

# **A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation**

## **Presentation of the Report of The Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation**

**29 March 2019 • 10:30-11:45**  
**German House • 871 United Nations Plaza • New York**

**Organised by IRENA, UN DESA  
and the Permanent Missions of Germany, Norway and the UAE to the United Nations**

The ongoing global transition to sustainable energy sources does not just represent a shift from one energy source to another. It entails a much far-reaching transformation of the world's energy systems that will have major social, economic and political implications, as well as wide-ranging geopolitical consequences.

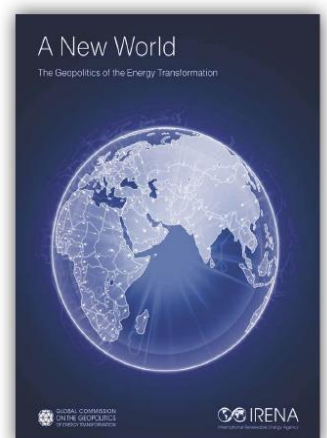
In response, IRENA established the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation with the support of the Governments of Germany, Norway and the United Arab Emirates. Composed of prominent leaders from different geographical and professional backgrounds in the fields of energy, politics, international affairs, economics, trade and development, the Global Commission examined how the energy transformation will reshape power relations, promote new patterns of trade and address root causes of geopolitical instability. Its recently launched report, *A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation*, highlights how the shift to renewables will enable many countries to achieve greater energy independence and enhance their development and security.

The energy transformation driven by renewables will also bring new opportunities and benefits such as job creation, improved energy access, enhanced food and water security. By contributing to reducing carbon emissions and strengthening climate resilience, renewables can also help address the security risks induced by climate change. At the same time, the energy transformation could result in risks related to stranded assets, cybersecurity and new dependencies on rare minerals. Overall, the benefits of the energy transformation will outweigh the challenges, but only if the right policies and strategies are in place. The Report concludes by underlining the vital need for countries to prepare for the new energy age and its geopolitical consequences.

### **Objective**

The meeting aims to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the implications of this topical subject and its importance for global efforts to tackle climate change and advance sustainable development.

At the interactive high-level event, Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA and member of the Commission, will discuss the findings of the *New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation*. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to exchange views on the key issues presented.



## AGENDA

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10.30-10.35	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations</li> </ul>
10.35-10.50	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» H.E. Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</li> <li>» H.E. Ms. Lana Nusseibeh, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations</li> <li>» H.E. Ms. Mari Skåre, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations</li> </ul>
10.50-11.05	<p><b>Presentation of <i>A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» H.E. Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA and member of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation</li> </ul>
11.05-11.40	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> David Koranyi, Senior Fellow for Energy Diplomacy, Atlantic Council and Policy Consultant, Sustainable Energy Team, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Mr. Ditlev Engel, Special Envoy for Climate and Energy, Denmark</li> <li>» Mr. David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University</li> <li>» Mr. Karsten Sach, Director General, Climate Policy, European and international Policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany</li> <li>» Ms. Mengrong Cheng, President, State Grid of China US Representative Office</li> <li>» H.E. Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA and member of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A with audience</b></p>
11.40-11.45	<p><b>Concluding remarks</b></p>

» The report *A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation* is available at:  
<http://geopoliticsofrenewables.org/Report>

» For more information on the event and to RSVP, please contact: [nyoffice@irena.org](mailto:nyoffice@irena.org)

» RSVP and prior-registration are compulsory to attend the event. UN pass holders can access the premises with their pass. External participants who have registered in advance are kindly requested to bring a government issued photo ID and arrive 10 minutes prior to the event to go through security.