

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

**REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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**Report of the fifteenth session of the Assembly
of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The fifteenth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi from 12-13 January 2025 with related meetings held on 11 January 2025. There were over 1,480 registered participants to the fifteenth session of the Assembly, including 40 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, along with delegates from 148 countries and the European Union, and representatives from 223 organisations.¹
2. The President of the fourteenth session of the Assembly, Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore, Minister of Infrastructure of Rwanda, declared open the fifteenth session of the Assembly. He welcomed delegations and thanked the Vice-Presidents of the fourteenth session of the Assembly, Angola, Dominican Republic, Georgia, and Iraq, for their contributions. Expressing his honour to address the Assembly as President of its fourteenth session, Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore acknowledged that assuming the Presidency and leading the Assembly has been a privilege and a responsibility, especially during a time when the global energy transition has emerged as a central pillar in our collective efforts to combat climate change.
3. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore extended his gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the fifteenth session of the Assembly and for its leadership in the global energy transition. He recalled that the outcome of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan reinforced the undeniable urgency of the climate crisis and underscored the indispensable role of renewable energy in global climate action. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore stressed that the fifteenth Assembly provides a vital platform to harness that momentum, turning commitments into actions and accelerating the transformation of energy systems.
4. Reflecting on the Assembly Presidency, Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore stated that Rwanda worked hand in hand with the IRENA Membership to address the technological, institutional, regulatory and policy dimensions of the energy transition as well as to ensure that its socio-economic benefits are inclusive and far reaching. While commending the record addition of 473 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in 2023, Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore stated that it represents less than half of what is needed annually to meet the ambitious target set at COP28 to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030.
5. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore noted that the theme of the fifteenth Assembly session, “Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition – The Way Forward (*Energy security, Socio-economic development and Financing options*)” underlines the complexity and urgency of the shared mission. He outlined the following key priorities to be addressed during discussions at the Assembly session: modernising and expanding infrastructure; innovative and inclusive policies; workforce development and financing mechanisms.

¹ The fifteenth Assembly Family Photo is available [at this link](#).

6. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore stressed the need to remain mindful of the diverse circumstances and challenges faced by Members, and expressed that for many developing nations, the energy transition is not only about reducing emissions, but also about delivering universal access, eradicating energy poverty, and unlocking socio-economic opportunities. He highlighted the transformative power of renewable energy in Rwanda and noted that it has significantly contributed to reducing carbon emissions, fostering economic growth, and improving the quality of life of its population. He stated that currently, 80% of the population in Rwanda has access to electricity, and that Rwanda aims to achieve universal access by 2030, with renewable energy accounting for 60% of its energy generation.
7. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore highlighted that Rwanda's journey is a testament to what can be achieved with vision, determination, and collaboration. He added that it also reflects Rwanda's unwavering commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the pursuit of a greener, more inclusive future. He invited Members to approach the Assembly session with a shared sense of purpose and noted that the challenges as well as the opportunities are significant. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore expressed that Members can shape actionable strategies and form stronger alliances to drive the global energy transition, by drawing on each other's experiences, strengths, and aspirations.
8. On behalf of Rwanda, Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore extended his gratitude to IRENA Members and stakeholders, as well as the Director-General and the Secretariat, for their unwavering dedication and support throughout its Presidency.
9. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore also expressed his sincere appreciation to the fourteenth Assembly Bureau – Angola, Dominican Republic, Georgia, and Iraq – for their wisdom and valuable contributions. He concluded his opening remarks by expressing confidence in the incoming Presidency and Bureau to lead the Assembly to even greater heights. He further expressed his hope that the Assembly would inspire bold ideas, transformative solutions and enduring partnerships that will shape a sustainable energy future for all.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

10. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore recalled that on 31 December 2024, the Secretariat transmitted, on behalf of Rwanda in its capacity as President of the fourteenth Assembly session, a communication, in response to the mandate by the fourteenth Assembly in April 2024, outlining the results of the consultations on the nominations for the positions of President and Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.
11. Accordingly, the President proposed that the fifteenth Assembly elect Slovenia as President, and Costa Rica, Namibia, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as Vice-Presidents of the session.

12. The Assembly elected by acclamation:

- **Slovenia, represented by H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer, Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy, as President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.**
- **Costa Rica, represented by H.E. Mr Franz Tattenbach Capra, Minister of Environment and Energy, as Vice-President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.**
- **Namibia, represented by Honourable Thomas Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy, as Vice-President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.**
- **Türkiye, represented by H.E. Mr Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, as Vice-President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.**
- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE), represented by H.E. Dr Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, as Vice-President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.**

13. Following the election of the Assembly Bureau, the Russian Federation stated that, as a responsible participant of international co-operation in the area of renewable energy, it gives a significant role to the development of energy and supports as well as actively participates in the efficient work of Agency. The delegation mentioned that it was for this reason that it did not block the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth Assembly, and expressed its understanding that Members participating in the work of IRENA will focus on international co-operation and exchanges of best practices in the area of renewable energy, towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The Russian Federation also expressed its expectation that the President and the Vice-Presidents will lead a balanced line of work of the Assembly session and of the Agency at large, stressing its view that only this approach would help strengthen the image and the prestige of the Agency.

15. The European Union welcomed the consensus found on the President and Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth Assembly session. The European Union stressed the importance of this Assembly session, as the world witnessed temperatures rise above 1.5°C for the first time, and of the need to deploy renewable energy globally in order to get back on track to meet climate targets. The delegation also underlined the role of IRENA as custodian agency of tracking progress on the COP28 Consensus on tripling of renewable energy by 2030, and expressed the importance of a well-functioning Agency to fulfil this role, as well as to facilitate global co-operation.

16. The European Union stated the need to build, not to destroy, and informed that it is for this reason that the European Union has engaged, made significant efforts and developed a compromise solution, in the spirit of compromise and in its belief of the importance of international co-operation as well as in respect of IRENA and the importance it has for all of its Members.

17. The European Union expressed thanks to Ukraine in particular, for its significant flexibility shown, expressing that Ukraine's candidacy was blocked with no apparent justification at all by a small number of Members. The European Union expressed its hope that discussions at the fifteenth Assembly will focus on how Members can bring the energy transition and the important work of the Agency back on track for the deployment of renewables, recalling the emphasis made by the outgoing President on the importance of access to energy for hundreds of millions of people. The European Union also expressed its hope that the functioning of IRENA will no longer be blocked or put into question, stating the need to ensure that Members do the common work that they have gathered at the Assembly to do. The European Union expressed thanks to the President of the fourteenth session of the Assembly, and congratulated the President and Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.

18. Following these interventions, the President then proceeded to the appointment of the Rapporteur. He informed the Assembly that he had proposed to Fiji to serve as Rapporteur of its fifteenth session.

19. On the basis of the President's proposal, Fiji was appointed as Rapporteur of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.

b. Adoption of the agenda (A/15/L.1)

20. The President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly introduced the provisional agenda (A/15/L.1).

21. The Assembly adopted the agenda (A/15/1).

c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

22. The President proposed to the Assembly that it appoint Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Iran, and Italy as members of the Credentials Committee.

23. The President informed the Assembly that given the workload, the Credentials Committee met informally on 11 January 2025 and may convene an additional meeting on 12 January 2025. The President reminded delegations of the need to present credentials as soon as possible, and before the finalisation of the Report of the Credentials Committee.

24. The Assembly appointed the abovementioned nine countries as members of the Credentials Committee.

d. Participation of Observers (A/15/L.2)

25. The President introduced the document 'Draft List of applicants for observer status at the fifteenth session of the Assembly' (A/15/L.2).

26. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its fifteenth session to those States and entities contained in the list of applicants (A/15/2).

Agenda Item 3: Host country and other opening remarks

27. H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer, Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy of Slovenia, congratulated Rwanda on its successful Presidency of the fourteenth Assembly and expressed gratitude to the Membership for the trust and confidence placed in Slovenia for the Presidency of the fifteenth session of the Assembly.
28. Reaffirming strong commitment to supporting the indispensable work of IRENA, H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer highlighted the leading role of IRENA in global energy transition efforts, and as a global platform for dialogue, co-operation, and knowledge sharing in renewable energy. He thanked the IRENA Secretariat for its invaluable work in advancing renewable energy worldwide.
29. Reflecting on IRENA's achievements, H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer emphasised the urgency of the mission, stating that renewable energy sources are indispensable in the journey towards decarbonisation and a sustainable future for all. He further emphasised that the world is at a critical juncture for accelerating efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally, as agreed through the UAE Consensus at COP28. In this regard, H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer noted the collective understanding that the principle of just global transition must be at the forefront of Members' minds, and that synergies between renewable energy projects and addressing energy poverty must be sought wherever possible.
30. H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer acknowledged the challenges of the green energy transition and expressed confidence that these can be turned into opportunities, noting that long-term economic competitiveness requires modern and sustainable energy systems. Stressing that the world is already late in its response, he called for quick decisions and swift actions, which are essential to translate the shared vision into actionable results.
31. H.E. Dr Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), welcomed participants to the fifteenth session of the Assembly in Abu Dhabi. She highlighted that the growth, progress and recognition of the Agency is a testament to the vision, commitment, and determination of its Members – the vision to collectively shape the future of the energy landscape, the commitment to collaborate and act consistently and continuously, and the determination to co-design global solutions that transcend borders.
32. On behalf of the UAE, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak congratulated Slovenia, represented by H.E. Mr Bojan Kumer, on the Presidency of the fifteenth Assembly, wishing him great success in leading the Membership through this pivotal session. She expressed that the UAE is proud to serve the Assembly and the Presidency, as one of the Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth Assembly session.
33. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak highlighted that the world is changing constantly and rapidly, with climate change no longer a looming threat but a present and oppressive reality. She pointed out that devastating floods, droughts, and wildfires continue to plague communities globally, displacing families and re-shaping landscapes. These events, she stated, are not isolated incidents but are becoming more frequent, intense, and devastating, with the trend only accelerating, and emphasised that the rapidly warming planet is on fire.

34. In this context, H.E Dr Amna Al Dahak stressed that the IRENA Assembly must serve as a platform for action, gathering energy leaders who understand that change is imperative, systems transformation is essential, and that this opportunity must be captured to co-create a just and equitable energy transition that will support everyone, and leave no one behind.
35. Reflecting that the UAE had the honour of hosting the first IRENA Assembly fifteen years ago, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak expressed the UAE's pride in remaining at the forefront of positive change since then. She recalled that at COP28 in 2023, ambitious goals were set to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. These twin goals, she noted, set the foundation for a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future, where energy access is no longer a gap to be bridged, but a part of everyday life.
36. Acknowledging that there is still a long way to go in the journey towards a more sustainable and equitable energy transition, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak expressed optimism about the collective ambition, drive, and ability to make it a reality. In this regard, she reflected that when IRENA was established in 2011, global renewable energy capacity stood at 1,331 GW, and thanks to the platform provided by IRENA and the collective efforts and collaboration of its Members, that capacity has now more than tripled, reaching 3,864 GW in 2023, which she noted as a significant achievement, and a milestone that should be celebrated.
37. Highlighting the need to continue building on this momentum and accelerating progress even further, H.E Dr Amna Al Dahak noted that the opportunity for transformative change has never been greater, with renewable energy being more affordable, accessible, and scalable than ever before. She further highlighted that technology has advanced, expertise is more widespread, and training and upscaling are available to more people than ever before. Detailing the immense opportunities to be seized, she pointed out that progress on energy storage is accelerating and innovative solutions are emerging to address baseload and peak demand challenges.
38. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak expressed the UAE's unwavering commitment to helping the global community meet its climate and renewable energy goals. In this regard, she informed that in 2022, UAE's installed capacity stood at 3.1 GW, and by 2024, it had doubled this to 6 GW, with the aim of achieving 14.2 GW by 2030.
39. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak stated that progress is not solely the result of one nation acting alone, but rather the outcome of continuous collaboration and determination to drive collective progress and deliver inclusive prosperity. She underlined that the IRENA Assembly is a vital platform in enabling these important partnerships to flourish and encouraged Members to seize this opportunity to build lasting, impactful collaborations.
40. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak expressed that while the challenges faced are immense, so too is the collective potential to overcome them. She noted that together, the Membership has the tools, knowledge and the determination to shape a future where renewable energy can provide prosperity and sustainability for all. She called for moving forward with ambition and shared purpose, and urged Members to join hands on the journey towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable energy future for all.

41. The Director-General welcomed participants to the fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi and congratulated Slovenia on the Presidency of the fifteenth Assembly. He also congratulated the Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth Assembly, Costa Rica, Namibia, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He expressed appreciation to Rwanda for its leadership and guidance of the fourteenth session of the Assembly, as well as to Angola, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, and Iraq, as Vice-Presidents of the fourteenth Assembly.
42. The Director-General extended gratitude to the UAE, as Host Country, for hosting and welcoming all to the Assembly. He emphasised that the UAE's commitment to advancing the energy transition, and its continuous collaboration and support, have been crucial in establishing the Agency and advancing the achievement of its mandate.
43. Extending a sincere welcome to the Membership, the Director-General highlighted the record participation of 148 countries and the European Union, representing 1,480 participants, and over 2,000 participants at the Assembly including all observers. He noted that the continued engagement and participation in IRENA's Governing Body meetings is a testament that the Agency's mission remains at the core of its Members' mission, and that its work continues to attract attention in paving the way for an equitable, renewables-based energy transition.
44. The Director-General announced that the theme of the Assembly, "Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition - The Way Forward", was carefully chosen to reflect and echo the urgency to shape policies that strategies that prioritise energy security, drive socio-economic development, and mobilise innovative financing solutions to drive the global energy transformation. He stressed the critical importance of energy security, as geopolitical tensions and volatile fossil fuel markets have amplified the need for resilient and sustainable energy systems. In this regard, he affirmed that renewables offer a way forward to reduce dependence on finite resources, stabilise energy costs, and empower countries to harness their domestic resources for energy independence.
45. Noting that 2024 was the first year that IRENA delivered on its mandate to monitor progress on the global pledge to triple renewables and double energy efficiency by 2030, the Director-General informed that IRENA recently had a fruitful meeting with the incoming COP30 Presidency, and that the Agency will continue its close collaboration with the COP30 Presidency, as it has done with previous COP Presidencies.
46. The Director-General acknowledged that, despite progress in certain areas, the world remains off-track to deliver on its promises. He emphasised that any transition cannot be viewed as a mere response but must be a proactive strategy to achieve the 1.5-degree pathway and ensure long-term stability, equity, and sustainability in the global energy landscape. He highlighted that IRENA's in-depth analysis is essential in this process, with the *World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO)* providing the blueprint to achieve energy and climate goals, and the *Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030* report shedding light on the gaps that the world urgently needs to tackle.

