

Eighth session of the Assembly of IRENA
Abu Dhabi, 13–14 January 2018

REPORT

OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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Report of the eighth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The eighth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held on 13 and 14 January 2018 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. There were over 1300 registered participants, including 87 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, along with delegates from 139 countries and the European Union. The attendees comprised 127 Members of IRENA, 8 Signatories and States in Accession, 5 other states and 145 other entities.

2. The President of the seventh session of the Assembly, Italy, represented by H.E. Mr. Massimo Gaiani, Director-General for Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, welcomed delegations. H.E. Mr. Gaiani noted that the world is witnessing a paradigm shift in the understanding of renewable energy as an indispensable tool for effectively tackling climate change and timely implementation of the Paris Agreement, and as an engine for growth by creating substantial economic opportunity and jobs. In light of Italy's presidency, he highlighted some of the country's activities, including hosting the first high-level meeting of the Global Geothermal Alliance in Florence and adopting the Florence Declaration, as well as promoting the role of renewables in the transition towards a low-carbon economy through its role as Chair of the G7 and within the United Nations Security Council.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

3. The Assembly had, at its seventh session, designated by acclamation Uruguay as President of the eighth session. Accordingly, the outgoing President proposed that the Assembly elect Uruguay as President of this eighth session.

4. The Assembly elected by acclamation Uruguay, represented by H.E. Mrs. Carolina Cosse, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, as President of the eighth session of the Assembly.

5. In her opening remarks, H.E. Mrs. Cosse touched upon some of the defining issues the international community currently faces, including climate change and the concern for energy security. She noted the decreasing cost of newly installed renewable energy capacity in record numbers, pointing to the ever-improving business case for renewables. To accelerate the energy transformation, she acknowledged that more effort is needed in end-use sectors, such as the transport and building sectors, as well as innovation in sector coupling, digitisation and smart cities. The President highlighted the importance of the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 and other SDGs.

6. H.E. Mrs. Cosse continued by calling for reinforcement of the Agency to enable it to be a point of reference for energy transformation in the medium and long terms. She emphasised the need for a strong Agency with a clear vision for the future that can support Members in identifying and capturing opportunities that can contribute to sustainable development. Minister Cosse noted that Uruguay is a country that has undergone a major “energy revolution” within the past decade, and now has exceeded 60% of renewable energy in the primary supply mix, with a 97% share of renewable energy in the electric matrix and energy access for over 99.7% of the population, underpinning the country’s continuous efforts on gender equality and social justice. But rather than renewable energy being considered an end in itself, she continued, it is a tool that can provide a cost-effective supply of energy for a future with growing demand, while at the same time meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement and associated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

7. In her role as the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, the President acknowledged the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy. An increase in renewable energy deployment, she said, stimulates economic growth, enables the provision of goods and services, and creates jobs at the local level, while also presenting an opportunity for capacity building, research and development (R&D) and innovation. The President concluded her remarks by expressing her pride in being the first woman president of the IRENA Assembly, hoping that more women will assume this responsibility in the future.

8. The Assembly elected by acclamation

- **Afghanistan, represented by H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmad Osmani, Minister of Energy and Water;**
- **Nigeria, represented by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Dansata Rimi;**
- **Norway, represented by H.E. Mr. Jens Eikaas; and**
- **Sudan, represented by H.E. Mrs. Tabita Potros Tia Shokai, State Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity;**

as Vice-Presidents of its eighth session.

9. The Assembly appointed Fiji as Rapporteur, represented by H.E. Mr. Kamlesh Prakash, Permanent Representative to IRENA.

b. Adoption of the Agenda (A/8/1)

10. The President introduced the ‘Provisional Agenda’ (A/8/L.1).

11. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (A/8/1).

c. Appointment of a Credentials Committee

12. The President proposed to the Assembly that it appoint Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Poland and Thailand as members of the Credentials Committee.

13. The Assembly appointed the proposed nine Members to constitute the Credentials Committee.

d. Participation of Observers (A/8/2)

14. The President introduced the ‘List of applicants for observer status at the eighth session of the Assembly’ (A/8/L.2).

15. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its eighth session to those included in the List (A/8/2).

Agenda Item 3: Host country and other opening remarks

Welcome remarks of the Director-General of IRENA

16. In his opening remarks, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA, noted that the Agency is entrusted with supporting countries in the transition to a sustainable energy future and that its mandate has never been more relevant. Over the last years, IRENA has worked to understand better the great opportunities that the rapid development of renewable energy presents and to provide the basis for effective action and international cooperation to accelerate the energy transition that the world has been witnessing. Today, this energy transition has become a transformation, he emphasised, not only of energy systems but also of economies and societies, with far-reaching implications for everyone.

17. The signs of this transformation are omnipresent, the Director-General noted, bringing with it challenges and opportunities, disruption and growth. For this reason, the Agency has to have an inclusive framework for international cooperation, remain relevant and focused, and provide critical knowledge and advice for decision-making and policy formulation. In this context, he stressed that the eighth session of the Assembly is of particular significance as it considers the Proposed Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019 (WPB) and the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS), which must position the Agency to play this ambitious role in the future.

Welcome remarks of the host country

18. On behalf of the Agency's host country, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, welcomed participating delegations. He spoke about the UAE's sustained efforts in the field of renewable energy, and its unwavering commitment to the Agency and its efforts to promote international cooperation. He noted that the UAE has increased its 2020 renewable energy target from 24% to 27%, and that in line with its national strategy, the country will target 44% of renewable energy in the total energy mix by 2050. He emphasised that the private sector, including companies such as Al-Futtaim and Naboodah, has equally adopted sustainability measures. H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi highlighted some recent developments, such as the expansion of solar capacity from 350 megawatts to 1.17 gigawatts, as well as record low costs of 1.7 cents (USD 0.017) per kilowatt for concentrated solar energy production, and the recent bid won by the UAE to develop a 300-megawatt solar complex in Saudi Arabia at 1.79 cents (USD 0.0179) per kilowatt.

19. Despite many positive developments, H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi admitted that mobilising sufficient investments in renewable energy remains a challenge. As an example of good practice in this regard, he highlighted the ongoing partnership between IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), which has so far mobilised USD 576 million as a result of USD 189 million in ADFD loans and over USD 387 million in co-funding. He underlined his country's strong belief in the socio-economic benefits of the expansion of renewables, such as the potential for additional jobs, and the importance of accelerating efforts in capacity building and enhancement of public-private partnerships.

Report from the 'High-level meeting on scaling up renewable energy deployment in SIDS' (12 January 2018)

20. H.E. Mr. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, reported back from an interactive session attended by ministers and high-level representatives from SIDS, as well as development partners, financing institutions, international organisations, and representatives from the private sector. The session served as a platform for knowledge sharing on the current state of play and the next steps required to scale up renewable energy deployment in SIDS. He acknowledged the remarkable change in narrative compared to that of only a few years ago, highlighting that cost reductions in technologies, such as solar and onshore wind, have made renewables the most affordable solution for countries with

limited financial and technical resources. Renewables have also become the pathway to strengthen resilience against the impacts of climate change and pursue economic development, and have increased energy access and food security, the Prime Minister noted.

21. H.E. Mr. Puna further recognised the important role that the IRENA Lighthouses Initiative has played in supporting energy transformation in SIDS to date. To this end, he highlighted some key recommendations emerging from the meeting on the next steps of the Initiative. Acknowledging the unique opportunity presented by the revision and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to accelerate the energy transformation in SIDS, the Prime Minister put forth the need to change focus from assessment and planning to the implementation of effective and innovative solutions, including the continued provision of sound technical and regulatory advisory services. Secondly, he continued, it is essential to support access to finance as well as the development of bankable projects, and to increase capacity building in all segments related to renewable energy deployment.

22. During the meeting, he noted that delegations also stressed that data collection and dissemination were key elements of informed decision-making and monitoring of impact. Harnessing the full potential of all renewable energy sources, including geothermal and ocean energy, along with continued work on the integration of high shares of renewable energy into national grids, were further highlighted. The Prime Minister recommended adopting a holistic approach to the deployment of renewable energy that includes not only energy efficiency and focus on end-use sectors, but also recognises the existing nexus between energy, food, water and health. He concluded by acknowledging the critical role of partnerships and international cooperation in the ongoing renewable energy transformation, and called upon IRENA to continue leveraging the synergies with other initiatives, such as the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE).

Report from the ‘2018 Legislators Forum’ (11-12 January 2018)

23. Ms. Wafa Bani Mustafa, Member of the Parliament of Jordan, reported back from the IRENA Legislators Forum 2018, which gathered 56 members of parliament from over 30 countries. She noted that parliamentarians welcomed the Legislators Forum as an effective platform to address the need for a sustained and continued dialogue between parliamentarians, parliamentary associations and IRENA, in particular as it relates to the formulation of policies and development of support schemes. Participating legislators recommended that IRENA continue to expand its parliamentary engagement, including through the development of new formats of collaboration for sharing experiences and best practices. Ms. Bani Mustafa also underlined the added value of the continued engagement of parliamentarians in IRENA’s initiatives and programmatic activities, and encouraged IRENA to act as a facilitator of parliamentary groups at the regional level to help address country- and region-specific issues and challenges to renewable energy uptake.

24. Ms. Bani Mustafa noted the importance of strengthened collaboration with parliamentary unions, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), to share expertise and raise awareness about the latest trends and developments in renewable energy. She also noted that participants further emphasised the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation and revision of the NDCs, as well as translating those into concrete actions and investment opportunities. Ms. Bani Mustafa also highlighted the critical need and opportunity to address renewable energy in the end-use sectors, and the increased use of bioenergy.

25. Legislators commended the successful public-private dialogue conducted on the pre-Assembly day, which served as an important platform for multi-stakeholder engagement on renewable energy and recommended its replication and further development in diverse fora, Ms. Bani Mustafa reported. She highlighted the important role of legislators in raising public awareness and maximising the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy, by creating job opportunities at the local level. She added that

there was also awareness of the importance of the role of the civil society in this energy transition. In closing, she added that parliamentarians advocated for greater technology and knowledge transfer, including policies, innovation, and new market design, to accelerate the energy transition and simultaneously address the climate change and sustainable development agendas.

Report from the ‘Public-Private Dialogue on Unlocking Renewable Energy Investment Worldwide: Perspectives on Key Challenges and Opportunities’ (12 January 2018)

26. Reporting back from the meeting, Mr. Steve Sawyer, Secretary General of the Global Wind Energy Council and Co-Chair of the IRENA Coalition for Action Business and Investor Group, noted that the meeting focused on two white papers under development by the Group, one on scaling up of investment in emerging markets and another on community energy and the broadening of renewable energy ownership. Discussions aimed to identify and address existing market and political barriers that prevent bankable projects from accessing available finance.

