

Tenth session of the IRENA Assembly

IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers

10 January 2020, 14:00 – 18:00, Olive Garden Terrace
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Renewables Beyond 2030 The Key Role of Youth in the Global Energy Transformation

Background

Renewable energy has taken centre stage in the global efforts to secure a sustainable, climate-safe future, and partnering with youth to amplify the voice of renewables globally is an essential part of this endeavour. In contributing to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting countries in achieving climate targets set by the Paris Agreement, IRENA recognises youth as a vital actor in the energy transformation.

Young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, innovation and environmental protection. In recent years, youth have been increasingly involved in the sustainable development discourse by providing relevant inputs to shaping the agenda of tomorrow. As such, the Agency continuously encourages youth to identify the role that they can play within their communities in shaping the energy transition, by proposing solutions that can foster education, improve healthcare services, mitigate the effects of climate change and build a fair, just and inclusive society.

While renewables are gaining wide recognition as the most cost-effective tool readily available to secure a climate-safe sustainable future and support countries' sustainable development, IRENA has been engaging youth through a number of capacity-building initiatives including on governance, education and innovation. In this regard, the Agency is hosting its first Youth Forum to gather the views of young people on issues pertaining to the deployment of renewable energy worldwide, the interlinkages with the global development agenda, and the challenges and opportunities that are inherent to the energy transformation.

The IRENA Youth Forum will also showcase how increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix can be an effective instrument to address socio-economic challenges, including strengthening the role of women in the energy sector, supporting the development of innovative solutions and fostering global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Objectives

The *IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers* will be held in the margins of the tenth session of the IRENA Assembly, at a time when renewable energy is widely acknowledged as the key to delivering sustainable economic development and a viable climate solution.



Under the overarching theme for discussion “*Renewables Beyond 2030: The Key Role of Youth in the Global Energy Transformation*”, the forum will provide an opportunity for participants to engage and exchange views on renewable energy in the context of innovation, climate change and socio-economic benefits of the energy transition. It will also serve to strengthen the existing network of young energy leaders with the latest insights from the renewable sector, as well as to connect young people with IRENA experts, government representatives and thought leaders in identifying the space that exists for youth to contribute to the global energy transformation.

The IRENA Youth Forum will serve to strengthen the engagement of youth in the context of renewable energy and sustainable development. Participants will use the forum to gain further knowledge and insights on the various socio-economic benefits generated by renewable energy, share their innovative ideas and showcase successful initiatives from their individual communities.

As an outcome, the forum will identify the key role of youth in the global energy transformation, including platforms to advocate for renewable energy in their respective communities and spheres of action in line with existing initiatives by the various stakeholders in the energy transition. To achieve this, the IRENA Youth Forum will identify ways for youth to stay up-to-date and informed of the latest developments in the renewable energy sector, and to amplify their voice and actions in supporting renewables.

Guiding Questions

- How can the youth engage more to advocate for, and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in advancing the sustainable development agenda?
- What role can the youth play in promoting renewable energy solutions in their individual communities and globally?

Associated Publications

- [People, Planet and Prosperity](#) (2019)
- [Climate change and renewable energy](#) (2019)
- [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective](#) (2019)
- [Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2019](#) (2019)
- [Innovation landscape for a renewable-powered future](#) (2019)

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