

11th Session of the IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings

18-21 January 2021 (IRENA Assembly)

13-14 January 2021 (related meetings)

Executive Overview

Message from the Director-General of IRENA

It is my honour and great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th session of the IRENA Assembly which will take place in a virtual setting from 18 to 21 January 2021, and related stakeholder meetings that will be held virtually on 13 and 14 January 2021.

As the supreme decision-making organ of IRENA, the Assembly, comprising 163 [Members](#), has become a major global platform for inclusive and diverse discussions on all facets of the energy transition. The 11th Assembly session is taking place at a critical period as countries continue to grapple with the unprecedented and widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and chart their multiple economic, social and environmental measures. Under the overarching theme of “COVID-19 – Energy Transition”, discussions at the Assembly will reflect the needs and priorities highlighted by Members towards achieving a green recovery, which in turn will inform the future work of the Agency.

The 11th Assembly session will bring together Heads of State/Government, Ministers and energy decision-makers among our Membership and States-in-accession, as well as multilateral organisations, global stakeholders and private actors to reassess long-standing assumptions, perceived barriers and default decisions, and discuss the energy transition as an investment in our collective future.

IRENA remains committed to strengthening international collaboration and supporting the path towards a sustainable, climate-safe future through the recognition of individual realities on the ground. As we collectively strive towards our common purpose and put the energy transition at the heart of our recovery efforts, I am confident that our decisive action will help us kickstart the economy and create jobs while building climate-safe, resilient, and inclusive economies and societies.

This Executive Overview has been prepared to assist participants in navigating the Assembly and its related meetings, and in identifying unique opportunities to engage in topics of interest and relevance.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 11th session of the Assembly.

Francesco La Camera

IRENA 11th Assembly – Designated Bureau

The President and four Vice-Presidents designated for the 11th session of the Assembly are as follows:

President: Spain

Vice-President: Albania

Vice-President: Costa Rica

Vice-President: Ghana

Vice-President: India

IRENA 11th Assembly and Related Meetings – A Brief Overview

The 11th session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings is structured around the following:

I. Plenary

Opening Plenary Session – World Energy Transition Day

18 January 2021, 15:00 to 18:00 (GST)

The Official Opening of the 11th session of the IRENA Assembly will take place on 18 January 2021 at 15:00pm (Gulf Standard Time – GST). There will be high-level statements including by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Host Country and the Director-General, among others.

A High-level Panel on Energy Transition for Sustainable Post-Covid Recovery will be organised, featuring high-level participants including Heads of State, Ministers, heads of international and regional organisations and private actors, who will share their views on the role of the energy transition driven by renewables as a response to the pandemic and draw out strategies to simultaneously advance multiple economic, social and climate priorities.

Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget, and Member Interventions

18 January 2021, 18:00 to 20:30; 19 January 2021, 10:00 to 12:30 (GST)

The Director-General will present the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, for adoption by the Assembly. Delegations may subsequently **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes**. Member interventions will resume on 19 January 2021 from 10:00am to 12:30pm (GST).

Delegations wishing to make such interventions are invited to **register in the Speakers List** by sending a request noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Speakers List*”. The requests will be considered observing the international protocol precedence and the principle of “first come, first served”. A preliminary Speakers List based on requests received will be circulated 10 days in advance of the Official Opening of the Assembly.

In view of the global nature of the Membership and taking into account various time zones, Member interventions will take place in two segments, on 18 and 19 January 2021, as detailed in the indicative schedule. Delegations are requested to note their preferred segment in their request, and the Secretariat will endeavour to allocate a slot that is most convenient to the relevant time zone.

Delegations may also opt to submit a **pre-recorded video statement of a maximum of three minutes** in any of the 6 UN official languages, to be broadcast ‘as-live’ during the session, with simultaneous interpretation provided. Pre-recorded video statements may be submitted to Assembly@irena.org by **12 January 2021**.

Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat in advance of delivery. Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership and included in the official records of the session.

Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events

21 January 2021

The Assembly will hear reports from the Ministerial meetings held on 19 and 20 January 2021, the stakeholder meetings held on 13 and 14 January 2021, as well as other key meetings in the context of IRENA's engagement with Members, multilateral partners and private actors. These include, among others, the [High-level Dialogue on Pandemic Response and Recovery and Africa's Energy Transformation](#), and the [High-level Dialogue on Accelerating Energy Transition in SIDS to Stimulate Post Pandemic Recovery](#).

Establishment of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition

21 January 2021

The Assembly will consider the proposal to establish an open-ended, inclusive Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition, as endorsed by the Council at its twentieth meeting.

Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters

21 January 2021

The Assembly will consider the Report of the Chair of the 19th and 20th Council as well as conclusions of these meetings and provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

II. Ministerial Plenary Meetings

Ministerial Plenary Meetings (19 and 20 January 2021): Four Ministerial plenary meetings will take place, engaging Ministers and High-Level participants on specific topics:

- **National Energy Planning and Implementation for Fostering Energy Transition**
19 January 2021, 15:00 to 17:30 (GST)
- **Scaling up Finance for Renewables**
19 January 2021, 18:00 to 20:30 (GST)
- **Renewables and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality - Innovation, Green Hydrogen and Socioeconomic Policies**
20 January 2021, 15:00 to 17:30 (GST)
- **Driving the Agenda for Energising Healthcare**
20 January 2021, 18:00 to 20:30 (GST)

Following presentations and a panel discussion, delegations are invited to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes** and exchange views on the matter.

Given the virtual nature of the Ministerial Meetings and to ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the relevant Ministerial Meeting(s) by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*".

Delegations may also opt to submit a **pre-recorded video statement of a maximum of three minutes** in any of the 6 UN official languages, to be broadcast 'as-live' during the Ministerial Meeting, with simultaneous interpretation provided. Pre-recorded video statements may be submitted to Assembly@irena.org by **12 January 2021**.

Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat. Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership and included in the official records of the session.

III. Stakeholder Engagement

Related Stakeholder meetings (13 and 14 January 2021): Stakeholder meetings, organised by IRENA, and in collaboration with multilateral partners, will be held during the week prior to the 11th session of the IRENA Assembly. The main objectives are to raise awareness of the key role of renewables and their impact on the energy transformation and sustainable development, connect policy makers, experts, innovators and civil society representatives worldwide to learn from each other, and share best practice and experiences on issues of common interest.

The following Stakeholder meetings will take place:

- **Legislators Forum**
13 January 2021, 15:00 to 18:00 (GST)
- **UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021: Accelerating progress towards universal energy access and net-zero emissions**
13 January 2021, 18:30 to 20:00 (GST)
- **Public-Private Dialogue**
14 January 2021, 15:00 to 18:00 (GST)
- **IRENA Youth Forum**
14 January 2021, 18:30 to 20:30 (GST)

Related Matters

Agenda: The provisional agenda of the 11th session of the IRENA Assembly as well as the annotations and background notes for the various discussions, are included in this transmission.

Live streaming: In the interest of enhancing transparency and inclusiveness, the open Plenary and Ministerial meetings of the Assembly as well as the related Stakeholder meetings will be live streamed on the IRENA website.

Queries: Questions relating to the Assembly should be referred to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org.

IRENA 11th Assembly and Related Meetings – A Detailed Overview

I. IRENA Assembly

A. Opening of the 11th Assembly – World Energy Transition Day

Monday, 18 January 2021

To give global leaders and the Membership at large an opportunity to address measures to confront the pandemic, strengthen resilience and transform our world, the opening day of the Assembly is designated the ‘World Energy Transition Day’. The opening will feature high-level statements including by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Host Country and the Director-General, among others.

A High-level Panel on Energy Transition for Sustainable Post-Covid Recovery will be organised, featuring high-level participants including Heads of State, Ministers, heads of international and regional organisations and private actors, who will share their views on the role of the energy transition driven by renewables as a response to the pandemic and draw out strategies to simultaneously advance multiple economic, social and climate priorities.

B. Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, and Member Interventions

Monday, 18 January 2021

The Director-General will present the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, for adoption by the Assembly.