27. Mr. Sawyer pointed out that political will, along with clear targets and a long-term policy framework, were identified as fundamental requirements for a broad and socially just energy transition. He noted that public finance institutions need to focus on risk mitigation, particularly off-taker guarantees and currency risk hedging mechanisms, because capital-intensive investments require low financing cost. Standardised contract templates were also highlighted as key to reducing transaction costs and facilitating aggregation of smaller projects that are traditionally difficult to finance for large financial institutions. In addition, participants identified non-discriminatory market access and maximising the socioeconomic benefits of renewable energy, especially at the local level, as important factors. Both public and private sector largely supported long-term effective carbon pricing and the removal of fossil fuel subsidies as important policies towards unlocking renewable energy investments worldwide, Mr. Sawyer continued. He concluded by noting the need to cooperate and share experience and good practices between the private and public sectors, and that the Coalition for Action is an effective vehicle that can contribute to this effort.

28. The Assembly received with appreciation the remarks and reports provided.

Agenda Item 4 - Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (A/8/3)

29. The Director-General introduced his Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 by noting that, at the end of the implementation period of its first Medium-term Strategy, IRENA has firmly established itself as the global voice for renewable energy with 154 Members and 26 States in Accession. He highlighted that renewables are at the heart of the global effort to secure a prosperous and inclusive future for all through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

30. The Director-General highlighted that falling costs and rapid innovation had increased investments, transforming renewable energy from a niche to an economically and technically preferable solution. Policies and regulations remain crucial to advancing market development, the Director-General continued, while recent years have seen the gradual shift in the power sector from tariff-based mechanisms to auctions.

31. Quoting the new *Renewable Power Generation Costs Report*, the Director-General explained that the cost of utility-scale solar PV electricity has fallen by 73% since 2010, reaching as low as three cents (USD 0.03) per kilowatt-hour (kWh), with onshore wind projects reaching a global average of six cents (USD 0.06)/kWh. He continued with similar trends in battery storage technologies, noting that IRENA estimates that costs could fall by another 60% by 2030. The Director-General said that by 2020, all currently commercialised renewable energy power generation technologies would be cost-competitive compared to conventional technologies.

32. The Director-General continued with recent investment trends, which in 2015 saw renewable energy technologies attract more finance than conventional energy technologies for the first time. He highlighted that, while in 2016 more than 90% of renewable energy investments came from private sources, public finance continued to play an important enabling role. The Director-General commented that the dip in the total volume of investments was countered by the growing cost-efficiency of renewables, enabling installed renewable power generation capacity to grow by 162 gigawatts (GW) (8.8%) to surpass 2,000 GW worldwide in 2016. He added that developing countries accounted for 70% of this increase.

33. Ambitious deployment of renewable energy coupled with energy efficiency measures could achieve around 90% of energy-related greenhouse gas emission reductions needed by 2050¹, the Director-General emphasised. He added that to reach this level of decarbonisation, the share of renewable energy would need to increase from around 15% of primary energy supply in 2015 to 65% in 2050, and stressed the need for a shift in system design and operation. The Director-General acknowledged that, while the additional investments for such a transition would require around 0.4% of global GDP in 2050, these investments would also lead to a 0.8% growth of global GDP in 2050 and provide 26 million jobs.

34. The Director-General highlighted universal access and delivery of associated socio-economic benefits as drivers for countries' efforts in deploying renewable energy. Noting that cost-effective business models and off-grid energy technologies already offer solutions for meeting social and economic needs in remote communities, he commented that further innovation in technology and business models could reduce the cost of mini-grids by more than 60% over the next 20 years. He highlighted IRENA's 2017 review of *Renewable Energy and Jobs*, which shows that the sector supported 9.8 million jobs globally.

35. The Director-General informed Members about the Agency's programmatic engagement at the regional and country levels, including with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers, in Central Asia with the Central Asia Ministerial Communiqué, the various Clean Energy Corridor (CEC) Initiatives in Africa and Central America, in addition to the Agency's engagement with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and its work with the European Union on Renewable Energy Prospects for the European Union (REmap EU). He also referred to the Agency's work on Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs), its engagement in South East Europe as part of the South East Europe Action Agenda, as well as continued cooperation with Small Island Development States (SIDS) such as with Fiji's COP23 presidency, and the joint launch of the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE) with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The Director-General underlined the Agency's commitment to continuously develop its tools and initiatives to meet Members' needs.

36. The Director-General also highlighted the Agency's engagement with other multilateral institutions and initiatives such as the United Nations, the G7, the G20, and the Clean Energy Ministerial. For example, the Agency's *Renewable Energy Benefits: Decentralised solutions in the agri-food chain* report was used as input for a high-level roundtable on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on zero hunger at COP23, within the context of the Agency's engagement at the global level, he said. The Director-General announced the launch of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation to analyse the impact of the changing energy landscape on international relations.

37. The Agency's engagement with the private sector on issues such as costs, electric grids, finance and project development was further stressed by the Director-General. He noted that IRENA's Coalition for Action continued to grow in membership and impact, highlighting the success of communication campaigns at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue and COP23, the latter seeing more than 120 companies join the Agency-supported RE100 initiative. The Director-General also drew attention

¹ *Perspectives for the energy transition: Investment needs for a low-carbon energy system* (IRENA & IEA, March 2017)

to the Agency's work on a global reference index for corporate sourcing of renewable energy, which is supported by the Coalition for Action and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

38. In the ensuing discussion, delegations commended the Agency for the implementation of the programmatic work and expressed their continued support. Sharing their national efforts and developments, delegations affirmed their commitment to advancing the energy transition as a strategy to build a sustainable energy future, and achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, stressing the Agency's role in supporting Members during this process.

39. Delegations applauded the Agency for its leading role as a voice for renewables, a provider of knowledge, and as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration in promoting the global energy transformation and supporting Members' efforts in the evolving energy landscape. One delegation encouraged the Agency to continue to strengthen its role in fostering action on the ground. This delegation also commended the Agency for its work on policy instruments, regulatory frameworks, financing instruments, grid management approaches, and costing data. Two delegations stressed the importance of further research and innovation, with one delegation expressing interest in collaborating on the development of geothermal and hydropower as well as storage solutions.

40. Delegations highlighted the momentum of the global energy transition driven by technological innovation, policies and declining costs. Delegations underlined the potential of renewable energy to promote universal access to sustainable, affordable and reliable energy services, and generate economic growth and sustainable development along with a range of social, environmental and economic benefits such as job creation, improved air quality, and the provision of health services, irrigation and drinking water. Many delegations noted that renewable energy and energy efficiency could strengthen energy security. One delegation emphasised IRENA's finding that the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency measures would outweigh the cost of the energy transition two to six times.

41. Delegations recognised the importance and potential of renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency measures to promote a comprehensive transformation of the end-use sectors, including in construction, transport, industry and agriculture. In this context, one delegation encouraged the Agency to continue and deepen its long-term analyses of end-use sectors, and country-specific contexts. Delegations stressed the need for comprehensive, flexible and predictable policies, regulatory frameworks and market design to enable the integration of renewables across all sectors. One delegation noted that further development of biofuels was needed. The same delegation stressed the importance of public acceptance, while another delegation underscored the importance of including all stakeholders in the energy transition.

42. Delegations highlighted the cost-competitiveness of renewables and emphasised the need to rapidly scale up investments and green finance. The importance of private sector engagement was underscored, and two delegations commented how good governance could facilitate investments. One delegation thanked the Agency for assisting in addressing investment risks. Another delegation stated that phasing-out fossil fuels should be among the top priorities for accelerating the energy transition.

43. Delegations welcomed the Agency's engagement with international organisations, processes and initiatives such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), G20 and IRIE, as well as fora such as the Northeast Asia Energy Security Forum and Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue. Delegations stressed the importance of international energy cooperation including with intergovernmental organisations and financial development institutions. Delegations further highlighted the contribution of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) to national projects and energy transition efforts. One delegation expressed its appreciation for Members' contributions to the Fund for Developing Country Representatives (FDCR) for ensuring inclusiveness of the Agency's governing body meetings, and another delegation noted the importance of the Agency's parliamentary engagement.

44. Delegations underlined the added value of the Agency's tools and initiatives in supporting Members in policy and decision-making, cooperation and action on the ground including through the CEC, Global Atlas, REmap, RRAs and the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, and commended the Agency for providing technical assistance including on project development and grid integration and stability. Several delegations also noted the need for capacity building and welcomed the Agency's work in this regard.

45. In his concluding remarks, the Director-General expressed his appreciation for Members' feedback and support to the Agency. He acknowledged the momentum of the global energy transition with its context-specific characteristics and far-reaching implications for the energy sector and global economy. Welcoming Member commitment to and progress towards a sustainable energy future, the Director-General closed by affirming the Agency's readiness to serve Members' needs.

46. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the 'Annual report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017' (A/8/3).

Agenda Item 5 - IRENA/ADFD Project Facility: Announcement of selected projects in the fifth cycle

47. The Director-General introduced the item and noted IRENA's unique partnership with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) as an outstanding example of cooperation to fund renewable energy projects in developing countries. He highlighted that the experience demonstrates the tremendous demand on the ground for renewable energy finance, which has reached a total of USD 3.8 billion in concessional loans that were requested from ADFD for around 400 renewable energy projects submitted over the last five years, with a total value of USD 13.6 billion, including co-financing. The selected projects, the Director-General noted, cover the entire range of renewable energy technologies across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific, and will improve energy access, energy security, and provide affordable energy to those who need it most around the world. The projects selected will help to deliver environmental and socio-economic benefits such as clean air, better health, employment, and income generation, he added.

48. The Director-General expressed his appreciation to H.E. Mr. Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, the Director-General of the ADFD, for making available USD 350 million in financing for renewable energy projects in developing countries and the close partnership with and support to IRENA. He further thanked the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee, Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy of New Zealand, for his able leadership in guiding a rigorous review and approval process for the selected projects in this fifth cycle of the Facility. He acknowledged the contribution of the Advisory Committee members from France, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe, and alternates from Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Portugal to ensure the success of the fifth cycle. He also thanked the panel of experts for ensuring that the projects selected in 2017 were technically sound, improved energy access, and had a high socio-economic impact potential. Finally, the Director-General welcomed expressions of interest to serve as members of the Advisory Committee of the sixth funding cycle from Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Finland, France, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, and as alternates of the Committee from Japan, Jordan, Pakistan and Tonga.

49. Mr. Mike Allen, the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee, reported on the selection process of the projects in the fifth cycle, and presented the 'Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fifth project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility', set out in document A/8/6. He noted that the projects were selected based on geographical spread, technology diversity, and alignment with national development priorities. He encouraged IRENA Members to help support the continued success of the Facility by urging the government and public agencies to consider developing proposals.

50. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, the Director-General of the ADFD, expressed his appreciation for the excellent collaboration with IRENA over the past five funding cycles of the Facility, which have led to USD 214 million in funding for 21 projects in 20 countries, and have helped many governments to promote economic diversification and benefit from socio-economic impacts of renewable energy. H.E. Mr. Al Suwaidi announced the allocation of a total of USD 25 million to the two selected projects in the fifth cycle: a solar photovoltaic project in Rwanda, which is estimated to add 7.5 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, and a solar project in Mauritius, which will produce 10 MW of renewable energy. He closed by reiterating ADFD's commitment to sustainable development and promoting renewable energy projects in developing countries.

51. Representing Mauritius, Hon. Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo, Deputy Prime Minister, noted that the project aims to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of local communities in the country. In line with the national strategy, the project will install solar panels on the rooftops of 10,000 low-income homes, thereby not only lowering the price of electricity, but also improving the country's energy security by reducing fossil fuel imports.

52. On behalf of Rwanda, Mr. Robert Nyamvumba, Manager of the Energy Development Corporation within the Ministry of Infrastructure, emphasised renewable energy as a key component of the country's growth strategy. To achieve ambitious national targets on increasing off-grid access in rural areas, he noted, public-private partnerships and close engagement of the private sector are paramount. To this end, he commended efforts made by Ignite Rwanda, which is working on connecting 500,000 households using solar rooftop technology. The project selected by the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility will help to scale up this deployment and reach deeper into rural areas to provide energy access and improve livelihoods throughout the country.

53. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the 'Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fifth project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility' (A/8/6), and of the selected projects for the fifth project cycle.

Agenda Item 6: Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (A/8/4; A/8/DC/1)

54. The Director-General presented the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (WPB) (A/8/L.4; A/8/DC/L.1) and highlighted that it had been developed based on a comprehensive consultation process with Members and aligned with the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS). Building on its comparative advantage of universal and engaged membership, the Agency would continue to play a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy systems as a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation, a global voice of renewable energy, a network hub for all stakeholders and a source of advice and support for countries. He noted that the evolution of the existing energy architecture into a low-carbon energy system contributes directly to the sustainable development and climate goals, and that driven by innovation in technology, markets and regulation, renewable energy is now seen as an economically attractive solution for stimulating sustainable economic growth, creating jobs, providing access to energy, and strengthening energy security.

55. The Director-General emphasised the importance of international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement to drive the global energy transformation at the scale and pace required, and affirmed that the Agency would continue to seek collaboration with other international and regional organisations and processes to utilise synergies and avoid duplication. The Agency's analytical work would continue to focus on informing policy and decision-making, facilitating exchange of best practices, and shaping the global discourse in areas such as the cost-competitiveness of renewable energy, the shift towards decentralised and distributed energy systems, innovation in technologies, markets, policy and finance, and socio-economic benefits of renewable energy. This would be complemented by country- and region-specific policy advice through various initiatives and collaboration platforms, along with the expanded provision of project support and facilitation services.

56. The Director-General informed that the proposed core budget, amounting to USD 43.1 million for the biennium, takes into account assessed contributions from new Members who joined since the adoption of the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017 on 17 January 2016. He added that core non-assessed contributions comprise USD 10.2 million from Germany for the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre and USD 9.12 million from the United Arab Emirates, comprising USD 5 million for IRENA's operations, USD 0.92 million for information technology infrastructure and USD 3.2 million for governing body meetings. He mentioned that UAE also provides housing allowance averaging USD 2.2 million biennially.

57. He noted that the Proposed Work Programme and Budget also outlines additional core non-assessed and other resources required to implement the programmatic activities and advance the objectives of the MTS. In this context, he expressed gratitude for contributions and pledges already received from Norway for NOK 39 million as core support for the implementation of the WPB and MTS, and EUR 1 million from the Walloon region of Belgium for the work on decentralised solutions and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He noted that a number of Members supported the introduction of a "Renewables Acceleration Fund" for additional contributions toward the implementation of the MTS, the features of which will be elaborated and discussed with interested Members.

58. Members' interventions on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 started in the Assembly plenary under the Chairmanship of the Assembly President, H.E. Mrs. Carolina Cosse and continued during the afternoon plenary session when the Chair and Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Tabita Potros Tia Shokai, State Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity of Sudan, re-opened the floor for the remaining comments.

59. Delegations welcomed the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, and its alignment with the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022, noting that it is well-balanced and comprehensive in addressing Members' needs. Delegations affirmed their continuous support for its implementation and their engagement with other Members of the Agency, while two delegations emphasised the need for a robust resource base in line with IRENA's mandate and role. One delegation welcomed the introduction of a new category of core non-assessed voluntary contributions as a way to strengthen IRENA's resource base. Another delegation, while welcoming the progress report on core non-assessed contributions to cover programmatic needs, requested the inclusion of information on programme prioritisation if the goal is not met, and also noted the importance of periodic impact assessments to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of IRENA's programmatic work. One delegation underlined the importance of flexibility within the framework of the programmatic work to enable the Agency to adapt to Members' needs in an evolving energy landscape.

60. Delegations encouraged the Agency to continue to act as a convener and platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices, as a centre of excellence for energy transformation, and a leading actor for facilitating international energy cooperation within the context of driving the global energy transition. One delegation highlighted the interdependent nature of the four pillars, which form the basis for the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, and encouraged further emphasis on synergies in the implementation of programmatic work. One delegation emphasised the need for prioritisation of components of IRENA's vision and mandate to maximise its cost-effectiveness and the usefulness of periodic impact assessments of the Agency's tools and initiatives, along with the importance of the work plans and deliverables as part of the implementation of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019.

61. Delegations underlined the critical role renewable energy deployment plays in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7. One delegation pointed in particular to the importance of raising the level of ambition of the renewable energy components within NDCs and aligning them with national energy plans. Another delegation specifically encouraged the Agency to support Members in the planning and implementation of NDCs. Delegations highlighted the role of

renewables in increasing energy access globally and delivering numerous socio-economic benefits associated with its large-scale deployment. Delegations further emphasised how renewables can contribute across the entire range of the 2030 Agenda, including goals related to the environment, health and gender equality.

62. One delegation highlighted the contribution of renewable energy to energy security and independence, whereas two other delegations welcomed the launch of IRENA's Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation to analyse the linkages between renewable energy and international peace and security. One delegation further commented on the importance of energy efficiency measures along with renewable energy deployment.

63. Delegations welcomed the Agency's engagement with international organisations and multilateral processes to amplify the impact of its work, avoid duplication and utilise synergies. Some delegations highlighted cooperation with the United Nations, G20, IEA, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Energy and Mission Innovation Ministerial meetings, the Nordic Clean Energy Week and the Nordic Council of Ministers, as well as national and international financial institutions. One delegation acknowledged Members' responsibility in ensuring complementarity of the effort of diverse international actors. One delegation encouraged the Agency to support bilateral development partnerships, while another delegation asked the Agency to engage more closely with regional platforms and networks.

64. Delegations emphasised the importance of private sector engagement and access to finance in enabling the large-scale deployment of renewable energy worldwide. Delegations further noted the impact of the Agency's engagement with private sector and other relevant stakeholders, including through the corporate sourcing campaign, as well as cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). One delegation commended the Agency for its work on promoting the business case of renewable energy, while another delegation encouraged the Agency to continue its analytical work on investment needs and mechanisms for the expansion of renewable energy, including the interplay between government and multilateral funds, and private instruments. One delegation welcomed the Agency's work on business models, policies and financial instruments, analyses on technical and systemic innovation, and on socio-economic and development benefits.

65. Delegations welcomed IRENA's tools and initiatives, including the Global Atlas, Project Navigator, SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, Sustainable Energy Marketplace, and a combined approach of Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs) and REmap. One delegation expressed support for the development of an energy transition model and underlined the potential of regional-level analysis to foster stronger regional cooperation. Delegations further expressed appreciation for the focus of the WPB on end-use sectors, innovation for energy efficiency, energy access, technology, finance and policy. Delegations also encouraged IRENA to increase its focus on bioenergy, smart grids, storage and cross-border infrastructure, as well as to provide advice on engaging civil society in the global energy transformation.

66. One delegation highlighted the need for more work on the integration of high shares of variable renewable energy, smart grids and storage, as well as cross-border trade infrastructures. This delegation stressed the increasing role of digitisation in the future energy system as well as the potentials of off-grid solutions, including new business models, to provide affordable access to energy. One delegation highlighted the cost-competitiveness of renewables thanks to technological innovation and information technology (IT).

67. Two delegations requested IRENA to expand its work on policy advice for promoting the energy transition in regions and cities. Another delegation encouraged the Agency to undertake analysis on renewables deployment independent from feed-in-tariffs schemes and to conduct further analysis on the sustainable use of bioenergy, including the issue of balancing the scaling-up of bioenergy with the need for food production. Noting the high cost of geothermal energy, the same delegation encouraged the Agency to increase its work in this area by facilitating knowledge exchange on regulatory measures, financing and risk mitigation. Another delegation expressed interest in collaborating with the Agency

on hydro and geothermal energy, in particular. Further efforts in facilitating technology transfer were requested by one delegation.

68. One Observer delegation highlighted the benefits of renewable energy deployment in supporting people and host communities facing humanitarian displacement settings. Another Observer delegation emphasised the contribution of renewable energy across the 2030 Agenda, and further noted that growing energy demand and lack of infrastructure represented challenges for the energy system transformation and underlined that energy efficiency should be promoted alongside renewable energy. Both Observer delegations encouraged the Agency to continue cooperation with the United Nations in these areas.

69. At the end of the morning session, the Director-General thanked delegations for their comments offering guidance on how the Agency can best meet Members' needs and for their active participation in the consultation process leading to the development of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019. He acknowledged the need to develop further innovative ways to strengthen the resource base of the Agency and pointed to its ongoing efforts in ensuring relevance and cost-effectiveness of its work, as exemplified by its long-term scenario analyses and the integration of RRAs and REmap. In this regard, he underscored the need to understand market dynamics as key for developing regulatory frameworks that can mobilise investments, and noted the Agency's engagement with the private sector in its programmatic work and discussions, including within the Ministerial Roundtables. The Director-General highlighted the Agency's engagement with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the upcoming review of SDG 7, and affirmed the Agency's commitment to promoting the potential of renewable energy for gender equality.

70. At the conclusion of the item during the afternoon session, the Deputy Director-General thanked delegations for their insights on the opportunities and challenges in the global energy transition and welcomed their feedback on the Agency's planned programmatic activities in this regard. He noted that sustainable development, economic growth and climate change are key drivers of renewable energy deployment across the world. In this context, the Deputy Director-General emphasised that bilateral and multilateral energy cooperation and private sector engagement represent important elements of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019.

71. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the 'Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019' (A/8/L.4) and adopted the decision A/8/DC/1 on the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 reflecting budgetary requirements amounting to USD 64.154 million, consisting of USD 43.130 million in core assessed and USD 21.024 million in core non-assessed resources.

Agenda Item 7: Report of the Council Chair

72. Chairing the session, the Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms. Tabita Potros Tia Shokai, State Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity of Sudan, invited the Chair of the Council to present his report under this agenda item.

73. China, in its capacity as Chair of the thirteenth and fourteenth Council meetings, represented by Mr. Liang Zhipeng, Deputy Director-General, National Energy Administration of China, reported to the Assembly on the activities of the Council during 2017 and referred delegations to the reports of the two Council meetings, contained in documents C/13/SR/1 and C/14/SR/1.

74. Mr. Zhipeng highlighted the responsibility of the Council in supporting the work of the Assembly and the Agency in general by facilitating consultations and cooperation among Members. He noted that the meetings attracted more than 300 delegates from more than 90 Members and non-Members each, recognising their successful outcomes thanks to their inclusive and transparent nature.

75. Mr. Zhipeng recalled deliberations of the Council on ongoing and future programmatic activities to provide the Agency with guidance for the fulfilment of its mandate. Topics discussed included renewable energy and jobs, the integration of high shares of renewables into the electricity market design, renewable energy deployment within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the potential of project facilitation to contribute to accelerating the energy transition on the ground. Mr. Zhipeng continued informing that the Council also considered regional, institutional and administrative matters in preparation for the Assembly's consideration on those items.

76. Mr Zhipeng highlighted in particular the Council's discussions on the draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019. He noted the extensive and inclusive consultation process with Members and other stakeholders to discuss trends and developments affecting the work of the Agency in an evolving global energy landscape.

77. Mr. Zhipeng closed by thanking Colombia and Norway for their roles as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, and for contributing to the successful outcome of both Council meetings. He further expressed his appreciation to the Chairs of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programme and Strategy Committee for their role in supporting Member consultations in preparation for the Council.

78. The Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Council Chair.

Agenda Item 8: Institutional and administrative matters

a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/8/5, A/8/5/Rev.1 – see Agenda Item 16)

79. Chairing the session, the Assembly Vice-President, H.E. Mr. Jens Eikaas of Norway, invited the Chair of the Credentials Committee, the Dominican Republic represented by Mr. Amer El Kadi, to introduce the 'Report of the Credentials Committee' (A/8/5). Based on its examination of credentials received, the Committee determined that 110 Members had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The Committee recommended that these Members be entitled to participate in the eighth session of the Assembly.

80. The Committee also noted that a number of delegations attending had not submitted any credentials and recommended that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the eighth session of the Assembly on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

81. The Committee recommended that the Assembly call upon all IRENA Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representative if possible not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly, as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session.

82. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly request the IRENA Secretariat to issue to all IRENA Members, at least three months before each session of the Assembly and as may be needed thereafter, a reminder about the requirement to submit the credentials of their representatives in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and no later than the opening of the session.

83. The Assembly considered and adopted the 'Report of the Credentials Committee' (A/8/5).

b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (A/8/6)

84. H.E. Mr. Jens Eikaas of Norway informed the Assembly that having considered recent consultations between interested Members on the matter, the following countries had expressed interest for

membership of the Advisory Committee for the sixth project selection cycle: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Finland, France, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea as members, and Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, and Tonga as alternates.

85. The Assembly appointed Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Finland, France, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea as members, and Japan, Jordan, Pakistan and Tonga as alternates on the Advisory Committee for the sixth project cycle.

c. Report of the Ethics Officer (A/8/7)

86. The Ethics Officer of IRENA, Ms. Salma Khalid, introduced the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’, contained in document A/8/7. She informed Members that one report of retaliatory action had been received and that a review of the allegation and surrounding circumstances had yielded no basis for further investigation. She also reported that all covered individuals required to complete the disclosure of interests have complied with this requirement, with the review finding no actual or apparent conflict of interest with the Agency.

87. The Ethics Officer reported on the completion of the development of an online ethics training course to promote ethical awareness and decision making.

88. Two delegations commended the Ethics Office for its work in improving ethics training and outreach within the Agency. They encouraged the Agency to conduct a regular ethics climate survey and report their results to Members.

89. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’ (A/8/7).

d. Audited Financial Statements for 2016 (A/8/8) and Status of Implementation of External Audit Recommendations (A/8/9)

90. The Director of IRENA’s Administration and Management Services Division, Mr. David Iyamah, introduced the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016’ (A/8/8), as well as the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’ (A/8/9).

91. The Director informed Members that two recommendations related to information technology had been fully implemented, with ongoing work towards the full implementation of the remaining two recommendations.

92. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016’ (A/8/8) and the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’ (A/8/9).

e. Staff Provident Fund (A/8/10)

93. The Chair of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board, Mr. David Iyamah, introduced the item and referred delegations to the ‘2016 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’ (A/8/10), including the ‘Audited Financial Statements’ of the Staff Provident Fund for 2016.

94. The Chair informed about the Board’s meetings including an information session with two financial entities, Zurich International and AMFIE, to discuss alternative personal investment plans and deferred benefit plans for separated staff.

95. The Assembly considered and took note of the 2016 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’(A/8/10).

Agenda Item 9: Programmatic Discussion: Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition (A/8/DN/1)

96. Chairing the session, the Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Tabita Petros Teia Shokai, State Minister of Water Resources and Electricity of Sudan, opened the programmatic discussion and highlighted the role of government policies in advancing the energy transition. H.E. Mrs. Teia Shokai recognised the role of international organisations in supporting governments to make informed decisions through the provision of data, analyses and knowledge products, and emphasised the important role of the partnership between IRENA, IEA and REN21 in driving powerful messages to the international community on the future of renewable energy policies.

97. Mr. Henning Wuester, Director of IRENA's Knowledge Policy and Finance Centre, noted that renewable energy support policies are increasingly being integrated into broader energy and development strategies but that as the sector matures, policies need to adapt to changing market conditions. He highlighted that one important trend in recent policies had been the increasing innovation in their design, as policy makers seek to take advantage of the complementarity between different support mechanisms.

98. Mr. Wuester noted that policy support has historically focused on power generation, while support for renewables in the end-use sectors such as heating and cooling, and transport, has been less dynamic. In the power sector, large shares of variable and distributed renewable sources challenge traditional frameworks, regardless of a country's market structure. Moving beyond power, a whole-system approach to energy policy and planning aims to integrate, to the extent possible, all sectors for greater energy security, efficiency, flexibility, affordability and emissions reduction. He introduced the forthcoming joint report 'Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition' by IRENA, the IEA and REN21, which provides an understanding of policy options that can support the development of the renewable energy sector, depending on the country context, state of the energy market, technology and specific objectives to achieve. He highlighted that the analysis goes beyond deployment policies to include regulations, such as flexibility measures for the integration of variable renewable energy. In addition, based on an update on the global policy trends, the study presents an adapted policy classification that reflects latest innovation in policy design that is agreed upon by the three organisations.

99. Ms. Christine Lins, Executive Secretary of REN21, presented further details of the report, highlighting the successful collaboration between the three organisations and the extensive peer review process with over 1000 comments from 50 organisations as a reflection of the importance of the topic. Ms. Lins stated that a new era for renewables is emerging with increases in installed capacity across all technologies, driven by policies and falling costs. She stressed the need for the utilisation of synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as for predictable and stable policies to advance the energy transformation to foster economic development, strengthen energy security and access, support climate change mitigation and reduce air pollution. She further observed the emergence of the private sector, citizens, cities, communities, and utilities as key actors with economic, fiscal, institutional and technical barriers remaining. Although the rise of renewable energy targets from 48 in 2005 to 176 today has provided impetus to the global energy transformation, Ms. Lins noted that more efforts were required in the sectors of transport, and heating and cooling, which account for 29% and 51% of final energy consumption respectively. Particularly in transport, where carbon emissions had grown 2.5% annually between 2010 and 2015, she identified the availability of energy carriers, renewables-based fuels, and deployment of renewable fuel- driven vehicles along with the removal of fossil fuel subsidies as central areas of action.

100. Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Deputy Director of IRENA's Knowledge Policy and Finance Centre, noted that renewable energy had reached 26% in global power generation over the last decade, with new capacity installations consistently surpassing non-renewables since 2012. She recognised the role of renewable energy policies and regulations in driving this growth, led by fiscal instruments and feed-in tariffs, with auctions becoming more widely adopted over the past five years. While auctions have

achieved rapid declines in prices, she cautioned that their potential for replication depends on context-specific conditions, with four groups of factors that impact the resulting auction price: first, country-specific conditions like cost of finance or labour, and viability of renewable energy resources; second, investment environment including off-taker credibility and periodicity of auctions; third, support policies in place such as targets, fiscal incentives and priority dispatch; and fourth, the auction design including rules for socio-economic development, project size, compliance, remuneration profile for developers, and others. She added that feed-in tariffs and auctions should be understood as complementary in achieving particular objectives and promoting deployment when designed appropriately and adapted consistently to changing market and technology conditions. Ms. Ferroukhi emphasised that off-grid solutions and mini-grids for providing energy access required tailored policies and strategies, dedicated financial support and fiscal incentives. Finally, she explained that the new policy classification proposed in the forthcoming joint policy report from IRENA, the IEA and REN21 provides a better understanding of the multitude of options in support of the energy transition in different technologies, sectors, country and market contexts. To facilitate an energy transition that benefits societies broadly -a just transition- there is a need to generate a dynamic, enabling framework that builds on the cross-connections between renewables, energy efficiency and related aspects. The proposed classification reflects an understanding that, as renewable energy technologies are maturing, policy design is evolving toward greater sophistication and complexity at a time when support measures are becoming increasingly part of the broader range of energy system policies.

101. Mr. Paolo Frankl, Head of Renewable Energy Division at the IEA, presented the challenges and opportunities for system integration during various policy phases in response to rising penetration rates of renewable energy. In particular, he underscored that the challenge towards the integration of 100% renewables is rather economical than technical. Mr. Frankl explained that building a stable, flexible and economically-efficient energy system in the future requires, amongst others, appropriate grid codes, reliable forecasts for wind and solar energy production, demand-side response management, storage along with the appropriate system and market rules, and appropriate institutional settings. He noted the trends and importance of sector-coupling, and stressed the need for smart capacity management and effective pricing systems and policies in the transport sector. Regarding heating and cooling, Mr. Frankl also offered examples of how existing district heating and cooling infrastructures, public investment, energy efficiency standards, and carbon and energy taxation, have facilitated renewable energy deployment in a number of countries, while strong gas networks and the complex combination of policy tools represent challenges in other cases. He also noted that the current pace and scale of promoting clean cooking solutions were not sufficient to meet demand.

