



Validation Workshop Iraq REA (Renewables Energy Assessment)

10 – 11 February 2025

Venue: Dijlah Village, Baghdad, Iraq

Background

Iraq is a nation distinguished by its extensive geographic diversity, rich historical and cultural legacy, and location at the meeting point of Western Asia and the Middle East. Its geographic and demographic context is crucial for comprehending the opportunities and problems it faces in terms of growth, especially in the energy industry. Iraq has one of the greatest energy sectors in the world, driven mostly by its enormous oil reserves, which have a big impact on the country's economy and foreign policy. Iraq is the world's second-largest producer of crude oil within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and its oil industry plays a vital role in both the country's economy and international energy markets.

The viability of Iraq's economy depends on the strategic management of its energy resources. To achieve this successfully, coordinated efforts must be made to generate sustainable energy sources, diversify the economy, and strengthen regulations. The necessity of economic diversification has come to be recognized more and more in recent times. In an effort to lessen its reliance on oil earnings and to follow worldwide efforts toward energy transition and rising environmental concerns, Iraq already started to investigate its possibilities in natural gas and renewable energy sources.

In this regard, The Republic of Iraq represented by the Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Electricity in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has embarked on a Renewables Energy Assessment (REA) to comprehensively appraise the key conditions for the development and deployment of renewable energy and identify short and medium-term actions to accelerate energy transition efforts. The REA process is designed to support countries achieve national development objectives by strengthening the business case for renewable energy, helping to attract investments, and addressing complex, cross-cutting social and economic questions.

Objective of the workshop

To continue the constructive exchange and to consolidate the recommendations identified throughout the REA process, IRENA and the Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Electricity are organizing the REA Validation Workshop. Participants will include governmental agencies, energy experts, development partners, and international and regional organisations. The outcomes of this workshop will feed into the final REA report.

Targeted Participants

The workshop will bring together a wide array of relevant stakeholders for development of renewables in the country, including government officials, energy regulators and planners, energy experts, civil society, non-governmental institutions, private sector, development partners, financial institutions, multilateral development banks, academic institutions, vocational training centers, etc. In addition to international organizations related to the energy sector that are working in Iraq.

Format

Over the course of two days, six different sessions will be held as part of the Validation Workshop. IRENA's Team together with the national and international stakeholders in Iraq will be gathered in one location. Each discussion session will begin with a background presentation on the main issues by IRENA team followed by an open discussion moderated by National representatives.

Agenda

Day 1

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Abdul Baqi Khalaf Ali, Ministry of Oil- High-level representative from the Ministry of Electricity- High-level representative from Kurdistan- Tarig Ahmed, Regional Programme Officer – Middle East and North Africa, IRENA |
| 09:30 - 10:15 | Presentation of the latest draft of the report (Dr Joseph Al Assad, International consultant, IRENA) |
| 10:15 - 11:00 | Group Photo and Coffee Break |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | Discussion on legal and regulatory challenges (Presented by IRENA consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | Discussion on Economic and Fiscal Challenges and Recommendations (Presented by IRENA consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |
| 15:00 - 16:30 | Discussion on Energy Policy Challenges and Recommendations (Presented by IRENA consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |

Day 2

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Recap of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Kareem Alwan, Local coordinator, IRENA |
| 09:30 - 11:00 | Discussion on Financial Challenges and Recommendations (Presented by IRENA consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee Break |
| 11:30 - 13:00 | Discussion on Infrastructure Challenges and Recommendations (Presented by IRENA Consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 - 15:30 | Discussion on Broader Energy Transition Challenges and Recommendations (Presented by IRENA Consultant and moderated by Iraqi national stakeholders) |
| 15:30 - 16:00 | Closing Session: Way forward and Conclusion by Tarig Ahmed, IRENA |