

Eleventh session of the IRENA Assembly

2021 IRENA Legislators Forum

(Virtual Edition)

13 January 2021, 15:00 to 18:00 Gulf Standard Time

“Parliamentary actions to scale up renewable investments: Renewable energy as an enabler of services”

Background

Universal access to energy is a development imperative. Energy is a catalyst and an enabler of development - societies need reliable, adequate and affordable energy services for their sustainable development. Decades of national and international efforts have yielded impressive gains in access to modern energy but a global energy transition, in line with international climate and development objectives, will require a massive re-allocation of capital toward renewables and the mobilisation of all available sources of capital.

Legislators are uniquely positioned to contribute to the achievement of different renewable energy targets in all countries in the world and as the interface between citizens and state institutions and form an important part of the crucial stakeholder pool needed to accelerate the energy transition and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by enabling policy framework for increased investments.

IRENA strategically engages legislators through various initiatives and since 2016 has been hosting every year a Legislators Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on the side-line of its annual Assembly meeting. The Forum has continued to serve as a platform for substantive dialogue amongst legislators, and between them and renewable energy experts on the acceleration of the deployment of renewables.

The 2021 edition of the Legislators Forum happens at a time when renewables have become even more critical in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that is continuing to have enormous negative impacts on different countries.

Objectives

Legislators are eager to harness the benefits that come with intensified actions towards the transition to renewable energy but scaling up investments in renewable energy requires a comprehensive effort on multiple fronts. Renewable assets generate significant social and economic benefits, enable services for the communities and lower the risks of climate change.

With increased attention being paid to service provision across countries in such a challenging time, the 2021 virtual edition of the IRENA Legislators Forum will explore short- and long-term actions that parliamentarians can promote to mobilise and increase investments in the renewable energy sector, both at local and national level, and enable services that can provide a range of benefits in creating significant economic and employment opportunities, improve healthcare services, address climate change issues as well as food challenges and opportunities in the agriculture sector.

Beyond addressing the critical role that renewable energy can have also in the sustainable recovery of countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Legislators Forum legislators will also share experience on the various challenges and opportunities that exist in their drive to make the renewable energy agenda a reality while highlighting actionable steps that should be taken to make it a much easier process for their respective countries.

The 2021 IRENA Legislators Forum will enable parliamentarians to conduct an in-depth discussion on the proposed topics and, together with IRENA experts and keen representatives, will develop an outcome document with suggestions on how parliamentary action can to scale up investments and enable services to support societies' development and accelerate the energy transition.

Also in 2021, participants of the Legislators Forum and government representatives are invited to take part in a fourth IRENA Public-Private Dialogue to contribute to the discussion about actions needed to accelerate the pace of the energy transition in a post-COVID recovery. The Public-Private Dialogue, held between members of the [IRENA Coalition for Action](#) (an international network of over 100 leading renewable energy players including private sector companies, industry associations, civil society research institutes and intergovernmental organisations), will take place on 14 January 2021 at 15:00 Gulf Standard Time.

Participants in the Legislators Forum will also be able to follow the plenary sessions as well as the different ministerial sessions held at the margins of the eleventh Assembly of IRENA to gain further insight by accessing through a dedicated link that will be shared in due course.

Guiding Questions

- What are the key challenges that your country is facing in mobilizing investments for the energy transition? Which role do institutional investors have in your country to support the deployment of renewable energy as enabler of services?
- How can parliamentarians promote the adoption of short- and long-term actions that mobilise and increase investments and enable services that will ensure societies' sustainable development and accelerate the energy transition?
- How can IRENA support parliamentarians to scale up investments and ensure that measures are taken to accelerate the energy transition by establishing a national legislative and policy framework that supports the deployment of renewable energy also as enabler of services?

Associated Publications

- [Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance](#) (IRENA, 2020)
- [Mobilising institutional capital for renewable energy](#) (IRENA, 2020)
- [Post-COVID recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality](#) (IRENA, 2020)
- [Renewable Energy is a Key Part of the Solution](#) (IRENA Coalition for Action, 2020)
- [Government Must Act Now to Course Correct for Green Recovery and Accelerate Progress Towards Paris Agreement](#) (IRENA Coalition for Action, 2020)
- Scaling-up renewable energy investments: Country position paper: [Algeria](#), [Colombia](#), [Jordan](#), [Mexico](#), [Tunisia](#) and [Viet Nam](#) (IRENA Coalition for Action, 2020)

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