47. The Director-General reiterated that the theme of the fifteenth Assembly is not just a call for acceleration, but a reminder of the collective responsibility. He expressed that the renewable energy transition represents a unique convergence of economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental stewardship, which transcends borders, unites sectors, and empowers people. He encouraged the Assembly to engage openly, think boldly, act decisively, and unite. He further invited Members to use the IRENA Assembly as a platform to forge partnerships, share best practices, and advance the solutions that will shape the renewable energy system of tomorrow and, crucially, create resilient and prosperous societies.
48. In his address to the Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr António Guterres stated that IRENA is at the heart of the renewables revolution, which is in full swing. He emphasised that the clean energy age is coming, with clear benefits for energy sovereignty, security, and affordability. He stressed the need to move faster to bring the benefits of clean power to all, and to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.
49. H.E. Mr António Guterres underlined that urgent action is required in three areas. First, governments must charter just transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy in their new national Climate Action Plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due in 2025, which must align with 1.5-degree limit as promised. He further stated that they must contribute to the global energy transition commitments in the UAE consensus, align national energy strategies and development priorities with climate ambitions, as well as guarantee no new coal and commit to total coal phase out, moving directly to renewables.
50. Second, addressing lagging finance for developing and emerging economies, H.E. Mr António Guterres noted that developing and emerging economies, outside of China, have received only one in five dollars of global clean energy investment since 2016. To tackle this, he stated that countries must overcome known barriers and deliver on the commitments in the Pact for the Future, such as increasing the lending capacity of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), boosting concessional finance, and taking effective action on debt. Additionally, an effective price on carbon and innovative sources of finance are needed.
51. Third, H.E. Mr António Guterres called for collaboration among governments, civil society, and businesses to support a just transition, including by shifting fossil fuel subsidies to investments in the transition, thereby supporting affected workers and communities. He concluded his address by thanking IRENA for its leadership and vital voice across all these areas and more, and expressed his pride in standing with IRENA in creating a prosperous, renewables-powered world.
52. In his address, the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), H.E. Mr Philemon Yang, noted that in the Pact for the Future, Member States welcomed the UAE Consensus, which calls for tripling renewable power generation and doubling energy efficiency by 2030. He highlighted that achieving these goals will require a substantial financial commitment, with an estimated USD 31.5 trillion needed until 2030 to fund renewable energy expansion, grid infrastructure, energy efficiency, and conservation efforts. He reiterated that these are significant investments, and expressed optimism about recent developments in multilateral forums indicating a greater willingness to support climate action.

53. In this regard, the President of the UNGA referred to the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance agreed at COP29, which sets an annual target of USD 300 billion to support developing countries in their climate actions. Additionally, he pointed out that the standards for global carbon markets set out at COP29 offer promising opportunities for mobilising additional resources. He reiterated that these are welcome developments, and must be built on with concrete actions.
54. Outlining the opportunities to do so, the President of the UNGA highlighted that the upcoming fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025 offers a critical opening to address financing gaps and accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 and the Paris Agreement. He further highlighted that the second World Summit for Social Development in 2025 presents an opportunity to progress on realising the goal of promoting equal access and advancing social justice. He stressed the need to seize these moments to honour commitments and deliver resources in a timely manner.
55. The President of the UNGA emphasised that the financing dilemma is especially pronounced in countries in special situations, where energy deficits hinder progress. He stated that despite unprecedented levels of global renewable energy investment in 2023, the distribution remains highly unequal, with half of the world's population, spanning over 150 economies, receiving only 10% of total investments. Furthermore, 685 million people still lack access to electricity, and 2.1 billion rely on polluting fuels for cooking, with the majority in sub-Saharan Africa. He underlined that such disparities cannot continue, as limited social development fosters inequality and conflict, and called for strengthening global partnerships and delivering financial, technological, and capacity-building support where it is most needed.
56. The President of the UNGA commended IRENA for its efforts in promoting decarbonisation and mobilising finance for the energy transition. He expressed confidence that IRENA will continue to play a critical role in implementing the UAE Consensus and other relevant frameworks. In concluding his address, the President of the UNGA called for collective action to achieve a renewable energy transition that truly leaves no one behind. He urged all participants to build on the momentum generated by recent developments and to foster meaningful and productive discussions at the fifteenth session of the Assembly.
- 57. The Assembly received, with appreciation, and took note of the welcoming remarks.**

Agenda Item 4: High-level Panel on Accelerating the Energy Transition – The Way Forward²

58. The President of the fifteenth session of the Assembly introduced the High-level Panel on Accelerating the Energy Transition – The Way Forward and invited the Director-General to set the scene for the High-level Panel on the next critical steps to accelerate the energy transition.

² An Executive Summary of the High-level Panel on Accelerating the Energy Transition – The Way Forward was prepared and distributed at Plenary. The Executive Summary is available [at this link](#).

59. The Director-General delivered a [scene-setting presentation](#) on the current status of the energy transition and the way forward, in the context of the UAE Consensus on tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency. He noted that in the last years, progress has slowed down in realising energy and climate goals. IRENA's analysis presented in the report *Delivering on the UAE consensus: Tracking progress towards tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030* sheds light on the status of the energy transition.
60. The Director-General stressed that considerable additions in renewable power capacities are countered by their insufficient and uneven geographic development – in 2023, the world witnessed a record of 473 GW of new renewable power capacity added, but global renewable energy capacity must still reach 11.2 terawatts (TW) by 2030. He stressed that, while first estimates for 2024 anticipate around 530 GW of renewable solar capacity, which would be a new record for yearly solar capacity, this would be about half of what is needed.
61. The Director-General then noted the market concentration of renewable power capacity in certain regions, underscoring the uneven nature of global deployment. He explained that by the end of 2023, Asia, Europe and North America accounted for almost 85% of global solar capacity. Meanwhile, Africa possesses immense renewable energy potential, and grapples with substantial energy needs; yet solar renewable power capacity remained a mere 1.6%, representing a significant missed opportunity for sustainable development in the continent.
62. He continued that socio-economic crises have also amplified existing inequalities, and securing access to affordable and sustainable finance remains a critical obstacle to development. The Director-General added that investment in renewable capacity remained well short of the USD 1.5 trillion needed annually until 2030, emphasising that while the global challenges are indeed immense, so are the opportunities to build a more sustainable, equitable, and secure energy future. Renewable energy can power sustainable development, economic growth, green industrialisation, and overall prosperity, especially in the most vulnerable countries and communities.
63. The Director-General highlighted that IRENA's *World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO)* identifies five main enablers to realise the energy transition. This includes a remodelling of the policy and regulatory landscape; robust institutional and human capacities; affordable and accessible financing; strong international collaboration; and modernised energy infrastructure. He added that the call for submitting revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025 also offers an opportunity to align national energy transition strategies and sustainable development priorities with climate action. He then called on every country to update and submit ambitious national climate action plans by COP30, including concrete targets boosting the realisation of the tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency goals of COP28.
64. The Director-General expressed that he was pleased to see that the topics of reforming the international financial architecture and scaling up climate and development finance are gathering growing support, and underscored the need to ensure that the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, adopted at COP29, is implemented, and that COP30 is utilised as a platform to go further.

65. Turning to energy security, the Director-General underlined that it has long been a cornerstone of national and international policy focusing on securing fossil fuels, especially from the lens of industrialised countries' perspective and commodity centric. As such, it favoured large-scale centralised systems, overlooking sustainability, neglecting energy poverty, and oriented towards short-term supply.
66. He continued that energy security has nowadays evolved to encompass broader concerns about the availability, affordability and sustainability of energy systems. He added that in recent years, this realisation has been elevated due to the increasingly interconnected carbon energy market and the urgency to transition to cleaner energy sources. Although there is no unique pathway to it, he stressed that there are clear parameters to accomplish it.
67. To achieve this, the Director-General underlined the need for a multifaceted approach, addressing challenges such as geopolitical instability, supply chain disruptions, and balancing energy affordability with environmental sustainability. He highlighted that this also presents a significant opportunity for innovation, economic growth, and international co-operation. Under the umbrella of IRENA's work on geopolitics and in response to the growing demand from Members to address these complex issues, IRENA published the *Geopolitics of the energy transition: energy security* report in 2024. He stressed that this was a seminal work offering an in-depth analysis of the geopolitical interactions of the evolving energy systems and challenging the conventional understanding of energy security.
68. In closing, the Director-General stressed that the next five years will be decisive, but IRENA is ready to support countries with updating their NDCs to have heightened ambitions. He noted that IRENA has already started the work, thanks to the generous contribution by the United Arab Emirates that will allow the Agency to support 25 countries. He underlined the collective responsibility to find solutions to these challenges, stressing that IRENA remains a committed partner and supporter in accelerating the renewables-based energy transition.
69. The President of the Assembly then invited Ms Becky Anderson, CNN journalist and anchor, to moderate the panel discussion.
70. Ms Anderson first referred to IRENA's substantive report, produced with partners and published in October 2024, that provided the framework for the discussion. The report demonstrates that renewable energy has made remarkable strides globally over the past 20 years; however, it also shows that significant challenges and barriers remain and must be urgently addressed if the tripling goal is to be achieved by the 2030 deadline.
71. She explained that the two sessions would explore the multi-dimensional challenges in accelerating the transition to a new energy system and the opportunities that might, should, could, and will provide prosperity and energy security. She added that the discussions would revolve around the importance of macro-economic planning, policy, finance, and international co-operation to scale up finance, with a particular focus on the needs and priorities of countries and regions not at the front of the queue in this transition.

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72. Ms Anderson continued that discussions would also explore avenues to maximise COP30 and future sessions, and the next submission of NDCs, to help propel an inclusive energy transition. The panel would be split into two sessions, with the first one focusing on the global perspective and the second on accelerating action at the regional level.
73. The first panel consisted of (in alphabetical order): Mr Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Economy, Infrastructure, Trade, and Regional Integration, African Union Development Agency – NEPAD; Honourable Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy and Business Development, Barbados; H.E. Mr Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, United Nations; Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General, DGENER, European Commission; H.E. Mr Alexandre Silveira de Oliveira, Minister of Mines and Energy, Brazil; and H.E. Ms Betty Soto Viñas, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines, Dominican Republic.
74. The second panel consisted of Mr Abdulaziz Alobaidli, Chief Operating Officer, Masdar; Mr Ben Backwell, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Wind Energy Council and Chair of Global Renewables Alliance; Mr Andrew Herscovitz, Chief Executive Officer, Mission 300 Accelerator, Rockefeller Catalytic Capital; Dr Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank; and Mr Andres Rebolledo Smitmans, Executive Secretary, Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).
75. The discussion made reference to IRENA’s report, tracking progress toward the energy goals of the UAE Consensus, agreed under the First Global Stocktake at COP28 in Dubai, which shows that progress in the transition to renewable energy is gathering pace. Initial estimates for renewable power capacity additions in 2024 suggest a new record, at more than 530 GW. However, they remain below the additions required each year to reach the installed capacity target of 11.2 TW by 2030.
76. Speakers highlighted that the cost of renewable energy continues to decline and therefore the energy transition has been accelerating at an unprecedented pace in the last decade, despite geopolitical uncertainties. However, progress on the energy transition remains geographically concentrated, not reaching developing countries, with some 85% of global installed capacity being concentrated in Europe and Asia, and a mere 1.6% in Africa. While renewables represent the least-cost option in 90% of countries worldwide, four of every five dollars spent to achieve the energy transition are in developed economies, whilst only one dollar out of five is spent on the remaining two-thirds of the world’s population.
77. Speakers also stressed that the notion of energy security equalling reliance on fossil fuels is false and antiquated.
78. Speakers emphasised that there is no security without climate security and no economic security without climate security; thus, calling for investments in renewable energy deployment and infrastructure, including grids and transmission. One speaker underlined the critical role of access to clean technologies, innovation and research and development as well as of producing energy products in accelerating the energy transition. Another speaker discussed the national efforts to increase the update of renewables, achieve energy security and fight energy poverty.

79. Speakers underlined the importance of long-term planning, permitting and a conducive regulatory environment for the energy transition.
80. Speakers highlighted the potential of a renewables-based energy transition to increase employment but also the need to invest in human resources to foster a labour force with the necessary skills for the future.
81. Speakers noted that Africa has the greatest renewable energy potential and critical minerals reserve, yet 700 million people still lack access to energy. One speaker referred to the work undertaken regarding the pertinent issue of critical materials for the energy transition.
82. One speaker referred to the decision of African leaders at the Africa Climate Summit to move toward energy transition by 2040. Another speaker referred to the Renewables for Africa campaign, aiming to bring access to electricity for 300 million people in Africa by 2030 and the efforts to strengthen the energy transition in some European countries.
83. Speakers noted that political will has helped advance renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean, offering socio-economic benefits and greater equality. However, the region is particularly vulnerable to climate change, underlining the urgency to triple renewables and double energy efficiency.
84. One speaker elaborated on the importance of regional common climate and energy policies, a predictable regulatory framework, and an interconnected electricity market that enables very high shares of renewable energy and measures to lower the cost of capital and therefore lower the risk. Another speaker discussed the efforts to enhance regional connectivity among some South American countries.
85. Speakers stressed that developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and emerging economies, continue to face high cost of capital and other barriers. One speaker highlighted the additional burden considering the high debt-to-GDP ratio and the cost of capital that is ultimately burdening consumers.
86. Speakers called for finding solutions to funding and financing challenges, reducing the cost of capital, increasing the lending capacity of multilateral development banks, and using innovative instruments to crowd private finance. One speaker noted the role of commercial funds.
87. Speakers also emphasised the importance of funding going beyond energy generation and towards transmission and distribution. One speaker underscored the importance of derisking projects to improve their bankability.
88. Speakers also underlined the need to reform the overall structure of international financing. For emerging markets and developing economies in general, it is not only access to finance that poses barriers to the energy transition, but also the high costs of capital when financing is made available.
89. One speaker highlighted the work to mitigate risk for renewable energy projects in Africa by investing in the early project preparation phase, facilitating a stable regulatory environment and creating a continental market to attract investments.

90. Speakers underscored the importance of international collaboration to ensure a fast and equitable energy transition. Speakers noted the important role of the intergovernmental bodies, private sector and philanthropies in bridging the gap and accelerating the energy transition. One speaker called on philanthropies to add focus on energy access as well.
91. Speakers noted that 2025 and COP30 mark the 10-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement and stressed that the upcoming submission of NDCs represents a unique opportunity to raise ambitions, and define transition pathways and investment needs, while ensuring that national climate plans reflect the UAE Consensus.
92. Speakers also expressed hope that COP30 will deliver concrete targets, mobilise financial resources towards renewables deployment and energy efficiency, and help make progress on mitigation and energy access. One speaker underlined that COP30 will aim to promote a just and fair energy transition for all, targeting energy poverty and socio-economic development underpinned by sustainability.
93. One speaker noted that countries with NDCs that outline clear targets, clear policies and willingness to deploy renewable energy are attractive to investors. Whilst commitments to ramp up renewable deployment in NDCs are essential to achieving Paris Agreement goals, they are not, in and of themselves, sufficient. For the private sector, clear targets and policies to deploy renewable power capacity must be complemented by broader commitments to the expansion and upgrading of transmission and distribution systems to accommodate a growing share of renewables in national energy balances.
- 94. The Assembly took note of the insights and views provided.**

Agenda Item 5: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (A/15/3/Rev.1)

95. The Director-General introduced the Annual Report and first noted that the morning's discussions highlighted the challenges in building resilient and sustainable energy systems, and he reaffirmed IRENA's commitment to support its Members on their energy transition journey. He pointed out that it was just over a year since the global pledge of COP28 to triple installed renewable capacity and double the rate of energy efficiency by 2030 was adopted. This milestone reflected the global consensus on renewables as the ultimate solution to energy and development challenges. He added that in early 2024, IRENA was appointed by the COP28 Presidency to track progress toward these goals and to this end, IRENA delivered the first edition of the annual tracking reports toward the tripling and doubling goals in October 2024.
96. He continued that at COP29, a new goal was set, an allocation of at least USD 300 billion in annual climate finance by 2035, which is a threefold increase to help developing nations mitigate emission and adapt to climate impact. He lamented that socio-economic crises and geopolitical tensions are straying economies, while current renewable power targets reflected in NDCs are well below the intended goal. Thus, he stressed, on the run-up to COP30 in Brazil, achieving energy and climate goals will require urgent political will and action.