After the Director-General’s presentation, Members will have the opportunity to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes**, providing guidance for the Agency’s work and sharing their national experiences. Member interventions will resume on 19 January 2021.

Delegations wishing to make such interventions are invited to **register in the Speakers List** by sending a request, noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Speakers List*”. The requests will be considered observing the international protocol precedence and the principle of “first come, first served”. A preliminary Speakers List based on requests received will be circulated 10 days in advance of the Official Opening of the Assembly.

In view of the global nature of the Membership and taking into account various time zones, Member interventions will take place in two segments, on 18 and 19 January 2021, as detailed in the indicative schedule. Delegations are requested to note their preferred segment in their request, and the Secretariat will endeavour to allocate a slot that is most convenient to the relevant time zone.

Delegations may also opt to submit a **pre-recorded video statement of a maximum of three minutes** in any of the 6 UN official languages, to be broadcast ‘as-live’ during the session, with simultaneous interpretation provided. Pre-recorded video statements may be submitted to Assembly@irena.org by **12 January 2021**.

Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat in advance of delivery. Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership and included in the official records of the session.

C. Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events

Thursday, 21 January 2021

The Assembly will hear reports from the Ministerial meetings held on 19 and 20 January 2021, the Stakeholder meetings held on 13 and 14 January 2021, as well as other key meetings in the context of IRENA’s engagement with Members, multilateral partners and private actors. These include, among others, the [High-level Dialogue on Pandemic Response and Recovery and Africa’s Energy Transformation](#), and the [High-level Dialogue on Accelerating Energy Transition in SIDS to Stimulate Post Pandemic Recovery](#).

D. Establishment of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition

Thursday, 21 January 2021

At the twentieth meeting of the Council, the Chair highlighted that the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency to intensify efforts and strengthen international cooperation in support of a rapid global energy transition.

With a view to mobilising political momentum required to catalyse these efforts, the Chair proposed that, given IRENA's near-universal membership and convening power, the Council considers the proposal to establish an open-ended Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition in the context of the IRENA Assembly. The Council endorsed the proposal to establish an open-ended, inclusive, Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition at the eleventh session of the Assembly.

To this end, the Chair of the Council, in collaboration with Uganda, President of the 10th Assembly and Spain, President-designate of the 11th session of the Assembly, will present the proposal to establish the above-mentioned Forum as well as its proposed terms of reference for consideration at the 11th session of the Assembly.

E. Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters

Thursday, 21 January 2021

The Assembly will consider the Report of the Chair of the 19th and 20th Council as well as conclusions of these meetings and provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

II. Ministerial Plenary Meetings

A. National Energy Planning and Implementation for Fostering Energy Transition

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

This Ministerial plenary meeting will provide an opportunity to showcase the emerging experience in reinforcing energy planning and implementation at the national level and aligning that to global climate action and Paris Agreement goals through NDCs. This Ministerial will also allow participating Ministers and Heads of Delegation to discuss national priorities in terms of energy transition and climate action in their respective countries, while sharing national experiences and identifying best practices to inform the way forward.

Following presentations and a panel discussion, delegations are invited to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes** and exchange views on the matter.

Given the virtual nature of the Ministerial Meetings and to ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*".

Delegations may also opt to submit a **pre-recorded video statement of a maximum of three minutes** in any of the 6 UN official languages, to be broadcast 'as-live' during the Ministerial Meeting, with simultaneous interpretation provided. Pre-recorded video statements may be submitted to Assembly@irena.org by **12 January 2021**.

Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat. Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership and included in the official records of the session.

Given the important role of international and regional organisations in this topic, a select group of representatives will be invited to engage with Ministers and other Heads of Delegation during the interactive discussion. A report on this Ministerial meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Thursday, 21 January 2021.

B. Scaling up Finance for Renewables

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

This Ministerial plenary meeting will address both policy and finance aspects of channelling investments to the renewable energy sector and achieving a steady pipeline of investor-ready and scalable projects. In addition to Ministers and Heads of Delegation, the meeting will bring together policy makers, leading experts from public and private finance institutions and industry to discuss how to make use of the opportunities that the rapidly evolving renewable energy sector offers.