102. Delegations welcomed the joint report as useful for policy makers and emphasised the importance of a holistic and integrated approach at the policy and institutional levels, which effectively includes end-use sectors and accounts for the context-specific nature of every country. Sharing their national efforts, delegations recognised the need for market designs to continuously adapt to increasing shares of renewable energy in the system, including through decentralisation and digitalisation. Delegations underlined the key role of local involvement and public support in renewable energy deployment.

103. Delegations recognised sustainable socio-economic development, energy access and security, and climate change mitigation both as benefits and drivers of renewable energy deployment. One delegation asked the Agency to continue to focus its work on how renewable energy contributes to energy access and generates socio-economic benefits. This delegation stressed the need to ensure compatibility between the utilisation of bioenergy and food security, and another delegation drew attention to the complementary role natural gas can play during the energy transition.

104. Delegations noted the importance of stable, innovative and ambitious policy frameworks and markets to attract investments, with two delegations calling for the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies as well as renewables-focused public spending. Two delegations stated that the energy transition should be guided by considerations for cost-efficiency and competitiveness, while another delegation highlighted the advantage of auctions in ensuring transparent and appropriate pricing. Some delegations stressed that auctions should also consider the financial and technical sustainability rather than the

lowest price of projects in their selection process. In addition, delegations noted the importance of renewable energy deployment being coupled with energy efficiency, including standards for consumer goods to accelerate the transformation of end-use sectors.

105. One delegation commended the Agency for its role in promoting the global energy transformation through facilitating the exchange of best practices and knowledge on policy and technological solutions across all sectors, as well as its tools such as the Sustainable Energy Marketplace, while another expressed appreciation for IRENA's REmap.

106. One Observer delegation welcomed the joint report by IRENA, IEA and REN21. The delegation commented on how feed-in-tariffs can complement auctions in promoting small and medium-sized projects and encouraged the development of combined feed-in-tariffs to stimulate innovation and investment in sector coupling. This delegation also observed that auctions have shown to be an effective instrument for mobilising utility-scale projects. Another Observer stressed that appropriate auction design is key in ensuring the selection of projects that are technically and financially sustainable in the long-term.

107. Panellists thanked delegations for their comments and stressed that a future renewables-based energy system would be cheaper than a conventional energy system. Mr. Frankl underlined the need for energy market design adaptation and for ensuring an effective and fair pricing regime along the entire clean energy value chain, including compliance with strict sustainability rules regarding bioenergy. Ms. Ferroukhi highlighted the importance of taking a holistic approach to policy-making and market design, referring delegations to the Agency's work on this topic. Ms. Lins expressed that the report 'Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition' seeks to inform decision-makers about policy options, including best practice examples for citizen engagement. Mr. Wuester added that harmonised policies could also mobilise additional financing by providing businesses with a clearer understanding of the investment environment. He concluded by reiterating the benefits renewable energy can generate in terms of socio-economic development and climate change mitigation.

108. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 10: Programmatic discussion: Working together to accelerate the deployment of geothermal energy (A/8/DN/2)

109. The Vice-President of the Assembly and Chair of the session, H.E. Mrs. Tabita Petros Teia Shokai, State Minister of Water Resources and Electricity of Sudan, opened the programmatic discussion by stressing the potential of geothermal energy to contribute to energy access and security, climate change mitigation as well as local economic development. In this regard, she welcomed the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) as an important platform to foster dialogue, cooperation and coordination towards the aspirational goal of achieving a five-fold growth in installed capacity of geothermal power generation and of doubling of geothermal heating by 2030.

110. Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Acting Director of IRENA's Country Support and Partnerships Division, introduced the topic by drawing attention to the economic, environmental and climate benefits of the use of geothermal energy in power generation, and heating and cooling. He provided a number of examples of mature geothermal applications such as in district heating, the agri-food industry, power generation, as well as hybrid solutions integrating other renewables. Mr. Gonul noted that high upfront investments, risks related to the appraisal of geothermal resources, inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks, and the shortage of qualified workforce continued to represent barriers to scaling-up geothermal energy deployment. He noted the importance of the political momentum of the GGA and the recently adopted Florence Declaration in the promotion of the sustainable use of geothermal energy to foster sustainable development and mitigate carbon emissions. He presented the latest geothermal-related activities undertaken by the Agency in collaboration with partners, including regional capacity building in Central America and in East Africa, as well as the integration of a geothermal energy

component into its project facilitation tools including the Project Navigator and Global Atlas. Mr. Gonul closed by thanking Iceland, Italy, France, Japan and Switzerland for their contributions to the Agency's work on geothermal energy.

111. Ms. Irene Canas, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, shared the experience with geothermal energy in her country. The country has achieved almost 100% of renewable energy power generation, led by hydro and geothermal with smaller contributions from wind, biomass and solar. She stressed the potential of geothermal energy to provide a constant power supply but also the need to develop the resource in line with environmental and nature protection laws. In this context, technological innovations such as directional drilling capable of bypassing protected areas and options for the geochemical treatments of geothermal fluids have emerged. For the future, community engagement, tailored education and capacity-building will continue to be key elements steering the development of geothermal energy in Costa Rica.

112. Mr. Stefano Marguccio, Diplomatic Counsellor to the Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, echoed the recognition of the momentum for geothermal energy deployment, as recently exemplified by the GGA and the Florence Declaration, and its potential to contribute towards achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Recognising benefits of constant energy supply and long-term operational life-cycles of geothermal projects, he underlined the need to strengthen policy frameworks and increase research and development to unlock investments and the sustainable use of geothermal resources. He welcomed the Agency's role in coordinating and facilitating the GGA's work in knowledge sharing, including on geological information, exploration, drilling and production technologies.

113. Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, highlighted that geothermal energy is economically viable and can strengthen energy security, provide a stable energy supply, and can be used in direct applications in other sectors such as agriculture. However, geothermal energy deployment requires a comprehensive strategy and governance process that reflects other sectors, integrates land and resource ownership laws, and promotes local engagement and investments. Stressing the importance of international collaboration and knowledge exchange, Mr. Allen noted the existing variety of technologies and the need for context-specific solutions. He encouraged the Agency to facilitate the creation of a practitioner group to provide further support and advice to the GGA constituency.

114. Mr. Alexander Richter, President of International Geothermal Association, provided an overview of the current global developments in geothermal energy. He noted that, while geothermal energy represented a significant share of the energy mix in some countries, global installed geothermal power generation capacity of 14GW only represented a fraction of the existing potential. Mr. Richter underlined that there are many direct use opportunities, heating in particular, where geothermal can play the most important role in the energy markets and contribute to mitigating climate change. He added that by-products such as lithium could be extracted from geothermal brine and used in the production of storage technologies. Mr. Richter identified enabling policy frameworks, clear land and resource ownership regulations, policy designs that value baseload and availability capacities of geothermal power plants, local community engagement and value creation, and sustainable management as key determinants of the future development of geothermal energy. In this regard, he also commented on the success of insurance models and risk mitigation tools as provided by several international and regional organisations and bilateral development agencies.

115. In the ensuing plenary discussion, delegations shared experiences and trends in the development of geothermal energy and emphasised its potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable economic development, and energy access and security. Some delegations recognised the untapped potential of geothermal energy and commented on the range of applications of low and medium temperature geothermal resources that significantly expands the number of countries where geothermal can be deployed, for example through district heating, across economic activities and the end-use sectors.

116. Delegations stressed that the mobilisation of investments is key for geothermal energy development but is slowed by high up-front investments and risks related to resource identification. Delegations mentioned the potential of appropriate policy and regulatory instruments including Power-Purchase Agreements, licensing processes, and the standardisation of contracts and other documents to facilitate investments.

117. Delegations highlighted the importance of local community engagement and support as well as training and capacity building to this end. One delegation stated that geothermal energy development should be supported by long-term commitment, with one delegation stating that long-term strategies should be flexible enough to accommodate future developments.

118. Two delegations commended IRENA for its role in facilitating the development of geothermal energy. One delegation noted the maturity of geothermal energy technology as reflected in the increasing number of patents and intellectual property rights and encouraged the Agency to expand its analytical work on the status of the sector.

119. Delegations emphasised the importance of bilateral and multilateral collaboration including partnerships with international organisations, financial institutions and development banks in promoting geothermal energy deployment.

120. Two Observer delegations underlined the potential of geothermal energy to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. One Observer delegation stressed the need to leverage synergies with other initiatives in support of Small Island Developing States in the areas of financing and technology, and encouraged the Agency to conduct further analytical work addressing the specificities in SIDS. The same Observer delegation suggested that long-term strategies should be flexible enough to accommodate future developments. Another Observer delegation stated that geothermal energy development should be supported by long-term commitment and noted the opportunity to foster community engagement and local economic development. This delegation further noted that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to promote geothermal energy, but underlined transparency and clarity of actors' roles as a common requirement for success.

121. The panellists thanked delegations for their comments and agreed that the sharing of best practices and knowledge through platforms as the GGA are crucial in promoting the deployment of geothermal energy. They also acknowledged the potential of geothermal energy to address climate-related challenges, contribute to energy access and local economic growth. Two panellists welcomed the idea for establishing a practitioner group to facilitate dialogue with the private sector, and recognised the ability of the GGA to convene stakeholders to discuss ways of providing support and advice to countries. In addition, two panellists recognised the need for dedicated support to Small Island Development States for geothermal energy development as exemplified by ongoing steps towards closer collaboration between the GGA and the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative. Mr. Richter also noted trends in technological innovation that enabled low-temperature and direct utilisation of geothermal heat, as well as the potential of tailored policy instruments to incentivise investments. Mr. Gonul noted that enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, adequate governance models, risk mitigation mechanisms and solutions to financing resource assessments along with training, capacity building, and awareness raising are important.

122. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.

Special address by the President of the United Nations General Assembly

123. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Carolina Cosse, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, opened the afternoon session of the Assembly by emphasising the central role of renewable energy in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. In light of the upcoming first global review of the Sustainable

Development Goal 7 at the High-Level Political Forum in 2018, she highlighted the role IRENA can play as a provider of knowledge products, tools and services and as a network hub for collaboration, supporting Members' ongoing implementation efforts.

124. In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, emphasised that climate change represents the biggest challenge to humanity today. Renewable energy, along with energy efficiency, is at the centre of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as the 2030 Agenda. He called upon countries to use the opportunity of the upcoming NDC revision process to raise the level of ambition of their pledges to achieve the 2°C and 1.5°C targets and to attract necessary investments. Driven by enabling policies, capacity building and technology transfer, renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency can contribute to providing universal access to energy, stimulating economic growth and supporting sustainable livelihoods across the world.

125. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 11: Strategic Plenary Ministerial discussion on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (A/8/DN/3)

126. Chairing the session, the Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmad Osmani, Minister of Energy and Water of Afghanistan, invited the Director-General to introduce the item.

127. Delivering his introductory remarks, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA, emphasised that the accelerated deployment of renewable energy coupled with energy efficiency could achieve most of the emission reductions needed in the energy sector to limit the rise in global mean temperature to well below 2°C. He underlined that the large majority of Parties that submitted NDCs had recognised the important role of renewables (145 of 194), and 109 had set specific renewable energy targets for the implementation, estimated to require a total investment of USD 1.7 trillion by 2030.

128. The Director-General highlighted as critical to advance on implementation without delay and ensuring that scarce public resources are used effectively to mobilise the overall investment needed. Observing that current renewable energy targets in the NDCs would only lead to the average annual growth of 3.6% in installed capacity, well below the 8.5% growth rate between 2010 and 2016, the Director-General highlighted the opportunity to raise the levels of ambition and align them with national policies and plans. He also stressed that NDC-based targets were in many cases well below national energy targets and the cost-effective potentials for renewables. Noting that further untapped potential exists regarding renewables deployment in the end-use sectors, as well as in climate change adaptation, he recommended that the revision process should take account of all benefits of renewable energy. The Director-General re-affirmed the Agency's readiness to support Members in the development and implementation of the renewable energy components of their NDCs, including through a dedicated facility.

129. Following the Director-General's remarks, the Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmad Osmani, Minister of Energy and Water of Afghanistan, invited panellists to share their perspectives on the role of the NDCs in accelerating renewable energy deployment in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the provision of access to energy.

130. H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, highlighted the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency as central pillars of his country's NDC, which is also complemented by a number of long-term climate, energy and development strategies with a horizon to 2050 and 2071. H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi shared ongoing policy initiatives to promote water and energy efficiency through building performance codes, demand-side management measures, and appliance efficiency standards. He mentioned that in light of the major role played by the private sector in driving the energy transformation and climate action, the government

has implemented an energy tariff reform to attract private sector investments, including from small- and medium-sized businesses, and expanded cooperation with 32 financial institutions to facilitate access to green finance as exemplified by the Dubai Green Fund.

131. H.E. Mr. Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles, recounted the Paris Agreement as a milestone in the fight against climate change. He recognised the importance to undertake the review of NDCs in an inclusive process that involves national stakeholders and the public, and address electricity as well as end-use sectors in an integrated manner. To reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, the government is currently implementing energy efficiency measures such as building codes, standards for electrical appliances, and smart energy management plans for households and businesses. Finally, the Minister noted that the mobilisation of finance, holistic policy approaches, inclusive governance processes, as well as clear and verifiable targets and implementation plans are key in accelerating the energy transformation.

132. H.E. Mr. Nasrul Hamid, State Minister of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh, confirmed his country's commitment to developing renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and highlighted its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. In particular, he noted Bangladesh's efforts in expanding access to energy by installing 4.8 million solar home systems in remote areas, deploying solar nano- and mini-grids, and integrating solar energy applications in the agricultural sector for example for irrigation. Further efforts to improve access to energy include the mapping of wind resources, the introduction of net metering in urban areas, and cross-border electricity trade, he explained.

133. Hon. David Patterson, Minister of Public Infrastructure of Guyana, presented his country's progress in developing a sustainable and diversified energy mix to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, foster inclusive economic growth, and ensuring energy access and security. He emphasised the importance of a holistic and inclusive approach to the development, revision and implementation of the renewable energy component of the NDCs that is complemented by a long-term development agenda. The Minister stressed that enabling regulatory frameworks and capacity building are needed to drive renewable energy deployment, which also creates socio-economic benefits such as jobs in support of people's livelihoods.

134. H.E. Mr. Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity of Ethiopia, noted the potential of on- and off-grid renewable energy to strengthen climate change adaptation and resilience. He emphasised that NDCs are not only a cornerstone of the Paris Agreement but also a major catalyst for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected in his country's Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy to become a middle-income country by 2025. Measures, amongst others, include improving waste management, providing access to energy, increasing power generation and energy efficiency, and modernising the power distribution and transmission infrastructure. Concerning climate change adaptation, the Minister also emphasised measures such as the use of renewables for irrigation in agriculture and the diversification of electricity generation mix, through the development of renewable energy technologies other than hydropower.

135. In the plenary discussion that followed, delegations emphasised that renewable energy along with energy efficiency represented a key strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. Noting the momentum of the global energy transformation driven by policy, technological and digital innovation and a business case, they also stressed how renewable energy could contribute to energy security and socio-economic development.

136. Affirming their commitment to the Paris Agreement, delegations stressed the importance of international energy cooperation among governments, the private sector and civil society in strengthening NDCs and accelerating their implementation, such as the Global Geothermal Alliance and the One Planet Coalition. Particularly for developing countries, access to climate finance was recognised as a key factor in their ability to meet their renewable energy targets.

137. Delegations emphasised the need to raise the level of ambition of the renewable energy component in NDCs and align them with national policies and strategies to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Two delegations noted the potential of stable policies to attract investments and considered the NDCs a key framework for strategic and coherent planning of the energy transformation. Delegations underlined that the development, revision and implementation of the renewable energy component of the NDCs should be undertaken in a process that represents all stakeholders, sectors and technologies. Two delegations emphasised that NDCs also need to be complemented by other long-term yet flexible strategies.

138. Delegations encouraged the Agency in its role as a provider of knowledge, data and tools as well as a facilitator of multi-stakeholder dialogue to support Members in planning and implementing the energy transformation including the renewable energy component of their NDCs. One delegation commended the Agency for its recent *Untapped Potential for Climate Action* report, while others asked the Agency to continue to analyse investment in research and development (R&D), policy tools and finance instruments, and socio-economic benefits of renewable energy. Two delegations encouraged the Agency to support Members' in developing bankable projects and accessing international finance, as exemplified by the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility and the Project Navigator.

139. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Henning Wuester, Director of IRENA's Knowledge Policy and Finance Centre, expressed appreciation for the comments received from panellists and delegations reflecting the diversity of opportunities and challenges regarding renewable energy as a component of NDCs. He noted the broad recognition of the importance of a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach in planning and implementation that engages all stakeholders, including non-state actors and sub-national entities at the city level. He confirmed the Agency's engagement in supporting its Members both in the implementation and further development of the renewable energy component of the NDCs.

140. **The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.**

Agenda Item 12: Report from the Ministerial Roundtables

Ministerial Roundtable 'Accelerating the global energy transformation: Scaling up of renewable energy investment'

141. Mr. Nick Bridge, the Foreign Secretary's Climate Envoy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported on the discussions in the Ministerial Roundtable (MRT) 'Accelerating the global energy transformation: Scaling up renewable energy investment'. He noted that falling cost and technological innovation in renewables are driving the transformation of the energy sector and in fact of the entire economy.

142. Mr. Bridge stated that MRT participants recognised the importance of partnerships between governments, businesses and civil society, with policy-makers playing a critical role in creating a transparent and stable enabling environment for investments in renewables, citing the Agency's Sustainable Energy Marketplace as an effective example.

143. He reported that the MRT participants further noted the ongoing and rapid shift of investments from fossil fuels to renewables, as energy tipping points are being driven by competitive or even lower cost of renewables compared to fossil fuels, as also reflected in the Agency's *Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance* report. They stressed the need to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and introduce appropriate carbon pricing to direct the available public and private capital into renewables at the speed and scale needed, and in alignment with national priorities and policies.

144. Mr. Bridge conveyed that there is a need for a more targeted use of public development and climate finance to address risks not easily borne by the private sector. Focus on risk instruments is needed, particularly with respect to accessibility and affordability of such instruments across the world. Some MRT participants suggested the creation of a global risk mitigation facility that would be dedicated to renewable energy technologies, helping to unlock a greater share of investment by alleviating some of the risks that are difficult or expensive to hedge, such as the currency risk, he noted. IRENA could play a facilitative role to further develop this initiative, he suggested.

145. He further noted that participants recognised the potential of decentralised renewable energy for deployment in poorer areas, creating local ownership, and providing access to energy with all its associated socio-economic benefits. Successful examples in Africa and Asia show that standardisation and aggregation of small-scale off-grid renewable energy projects can facilitate investments and accelerate replication, he commented. The discussions also welcomed the Agency's Global Solar Energy Standardisation Initiative to this end.

146. He emphasised that, as noted in the MRT discussions, emerging economies were attracting more than half of total renewable energy investment, offering such countries the opportunity to leap-frog beyond traditional fossil fuel-based systems and directly focus on building a clean energy system. Participants agreed on the need to rapidly grow and mainstream green finance but emphasised the obligation on the wider financial sector and market to increasingly incorporate sustainability into their investment choices.

147. Mr. Bridge concluded that the Agency could help further develop and replicate many of the successful innovative models in policy, market design and financing, and stakeholder involvement. He called upon Members to increase their efforts to address the challenge of climate change and use the opportunity for economic growth.

Ministerial Roundtable 'Innovation for the energy transformation: E-mobility'

148. Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the European Commission, reported on the discussions in the Ministerial Roundtable 'Innovation for the energy transformation: E-mobility'. He highlighted the Roundtable message that decarbonisation of the transport sector as a priority in the energy transition agenda. Mr. Ristori noted that declines in cost for renewable energy and technological advancements in electric vehicles had strengthened the business case for a renewables-based electric-mobility. However, he added that also hydrogen and renewable fuels should remain part of decarbonisation strategies for the transport sector.

149. Mr. Ristori stressed as a key message from the Roundtable discussions the need for a systemic innovation approach for a successful electrification of the transport sector, including technology, business models, infrastructure and regulations. He indicated that regulatory frameworks both at national, local and city level where pollution is high – are essential to enable this transformation. He added that policies supporting renewable energy and setting emission reduction targets need to be supported by ambitious targets for EV, and national initiatives to support the development of charging infrastructure. In addition, further innovations in technology and new business models might create major opportunities in vehicle and battery manufacturing, charging technology, logistics and digital services.

150. He noted that the MRT participants emphasised that the electrification of the transport sector requires the decarbonisation of the power sector, and where the energy mix is fossil-fuelled based, electric vehicles and renewable energy deployment must go hand in hand. Smart charging of EVs was mentioned as an important aspect in coupling the transport sector and electricity from renewables. Charging of EVs should follow times of highest renewable electricity generation, supporting real-time balancing of the grids by adjusting their charging levels. In addition, the need to understand how to best charge, aggregate and control EV electricity demand to the grid is a fundamental and on-going issue.