97. The Director-General stressed that in 2023, a record of 473 GW of new renewable power capacity was added, with solar energy additions leading to this growth. He explained that conducive policies, geopolitical shifts, and falling costs have driven the expansion of various variable renewable technologies. Yet, a significant gap remains to meet the Paris Agreement targets as renewable capacity additions must average 1,050 GW annually from 2024 to 2030. This includes tripling onshore wind, increasing offshore wind and bioenergy sixfold, and scaling geothermal 35 times in current output. He also stressed that significant efforts must be made towards increasing adoption across all renewable technologies and to improve geographical distribution of renewable capacity, which continues to be uneven. He pointed out that Asia, Europe, and North America account for 85% of global capacity, while Africa, despite its vast potential, contributes only 1.6%, representing a significant missed opportunity for sustainable development in the continent.
98. The Director-General underlined that achieving the tripling goal also entails significant socio-economic benefits for communities and economies. He continued that IRENA's latest *Renewable energy and jobs* reports, published in co-operation with the International Labor Organization, revealed that in 2023, the renewable energy sector employed a record 16.2 million people, marking an increase of more than 18% from the year before. He added that renewables employ a higher share of women than the oil and gas industry and that doubling already existing renewable energy sector jobs is also projected to lead to 30 million jobs in renewables by 2030, which would deliver significant socio-economic benefits.
99. Turning to climate action, he highlighted that ambitious and well-defined NDCs can send a strong signal to the international community, investors, and businesses about a country's commitment to climate action. They can also help unlock investment, drive innovation, and foster greater international co-operation on climate change.
100. The Director-General clarified though that there is a critical disconnect between the ambition outlined in current NDCs and action needed to stay on track toward the 1.5°C scenario, which calls for 11.2 TW of globally installed renewable power capacity by 2030. He added that renewable targets outlined in NDCs, and national plans are far lower than the intended goal but to address these gaps, IRENA has assisted over 101 countries in announcing and implementing any transition plans within their NDCs. Moreover, IRENA is already offering NDC 3.0 recommendations to several Members to consider in their NDC updates, building upon the Agency's country level data and holistic overview, including growing needs such as battery storage capacity and green hydrogen. The Director-General also highlighted the generous contribution received from the UAE to support 20 developing countries in their NDC submission.
101. Next, he underlined the importance of securing the necessary financial resources to accelerate the deployment of renewables as central to the success of the energy transition. IRENA's contribution in this area focuses on facilitating projects, creating an enabling environment and increasing transparency on options available to countries. He stressed that IRENA's Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform continue to attract partners and projects and are already having tangible results.

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102. By the end of 2023, 14 projects were marketed with partners with 2.2 MW of project cumulative capacity. The Director-General explained that similarly, the cumulative value of projects that have been gaining interest from financiers and ETAF reached USD 3.5 billion with 2,787 MW of projected cumulative capacity.
103. He then underlined that the current pace of energy transition is inadequate, calling for a radical systemic shift to align with the Paris Agreement. IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO) provides a roadmap positioning efficiency, electrification, renewable power, green hydrogen, and sustainable bioenergy as key drivers, showing that achieving the 1.5° Celsius target is feasible and economically viable. He commented that reverting the current trajectory in temperature is still possible, feasible, and economically viable but barriers such as outdated infrastructure, inadequate policies, and insufficient institutional capacity must be addressed.
104. The Director-General then referred to the crucial enablers for policymakers such as policy and regulation. He stressed that net-zero commitment must be backed by robust legislation, resources, and actionable plans, adding that updated policies and regulations are essential to accelerate the uptake of renewable technologies and energy efficiency.
105. He continued that supply chains, skill, and capacity are essential elements, however, many countries lack the institutional and workforce capability for the energy transition. Therefore, investing in education, training, and re-skilling is vital to build the necessary human capital. He then stressed that affordable financing, risk mitigation, and expanded concessional finance are needed as well as prioritising projects with social and environmental benefit to support equitable and sustainable development. The third enabler would be international collaboration as it can help mobilise resources and create conducive environments for renewable growth. Multilateral platforms like the G7, G20, and BRICS could play a pivotal role in this endeavour.
106. Lastly, the Director-General underlined the important role of infrastructure and that transforming the power sector to integrate renewables requires stakeholders' collaboration. Special planning and regulatory reform as well as interconnectors are key for grid stability and reliable power.
107. Before concluding, he elaborated on the extensive work IRENA undertook in 2024 in developing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework. The framework is of great significance as it will enable IRENA to track and report on the impact of its activities. He emphasised that it has been an extensive process and to ensure optimal delivery, transparency, and ownership, IRENA deployed a whole-of-Agency approach. The process included identifying baseline data, defining targets, and setting definitions to ensure a common understanding and consistency of work.
108. The Director-General then informed that starting with the Progress Report for the consideration of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Council, IRENA will start implementing the new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, which will replace the matrix of implementation of the Work Programme and Budget.

109. The Director-General also explained that another key aspect is that the Secretariat will develop the Work Programme and Budget for the next biennium this year by first mapping the key activities against the Intermediate Outcome of the Results-based Framework to ensure alignment. He also stressed that monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Agency's work will be an ongoing process and as implementation of the new M&E system begins, the Agency will make the necessary adjustments to further refine and improve the system, thus ensuring IRENA's impact is better reflected.
110. In conclusion, the Director-General underscored that the transition to a renewable energy future will serve as a catalyst for mitigating inequalities, building climate resilient energy systems, strengthening energy security, and realising the goal of universal energy access. IRENA has long championed a holistic policy-making approach that considers broader societal implications of the energy transition. This approach also demands a cross-border perspective, recognising the interconnected nature of global energy systems and the need for further enhanced support mechanisms for developing countries. He emphasised that IRENA has the knowledge, experience, and mandate to provide concrete, substantive advice and updated support to the Membership for their respective renewable energy needs. He closed by stressing that a sustainable future is within our grasp, but it is imperative to act on a tremendous scale and move with extreme speed toward pursuing a just, inclusive, and equitable energy transition powered by renewables.
111. Delegations welcomed the Annual report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2024-2025, and extended thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat for their excellent work. One delegation referred to the award bestowed to the Director-General by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, for contributing to the success of COP28.
112. Some delegations welcomed the 2024 edition of the *World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO)* that provided a clear roadmap for achieving key milestones and serves as an essential guide for recalibrating policies and strategies worldwide.
113. One delegation looked forward to IRENA's upcoming outlook for hydrogen trade in Southeast Asia that would help deepen efforts to adopt and understand this technology.
114. Delegations applauded IRENA's efforts to promote the deployment of renewables worldwide, guide innovation on renewable energy technologies, and strengthen international collaboration and strategic alliances. One delegation called on IRENA to maximise the use of its limited resources to best support Members to deliver on the UAE Consensus and welcomed IRENA's increased focus on the geopolitical dimension of the energy transition by looking at key technologies and supply chains.
115. One delegation emphasised that the energy transition presents an opportunity to increase social equality, industrial competitiveness, and energy security. One delegation also underlined that there are several energy transition pathways, designed based on national priorities and challenges.

116. Delegations welcomed the UAE Consensus goals and the appointment of IRENA by the COP28 Presidency as a Custodian Agency to monitor progress in implementing the goals, noting that despite progress efforts must still be enhanced to meet the ambitious goals.
117. Delegations welcomed IRENA's report on *Delivering the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030*. One delegation encouraged IRENA to undertake quantitative analysis on the adverse effects of barriers or restrictive measures on renewable energy supply chains worldwide when tracking the implementation of the UAE Consensus and providing recommendations.
118. Delegations encouraged IRENA to provide tailored support to Members to help triple renewable energy capacity and double the speed of progress on energy efficiency. One delegation encouraged IRENA to support Members in achieving universal energy access.
119. One delegation referred to the national strategies to increase the share of renewables in their energy mix, and to increase the deployment of solar, and another delegation mentioned the national strategies to advance knowledge and deployment of hydrogen. One delegation shared the climate strategies to reach carbon neutrality by 2035.
120. One delegation welcomed IRENA's Women in Diplomacy and the Youth Forum in ensuring that the views and perspectives of key members of the energy community are included in the energy discourse.
121. Delegations underlined the need to secure investments to modernise and expand grid infrastructure to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, commended IRENA for the knowledge products in this area, and referred to their efforts to enhance regional power interconnections.
122. One delegation welcomed the work undertaken by IRENA's Alliance for Industry Decarbonization (AFID) initiative.
123. One delegation stressed the central role of international collaboration in promoting the energy transition and the centrality of IRENA's work in the efforts.
124. One delegation welcomed the creation of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) as an important partnership to support participating countries in achieving the goals set out in the Nairobi Declaration, Agenda 2063, and to accelerate the deployment of renewables. Another delegation welcomed the APRA Investment Forum in Nairobi.
125. One delegation highlighted that climate action must follow a balanced approach on three main pillars, namely mitigation, adaptation, and ways of implementation, bearing in mind the different vulnerabilities, capabilities, and specific circumstances of the developing countries.
126. One delegation welcomed the COP29 Green Energy Zones and Corridors, Energy Storage and Grids, and Hydrogen Declaration pledges as well as the Climate Quantification Agreement.

127. One delegation expressed support for an ambitious and successful outcome of COP30.
128. Delegations stressed that 2025 is a key year for NDCs and encouraged IRENA's continuous support to countries supporting their NDC enhancement and implementation. One delegation referred to the recent agreement signed with IRENA to support countries with the preparation of their updated NDCs.
129. Delegations stressed the importance of attracting sustainable and affordable financing, transferring technologies and structuring bankable projects in developing countries and welcomed IRENA's project facilitation activities through the ETAF and CIP.
130. One delegation welcomed the increase in IRENA's communication activities, as well as social media engagement and media coverage, thus, ensuring that IRENA continues to be the leader of the narrative and discourse on renewables. One delegation called on IRENA to strengthen communication on the benefits of renewable space energy systems, including economic prosperity, jobs, and a just transition.
131. One delegation requested full, comprehensive information regarding the budget allocation to each of the work programme activities and the sources of those budgets.
132. One delegation looked forward to the introduction of the Results-based Framework in future Work Programmes to show where IRENA's work is most impactful and where strategic adjustments may be necessary to triple renewable energy by 2030. Another delegation encouraged IRENA to reinforce its work on the ground in the next Work Programme and Budget as well as Medium-term Strategy.
133. **The Assembly considered and adopted the Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, as contained in document A/15/3/Rev.1.**

Agenda Item 6: General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition

134. The Vice-President of the Assembly, Costa Rica, represented by H.E. Mr Franz Tattenbach Capra, Minister of Environment and Energy, invited Members to share their national experiences on priority actions and challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy, and exchange views on issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond.
135. Delegations stressed that the energy transition is the gateway to achieving sustainable development, energy security, socio-economic prosperity and employment. Some delegations called for a fair and balanced energy transition, emphasising the responsibility of developed countries to materialise adequate financing and technological support to this end.
136. One delegation stated that despite the progress in renewable additions in 2024, significant loss and damage costs were also borne by public budgets or the insured parties, calling for discussions on the liability of fossil fuel producing companies for these enormous losses.

137. Some delegations noted that advanced nuclear technologies have an important role to play in the transition to a low-carbon economy.
138. Delegations underlined the pivotal role of concrete targets and long-term planning, favourable regulatory frameworks and policies accelerating permitting and attracting finance, to help accelerate the energy transition. Delegations also highlighted IRENA's multi-faceted assistance to Members to transform their energy systems and promote a renewables-based energy transition.
139. Delegations welcomed the outcome of the First Global Stocktake at COP28 to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, double energy efficiency and transition away from fossil fuels, and the appointment of IRENA as a Custodian Agency in monitoring progress in realising the goals.
140. Some delegations invited IRENA to support the review of national policies and legal frameworks in line with global energy targets as well as capacity building programs for tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency. One delegation requested IRENA to provide support with flexibility analysis and feasibility studies.
141. One delegation welcomed IRENA's *Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030* report, prepared in co-operation with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Brazil and the UAE as well as the Global Renewables Alliance.
142. Some delegations stressed that the emergence of new technologies and artificial intelligence will impact the labour market, thus, requiring efforts to build the labour force for the future. One delegation encouraged IRENA to respond to new challenges and opportunities such as those posed by artificial intelligence. Another delegation encouraged IRENA to assist Pacific Island countries to develop and strengthen their human resources through capacity-building.
143. One delegation emphasised the important role of youth in the energy transition and its efforts to improve their education as well as involve them in the process. Another delegation emphasised that women play a central role in the energy transition.
144. Delegations acknowledged that developing countries, including SIDS and African countries, face significant challenges in meeting the UAE Consensus goals, particularly in terms of accessing finance and clean technologies, high cost of materials, outdated infrastructure and lack of a labour force with the necessary skills.
145. Some delegations referred to their projects in support of the energy transition of African countries. One delegation referred to initiatives launched by the G7 to promote energy transition and sustainable development in Africa such as Energy for Growth in Africa and the G7 Adaptation Accelerator Hub and lauded IRENA's support to the G7 Presidency.
146. One delegation referred to the 2024 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Sustainable Energy Week, organised by Botswana, IRENA SOTRAN, UNIDO, and the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres in Gaborone, Botswana on 24-20 February 2025.

147. One delegation referred to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), reiterating the urgent need for investments and partnerships to support SIDS in their energy transitions.
148. One delegation extended thanks to IRENA for supporting international initiatives such as the Breakthrough Agenda and the Global Green Power Alliance.
149. Delegations shared their national policies, measures and targets to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix and increase the installed capacity of solar, hydropower, wind, geothermal, bioenergy, storage, hydrogen, critical minerals, e-mobility as well as to improve energy efficiency, access to clean cooking and grid infrastructure. Delegations also discussed their efforts to achieve universal energy access domestically.
150. Delegations highlighted the importance and benefits of regional interconnectivity and the importance of investing in transmission and interconnectivity to strengthen energy security.
151. Delegations also referred to their national goals to become carbon neutral by 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2060 or 2070.
152. Delegations elaborated on their national measures, incentives and programmes to boost trade and attract investments in renewables. Delegations also expressed appreciation of IRENA's support in fostering collaboration and capacity building and called on Members co-operation with the Agency in this area.
153. Delegations encouraged IRENA's continued focus on policy advisory and facilitating investment in regions with high renewable energy potential, including through initiatives such as the ETAF Platform.
154. Delegations stressed that international and multi-stakeholder collaboration is vital to foster access to finance the energy transition, including reaching the UAE Consensus targets.
155. Some delegations welcomed the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), and one delegation asked to join it. One delegation welcomed the first APRA Investment Forum in Nairobi in October 2024.
156. Some delegations welcomed the establishment of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewable Energy in Central Asia (APRECA) and the Energy Transition Investment Forum for Central Asia organised by IRENA in Baku in the margins of COP29.
157. Delegations underlined that climate change is a global challenge and for some countries it poses an existential threat. One delegation called for swift and decisive action against climate change, stressing that renewable energy sources are the cornerstone of a just and competitive energy transition and an effective way to reach long-term climate goals. Another delegation called on Members to stay united and IRENA to continue its valuable work to counter the voices opposing renewables and denying the existence of climate change.

