

Eleventh session of the IRENA Assembly

2021 IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers

(Virtual Edition)

14 January 2021, 18:30 to 20:30 Gulf Standard Time

“Promoting an Inclusive and Just Energy Transition”

Background

As the transition from predominantly fossil fuel-based infrastructures to more sustainable renewables-based energy systems progress across the globe, the need for inclusion in the process has become apparent. Gender disparity in the renewable energy workforce remains disturbing, the renewable energy knowledge gap for developing and developed countries continues to increase - all happening as equity and equality become more prevailing topics in the world. In all of this, it is still evident that if critical members of society like women, children, and the poor are not included in the energy transition, the success and objectives of the transition are risked as well as the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Among several other positive factors, an inclusive and just energy transition would promote increased innovation and encourage a widespread adoption of renewable energy practices, all while broadening opportunities for youth, women and other members of society that have traditionally been left excluded. The success and sustainability of the energy transition is heavily connected to the active participation of all members of society that include the youth and women.

Building on from the first edition of the IRENA Youth Forum at the tenth session of the Assembly in January 2020, the 2021 IRENA Youth Forum will aim at engaging youth for an interactive virtual edition in which various challenges and opportunities will be discussed in relation to the theme “Promoting an Inclusive and Just Energy Transition”. As this year's edition will be virtual, it will further facilitate discussions from youth who will be joining in from different parts of the world.

The IRENA Youth Forum at the eleventh session of the IRENA Assembly will also showcase work being done by proactive youth participants in the energy transition field that addresses various aspects of the transition including inclusiveness and justice.

Objectives

As the world acknowledges the role that renewables play in economic recovery as well as delivering continued and sustainable development in light of the pandemic and other threats alike, the resilience of renewable energy and their successful deployment cannot be overemphasized.

Guided by the theme “Promoting an Inclusive and Just Energy Transition”, the 2021 IRENA Youth Forum will provide an opportunity for participants to engage with each other in discussing renewable energy in the context of equity and equality. It will also serve to strengthen the existing network of young energy leaders with the latest insights from the renewable sector, as well as to connect young people with global thought leaders, government representatives, and IRENA experts in identifying the space that exists for youth to contribute to the promotion of an inclusive and just global energy transition.

The discussions at the forum will be moderated around ways and steps to make energy transition more inclusive and just to ensure equity and equality in and after the transition.

With the exchange of views centred around the theme ‘Promoting an Inclusive and Just Energy Transition’, this edition of the IRENA Youth Forum will also provide platforms for three thematic working groups for youths to provide their perspectives on achieving a just and inclusive energy transition on the following subtopics: (i) the role of renewables in addressing key social challenges, including in humanitarian and health sectors; (ii) creating opportunities for youth in the energy transition by addressing challenges related to gender equality, job creation, education; and (iii) promoting youth voices and work, such as community engagement, research and advocacy on renewable energy.

Youth representatives engaged in the discussion will develop a document that will be presented to the IRENA Assembly to share feedback and inputs as well as highlight actionable steps on the role of youth in promoting an inclusive and just energy transition.

Guiding Questions

- What role can the youth play in promoting an inclusive and just energy transition in their individual communities and globally?
- How could the energy transition be inclusive and just and ensure that all members of our societies benefit from a renewable energy future, especially marginalised communities, women and children?
- What is the role of renewable energy in ensuring sustainable post-COVID recovery and how can this recovery be carried out in a just and equitable way?

Associated Publications:

- [Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2020](#) (2020)
- [Measuring the socio-economics of transition: Focus on jobs](#) (2020)
- [Post-COVID recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality](#) (2020)
- [Renewable solutions for refugee settlements](#) (2019)
- [NDCs in 2020](#) (2019)

For more information please contact:

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