This would impact the important decisions in the charging infrastructure development, such as where to best place the charging points, which technology to use, and how to combine slow smart chargers with fast chargers, needed to meet consumer's immediate needs.

151. Mr. Ristori informed that the MRT participants emphasised the opportunities that emerging innovations in enabling infrastructure might bring to e-mobility. Advancements in big data and artificial intelligence could facilitate and optimise the services provided by smart charging solutions. MRT discussion showed that this new energy landscape creates space for innovation by existing players, but also for new actors and business models across a range of sectors, including mobility, technology, and renewable energy and electricity.

152. Mr. Ristori closed by recognising the leading role of the Agency in undertaking analyses and providing advice on the renewables-based electrification of the transport sector, technological innovation and business models for sector-coupling and charging infrastructures, as well as the roles and responsibilities of key actors and stakeholders in this process.

153. The Assembly considered and took note of the reports provided.

Agenda Item 13: Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (A/8/11; A/8/DC/2)

154. Chairing the session, the President of the Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Carolina Cosse, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, invited the Director-General to introduce the item.

155. The Director-General introduced the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS) (A/8/L.11; A/8/DC/L.2) and noted its importance in providing the Agency with a mid-term strategic direction while allowing for prioritisation and adjustment in successive biannual programmatic cycles. He underlined that the context in which the Agency operates has changed since the development of its first strategy, with new drivers for renewable energy deployment having emerged. He further commented on the extensive and inclusive discussions on trends and developments affecting the Agency's work, the Agency's comparative advantages and directions to ensure impact in an evolving global energy landscape in preparation of the strategy, and thanked the United States of America for its leadership of the consultative working group.

156. The Director-General noted countries' needs for solutions to energy security, energy access and climate change. He highlighted that the Agency's near universal membership places it in a privileged position to play a leading role in promoting the global energy transformation along its four pillars as a center of excellence for energy transformation empowering evidence-based holistic policy and decision making to meet the long-term objectives of the sustainable development and climate change agendas; as a global voice for renewable energy shaping the global discourse by providing relevant, timely and quality information and data on renewable energy, and promoting the business case as well as its benefits; as a network hub for all stakeholders to foster action and knowledge sharing; and as a source of advice and support for Members in national planning and decision making to accelerate a renewables-based transformation of the energy system. While the MTS would guide the Agency's activities in line with its comparative advantages in a rapidly evolving institutional renewable energy landscape, the Director-General said, the Agency would also continue to conduct systematic reviews of its programmatic impact and priorities to meet Members' needs. He further stressed that the Agency would continue its efforts in diversifying the resource base.

157. Delegations welcomed the MTS with some delegations noting the interlinked nature of its pillars as well as its holistic approach to promoting renewables. One delegation welcomed the MTS in providing Members with a framework for contributing to the global energy transformation across all sectors towards achieving national and international energy development and climate goals. Two delegations commented that the utilisation of Members' and partners' expertise and experiences offered the Agency a comparative advantage and should be a strategic priority. One delegation also welcomed the focus of the MTS on facilitating partnerships, programmes and projects.

158. Two delegations highlighted the Agency's role as a provider of authoritative information, data and analysis, including on energy access and financing, as well as tools as REmap and Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs) and as a repository of best practices and experiences. One delegation noted how the Agency's work supports Members and the private sector in developing long-term investment pathways and roadmaps as a basis for renewable energy deployment and integration as a strategy to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. One delegation welcomed the focus of the Draft MTS on innovation in technology, such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things and blockchain technology, as well as on business models that can accelerate the energy system transformation, inviting the Agency to convene an expert group on these topics. Another delegation echoed the importance of innovation in technology and digitalisation and further underlined the role of policies, decentralisation and flexibility in enabling the implementation of the future energy system.

159. Two delegations encouraged the Agency to continue to engage with other multilateral organisations and processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), G7 and G20 to take advantage of synergies and amplify the impact of its work. Another delegation welcomed the Agency's engagement with the research community and suggested the development of a directory of experts to facilitate collaboration with academia, the private sector and policy-makers. This delegation also recommended establishing a coalition to increase renewable energy deployment and investments, particularly in the end-use sectors, to the speed and scale required for achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy.

160. One delegation welcomed the focus of the Draft MTS on ensuring efficient and effective resource utilisation by streamlining and prioritising the Agency's activities commensurate to its comparative advantages and opportunities to maximise impact, encouraging further discussions on this issue within the framework of the Council. Another delegation offered its support to the Agency as it develops a framework for possible private sector engagement in this context.

161. The Director-General thanked delegations for their comments and for providing valuable input for future adjustments of the Draft MTS. He emphasised that the Draft MTS is a living document to account for the rapid evolution of the energy transformation and landscape driven, amongst others, by dynamics in markets, innovation and cost. The Director-General highlighted again the success of the Agency in gaining international credibility and legitimacy based on its technical expertise and knowledge products. He acknowledged the opportunities and challenges of digital and technological innovation in the energy transformation, pointing to the discussions at the Ministerial Roundtables, such as on e-mobility, and welcoming the proposal for further discussions on this topic. Director-General also welcomed further discussions towards the idea of a coalition to raise the level of ambition regarding the acceleration of the energy transformation in the end-use sectors.

162. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (A/8/11) and adopted the decision A/8/DC/2 on the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022.

Agenda Item 14: Forthcoming end of the four-year term of the Director-General (A/5/5 Add.)

163. The President of the Assembly announced that the term of the Director-General of IRENA would end in April 2019. H.E. Mrs. Cosse invited Members to participate in the Additional Meeting of the Council, to be held following the close of the Assembly, to discuss this matter.

Agenda Item 15: Arrangements for the ninth session of the Assembly

164. The President of the Assembly noted that China had expressed its willingness to serve as the President of the ninth session of the Assembly, and Colombia, Swaziland, Yemen and the European Union represented by the European Commission, as Vice-Presidents.

165. The President of the Assembly proposed to designate China as President of the ninth session of the Assembly, and Colombia, Swaziland, Yemen, and the European Union represented by the European Commission, as Vice-Presidents.

166. The Assembly designated China as President of the ninth session of the Assembly, and Colombia, Swaziland, Yemen, and the European Union represented by the European Commission, as Vice-Presidents, by acclamation.

167. A representative of the President-designate, China, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as President of the ninth session of the Assembly, and assured Members of China's commitment to the success of the session, as well as the promotion of renewable energy worldwide.

168. A representative of Vice-President-designate Colombia, thanked the Assembly for the confidence placed in his country for serving as Vice-President at its next session and affirmed Colombia's support to the Agency's programmatic work.

169. A representative of the Vice-President-designate European Union, represented by the European Commission, thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to serve as Vice-President of its next session, and highlighted their readiness to work closely with the President and other Vice-Presidents towards a successful outcome.

170. A representative of Vice-President-designate Swaziland stated that it was an honour for Swaziland to be designated as Vice-President of the ninth session of the Assembly and expressed confidence that the session will achieve its objectives.

171. The President of the Assembly proposed 11, 12 and 13 January 2019 as dates for the ninth session of the Assembly to allow sufficient time for discussions of programmatic and institutional matters as well as synergies with events taking place in the context of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the World Future Energy Summit.

172. The Assembly decided to hold its ninth session on 11, 12 and 13 January 2019 in Abu Dhabi.

Agenda Item 16: Any other business

173. The President of the Assembly informed Members that the ninth session of the Assembly would have the responsibility of electing Members of the Council for the period 2019-2020. The President asked Afghanistan, Nigeria, Norway and Sudan, as the Vice-Presidents of the eighth session of the Assembly, to support the facilitation of consultations within their respective regional groups.

174. The President proposed to set 15 March 2018 as a deadline for Members to express their interest to serve as Members on the Council for the period 2019-2020. Members would then hold consultations based on the received expressions of interest.

175. The Assembly decided to set 15 March 2018 as a deadline for the expression of interest and to adopt the proposed process.

176. The President of the Assembly further informed Members of a correction to paragraph four of the report of the Credentials Committee to include Cameroon in the list of Members, which has submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. H.E. Mrs. Cosse announced that a revised report, including all necessary changes and updates, would be made available as part of the Assembly outcome documents.

177. The Assembly took note of the announcement and concluded Agenda Item 16.

Agenda Item 17: Assembly conclusions and closing of the meeting

178. In his closing remarks, the Director-General thanked the President and Vice-Presidents for their role in steering the Assembly towards inclusive and diverse discussions and a successful outcome. He emphasised the importance of the Assembly in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, fostering partnerships for finding solutions, and in raising the level of ambition and advancing action on the ground. Thanking Members and the host country for their support to the Agency and their commitment to the promotion of renewable energy, the Director-General reiterated the importance of the new Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and new Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 in guiding the Agency's mission and activities to meet Members' needs. In this regard, he affirmed the Agency's commitment to systematically monitor and evaluate the impact of its programmatic activities.

179. The Director-General highlighted that the global energy transformation driven by renewable energy had reached a new era, generating significant implications for sustainable development, climate action, the decarbonisation of economies, and innovation in technology and digital applications. He further emphasised the need to increase efforts and engagement across all levels of governance in accelerating the transformation of end-use sectors and noted the growing business case for sustainable transport and e-mobility. The Director-General stressed that innovative and holistic enabling policy frameworks were required to scale-up investments as a pre-requisite for accelerating the global energy transformation, including by directing available global capital into renewables and developing instruments for reducing risk and the cost of financing. He noted the success of the public-private dialogue, held on the pre-Assembly day, in bringing together stakeholders from the executive and legislative branches of government as well as members of the Agency's Coalition for Action to discuss solutions for mobilising renewable energy investments. In this context, the Director-General also drew attention to the planned launch of the Agency's *REmade Index* report at the upcoming ninth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in May 2018.

180. The Director-General underlined that the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) offers a strong impetus for accelerating renewable energy deployment. He again stressed the potential of renewable energy and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 to contribute to the achievement of other SDGs. Emphasising the importance of public awareness and engagement, the Director-General said that the global energy transformation should be an inclusive process to utilise its potential for delivering socio-economic benefits for all people.

181. The Director-General emphasised that the Agency would continue to seek strategic partnerships with multilateral organisations and processes, including the United Nations, G7, G20, IEA, REN21, CEM and the Green Climate Fund. He again congratulated Mauritius and Rwanda for the selection of their projects for funding by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), and noted that those projects would deliver modern and clean energy services and associated socio-economic benefits to citizens. The Director-General also referred to the launch of the Global Commission on Energy Transformation to analyse the implications of renewable energy for international relations.