158. One delegation commended IRENA for the work supporting 101 Members with their NDCs, which is a testament to IRENA's recognition as an expert organisation and encouraged the Agency to strengthen collaboration with similar organisations.
159. Delegations welcomed the outcome of COP29 on a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, which includes support towards renewable energy.
160. **The Assembly took note of the experiences shared by Members.**

Agenda Item 7: Ministerial Roundtable on Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition and Green Industrialisation Agenda

161. The Vice-President of the Assembly, Namibia, represented by H.E. Mr Tom Alwendoo, Minister of Mines and Energy, presided over the deliberations under this agenda item and invited the Director-General to introduce the topic.
162. The Director-General expressed his appreciation for the implementation of APRA so far and commended the leadership shown by APRA member countries and partners. The Director-General was also appreciative of the support being given by partners to support APRA's work. That is notably the case of Japan which recently announced a substantial financial contribution to the Partnership. He stressed that APRA is attracting interest, and this will continue.
163. The keynote presentation by Ms Safiatou Alzouma, Special Advisor to the Director-General of IRENA on Energy Transition, Climate and Green Industrialization in Africa, provided an overview of what has been done for APRA's implementation.
164. Ms Alzouma highlighted the identification of national priorities, and the completion of country action plans in 7 countries, through which 234 priority actions have been identified across the spheres of project facilitation, data and statistics, power sector development, industrialisation and manufacturing as well as energy nexus and access. The keynote presentation also reported that the first APRA Investment Forum was held in October 2024 in Kenya and its outcomes included the presentation of 25 new renewable energy projects with more than 1 GW of prospective capacity combined, representing more than USD 2.6 billion of new investment.
165. In the keynote presentation, Ms Alzouma also stressed the technical and financial commitments that the APRA partner countries, namely Denmark, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, have made towards the implementation of the Partnership. The keynote was concluded by a call to action for all APRA stakeholders and interested partners to join forces for Africa's social economy transformation.
166. The session continued with the panel discussion, which was moderated by Mr John Defterios, Visiting Professor of Business at New York University Abu Dhabi, who introduced the discussions by highlighting the vital nature of energy access, and how a just energy transition cannot be successful without Africa at the forefront.

167. He noted that the discussion would be divided in two rounds. The first would delve into the systemic changes that are needed to attract the necessary capital for transformable renewable energy projects that align with Africa's broader economic and development goals, and the second would be on the necessary arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of the support given by the countries in line with their national priorities and for the long-term sustainability of APRA.
168. H.E. Mr Kandeh Yumkella, Chairman of the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security, Sierra Leone commended APRA's work to date and stressed that despite the progress African countries have made on improving regulatory frameworks, guarantees are always requested by investors. This remains a challenge that needs to be addressed immediately. He also noted that Sierra Leone is looking at bulk power for industrialisation and the mining sectors, and underlined the important role hydropower would play in that regard. Decentralised renewable energy solutions will also play in big role in the country's energy access gap. Sierra Leone also raised the issue of currency risk, which is common across various APRA countries.
169. H.E. Mr Yonis Ali Guedi, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Djibouti highlighted the recent progress the country has made in deploying renewables but also raised the point on guarantees and the need for reforms in various countries to attract investments.
170. H.E. Mr Ole Thonke, Undersecretary for Development Policy of Denmark stressed the high level of political importance of APRA for his country and for the Danish private sector. He stressed the importance of one-to-one knowledge and technology transfer. He acknowledged the need for guarantees and noted the strengthening of their guarantee schemes. He urged other partner countries to join APRA.
171. H.E. Mr Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability of the United Arab Emirates, stressed that the biggest challenge we face today in tripling renewables in Africa, is financing. He called for an improvement of financial mechanisms with increased concessional finance to mitigate risks and improve financing terms. This should be combined with enhanced green financing instruments and policy frameworks, and strengthening of regional co-operation.
172. H.E. Mr Tom Alwendo, Vice-President of the Assembly and Minister of Mines and Energy of Namibia highlighted financing, regulations and skills. He reiterated the point that a lot has been done in terms of policymaking. He called for new ways of perceiving risk in Africa while also highlighting off-taker risk and the need for analysis and development of strategies to mitigate it.
173. Honourable Dr Jimmy Gasore, Minister of Infrastructure of Rwanda, highlighted Africa's large share in the global renewable energy potential and noted that guarantees are one of the limitations that prevent its deployment.

174. Mr Marcus Hicken, Director for Energy Diplomacy, Climate, and Security of Germany expressed his appreciation of the African leadership of APRA and ownership of the energy transition. While reiterating Germany's financial commitments to the implementation of APRA, he also stressed Germany's engagement on working towards making more guarantees available for energy projects in Africa. He took the opportunity to extend an invitation to the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD), where a spotlight would be put on APRA.
175. Mr Alex Wachira, Principal Secretary at the State Department for Energy of Kenya placed a stress on the need for having strong regulatory bodies and the need for innovative financing mechanisms, noting the support of the African Trade and Investment Development Insurance.
176. Mr Seth Mahu, Director of Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy of Ghana noted the development of the APRA Ghana country action plan, which aligns very well with the country's energy transition, energy security, decarbonisation, energy access, and economic development aspirations. He highlighted that Ghana currently has a pipeline of 1.2 GW of renewable energy projects for which studies have been completed or ongoing, but are facing issues of access to finance. He called for a focus on off-taker risk and power interconnections.
177. Mr Cullen Hughes, Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa, highlighted APRA's leadership in Africa's energy transition and the support Power Africa stands ready to provide to APRA. He congratulated Djibouti and Mozambique for joining APRA and expressed their interest in joining the country consultations.
178. Mr Gosaye Mengistie, Senior Energy Advisor to the Minister of Water and Energy of Ethiopia stressed the critical role of the private sector in the implementation of the Ethiopia APRA action plan. He highlighted Ethiopia's homegrown economy reform agenda, which emphasises social economic development and shared prosperity. He noted the increasing opening of the financial sector to foreign investors, which is crucial in driving energy investments forward.
179. Mr Kevin Kariuki, Vice-President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth at the African Development Bank welcomed APRA as an addition to enforce and accelerate renewable energy deployment. He emphasised the need for synergies between APRA and existing initiatives such as Mission 300 for greater impact.
180. Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General for Energy at the European Commission noted the European Union's readiness to provide full political backing to APRA. She also called for a new perception on investment risk in Africa and against the tendency to overestimate risk in Africa.
181. Italy underlined the key role of Africa as a global partner in the energy transition and recalled that under the Italian leadership, the G7 emphasised the need for support and initiatives dedicated to Africa, such as APRA.
182. H.E. Ms Tinne Van der Straeten, Federal Minister of Energy of Belgium noted Belgium's existing collaboration with various APRA countries. On de-risking, she called upon multilateral financial institutions to work with countries and actors on making the right tools available.

183. Ms Yasuko Nishimura, Director for Resource Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan confirmed Japan's decision to make a financial contribution to APRA, based on the reasons that Japan is an important partner to Africa and is committed to the target of tripling renewables globally. She reiterated Africa's large energy potential and its importance for achieving both sustainable development and global climate goals. She called for APRA to mobilise its expertise, and good practice from other Members to address the issue of favourable investment conditions.
184. Mr Frederik Wisselink, Special Energy Envoy, Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth of the Netherlands highlighted the opportunities that the development of green hydrogen represents. He reiterated the readiness of the Netherlands to remain a stable partner for Africa.
185. Private sector representatives, Masdar and AMEA Power, reiterated their commitment to continue working with APRA members, partners and development banks to deliver projects that are not just renewable energy projects, but key enablers of energy access, job creation, and industrial growth. They also called for more private sector involvement in transmission, and called upon APRA to get involved to find solutions as the state of grid systems are also a bottleneck.
186. A report of this Ministerial Roundtable was presented at plenary under Agenda Item 12.

Agenda Item 8: Ministerial Roundtable on Scaling up Finance to Support the Energy Transition in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

187. The Vice-President of the Assembly, the United Arab Emirates, represented by H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA, presided over the deliberations under this agenda item.
188. The Ministerial Roundtable commenced with opening remarks from the Director-General, followed by keynote speeches by Honourable Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy and Business of Barbados; Mr Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action, United Nations; and Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director-General for Energy at the European Commission. The session was moderated by H.E. Ms Rachel Kyte, Special Representative for Climate, United Kingdom.
189. The Ministerial Roundtable brought together a diverse array of state and non-state actors to address the critical gaps in the financing architecture that currently exists to mobilise support from developed to developing countries.
190. Speakers outlined ways to strengthen private sector involvement and highlighted the reforms needed to ensure a just and equitable transition to sustainable energy systems. The discussions underscored the need for innovative financing mechanisms and a collaborative approach to bridge the financial gaps and ensure progress in energy transition goals.

191. Key takeaways from the discussion included the importance of growing innovative financing mechanisms. Speakers highlighted the need to expand options like debt-for-climate swaps and extend loan tenures with more reasonable interest rates. These mechanisms are seen as crucial tools for unlocking financial flows into renewable energy projects in emerging economies.
192. Participants discussed the need for de-risking private investment, emphasising the importance of country-led, long-term planning that sends clear and encouraging signals to investors. The conversation also turned to the growing fiscal pressures faced by many low- and middle-income countries, noting that a significant portion of their export revenues is spent on servicing external debt. In response, speakers called for low-interest rate solutions similar to those applied in post-WWII debt relief, aiming to ease the financial burden while promoting sustainable development.
193. The issue of defragmentation of efforts was also a central theme of the discussion. Participants advocated for the consolidation of various initiatives into time-bound alliances, stressing that a proliferation of separate, disjointed efforts would not lead to the necessary scale of impact. There was a strong push for integrating and accelerating commitments across the public and private sectors to deliver tangible results in financing the energy transition.
194. In addition to addressing financial mechanisms, speakers outlined the essential policy measures required to foster renewable energy deployment. A key point emphasised was the importance of regulatory certainty in attracting private investment. Speakers agreed that clear and stable energy policies, aligned with just transition principles, are fundamental to building investor confidence and ensuring that energy transition efforts benefit all. Governments were urged to take a leading role in ensuring equitable energy access, particularly for vulnerable populations.
195. One of the key suggestions was the removal of fossil fuel subsidies to level the playing field for renewable energy investments. The call for eliminating these subsidies was framed as a necessary step toward creating a fair and competitive energy market that supports the transition to clean energy. Furthermore, participants discussed the potential of digitalisation in enabling more efficient grid management, noting the importance of harnessing new technologies to enhance energy efficiency and grid stability.
196. Cross-border interconnection was also highlighted as a crucial enabler for optimising energy distribution. Speakers emphasised the importance of improving connectivity between energy markets to ensure that renewable energy generated in one country can be efficiently transmitted to meet demand in neighbouring regions. This, in turn, would facilitate the wider deployment of renewable energy across borders and help ensure a more resilient and integrated global energy system.
197. The closing remarks were provided by Mr Raul Alfaro Pelico, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center (KPFC).
198. A report of this Ministerial Roundtable was presented at Plenary under Agenda Item 12.

Agenda Item 9: High-level Panel on Energy Transition Pathways in Emerging Economies

199. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak, Vice-President of the Assembly and Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates presided over the deliberations under this Agenda Item. In her opening remarks, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak stated that the High-level Panel would serve as a platform for discussions on accelerating the energy transition in emerging economies in this critical decade to 2030. She mentioned that during the session, High-level representatives from emerging economies would discuss their net zero pathways, energy transition strategies and plans for implementing the UAE Consensus and outcomes of the first Global Stocktake from COP28. With the emphasis on immediate acceleration of the energy transition and necessary technological, financial and policy enablers, it was highlighted that countries actively engaged in South-South co-operation would also have the opportunity to present lessons from international co-operation with other emerging economies.
200. The Deputy Director-General, Ms Gauri Singh delivered the welcoming remarks, where she pointed out that it is crucial to recognise the strategic role that the energy transition can play in shaping our collective future. She noted that through IRENA's WETO, the Agency works closely with Members to guide planning and energy transition pathways to align with the 1.5°C temperature goal and support achievement of SDGs.
201. The Deputy Director-General highlighted that the latest WETO analysis of 2024 reveals that global investments in energy transition technologies reached a record high of over USD 2 trillion in 2023. Industrialist economies contributed 40% of this total, amounting to USD 800 billion, while emerging economies accounted for 45%, amounting to nearly USD 900 million. Notably, a significant share of these investments flowed into key economies such as China, India, and Brazil. The outcomes of the first Global Stocktake and the UAE consensus at COP28 in 2023 underline the urgent need to accelerate emission reductions during this pivotal decade. Central to the UAE consensus is a clear call to action – by 2030, renewable energy capacity must triple, and the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements must double, providing a decisive pathway to achieving global climate goals.
202. The Deputy Director-General further highlighted that achieving these targets will require cumulative investments of nearly USD 31 trillion in renewable energy electrical networks, grids, flexibility measures, energy efficiency, and conservation. Emerging economies will play an essential role in securing the necessary investments to meet these ambitious goals. It is vital to mobilise public and private sector financing supported by robust enabling policies, and fostering national and international collaboration, as well as South-South co-operation.
203. Mr Gurbuz Gonul, Director of the Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP) Division, in his scene-setting presentation, highlighted the UAE Consensus and that it showcases the political commitment for concrete action on tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency by 2030. He mentioned that IRENA, as the Custodian Agency of this goal, has been taking action on several fronts to translate this political commitment to concrete action on the ground.
204. Mr Gonul informed that, in co-operation with the COP Troika of the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil Presidencies, IRENA tracks the implementation progress on this ambitious goal and

released the first edition of the Tracking Report last October. The report showed that tripling renewable power capacity by 2030 is technically feasible and economically viable, but requires commitment, political support, investment, and rapid project development. Current growth rates are insufficient to meet the 2030 target of 11.2 TW of renewable energy capacity. Achieving this goal requires annual additions of 1,044 GW – nearly double the 2023 figure. While Solar PV is on track to meet its 5.5 TW share of the 2030 renewable energy target, other technologies are lagging and require urgent action to correct the trajectory.

205. Mr Gonul stressed that emerging economies deserve special attention where energy demand is set to rise, and where many communities still lack access to electricity. Representing half of the global population and a third of global GDP, over 150 developing economies outside of China, India, and Brazil received only 10% of energy transition investments with Viet Nam, Poland, and Mexico being among the largest recipients.
206. He noted key points for leveraging international and local finance for energy transition investments in emerging economies: i) Better co-ordination of public financing and policy de-risking is essential to shift the focus from bankability to impact potential; ii) Effective energy planning, backed by robust governance, plays a critical role; iii) Stronger international co-operation can mobilise larger climate finance; iv) South-South co-operation: G7 and G20 can play a vital role; v) Locally driven financial solutions. He also noted that stronger industry action is essential to scale up deployment and highlighted two of IRENA's industry-led initiatives – the Alliance for Industry Decarbonization (AFID) and the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA).
207. The Vice-President of the Assembly then invited Ms Melinda Crane, journalist, political communicator, publicist and television host, to moderate the panel discussion. Ms Crane introduced the panellists and invited them to provide insights on the topic, including the main elements of their country's energy transition strategies, lessons learned, and challenges faced in realising their goals.
208. H.E. Dr Mahmoud Mustafa Kamal Esmat, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Egypt, mentioned the technical challenges faced related to grid capability, stability of the grid when integrating variable renewable energy such as wind, nuclear, energy storage and industrial load. Expressing that his government is committed to supporting the private sector and structuring public-private partnerships (PPPs) for renewable energy projects, he mentioned that approximately 22 GW of renewables power capacity being installed has been awarded to the private sector in Egypt. Furthermore, he mentioned the importance of co-operating with international partners for grid stability and inter-grid operability.
209. H.E. Mr Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister for Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye underlined two major challenges his country is facing in its energy markets. The first one being the growing demand, which tripled in the last 20 years and is expected to continue to grow. The second challenge is reliance on imported resources. Two-thirds of the energy in the country comes through imported resources in terms of primary energy resources. Since the country aims to become a carbon neutral economy beginning of mid-century, this is an even greater challenge.

