiences and best practices related to policies, programs and initiatives that encourage and promote women's participation, leadership and decision-making in the renewable energy sector;
3. Foster women's economic empowerment by increasing access to investments and capacity building in entrepreneurship and employment in the renewable energy sector;
4. Support further analysis and collection of gender-disaggregated data in the renewable energy sector, including, among others, the use of indicators, monitoring and evaluation methodologies, and the analysis of gender-focused statistics;
5. Strengthen collaboration at all levels to overcome barriers facing women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

We call on IRENA to continue to inform evidence-based policy-making on the inclusion of women in the energy sector and to continue collaborating with other organisations and networks.