182. The President of the Assembly thanked delegations for their active participation in this Assembly and the Vice-Presidents for their leadership in guiding the deliberations. The President noted the strong momentum of the global energy transformation but acknowledged the need to scale-up investments and encourage innovation in business models. She highlighted the Agency as a leading platform for international energy cooperation to address Members' needs and identify solutions for promoting renewable energy. The President closed by emphasising the importance of managing the global energy transformation as an inclusive process which delivers access to modern and clean energy services for the benefit of peoples' livelihoods.

183. The President of the Assembly declared the eighth session of the Assembly closed.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Eighth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 13–14 January 2018

Agenda**13 January 2018****Plenary**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of work
 - a. Election of officials
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
 - c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - d. Participation of observers
3. Host country and other opening remarks
4. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017
5. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility: Announcement of selected projects in the fifth cycle
6. Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

Continued: Member interventions on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 and Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017

Ministerial Roundtable

Accelerating the global energy transformation: Scaling up of renewable energy investment

14 January 2018

Plenary

7. Report of the Chair of the Council
8. Institutional and administrative matters
 - a. Report of the Credentials Committee
 - b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
 - c. Report of the Ethics Officer
 - d. Audited Financial Statements for 2016 and Status of Implementation of External Audit Recommendations
 - e. Staff Provident Fund
9. Programmatic discussion: Renewable energy policies in a time of transition
10. Programmatic discussion: Working together to accelerate the deployment of geothermal energy
11. Strategic Plenary Ministerial discussion: Nationally Determined Contributions
12. Report from the Ministerial Roundtables
13. Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022
14. Forthcoming end of the four-year term of the Director-General
15. Arrangements for the ninth session of the Assembly
16. Any other business
17. Assembly conclusions and closing of the meeting

Ministerial Roundtable

Innovation for the energy transformation: E-mobility

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List of applicants for observer status at the eighth session of the Assembly**IRENA Signatories / States in Accession**

1. Austria
2. Burundi
3. Central African Republic
4. Chad
5. Chile
6. Costa Rica
7. Guinea-Bissau
8. Honduras
9. Kyrgyzstan
10. Madagascar
11. Malawi
12. Paraguay
13. Timor-Leste
14. Ukraine
15. United Republic of Tanzania

UN Member States: Non Signatories / Non States-in-Accession

1. Brazil
2. Canada
3. South Sudan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Venezuela

Others

1. Access Power
2. ACWA Power
3. African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP)
4. African Development Bank
5. African Energy Commission (AFREC)
6. Allego BV
7. Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
8. ASEA Brown Boveri (ABB)
9. Asian Photovoltaic Industry Association (APVIA)
10. Below50
11. Chilean Economic Development Agency (Corfo) - Solar Committee
12. Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association
13. Citigroup Inc.
14. Clean Energy Business Council
15. Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Secretariat
16. Climate Action Network
17. Climate Policy Initiative
18. Cook Islands
19. DMG World Media
20. Eclareon
21. Ecofys
22. ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
23. EDF
24. Emirates Environmental Group
25. Emirates Wildlife Society
26. Energy Commission of Nigeria
27. ENEL Green Power
28. Energy Charter
29. Energy Community Secretariat
30. Energy Observer Wall
31. Energy Watch Group
32. Engie Group
33. ETA Florence Renewable Energies
34. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
35. European Biomass Industry Association
36. European Climate Foundation
37. European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC)
38. European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)
39. European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSOE)
40. European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
41. EXERGIA S.A.
42. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
43. Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems
44. FTI Consulting
45. German International Cooperation (GIZ) Central America
46. Global Green Growth Institute
47. Global Solar Council
48. Global Wind Energy Council

49. GO15
50. Green Climate Fund
51. Iberdrola SA
52. Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Chinese Taipei
53. Innogy SE
54. Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations
55. Institute for Sustainable Policies (ISEP)
56. Institute of Solar Energy and Renewable Energy Research (IRESEN), Morocco
57. International Electrotechnical Commission
58. International Energy Agency (IEA)
59. International Energy Forum (IEF)
60. International Finance Corporation
61. International Geothermal Association (IGA)
62. International Hydropower Association (IHA)
63. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
64. International Solar Alliance (ISA)
65. International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
66. Iran Renewable Energy Association
67. Islamic Development Bank
68. JESDER
69. Kasese District
70. KfW Development Bank
71. League of Arab States
72. LN Viviers
73. MAKE
74. Masdar
75. McDonough Innovation
76. Mobisol GmbH
77. National Renewable Energy Laboratory
78. New York University Abu Dhabi
79. NextGen Bioenergy
80. OPEC Fund for International Development
81. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
82. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
83. Pacific Islands Development Forum
84. Pacific Power Association
85. Peace Boat - EcoShip
86. Power for All
87. Practical Action
88. Qway Energy
89. Reed Exhibitions
90. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
91. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)
92. Renewable Energy Consortium for Research and Demonstration RE-CORD and the Research Center for Alternative and Renewable Energy (CREAR)
93. Renewable Energy Institute
94. Renewable Energy Network for the 21st Century (REN21)
95. Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED)
96. Renewables Grid Initiative
97. Rusnano
98. SEforALL

99. Selco Foundation
100. SIDS-DOCK
101. Skypower
102. Solar Head of State
103. Solar Impulse
104. Solar United
105. South Centre
106. Southern African Development Community (SADC)
107. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
108. Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)
109. State Grid Corporation of China
110. Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables
111. Terrawatt Initiative
112. The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX)
113. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
114. Total
115. Trusted Sources
116. UNIFI
117. United Nations
118. United Nations Association of China
119. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
120. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
121. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)
122. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
123. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
124. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
125. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
126. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
127. UniversalRight
128. University of Southampton
129. Vestas
130. VITO Energyville
131. We Care Solar
132. Wood Mackenzie
133. World Bank
134. World Bioenergy Association
135. World Climate Ltd.
136. World Future Council (WFC)
137. World Health Organization (WHO)
138. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
139. World Resources Institute (WRI)
140. World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)
141. WWF International
142. Yes Bank
143. York University
144. 50Hertz Transmission GmbH
145. 2018 Legislators Forum

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Eighth session of the Assembly

Abu Dhabi, 13 – 14 January 2018

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At its eighth session the Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee, consisting of the following members: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Poland, and Thailand.

2. The Credentials Committee met on **13 January 2018** and elected Mr. Amer El Kadi of the Dominican Republic as Chairperson.

3. The Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in respect of the representatives registered to attend the eighth session of the Assembly. The Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as at 13 January 2018.

4. The Committee determined that, as at 13 January 2018, the Members listed below had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, or were represented by the competent authority and therefore deemed to conform to the credentials requirement:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, , Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

5. The Committee noted that a number of Members had not submitted credentials in due form, or had not submitted any credentials. In accordance with Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the eighth session of the Assembly on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

6. The Committee recommends that the Assembly call upon all IRENA Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representative if possible not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session.

7. The Committee recommends that the Assembly requests the Secretariat to issue to all IRENA Members, at least three months before each session of the Assembly and as may be needed thereafter, a reminder about the requirement to submit the credentials of their representatives in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and no later than the opening of the session.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Eighth session of the Assembly

Abu Dhabi, 13-14 January 2018

**Decision on the
Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019**

The Assembly,

Reaffirming its firm belief in the vast opportunities offered by renewable energy in meeting growing energy demand, addressing energy security, and stimulating economic growth and low-carbon development;

Recognising the imperative of creating a sustainable, affordable, secure and inclusive energy system to underpin global growth;

Stressing the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *recalling* that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 sets out to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030;

Recalling also that the Paris Agreement on climate change recognises the requirement for deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions and calls for enhanced deployment of renewable energy in developing countries to promote universal access to sustainable energy;

Underlining that the Medium-term Strategy calls for IRENA to play a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy system;

Emphasising IRENA's central role in enabling international cooperation and in supporting countries to transform their energy systems with a greater share of renewable energy;

Reaffirming its determination to strengthen the role, capacity and impact of the Agency to remain responsive to the changing global environment and evolving needs of its Members;

Welcoming the alignment of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 with the strategies and objectives of IRENA's Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022;

Welcoming also the extensive consultations with Members on the preparation of the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 and its balance of diverse needs and priorities;

Noting the continued increase in the Agency's membership and the resulting demand for its services;

Stressing the need for a diversified resource base to allow for growth commensurate with IRENA's global role;

Recalling Article XII of the Statute on the budget of the International Renewable Energy Agency;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 contained in document A/8/L.4;

Taking into account the views expressed by Members during the consideration of this item:

1. *Approves* the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, with budgetary requirements amounting to USD 64,154 million as specified in Table 1, comprising USD 43,130 million in core assessed and USD 21,024 million in core non-assessed resources;
2. *Notes with appreciation* core non-assessed contributions of USD 9.12 million from the United Arab Emirates and USD 10.2 million from Germany for the operations of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn;
3. *Invites* Members to provide other core non-assessed contributions to enable the Agency to fully implement the proposed Work Programme and *requests* the Director-General to report on progress in this respect at its ninth session;
4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2018 contained in the Annex II;
5. *Requests* the Director-General to establish partnerships and cooperative arrangements with bilateral, multilateral and international initiatives and entities to jointly implement elements of the Work Programme, as appropriate; and
6. *Authorises* the Director-General to make transfers between appropriations sub-programmes pursuant to Financial Procedure 104.1 (b) up to the limit of 15 percent of the amount appropriated for the sub-programme in question.

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Eighth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 13-14 January 2018

**Decision on the
Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022**

The Assembly,

Reaffirming its desire to promote the widespread and increased adoption and use of renewable energy with a view to sustainable development;

Emphasising the vast opportunities offered by renewable energy to addressing energy security and the major role it can play in a sustainable, secure and gentle transit to a low-carbon economy;

Reaffirming its belief that renewable energy, combined with energy efficiency, can increasingly meet the global energy needs in the coming decades;

Underlining that renewable energy can enable and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and *stressing* its role in providing practical and affordable solutions to development challenges;

Recognizing the untapped renewable energy potential that can significantly contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

Commending IRENA's progress in becoming the global voice of renewable energy;

Emphasising the Agency's global membership and direct access to the wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise of its Members;

Underlining the role of Agency as the global authority that facilitates the cooperation between its Members and sets the global renewable energy agenda;

Welcoming IRENA's leading role in the transformation of the global energy system as a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation, a global voice of renewable energy, a network hub for all stakeholders and a source of advice and support for countries;

Noting with appreciation the efforts to consult broadly and extensively during the process of development of the Medium-term Strategy;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 contained in document A/8/L.11 and the views expressed by Members during the consideration of this item;

1. *Decides* to adopt the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022;
2. *Requests* the Director-General to submit to the Assembly, at its eleventh session, a midterm evaluation of the Strategy with the view to its further refinement.

Eighth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 13-14 January 2018

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