210. H.E Mr Bayraktar mentioned the importance of long-term strategies and planning and the importance to diversify the energy matrix, considering unused resources such as geothermal and biomass. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of a more resilient and stronger grid, which will require a significant amount of investment in the next decade while developing energy efficiency programmes. H.E Mr Bayraktar addressed the importance of co-operation at the global level, highlighting two relevant issues. First, the need for certainty and consistency of policy for the private sector, and second, the need for creativity of business models and the financial sector. For instance, monetary policy is quite important to reduce the cost of capital. Furthermore, he mentioned that trade policies are key for the energy supply chain, as well as the need for a strong resilient grid, in which regional integration and interconnectivity are crucial.
211. H.E. Mr Ahmed Al Kaabi, Assistant Undersecretary for Electricity, Water, and Future Energy of the United Arab Emirates, shared that a key lesson learned in the UAE is the importance of having a vision, strong leadership, and a solid action plan to achieve goals. He stated that a key takeaway from the energy transition journey is that it cannot be achieved alone – partnerships, technology, and international co-operation are essential. Moreover, energy efficiency plays a crucial role in achieving net zero goals.
212. H.E. Mr Al Kaabi mentioned that the focus should be placed on upgrading and modernising systems for energy efficiency, including retrofitting buildings, as these measures bring benefits such as power savings and reductions in CO2 emissions.
213. H.E Ms Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition at the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, highlighted the urgency of integrating energy efficiency as a core component of the decarbonisation effort. This approach not only offers environmental advantages but also provides economic and social benefits, such as reducing energy costs for households and businesses and promoting greater social equity.
214. Another significant challenge highlighted by H.E Ms Soto was infrastructure. The development of the energy grid must be accelerated, as there is rapid growth in solar and wind energy projects, but the grid is not expanding at the same pace. Furthermore, she mentioned that improving access to modern financing tools for the development of renewable energy sources is crucial. A lack of storage capacity presents a further challenge for the renewable energy industry and the transition from fossil fuels. Additionally, H.E. Ms Soto stressed the need for technology transfer and facilitation of access to clean and efficient technologies through partnerships with countries and international organisations.
215. Dr Sheng Li, Director General of China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI) highlighted the importance of formulating an energy transition strategy that suits the country's national conditions, supported by laws and national policies implemented in a long-term, orderly manner. Establishing market-oriented mechanisms and policy incentives tailored to national conditions is also critical. Furthermore, a solid and systematic approach to constructing energy and power infrastructure is necessary, which includes the development of power grids, energy storage, pumped storage, and flexibility transformations in coal-fired power. Technological innovation must be continuously promoted to reduce renewable energy costs and enhance the safety and reliability of power systems.

216. Dr Sheng Li mentioned that China has fostered partnerships with many countries, including those in BRICS, ASEAN, and the African Union, to facilitate energy co-operation, cross-border electricity trade, external investments, and technology transfer. International co-operation mechanisms provide a platform for countries to exchange and share information.
217. Mr Alex Wachira, Principal Secretary at the State Department for Energy of Kenya, highlighted three key issues being faced in sub-Saharan Africa: i) generation; ii) transmission, and iii) clean cooking. Private capital and public-private partnerships (PPPs) are required to address these challenges. Mr Wachira stressed the need for development partners and financial partners to provide concessional financing for both the government and the private sector to reduce the cost of power, recognising the importance of international co-operation and the need for investments to flow into clean cooking solutions and in de-risking geothermal fields.
218. Dr Péter Holicza, Deputy State Secretary for European Union Affairs and International Relations, Ministry of Energy of Hungary highlighted the key role that geothermal is playing in district heating, helping to reduce natural gas consumption in the sector. Additionally, the development of energy storage, smart meters, and energy communities are a priority for the short-term in his country. Furthermore, he highlighted that high electricity prices for households across the EU is a significant challenge. To address this, increasing cross-border capacities and co-ordinating regional power plant maintenance are crucial for ensuring the smooth functioning of the electricity market and preventing price spikes.
219. Mr Harry Boyd-Carpenter, Managing Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Group at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) stated that the critical question for development banks is how to mobilise capital for grids and storage efficiently. To correct financial imbalances and boost capital for energy transitions in emerging economies, trade organisations such as the WTO and G20 play a key role in driving solutions. He mentioned that the financing for renewable electricity generation is generally available because it is a well-established, low-risk business model. However, the challenge lies in securing funding for grids and storage. Reducing the cost of capital for both renewable energy projects and grid infrastructure is essential, especially in emerging markets.
220. In their interventions, delegations highlighted that innovative financial solutions are needed from climate financiers and development banks to reduce capital costs for renewable energy projects. Additionally, delegations underlined the need for supporting green transitions in the Global South as well as the need to promote climate justice through capital and technology transfer, recognising that every emerging economy faces unique energy challenges and requires tailored solutions.
221. The Assembly took note of the presentation and interventions made.

Agenda Item 10: High-level Dialogue on Tripling Impact in Small Island Developing States: Accelerating Renewables, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development

222. H.E. Mr Alparslan Bayraktar, Vice-President of the Assembly and Minister for Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye presided over the deliberations under this Agenda Item and invited the Deputy Director-General to introduce the topic.
223. The Deputy Director-General, Ms Gauri Singh, emphasised the need to triple renewable energy capacity in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to strengthen climate resilience and sustainable development, in light of recent natural disasters. She highlighted the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI) as key global frameworks in fostering partnerships. She further highlighted IRENA's impactful support, including to projects in Fiji, Dominica, Sao Tome and Principe and Vanuatu, showcasing the Agency's commitment to supporting SIDS achieve their energy transition goals.
224. The Deputy Director-General proposed that, in consultation with partners, the SIDS LHI considers the possibility of setting an ambitious 20 GW renewable energy target by 2035, stressing the need for innovative financing, partnerships, and technical support to unlock the potential of renewable energy for resilience and economic growth in SIDS.
225. The Vice-President of the Assembly informed that during the session, the Assembly would consider insights from a High-level panel of speakers on the subject matter. He invited Mr Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, to moderate the first part of the discussion.
226. Mr Tumasie Blair noted that as the Panel dives into the critical topic of financing energy transitions, climate resilience, and inclusive solutions for SIDS, the discussion comes at a pivotal moment, aligning with the key outcomes of the fourth International Conference on SIDS that was recently held in Antigua and Barbuda. Highlighting the urgent need for tailored financial support in a number of areas, Mr Blair outlined the four critical areas included in the ABAS, namely, enhancing support, investment, and partnerships; addressing barriers to access and mobilising finance for renewable energy; developing SIDS-specific technologies and applications for renewable energy; and supporting the removal of structural barriers. He introduced the panellists and invited them to provide their insights on the topic.
227. H.E. Mr Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy of the Maldives, highlighted the nation's urgent need to transition from its heavy reliance on fossil fuel imports, which account for 13.5% of GDP and cost USD 115 million annually in electricity subsidies. To address these challenges, the government has prioritised renewable energy by fostering public-private partnerships, offering incentives like duty exemptions on renewable energy equipment, and implementing policy measures such as partial payment guarantees and competitive land concessions. These efforts have driven electricity costs down significantly, from 21.1 cents per kWh in 2017-2018 to just 1.9 cents today. With the upcoming addition of 110 MW of floating solar PV systems and a commitment to generating 30% of electricity from renewables by 2030, it continues to make substantial progress toward its sustainability goals, as underscored by President Mohamed Muizzu during COP28.
228. Honourable Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy and Business of Barbados, reaffirmed the commitment of Barbados to net-zero emissions by 2030-2035 and 100% renewable energy, despite challenges in balancing oil exploration with renewable goals and financing needs.

Through the Bridgetown Initiative, it advocates for financial reforms, including concessional financing and extended loan terms, to support SIDS in achieving energy transitions and recovering from climate disasters. Honourable Cummins stressed the urgency of global collaboration and supported advancing the Bridgetown Initiative 3.0, calling for structural reforms to protect the future of SIDS.

229. Honourable Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister of Public Works and Meteorological Services of Fiji, shared Fiji's success in generating 97% of electricity from renewables and aims for 100% by 2036. Noting that Fiji faces significant investment needs, with challenges in securing bankable projects due to stringent criteria, Honourable Tuisawau emphasised the importance of concessional financing, innovative risk-sharing, and partnerships with international financial institutions to overcome these barriers and enhance energy resilience amidst climate impacts.
230. Mr Demetrios Papathanasiou, Global Director for Energy at the World Bank highlighted the diverse energy profiles of SIDS, which require customised solutions. Through a case study in the Maldives, he demonstrated the evolution from a small-scale solar project to larger, more cost-efficient initiatives, involving transparent bidding, concessional climate financing, and risk mitigation strategies. These efforts resulted in a significant reduction in solar energy costs, benefiting remote islands. Mr Papathanasiou emphasised the importance of project preparation, de-risking strategies, and blending public and private investments for resilient energy systems. This approach serves as a model for other SIDS, supporting efforts in other regions with the potential to transform energy transitions.
231. Honourable Dr Vince Henderson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Dominica, emphasised the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and the need for climate justice, particularly in accessing financing for energy transition projects. He highlighted challenges in developing geothermal energy, including high capital costs and complex financing processes, often hindered by unrealistic conditions from international financial institutions. Successful adoption of blended financing models was mentioned as a solution. Honourable Dr Henderson stressed the importance of resilient infrastructure, noting the high costs of building such systems in SIDS, and called for international partners to adapt their policies. A broader call for more accessible grants and concessional financing was made to support sustainable energy transitions in the face of climate risks.
232. Mr Dong-ik Lee, Senior Advisor to the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), discussed the AIIB's role in supporting SIDS through various financing instruments. He mentioned that AIIB joined the SIDS LHI to accelerate clean energy and climate resilience efforts and offers flexible, climate-focused, policy-based financing to support government reforms. Blended financing, which combines traditional and concessional financing, is used to attract private sector capital for SIDS. He emphasised the importance of regional co-operation and collaborative platforms to address the capacity and scale challenges faced by SIDS in financing large infrastructure projects. Mr Lee expressed that the AIIB is committed to supporting these efforts through its innovative financing mechanisms.
233. Honourable Thomas Opa, Minister of Energy of Papua New Guinea highlighted the country's commitment to expanding renewable energy, with significant potential in hydropower and wind energy. The country generates 1.2 GW of electricity, 28% from renewables, and recently

commissioned a 50 MW hydroelectric project, demonstrating the economic benefits of renewable energy. The focus is on replacing fossil fuels in key sectors and leveraging carbon markets to finance climate goals. Despite challenges such as financial constraints, capacity gaps, and unpredictable weather, the country is working with international partners to implement tailored solutions for sustainable development.

234. Mr Gurbuz Gonul, Director, CEP, moderated the second part of the Panel discussion on the technological aspects of renewable energy deployment in SIDS, including local capabilities and skills to take deployment ambitions to reality. He introduced the panellists and invited them to provide their insights on the topic.
235. Honourable Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information Communication Technologies, Utilities, and Energy of Antigua and Barbuda, emphasised the importance of the SIDS Centre of Excellence in supporting renewable energy goals, addressing the constraints faced by SIDS in capacity building and technology access. He stressed the need for a platform to foster project development, focusing on grid stability and emerging technologies. Honourable Nicholas highlighted the significance of storage solutions and market access to new technologies, noting that the Centre will facilitate broader access for SIDS to enhance renewable energy efforts.
236. Honourable Tekeewa Tarati, Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of Kiribati highlighted the country's 30,000 population and its Energy Integrated Roadmap, developed with international support. He recognised the target of achieving 60-70% renewable energy by 2025, but noted the challenges due to capacity limitations. While the country's energy distribution is primarily powered by fossil fuels, it is aiming for 50-60% renewable energy by 2026 with the support of various partners. Solar energy plays a key role, with standalone solar PVs powering schools. Honourable Tarati discussed efforts to provide basic energy access to 70% of rural households, though solar capacity remains a challenge. He emphasised the need for building human capacity to unlock the full renewable energy potential.
237. H.E. Mr Frederik Wisselink, Energy Envoy of the Netherlands, emphasised the strong two-way connection with SIDS, particularly through their expertise in offshore wind energy. They highlighted the provision of funds and subsidy schemes for renewable energy projects in regions like Curaçao, Aruba, and Saint Martin. H.E. Mr Wisselink expressed strong support for efforts by SIDS in addressing rising sea levels, particularly through large-scale renewable energy projects. He also discussed the Caribbean Climate and Energy Conference, which aims to develop concrete actions for a resilient future, with another conference scheduled for May 2025 in Curaçao. Offshore wind is being explored as a potential solution for islands in the Caribbean.
238. H.E. Ms Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition at the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, outlined the Dominican Republic's target of achieving 25% renewable energy by 2025, with long-term goals set for 2030. She emphasised the importance of co-operation among stakeholders to meet these targets and highlighted the need to streamline administrative processes to facilitate renewable energy investments, particularly in permitting and power agreements. H.E. Ms Soto discussed the creation of a clear regulatory framework and the introduction of financial incentives, such as feed-in tariffs,

to attract renewable energy investments. She also noted international co-operation, particularly with GIZ, to replicate best practices for energy transition projects in the Dominican Republic.

239. Mr Riad Meddeb, Director of the Sustainable Energy Hub at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), highlighted the challenges faced by SIDS, particularly their heavy reliance on energy imports, which makes them highly vulnerable. He identified three critical areas for support: innovative financing mechanisms, as SIDS need nearly USD 6 billion by 2030 but currently receive only 1% of global climate finance; capacity building, with the SIDS Centre of Excellence playing a key role in promoting resilience; and driving digital transformation, with a focus on smart energy systems and utilising data platforms to identify investment potential for renewable energy. Mr Meddeb emphasised the importance of solar installations in democratising renewable energy and creating jobs in SIDS.
240. Ms Abacca Anjain-Maddison, Deputy Chief Secretary of Marshall Islands, discussed the country's environmental security efforts, emphasising its expertise in harnessing renewable energy. She highlighted the Marshall Islands' commitment to renewable energy targets outlined in their NDCs, including their electrical roadmap and national energy policy. Ms Anjain-Maddison stressed the importance of collaboration and capacity-building to meet energy goals, with the country's utility company, KAJUR – meaning unity – reflecting a commitment to collaboration in achieving these renewable energy targets.
241. **The Assembly considered and took note of the presentation and interventions made.**

Agenda Item 11: Ministerial Dialogue on Innovative Sustainable Finance

242. H.E. Mr Franz Tattenbach Capra, Vice-President of the Assembly and Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, presided over the deliberations under this Agenda Item and invited the Director-General to introduce the topic.
243. The Director-General emphasised the critical need to accelerate the energy transition by addressing implementation gaps and ensuring that financing solutions for developing countries remain affordable. He highlighted the necessity of direct investments, grants, subsidies, and innovative financial instruments beyond traditional debt to support high-impact projects, particularly in heavily indebted nations. He called for greater collaboration among policymakers, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and development finance institutions (DFIs) to enhance international financial flows toward developing countries.
244. The Director-General underscored IRENA's role in project facilitation through the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform and the Climate Investment Platform (CIP). He noted that IRENA has supported renewable energy projects of up to 1 GW in various countries and that its Investment Forums serve as key platforms for connecting projects with financing. He highlighted the long-standing partnership between IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), recognising the impact of the IRENA/ADFD Facility in providing concessional funding for public projects that enhance energy access. He concluded by noting that the Facility's experience has informed the design

of ETAF, expanding financing opportunities to private sector projects and enabling blended finance and de-risking mechanisms.

