

Fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

2025 IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers “Youth for Accelerating a Renewables-powered Energy Transition: Innovation, Action, and Impact”

9-16 January 2025

Abu Dhabi

Background

The global collective action for a just and equitable energy transition is gaining further momentum throughout the years especially after advancements made at COP29 in Azerbaijan and in the context of the framework of the UAE Consensus, reaffirming its pivotal role in advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement. Achieving these objectives, including tripling renewable energy capacity, and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, demands bold action to transform the global energy landscape. In this context, the active participation of young people is essential to driving progress, fostering innovation, and creating impactful change in accelerating a renewables-powered energy transition.

IRENA remains committed to empowering young people and amplifying their actions. Through targeted initiatives, IRENA creates opportunities for youth to contribute to policy development, showcase innovative solutions, and lead the way in building a just and inclusive energy future. Such commitment is built on recognising the central role of youth across all levels of strategic planning and decision-making, and the active transformations youth are realising within their communities and economies.

Central to this mission is the IRENA Youth Forum, a dynamic platform facilitating intergenerational dialogues between youth, high-level officials, and stakeholder representatives. The Forum aims to amplify the contributions of young leaders, support youth-led innovations, and empower them to take active roles in shaping the global energy future.

In 2025, the Youth Forum will mark its sixth edition under the theme ***Youth for Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition: Innovation, Action, and Impact***. Aligned with the overarching objectives of the 15th IRENA Assembly, the Youth Forum will emphasise youth leadership in advancing energy security, socio-economic development, and innovative financing mechanisms, in line with the findings of the Global Stocktake and the outcomes of COP28 and COP29.

This expanded edition will span eight days, from 9 to 16 January 2025, featuring a high-level official opening on 9 January at the Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi. The Forum will include immersive activities, interactive workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions, including a high-level event on 11 January at the margins of the Assembly at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

The 2025 Youth Forum will serve as a hub for diverse young delegates, offering a robust program that integrates plenaries, workshops, bilateral meetings, and networking opportunities. Delivered with the support of the IRENA Youth Council, the Forum will inspire dialogue, innovation, and action to advance the global renewable energy transition, placing youth at the heart of solutions for a sustainable energy future:

- 9-10 January: IRENA Youth Forum at the Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi, including the High-level Opening

- 11 January: High-Level event at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi
- 11-13 January: Youth-led events and engagements at the Youth Booth and Youth Lounge located at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi
- 14-16 January: Youth-led events and engagements at the IRENA Pavilion at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week taking place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi.

Objectives

Beyond youth gathering, the IRENA Youth Forum embodies a shared vision of empowering young leaders to drive transformative change and ensure a just energy transition for all. Through capacity building, innovation, and advocacy, the Forum aims to equip young participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to shape a more robust, sustainable, and inclusive energy future.

Within this context, the main objectives of this edition of the IRENA Youth Forum are to foster discussion and promote action on:

- 1) *Amplifying Youth Voices in Global Energy Policy*
Provide a platform for youth to engage in intergenerational dialogues and share perspectives, ensuring their priorities and solutions are reflected in global renewable energy strategies.
- 2) *Enhancing Youth Capacity for Policy and Project Development*
Deliver training and capacity-building sessions to support youth in developing and implementing policies, projects, and innovations aligned with SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement goals.
- 3) *Highlighting the Role of Youth in Financing the Energy Transition*
Explore innovative financing mechanisms and empower youth to navigate funding opportunities for renewable energy projects and initiatives.
- 4) *Strengthening Networks and Partnerships*
Build connections between young professionals, policymakers, industry leaders, and academia to foster long-term collaboration and mentorship opportunities.

Guiding Questions

1. Empowering Youth Leadership in the Energy Transition

- What key skills and knowledge do young people need to lead in the renewable energy transition effectively?
- How can governments, international organisations, and private sector actors better integrate youth perspectives into energy decision-making processes?

2. Fostering Innovation and Collaboration

- What innovative renewable energy technologies and practices are being developed by young people globally, and how can they be scaled?
- How can cross-sectoral and intergenerational collaboration be strengthened to accelerate the renewable energy transition?

3. Amplifying Youth Voices in Global Energy Policy

- What mechanisms are needed to ensure youth voices are systematically included in global energy and climate policy discussions?
- How can young leaders effectively advocate for renewable energy priorities within their communities and on the global stage?

4. Enhancing Youth Capacity for Policy and Project Development

- What are the main barriers faced by youth in designing and implementing renewable energy policies and projects?
- How can training programs and mentorship opportunities better support youth in overcoming these barriers?

5. Strengthening Networks and Partnerships

- What strategies can be employed to foster long-term collaboration between youth, policymakers, and the renewable energy industry?
- How can global and regional networks be leveraged to amplify the impact of youth-led renewable energy actions?

6. Highlighting the Role of Youth in Financing the Energy Transition

- What financing mechanisms are most accessible to youth for renewable energy projects, and how can they be improved?
- How can young entrepreneurs and innovators better navigate the landscape of renewable energy investment and funding opportunities?

Associated Publications and Activities

- [World Energy Transitions Outlook \(2024\)](#)
- [Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030 \(2024\)](#)
- [Climate Action Support 2024](#)
- [Renewable Energy & Jobs: Annual Review 2024](#)
- [IRENA Youth Engagement Programmes](#)
- [NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator](#)
- [Energy Transition Education Network](#)

For more information, please contact:

Riccardo Toxiri, Advisor to the Director General – Office of the Director General
(RTtoxiri@irena.org)

Samah Elsayed, Programme Officer, Renewable Energy Education, KPFC (SElsayed@irena.org)