Following presentations and a panel discussion, delegations are invited to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes** and exchange views on the matter.

Given the virtual nature of the Ministerial Meetings and to ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”.

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C. Renewables and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality - Innovation, Green Hydrogen and Socioeconomic Policies

Wednesday, 20 January 2021

This Ministerial plenary meeting will aim to both inspire and inform decision makers by showcasing examples of leadership on strategies for net-zero, sharing plans and experience to date, exploring what actions are most urgent and by strengthening the international engagement crucial to making progress. It will bring together a range of perspectives on the net-zero goal including countries who are pushing ahead and those who are still considering their strategies.

Ministers, Heads of Delegation and other speakers will be invited to share their perspectives and plans on the net-zero goal, with a particular focus on the potential of renewable electricity and fuels (green hydrogen, green synthetic fuels and feedstocks, and sustainable biofuels) in end-use sectors of buildings, industry and transport.

Following presentations and a panel discussion, delegations are invited to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes** and exchange views on the matter.

Given the virtual nature of the Ministerial Meetings and to ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”.

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D. Driving the Agenda for Energising Healthcare

Wednesday, 20 January 2021

This Ministerial meeting will explore the current landscape of international cooperation on this issue and identify pathways to accelerate the electrification of healthcare facilities with increased private sector involvement, at the same time highlighting IRENA's on-going work on the crucial nexus of energy and health and gathering comments from IRENA's Membership on this aspect of the Agency's work.

Following presentations and a panel discussion, delegations are invited to **make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes** and exchange views on the matter.

Given the virtual nature of the Ministerial Meetings and to ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*".

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Given the important role of international and regional organisations in this topic, a select group of representatives will be invited to engage with Ministers and other Heads of Delegation during the interactive discussion. A report on this Ministerial meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Thursday, 21 January 2021.

III. Stakeholder Engagement

Legislators Forum: Parliamentary actions to scale up renewable investments: Renewable energy as an enabler of services

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

The 2021 edition of the Legislators Forum brings together parliamentarians to explore short- and long-term actions that can mobilise investments in the renewable energy sector, both at local and national level, and enable services that can create 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.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Thursday, 21 January 2021.

UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021: Accelerating progress towards universal energy access and net-zero emissions

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

The Secretary-General of the United Nations will convene a High-level Dialogue on Energy during the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2021. The Dialogue presents a historic opportunity for all stakeholders to come together and accelerate progress towards decarbonised energy systems with universal energy access.

The goal of the High-level Dialogue on Energy is to raise ambition and accelerate action towards the achievement of the SDG7 and the Paris Agreement on climate change, around five Themes: energy access; energy transitions; energy action to advance other SDGs; capacity building and data; and finance and investment. In order to draw on a broad range of expertise and perspectives during the preparations for the Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group will be established under each Theme to advance in-depth discussions.

This side-event will present the overview of the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021, and highlight the work ahead, with a focus on the planned activities of the Technical Working Groups. Planned speakers will include UN leadership for the High-level Dialogue, the Director-General of IRENA and other high-level representatives.

Public-Private Dialogue: COVID-19 as a game-changer: Actions needed to accelerate the pace of the energy transition

Thursday, 14 January 2021

This edition of the Public-Private Dialogue will gather policy makers, industry associations, private sector stakeholders and civil society to discuss actions needed to accelerate the pace of the energy transition in a post-COVID recovery. The first session of Dialogue will provide governments with first-hand industry insights on COVID-19 impacts on the renewables sector to date. The second session will discuss how public and private actors are revisiting their recovery and investment plans due to the pandemic and which actions are needed to accelerate the pace of energy transitions.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Thursday, 21 January 2021.

IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers

Thursday, 14 January 2021

Building on the first edition of the IRENA Youth Forum in January 2020, the 2021 IRENA Youth Forum will aim at engaging youth for an interactive virtual edition in which various challenges, opportunities, and concerns will be discussed in relation to the theme “Promoting a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition”.

The 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, including the role of renewables in addressing humanitarian challenges, how to create opportunities for youth in the energy transition and promote their voices.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Thursday, 21 January 2021.

Related Matters

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