245. H.E. Mr Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of ADFD, expressed gratitude to IRENA for its commitment to renewable energy and the partnership that has enhanced support for projects in vulnerable countries. He emphasised that the energy transition is not just an environmental necessity but a driver of economic growth and social progress.
246. H.E. Mr Al Suwaidi highlighted the impact of the IRENA/ADFD Facility, which has mobilised USD 350 million in concessional financing since 2013, benefiting over four million people. Building on this, the UAE and IRENA launched the ETAF Platform in 2021, surpassing its initial USD 1 billion target to reach USD 4.15 billion, with ADFD contributing USD 400 million as the first development institution to join. H.E. Mr Al Suwaidi reaffirmed ADFD's commitment to supporting renewable energy through innovative financing, aligning with the UAE's sustainability goals. He stressed the need to bridge financial resources with the energy needs of developing countries, ensuring a greener, more resilient future through collaboration and shared knowledge.
247. Mr Ahmed Badr, Director of the Project Facilitation and Support (PFS) Division, highlighted that while discussions often focus on increasing access to finance, the real issue is ensuring that projects are bankable. Access to financing exists, but attracting investment requires well-structured projects that meet financial institutions' criteria. IRENA plays a key role in improving project bankability, working with countries, DFIs, IFIs and developers. Over the past three years, IRENA has supported 200 projects, but only 10 ultimately secured financing – showing the challenge in bridging available funding with investable opportunities. Examples of supporting project bankability include Costa Rica's e-mobility fund, Dominica's geothermal renewable energy initiative, and Jordan's Aqaba-Amman desalination project, which integrates green energy. Mr Badr emphasised that IRENA is a facilitator, helping countries refine their projects to attract development finance.
248. The Vice-President of the Assembly then invited Ms Melinda Crane to moderate the panel discussion. Ms Crane introduced the panellists and invited them to provide insights on the topic, including with regard to strategies to develop innovative financing tools and mechanisms that close the investment gap and address the issue of bankability.
249. Honourable Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy of Barbados, outlined the role of sustainable finance in the energy transition plans of Barbados, including 150 MW in Battery Energy storage and co-operation with partners such as IFC, GEAPP, Rockefeller Foundation, IDB and GCF. Barbados, with its partners the EIB, IDB and GCF made a debt-for-climate swap, allowing access to about USD 150 million debt for climate swap.
250. H.E. Ms Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy of Belgium, highlighted Belgium's work across Africa, where it looks to redesign projects in mutually beneficial relationship aligned with the national priorities of both countries. As an example, the Minister referred to green hydrogen in Namibia and a reforestation project in Mozambique.

251. H.E. Mr Joan Goizard, State Secretary of Energy of Spain, stressed the importance of strong policy and regulatory frameworks, including ambitious energy targets and government commitments in his country, to attract investors by ensuring demand for renewable energy. Integrated energy planning, such as participation in global initiatives, is crucial for providing predictability and certainty in future offtake and demand.
252. Ms Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director General for Energy at the European Commission, emphasised the role of regulatory and market instruments in de-risking renewable energy investments, to attract required private sector investments. The European framework leverages public funds strategically, using tools like power purchase agreements and guarantees to attract private finance. A key example is the European Investment Bank's EUR 5 billion counter-guarantee for the wind sector, addressing financing challenges. While these instruments work within the European Union, financing remains more difficult in other regions due to real or perceived risks. To address this, the EU integrates energy transition and climate mitigation into its international partnerships, supporting access to energy and de-risking investments globally.
253. Mr Demetrios Papathanasiou, Global Director for Energy at the World Bank, highlighted the importance of institutional capacity in facilitating energy projects, emphasising regulatory frameworks, transparent competition, and permitting efficiency. He mentioned that the World Bank aims to raise global standards to attract capital flows from developed to developing nations. He explained that since such frameworks take time to establish, the World Bank deploys risk mitigation tools, including financing, concessional climate funding, and guarantees covering political and contract risks.
254. Mr Harry Boyd-Carpenter, Managing Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Group at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) emphasised that strong policy frameworks, such as clear permitting regimes and carbon pricing mechanisms, drive investment in renewable energy. He underscored the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as a prime example, noting how the shift in carbon prices (from EUR 5 to EUR 25 per ton) drastically changed investment decisions, making renewables more financially viable. While compliance markets like the ETS are the most effective tools, he acknowledged political challenges in implementing carbon pricing globally. As a second-best alternative, voluntary carbon trading schemes can play a role, though they currently face credibility and demand issues. A pilot project in Jordan demonstrated potential by selling carbon credits to Spain, but replicability remains uncertain. Looking ahead, he expressed hope that Article 6 negotiations at COP29 will enhance market credibility, ultimately steering voluntary schemes toward a compliance-based carbon pricing system.
255. Mr Salvatore Bernabei, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Enel Green Power, highlighted the company's pioneering role in sustainability-linked bonds, starting with the first-ever issuance in 2019. Unlike traditional green bonds, which finance specific projects, sustainability-linked bonds are tied to overall corporate strategies and greenhouse gas reduction targets. This approach has allowed Enel to scale its investments across multiple countries and currencies, particularly in Latin America. By aligning with frameworks like the EU Taxonomy and Science-Based Targets, Enel has attracted support from export credit agencies in Finland,

Denmark, and Italy. As a result, 70% of the company's debt is now classified as sustainable. The key shift was moving from project-based financing to a broader investment strategy, leveraging Enel's balance sheet to scale up renewable energy investments more effectively.

256. Mr. Ciro Antonio Pagano, Director for the Middle East and Far East at Eni, emphasised the company's commitment to biofuels as an immediate solution for decarbonising transportation, particularly aviation and maritime sectors. With biofuel production growing at 6% annually and expected to double by 2030, Eni is integrating the value chain by producing bio-feedstock in emerging markets, particularly Africa. A key example is Kenya, where Eni established a vegetable oil pressing plant in 2021, now producing 15,000 tons of bio-feedstock for refineries in Italy. Expansion efforts will soon increase capacity to 70,000 tons. The initiative has significant socio-economic benefits, currently impacting 80,000 families by generating income opportunities. To scale up operations, Eni secured USD 210 million in financing from the IFC and Italy's climate fund, with plans to reach 500,000 tons of feedstock and impact 200,000 families by 2026. This public-private partnership model demonstrates a sustainable approach to biofuel production while fostering economic development in emerging markets.
257. A delegation, in its intervention, stressed the need to bring down the cost of capital to ensure project bankability. Sustainable finance and in particular carbon credits were highlighted as a tool to achieve this. The delegation added that capacity building on carbon credits is needed to assist developing countries in building the necessary knowledge to access carbon credit markets.
258. Another delegation acknowledged the barriers to financing renewable energy projects in emerging markets, emphasising that private investment is crucial due to limited public funds. While developed markets demonstrate the business case, investor confidence in emerging markets is undermined by various real and perceived risks, including regulatory, political, credit, and foreign exchange risks, as well as high capital costs and sovereign credit ratings. To address these challenges, financial risk mitigation measures such as blended finance, de-risking strategies, federal export credit guarantees, and innovative syndication platforms in collaboration with climate initiatives are being deployed.
259. A delegation emphasised that in the context of tripling renewable energy by 2030, finance is a barrier. Highlighting its successful green electricity exchange mechanism, where industrial and office buildings are required to source part of their electricity from renewables, the delegation explained that those unable to build their own power plants can purchase renewable electricity production certificates in a competitive market, with government guarantees ensuring market balance. This model has become the country's most attractive investment approach for renewables. Additionally, the delegation expressed the possibilities of IRENA to provide advisory support on power purchase agreements and government-led renewable energy development at competitive prices.
260. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in its intervention, emphasised that bridging the clean energy financing gap requires public finance to better leverage global capital seeking Paris Agreement-aligned investments. While the energy sector attracts the most commercial finance mobilised by official development finance, overall figures

remain low. Blended finance can improve the risk-reward balance of renewable energy projects, but its application remains fragmented. The OECD sees potential in scaling up guarantees, as demonstrated in its analysis of Indonesia's Just Energy Transition Partnership. For energy efficiency, energy-saving insurance could mitigate performance risks for small-scale projects and enhance investor confidence. The OECD is developing an implementation roadmap for Indonesia and India.

261. The OECD added that beyond blended finance, green financial instruments, particularly green bonds, can mobilise institutional investment for large renewable projects in emerging economies. However, their issuance remains limited. Key challenges include enabling issuance in local currencies, attracting local investors, and establishing credible green bond standards aligned with taxonomies. Capacity-building for financial regulators, supervisors, and domestic financial institutions is crucial to ensuring green bonds deliver real climate impact.
262. **The Assembly considered and took note of the presentation and interventions made.**

Agenda Item 12: Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events

Report from the 2025 IRENA Youth Forum

263. Ms Dana Alkurdi and Mr Kosta Peev, IRENA Youth Delegates, reported on the outcomes of the 2025 IRENA Youth Forum on behalf of the IRENA Global Council on Enabling Youth Action on SDG7, and all the youth delegates present. They stated that the discussions were held under the theme “Youth for Accelerating a Renewables-powered Energy Transition: Innovation, Action, and Impact” and mentioned that the Forum convened over 100 young energy leaders from 51 different countries. They stated that the 6th IRENA Youth Forum and fifteenth IRENA Assembly have made it clear that we must work together across all sectors to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, and that the Forum demonstrated the crucial role that young people are playing in making this transition a reality.
264. Ms Alkurdi and Mr Peev presented four key recommendation areas. First, the youth delegates called for accelerated and equitable climate finance, highlighting the necessity for increased investment in renewables. They noted that only 2.4% of climate finance currently goes to young people and called for international collaboration to accelerate climate finance deployment, with a focus on countries lacking energy access, as well as de-risking investments, increasing funds in vulnerable regions to enhance energy access, and promoting long-term sustainable finance that prioritises long-term global benefits over short-term financial returns.
265. Second, the youth delegates called for innovation and knowledge transfer, together with strategic collaborations, to address barriers to renewable energy adoption. They recommended extensive monitoring and assessment systems to track progress towards tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency, noting the importance of strong data access. Ensuring innovative and inclusive technical solutions, especially those led by young people and minority groups, is vital for a just energy transition.

266. Third, the youth delegates reiterated that it is crucial for young people to be meaningfully included in all decision-making processes. To guarantee that legislative choices reflect the interests and concerns of young people, delegates urged for more youth participation in energy policy at the national and international levels. They urged governments to fulfil their commitments to ensure a fair and just energy transition that benefits present and future generations by including youth-focused sections in NDCs, with specific budgets and actionable programs to ensure their success.
267. Fourth, the youth delegates called for expanded renewable energy training programs for youth, providing technical skills for designing, installing, and maintaining renewable energy systems and to support youth-driven renewable energy innovation through funding and mentorship programs. Furthermore, the delegates stated that co-creation of knowledge-based platforms with different stakeholders be proposed, including Artificial Intelligence, to share insights, best practices, and technological advancements while ensuring inclusion and accessibility.
268. In concluding their report, Ms Alkurdi and Mr Peev echoed the youth's commitment to advocacy, innovation, and a fair transition for everyone. They praised IRENA for its ability to bring people together and urged policymakers to take quick action to ensure that promises are fulfilled.

Report from the 2025 IRENA Legislators Forum

269. H.E. Ms Meera Al Suwaidi, Member of Parliament at the Federal National Council of the UAE, presented the report of the 2025 IRENA Legislators Forum to the fifteenth IRENA Assembly, outlining the key outcomes and recommendations from the Forum. She stated that the Forum brought together legislators from across IRENA's Membership, all united by the shared commitment established at COP28 to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. The discussions were focused on the crucial role of legislators in translating these targets into actionable policies.
270. She reported on several critical themes that emerged during the Forum's discussions. First, that legislators acknowledged the 2030 target is achievable with the correct legislative frameworks. She emphasised the need for streamlined regulatory processes, enhanced cross-border co-operation, and innovative financing mechanisms. Legislators shared examples of successful policy interventions, such as simplified permitting procedures and effective net metering policies. Second, the Forum acknowledged the persistent challenge of inequitable access to climate financing, which continues to hinder renewable energy deployment in developing nations, and noted the need to establish dedicated financing channels and risk mitigation instruments. Third, the Forum recognised inter-generational equity and youth participation as key, and youth representatives called for institutionalised inclusion in energy policymaking.
271. H.E Ms Al Suwaidi explained that the Forum's recommendations are comprehensive and actionable, calling for harmonised regulatory frameworks to accelerate renewable energy deployment while ensuring project quality and sustainability; urging the establishment of dedicated funding mechanisms to support developing nations in their energy transition,

alongside technical assistance programs; creating formal channels for youth participation in renewable energy policy development, recognising their role as key stakeholders in our shared future; and emphasising that the success in tripling renewable energy capacity must be measured not just in gigawatts, but in the resilient communities we build and the equitable future we create.

272. H.E Ms Al Suwaidi concluded by highlighting the importance of legislators in translating the Assembly's vision into national policies and regulatory frameworks to drive the global energy transition.

Report from the Public-Private Dialogue

273. On behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action, Ms Monica Oliphant, Vice President of World Wind Energy Association (WWEA), reported on the 8th Public-Private Dialogue of the IRENA Coalition for Action, which focused on community support for the energy transition. She recalled that the Coalition for Action, established in 2014 to increase public support for renewable energy, has since expanded to over 170 members from various sectors. She reported that the Dialogue recognised the significant growth in renewable power capacity in 2023, which represented 86% of the total new capacity added. However, she noted that increasing public support is critical, as renewable energy projects expand. Conflicts over land usage and project cancellations due to opposition, showcases the need for social issues in energy transition efforts.
274. Ms Oliphant informed that the key takeaway from the Dialogue was that the energy transition requires active citizen participation. The spread of disinformation was highlighted, as was the need to demonstrate the positive impacts of renewable energy. Furthermore, she showcased the benefits of community engagement, citing a German survey showing public acceptance of renewables and examples from China of co-benefits for farmers and animals, as well as Uruguay's progress with 99% renewable energy and focus on hydrogen production.
275. Ms Oliphant presented four key points as essential for building community support, emerging from this Public-Private Dialogue. First, she highlighted the energy transition as an opportunity to deliver benefits for all people, rendering our energy systems more sustainable and equitable. Participants noted that renewable energy deployment can lower energy bills, stimulate local economic development, create employment opportunities, and improve public health. Second, she emphasised the importance of community ownership and active participation in decision-making. This approach can unlock multiple benefits, build acceptance, and align with local needs. It is particularly powerful for connecting remote and off-grid communities, improving the livelihoods of vulnerable households, and respecting traditional and cultural values.
276. Third, she pointed out that providing appropriate benefits can enhance support for large renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure. Participants shared examples of how renewable energy and grid infrastructure projects can gain social license through ownership and benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as employment opportunities, local economic development, and community funds targeting priority areas. Lastly, she noted the importance of accurate information and education. Public engagement and awareness-raising are crucial

for enabling a broad cultural shift towards sustainability. Providing such information becomes more powerful when based on concrete experiences of actual benefits.

277. Furthermore, Ms Oliphant stressed the importance of empowering local communities, including indigenous peoples, marginalised groups, and vulnerable populations, requiring policy frameworks to support ownership and fair access, linking financial flows with transition goals, as well as focusing on the importance of inclusive decision-making, equitable distribution, and participatory planning. In concluding, she called for strengthened international collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders to achieve the energy transition, with people at the centre of the process, with the aim to use the energy transformation to create a better society.

Report from the Ministerial Roundtable on Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition and Green Industrialisation Agenda

278. Honourable Thomas Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy of Namibia, presented the report from the Ministerial Roundtable on Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition and Green Industrialisation Agenda to the fifteenth IRENA Assembly. He outlined key outcomes and recommendations, focusing on the progress of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA).
279. Honourable Alweendo reported that the session aimed to assess APRA's implementation one year after its launch, reinforce the national priorities of the nine APRA countries, and secure support from partners to achieve APRA's objectives of aiding African nations in their energy transitions and green industrialisation. He reiterated that APRA was established to provide political leadership, mobilise actions and commitments, co-ordinate international support, and offer tailored assistance to accelerate renewable transitions, aligning with national priorities and existing initiatives.
280. He reported that the Roundtable facilitated interactive exchanges between energy Ministers from APRA countries, partners, and private sector stakeholders involved in renewable energy development. Noting that the key discussion point was the identification of national priorities and completion of country action plans in seven countries, which included 234 priority actions, Honourable Alweendo informed that these actions covered areas such as project facilitation, data and statistics, power sector development, industrialisation and manufacturing, and energy nexus and access.
281. Honourable Alweendo reported that the Roundtable also acknowledged the outcomes of the first APRA Investment Forum, held in Kenya in October 2024, which included the presentation of 25 new renewable energy projects with a combined prospective capacity of over 1 GW, representing more than USD 2.6 billion of investment. The catalytic role of APRA in supporting countries and the pace at which APRA had delivered results was also appreciated.
282. He reported that several barriers to project implementation were discussed, including financing and the ability to attract foreign investors. The APRA countries highlighted the foreign exchange risk affecting project developers and the need for new instruments to address this risk. The importance of renewable investments beyond return on capital was emphasised, as

was the necessity for a review of risk perception in Africa, strategies to mitigate off-taker risk, and analysis and development of strategies to mitigate it. He highlighted the need for regional interconnection and the strengthening of the grid to accommodate larger shares of renewable energy, especially given the backdrop of the 2030 SDGs.

283. Honourable Alweendo conveyed that participants reiterated support through guaranteed mechanisms, continued technical assistance and synergies with existing initiatives, and noted that new commitments were made by partners to increase the momentum and impact of APRA's implementation.

Report from the Ministerial Roundtable on Scaling up Finance to Support the Energy Transition in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

284. Mr Gareth Levin, Head of Unit at the Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, reported on the discussions at the Ministerial Roundtable. He began by expressing gratitude to IRENA for hosting the session and to H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany for her excellent chairing. Mr Levin informed that the Roundtable brought together a diverse group of State and non-State actors to discuss the gaps in the current financing architecture and explore ways to mobilise support for developing countries. The discussions focused on strengthening private investor offers and examining the necessary reforms for a just transition.
285. Mr Levin emphasised four key takeaways from the session. First, there was an agreement on the need for innovative financing mechanisms, including debt-for-climate swaps, which have been successfully implemented in Barbados. Additionally, there was a call for longer loan tenures and reasonable interest rates to support these initiatives.
286. Second, he highlighted the importance of robust strategies to de-risk private investment. This includes longer-term, country-led planning to send clear and encouraging signals to prospective investors.
287. Third, Mr Levin addressed the issue of debt and fiscal pressures faced by low and middle-income countries. He noted that many of these countries spend a significant portion of their export revenues on servicing external debt. There was a call for lower interest rate solutions, like those implemented in Europe after the Second World War, to alleviate these pressures. Lastly, he stressed the importance of defragmentation, and reported that governments and non-State stakeholders emphasised the need to integrate and accelerate efforts into time-bound alliances, rather than having fragmented and separate initiatives.
288. **The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the reports provided.**

Agenda Item 13: Report of the Chair of the Council

289. The President invited the Vice-Chair of the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Council meetings, Bangladesh, represented by H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE, to report on the deliberations of the Council in 2024, on behalf of Zimbabwe, as Chair of the Council.

290. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed noted that it is the Council's primary task to support the work of the Assembly, and the work of IRENA in general, by facilitating consultation and co-operation among Members in preparing for each Assembly session. He recalled that in 2024, the Council met two times in Abu Dhabi with the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council taking place on 13-14 June 2024, and the twenty-eighth meeting on 24-25 October 2024. He stated that draft reports on the outcomes of both Council meetings were prepared and circulated to Council members and were approved. On behalf of the Council, he expressed appreciation to the Host Country, the UAE, for the warm hospitality and facilitation of in-person participation in Abu Dhabi.
291. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that in 2024, the Council considered several programmatic issues, the Annual Report of the Agency, as well as administrative and institutional matters of IRENA, which are presented to the Assembly for its consideration under Agenda Item 14.
292. On the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed recalled that the Council had extensive discussions on the matter, and a number of requests were made during the Council's discussions. These included requests for more detailed information on gender balance and geographic representation at the Agency, as well as for the final set of changes regarding the eligibility criteria for General Services staff, following the benchmarking exercise by the Secretariat. He pointed out that the Report also includes information on the recruitment conducted in 2024, and the status of positions filled by internal or external candidates. He reported that the Council took note of the Report, and agreed to the interventions and recommendations made on these matters.
293. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Council had extensive discussions on the Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members, and that, as a result of these extensive discussions, a draft decision on the Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members (A/15/DC/L.1) and a draft decision on Appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General (A/15/DC/L.2) were being presented to the Assembly for adoption.
294. He informed that the Council also considered the Draft Policy on Individual Consultants at its twenty-eighth meeting. He stated that a number of issues and questions were raised, signalling that more time is needed for Members to fully understand the Policy, and to provide their feedback in order for the Secretariat to further revise the Draft Policy based on comments received. He further stated that the Council also requested the Secretariat to defer any plans to re-hire former tenured staff in any capacity until the Council presents its recommendation on the Consultants Policy to the Assembly for consideration.
295. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General – Secondment of Personnel and related matters, and agreed to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.
296. On the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed noted that several observations were made by Members, requiring clarification on several areas. He stated that based on the clarification received, the Agency was requested to provide a comprehensive breakdown of expenses in all future financial statements, to assist Members in understanding

these expenses. He reported that the Council agreed to transmit the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023 to the Assembly.

297. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed informed that the Council considered the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations and recommended that future reports provide more details on the implementation process of external audit recommendations. He stated that the Council took note of the report and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly.

298. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed further informed that the Council considered the Report of the Director-General – Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025, which takes into account the addition of the United Republic of Tanzania, which joined IRENA as its 170th Member in 2024. He reported that the Council took note of the report and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly, noting that further adjustments may be necessary should additional Members join IRENA by the fifteenth session of the Assembly. In this regard, he highlighted that no additional Members joined IRENA since the issuance of the indicative scale, and therefore no further adjustments had been made, and that the related draft decision, contained in A/15/DC/L.3, is presented to the Assembly for adoption. On behalf of the Council, the Vice-Chair warmly welcomed the United Republic of Tanzania to the IRENA family.

299. On the Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed informed that the Council had extensive discussions on the process concerning the selection of the External Auditor, and that a number of important considerations were raised for ensuring an effective and well-functioning process, including with respect to the role of Members in this regard. He added that, in line with practices at other international organisations, it was stated that IRENA's regulations should be revised to include appropriate representation and participation from the Membership in the candidate assessment process.

300. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Secretariat was requested to present the Membership with the terms of reference for the next tender for the external auditor, in order to better understand this process and to ensure that the best possible external audit reporting is presented to Members. In addition, proposals were also made to re-examine future processes for the appointment of the external auditor as well as to discuss, at the next AFC meeting prior to the twenty-ninth Council meeting in May 2025, the establishment of an oversight function, to ensure that necessary processes and procedures are put in place for effective performance.

301. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed informed that the Council took note of the report as well as the interventions made and decided to transmit its recommendation to the Assembly, and highlighted that the draft decision, contained in A/15/DC/L.4, is presented to the Assembly for its consideration.

302. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General – Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund, contained in A/15/INF/3. He further reported that since the report, dated 30 November 2024 and circulated to Members on 12 December 2024, additional contributions totalling USD 209,000 have been received from Argentina, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Iceland,

Kiribati, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Uganda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He informed that these contributions have resulted in Ghana, Mali, and Nepal being removed from the list of Members whose arrears have reached or exceeded the amount of their contributions for the two preceding years, and that Guatemala has now been added to this list.

303. On the 2023 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Council took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration. He further reported that the Council took note of Dominica and the United Arab Emirates as Member representatives to the Staff Provident Fund Management Board for 2025 and 2026 and agreed to submit it to the Assembly for its consideration.
304. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed reported that the Council considered the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly. He stated that the Council was also informed that as of October 2024, a full-time staff member is serving as the Ethics Officer of IRENA.
305. Recalling that the Council, at its twenty-fifth meeting in 2023, agreed to the proposal by the Chair of the Ethics Advisory Board to undertake a review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed outlined that at its twenty-seventh meeting, the Council took note of the Review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA, which contained a number of recommendations put forth by the Chair of the Ethics Advisory Board, in relation to gaps in Ethics-related policies at the Agency. He reported that, further to this, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Ethics Advisory Board, prepared the full slate of policies, contained in documents A/15/12, A/15/13, A/15/14, and A/15/15, and the Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations, contained in document A/15/DC/L.5.
306. In his report, H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed highlighted the remarkable progress achieved in such a short period of time by the Ethics Advisory Board, with the support of the Secretariat, in bringing these proposals forward. He thanked the Ethics Advisory Board for their dedication to this crucial initiative, and Council members for their feedback, which helped fine tune these policies for presentation to the Assembly.
307. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed briefly outlined several other issues that were discussed by the Council and invited the Membership to refer to the Summary Report of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council (C/28/SR/1) for further details on these issues.
308. On the Report of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA, he informed that the Council decided that Egypt would come to the twenty-ninth meeting of the Council with a proposal for consideration. He expressed thanks to Egypt, as Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group, for its commitment to facilitating discussions on this matter.

309. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed informed that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General – Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken. He stated that the Council agreed to the proposal for an independent audit function, the development of a Committee to undertake the oversight function, and that the Ethics Advisory Board or any other Committee is then assigned to come up with the revision of the Audit Charter, taking into account all interventions made, further details of which are in the Summary Report of the twenty-eighth Council meeting.
310. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed informed that the Council heard oral updates by the Regional Facilitators on nominations for Council membership in 2025 and 2026. He further stated that the Council also examined information and procedures on the IRENA leadership selection and appointment process, to provide Members with a better understanding of the process as well as the timelines required, considering that the last process took place in 2019. In this regard, the Council agreed that the Secretariat would further elaborate the information for the twenty-ninth Council meeting, taking into consideration all the questions and comprehensive issues raised.
311. H.E. Mr Tareq Ahmed expressed special thanks to the Members serving on the two Committees of the Council, as well as El Salvador and the United States of America, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC); and Tonga and the United Arab Emirates, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC). He noted that their work continues to be essential in assisting the Council in its deliberations, and in bringing important matters to the attention of the Council.
312. He also extended thanks to the Rapporteur, Antigua and Barbuda, and all members of the Council and the countries that participated in the Council meetings in 2024, for their commitment and active contribution to the work of the Council.
313. On behalf of Zimbabwe and Bangladesh, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, he expressed gratitude to the Council for entrusting them in leading the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Council meetings.
- 314. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Chair of the Council, as well as the updates provided on the various administrative and institutional matters considered by the Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings.**

Agenda Item 14: Administrative and Institutional matters

a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/15/4)

315. The President of the Assembly invited the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Germany, represented by Mr Andreas Feil, to introduce the Report of the Credentials Committee (A/15/4).

316. Mr Feil reported that 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 participate at the fifteenth session of the Assembly. He informed that the Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of credentials received as of 13 January 2025 at 10.00 hrs Gulf Standard Time (GST), and that the Committee determined that, as of that time, the 119 Members listed in Section 7 of the Report 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.
317. Mr Feil further reported that as of 15.45 hrs on 13 January 2025, two Members – Estonia and Ethiopia – had submitted credentials issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and added that the credentials submitted by these Members should be included in the official records of credentials submitted for the fifteenth session of the Assembly.
318. Mr Feil informed that the Committee noted that four Members had not submitted credentials in the proper form, and recommended that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible. He reported that 15 Members with a registered delegation had not submitted any credentials, and that the Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the fifteenth session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials will be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
319. Mr Feil reiterated the Committee's recommendation from previous reports, that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representatives, 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. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Credentials Committee for their work.
- 320. The Assembly considered and approved the Report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendations therein, as contained in A/15/4.**

b. Human Resources Management

i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (A/15/5)

321. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (A/15/5) and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.
- 322. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (A/15/5) and agreed with the Report of the Chair of the Council on this matter.**

- ii. **Decisions on Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members and on Appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General (A/15/DC/L.1; A/15/DC/L.2)**
323. The President referred the Assembly to the Decisions on Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members (A/15/DC/L.1) and on Appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General (A/15/DC/L.2), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.
324. **The Assembly agreed with the recommendation of the Council and adopted the Decision on Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members (A/15/DC/1).**
325. **The Assembly agreed with the recommendation of the Council and adopted the Decision on Appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General (A/15/DC/2).**
- c. **Report of the Director-General - Secondment of Personnel and related matters (A/15/6)**
326. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Director-General – Secondment of Personnel and related matters (A/15/6) and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.
327. **The Assembly took note of the Report of the Director-General – Secondment of Personnel and related matters (A/15/6).**
- d. **Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023 and Status of the Implementation of External Audit Recommendations (A/15/7; A/15/8)**
328. The President referred the Assembly to the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023 (A/15/7) and the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations (A/15/8), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.
329. **The Assembly took note of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023 (A/15/7) and the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations (A/15/8), and agreed with the recommendation of the Council on these matters.**
- e. **Report of the Director-General - Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025 (A/15/INF/2; A/15/DC/L.3)**
330. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025 (A/15/INF/2) and the related draft decision (A/15/DC/L.3), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.

331. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025 (A/15/INF/2), and adopted the related Decision (A/15/DC/3).

f. Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor (A/15/9; A/15/DC/L.4)

332. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor (A/15/9) and the related draft decision (A/15/DC/L.4), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.

333. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor (A/15/9) and adopted the Decision on the Appointment of an External Auditor of IRENA (A/15/DC/4).

g. Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/15/INF/3)

334. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Director-General – Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/15/INF/3), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.

335. The President noted that, as mentioned by the Vice-Chair of the Council, since the report A/15/INF/3 dated 30 November 2024 and circulated to Members on 12 December 2024, additional contributions totalling around USD 209,000 had been received from Argentina, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Iceland, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Uganda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.³ He added that these contributions have resulted in Ghana, Mali, and Nepal being removed from the list of Members whose arrears have reached or exceeded the amount of their contributions for the two preceding years, but that Guatemala has now been added to this list.

336. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Director-General – Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/15/INF/3), as well as the update provided on the matter in the Report of the Chair of the Council.

h. 2023 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA and Appointment of Management Board members (A/15/10)

337. The President referred the Assembly to the 2023 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (A/15/10), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on this matter.

³ As of 12 January 2025, USD 136,321.00 was collected from Argentina; USD 420.38 from Cabo Verde; USD 10,566.00 from Ghana; USD 8,049.00 from Iceland; USD 411.00 from Kiribati; USD 861.73 from Lesotho; USD 2,178.00 from Liechtenstein; USD 1,000.00 from Mali; USD 873.00 from Mongolia; USD 12,393.00 from Morocco; USD 8,396.00 from Nepal; USD 25,016.00 from Oman; USD 2,177.00 from Uganda; and USD 218.00 from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

338. The Assembly took note of the 2023 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (A/15/10).

339. The President recalled that, as mentioned by the Vice-Chair of the Council, Dominica and the United Arab Emirates expressed their availability to represent IRENA Members on the Management Board of the Staff Provident Fund in 2025 and 2026, and expressed gratitude for their willingness to assume this responsibility.

340. The Assembly appointed Dominica and the United Arab Emirates to serve as Member representatives to the Staff Provident Fund Management Board for 2025-2026.

i. Matters relating to Ethics

i. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/15/11)

341. The President referred the Assembly to the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/15/11), and recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council reported on the matter.

342. The Assembly took note of the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/15/11).

ii. Review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest - Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations (A/15/DC/L.5; A/15/12; A/15/13; A/15/14; A/15/15)

343. The President referred the Assembly to the Review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest – Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations (A/15/DC/L.5), as well as the Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct (A/15/12), the Policy on Protection against Retaliation for Reporting Misconduct or Cooperating with Duly Authorized Audits and Investigations (A/15/13), the Policy on Addressing Prohibited Conduct, Including Fraud, Corruption, and Other Financial Misconduct, and Discrimination, Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, and Abuse of Authority (A/15/14), and the Revised Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for the International Renewable Energy Agency (A/15/15). The President recalled that the Vice-Chair of the Council also reported on the matter.

344. The Chair of the Ethics Advisory Board, the UAE, represented by H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA, introduced the abovementioned policies as well as the related draft decision.

345. Providing some context on the matter, H.E. Dr Al-Hosany recalled that at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council in June 2024, the Ethics Advisory Board – Germany, the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates – had identified several gaps in IRENA's management and regulatory framework, specifically regarding gaps in additional management policies, and reporting and investigative mechanisms in the event of misconduct. She added

that the Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) also outlined, in document C/27/8, a number of policies that IRENA should have in place, taking into consideration the management policies at other United Nations and non-United Nations international organisations. She noted that as follow up, the Council requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the EAB, to review the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA, and develop relevant policies and a draft decision on the specific issues that were outlined.

346. H.E. Dr Al-Hosany further recalled that at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council in October 2024, the EAB presented these policies in preliminary form, for consideration by the Council. She added that the EAB also highlighted some important considerations, including the need for appropriately skilled and independent investigative personnel to be engaged to handle misconduct that are included in the policies; for professional and independent handling of claims under these policies to ensure confidence by staff; as well as the need for provisions to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest and proper handling of any such claims.
347. H.E. Dr Al-Hosany stated that, in order to ensure procedural and regulatory consistency as well as alignment with these guarantees of independence and impartiality, the EAB expressed the view that further attention to the Directive on the Disciplinary Process and possibly the EAB's Terms of Reference is also required. She added that the EAB also highlighted the need to clearly define accountability to the Council, the Assembly and the EAB on some of these issues.
348. On behalf of the EAB, H.E. Dr Al-Hosany thanked the Secretariat for its support in this exercise. She also expressed thanks to Germany and the United States of America, as members of the EAB, for their valuable inputs, time and resources dedicated to these important policies.
349. H.E. Dr Al-Hosany stated that when the EAB had conceptualised these policies, the objectives were to ensure that any issues on ethics are outlined and managed in a way that ensures broad public trust and confidence in the decision-making and operations of IRENA, the highest standard of ethical conduct in IRENA's affairs, and the protection of the reputation and integrity of IRENA. In this regard, she expressed the EAB's hope that the policies achieve these objectives, for the betterment of the Agency.
350. H.E. Dr Al-Hosany highlighted that as IRENA continues to grow, it is imperative that its processes do not leave any room for gaps in regulations. She stated that the policies being presented to the Assembly are the hallmark of any well-functioning international organisation, and will serve to ensure that all staff members and personnel enjoy the benefits of a strong culture of ethics at the Agency.
351. A delegation thanked the Ethics Advisory Board for putting together such a comprehensive report. Referring to the Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct (A/15/12), the delegation requested clarification on whether the policy is only for allegations of misconduct against the Director-General, or whether it applies across the board. The delegation further enquired if there is a policy in place for the Deputy Director-General, the Secretariat, Directors, other staff members and contractors, amongst others.

352. Mr Terseli Loial, IRENA Legal Advisor, clarified that the reason for a separate policy on misconduct specifically for the Director-General is because the Director-General cannot investigate himself for misconduct, and cannot have control over the measures that could be considered or taken against himself in case of misconduct. The Legal Advisor further indicated that there are separate policies applicable to staff members and implemented under the authority of the Director-General.
353. The United States of America, in its national statement under Agenda Item 6, expressed its support and appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and Germany, as fellow members of the Ethics Advisory Board, for working with the United States of America to ensure that IRENA meets the highest standards of management and oversight for international organisations.
- 354. The Assembly agreed with the recommendation of the Chair of the Council and adopted the Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations (A/15/DC/5) and the policies contained in documents A/15/12, A/15/13, A/15/14, and A/15/15.**

j. Council membership for 2025-2026⁴

355. The President introduced the item and referred the Assembly to the nominations for Council membership by regional Groups for 2025-2026, contained in [A/15/CRP/1](#). The President outlined that this document contained the proposed list of Council members and alternates for 2025-2026 and invited the Secretariat to provide further information on the provisions governing the elections of Council members.
356. The Secretariat quoted Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute, which provides that the Assembly shall, by consensus of the Members present elect the members of the Council. The Secretariat also informed that consensus under Article IX.G means the absence of any objection.
357. The President proceeded to the election of Council members for 2025-2026, as outlined in document A/15/CRP/1, and invited the Assembly to confirm these nominations. Several delegations requested the floor.
358. The Russian Federation informed the President that it was experiencing a technical issue and requested that the list of nominations for Council membership for 2025-2026 be read aloud to the Assembly. Belarus and Mali supported the request made by the Russian Federation.
359. The President invited the Secretariat to outline the list of nominations for Council membership for 2025-2026. The Secretariat informed the Assembly of the nominations contained in document A/15/CRP/1. The President thanked the Secretariat and noted that several delegations requested the floor.

⁴ As of the date of transmission of this Report, the Council membership 2025-2026 consultation process is ongoing. An addendum to the Report of the fifteenth session of the Assembly will be issued upon the conclusion of these consultations on the Council membership for 2025-2026.

360. Belarus expressed its objection and conveyed its understanding that the expression of interest of Ukraine was submitted after the established deadline for expressions of interest for Council membership. Belarus noted the constructive nature of the Assembly without politicalisation and informed that this was the reason for their objection to the inclusion of Ukraine as a member of the Council in 2025 and alternate in 2026. The delegation underlined that the character of the work of the Council should continue to not be politicised.
361. The Russian Federation stated its objection with regard to the proposed Council membership for 2025 and for 2026. The Russian Federation reiterated the lack of co-ordination within the Europe and Others Group and noted that the procedure for nominations was not adhered to, including the deadline for submissions of expressions of interest. The delegation informed that it presented its nomination for Council membership for 2025 and 2026 and noted that it was not included in the final list of nominations, with the explanation that a majority of members of the Europe and Others Group are against its request. The delegation also underlined that it was not a part of any discussions and expressed that this is against the principle of consensus that is being discussed. The Russian Federation expressed that is appalled by such a politicised and completely non-inclusive principle of approach. The delegation described the situation as unjust, unfair, and unacceptable, and called upon the President of the Assembly and the Secretariat to take into account its concern regarding the proposals of the candidates for Council membership for 2025-2026.
362. Mali expressed its support for the interventions of Belarus and the Russian Federation and stated its objection to the nomination of Ukraine to the Council.
363. Cuba expressed its gratitude and appreciation for IRENA's work and support towards its path to an energy mix increasingly based on renewable energy sources. Cuba stated that it opposes any attempt to politicise the work of the Agency and called for preserving its technical character as well as respecting the provisions of its Statute. In this regard, the delegation quoted Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and shared its understanding that regional Groups need to reach an agreement on the nominations of members and alternates submitted to the Assembly. The delegation expressed its commitment and availability to work with the Agency and contribute with its national experience.
364. Ukraine provided some reflections on the current situation in its country and stated that the Russian Federation conducted more than 1,000 attacks on energy, in a sector of Ukraine, destroying or occupying more than 50% of its total power energy capacity. Ukraine added that approximately 25% of renewable energy capacity is occupied by the Russian Federation and another 4% of solar plants were deliberately destroyed, and questioned how this aligns with IRENA's objectives. The delegation shared that while renewables are being discussed at the Assembly, Ukrainian children are hiding in school shelters without light, electricity, heating and water, in temperatures of -10°C, due to constant drone and missile attacks waged by the Russian Federation.
365. The delegation expressed that, in the spirit of partnership and co-operation, it has demonstrated a flexible and constructive approach during the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth Assembly to ensure sound management of the IRENA Governing Bodies. The delegation stated that the Russian Federation continues to block

Ukraine's aspirations to contribute to the Agency's agenda, serve common goals shared by Members and leverage the opportunities offered to implement its green transition and renewable energy projects. The delegation reiterated that the Russian Federation's goal is to prevent Ukraine from restoring its national energy sector and questioned how this aligns with IRENA's objectives.

366. Ukraine further stated that the Russian Federation is one of the biggest producers and exporters of fossil fuels and questioned if the Russian Federation is attempting to paralyse IRENA and prevent it from achieving global progress in the energy transition by blocking the election process of its Governing Bodies. The delegation further described the Russian Federation as one of the biggest debtors to the Agency, with arrears almost reaching USD 840,000. The delegation stated that, at the same time, the Russian Federation's expenditure on the production of missiles and drones to attack the energy sector of Ukraine is worth millions of dollars, while its national economy is in rubble.
367. Ukraine concluded its intervention by expressing that, as a member of the Europe and Others Group, it would not interfere or object to the nominations proposed by other regional Groups and stressed the importance of preserving the practice of non-interference. The delegation also expressed its willingness to share its experience in promoting green energy and called on Members who were pressured by the Russian Federation to join them and focus on renewable energy.
368. Georgia, in its capacity as Facilitator of the Europe and Others Group, provided some clarification on the Council membership process for its Group. Georgia stated that, on 1 July 2024, the IRENA Secretariat transmitted a communication, on its behalf, inviting members of the Europe and Others Group to express their interest in Council membership for 2025-2026. Georgia shared that 13 expressions of interest from members of the Europe and Others Group were received by 31 July 2024. Georgia also stated that an additional expression of interest was received from Ukraine early in November 2024. The delegation shared that, in the spirit of transparency and compliance to the Rules of Procedure, it requested a legal opinion from the Secretariat in order to confirm whether the expression of interest of Ukraine was eligible. Georgia informed that the legal opinion received from the Secretariat clearly stated that the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and of the Council did not set a deadline for the submission of expressions of interest for Council membership and informed that, as a result, the Group added Ukraine to the list of nominations, which was communicated to all members of the Europe and Others Group on 21 November 2024 by the Secretariat, on behalf of Georgia, informing of 14 applications for 2025-2026 Council membership.
369. Georgia further highlighted that due to the number of expressions of interest received and in the spirit of transparency, it requested each member of the Europe and Others Group to propose the Group's composition to serve on the Council for 2025 and for 2026. Georgia mentioned that it called on its Group to consider the following aspects when determining the Group's composition in the Council for 2025 and 2026: fair and equitable geographical distribution to ensure effective participation of developing and developed countries and alignment with the Agency's objective to promote the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.

370. Georgia informed that following this, 37 members of the Europe and Others Group shared their proposal for the Group's composition in the Council for 2025 and 2026 and added that the Russian Federation, which did not provide a proposal for the Group's composition in the Council for 2025 and 2026, objected to the inclusion of Ukraine in the list of expressions of interest from the Europe and Others Group. Georgia expressed that the proposed compositions received from members of the Europe and Others Group showed that a majority of respondents supported the nominations outlined in document A/15/CRP/1, while two members of the Europe and Others Group objected to the inclusion of Ukraine to the slate of nominations for the Council in 2025 and 2026.
371. Georgia shared that, in its capacity as Facilitator of the Europe and Others Group, it clarified the concerns and objections raised by the two members of the Group on the late submission. It further shared that it informed the Group, by official communication, that the deadline, which was not set by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and of the Council, was indicated with a view to facilitating the smooth running of the process leading to the election of Council members by the Assembly.
372. Georgia recalled that on 30 December 2024, it informed the members of the Europe and Others Group that the proposed slate of nominations, resulting from the consultation within the Group, would be communicated to the Secretariat as the final slate of nominations for the Europe and Others Group in line with Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly (A/5/5). Georgia added that, having not received any objection or support from the Group, it communicated a final slate of nominations for the Group's composition. Georgia concluded its intervention by stressing that the process was held in a transparent manner and expressed its readiness to provide further clarification.
373. Belarus, in response to the intervention by Ukraine, stated that since 2015, Belarus has been doing everything possible to prevent the conflict, and that it held several meetings and undertook activities in 2022 to stop the conflict. The delegation shared that several negotiations were organised in Belarus, after which unlawful and unilateral economic sanctions were imposed against Belarus. The delegation shared that, as a result of these sanctions, funding for several renewable energy projects have stopped, slowing renewable energy development in Belarus.
374. Belarus expressed that renewable energy, like compromise and peace, is a matter of choice, and a conscientious one. The delegation further expressed its country's respect and love towards the people of Ukraine and described them as industrious, energetic, productive, and creative people – and that when such energy is channelled towards creation, it may lead to amazing things. The delegation expressed that, at the current stage, this energy is channelled to negative and destructive action, and for this reason, reiterated its objection to the inclusion of the nomination of Ukraine as a member of the Council in 2025 and alternate in 2026.
375. The European Union stressed that, along with its 27 Member States, it represents more than half of the Europe and Others Group. The delegation also underlined the extensive work undertaken with the wider membership of the Europe and Others Group to reach an agreement in order to present a slate of nominations for Council membership 2025-2026. The European Union expressed its deep appreciation to Georgia for its efforts as Facilitator

of the Group, in carrying out a transparent process and in ensuring consultation and co-ordination within the Group to reach a solution. The delegation added that the slate of nominations for the Europe and Others Group was communicated. The European Union also expressed the view that this slate of nominations should be included in the draft decision to the Assembly on the Council membership for 2025-2026.

376. The European Union expressed deep concern and regret that for the second consecutive year, they are seeing a very small group of Members standing in the way of the important work of the Agency, the Assembly and the Council. The delegation recalled the level of engagement, knowledge, analysis, and discussions held during the fifteenth Assembly session to bring the important work of the energy transition forward and to ensure that all Members can reap the benefits of renewable energy for climate, growth, opportunities, jobs, the environment, and security, which are of common global interest, as reflected in the UAE consensus of COP28. The delegation stressed that this work is important to the European Union, its Member States, and to the rest of the IRENA Membership, and added that in this context, it is difficult to understand why obstacles would be put in the way of global efforts for energy transition and access to clean electricity for all.
377. The European Union acknowledged that questions were raised regarding the procedure and stated that Georgia's intervention explained that the procedures were followed. The European Union urged Members to engage and ensure that the decision of the Council membership for 2025-2026 can be adopted. The delegation stressed the importance of taking the work of the Agency forward and stated that this work is too important to be taken hostage by two members of the Europe and Others Group, one member of the Africa Group and one member of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group.⁵ The delegation recalled past practice of respecting the work of and efforts within each regional Group to reach consensus, not for any specific national or regional interest but in the interest of the work of the Agency. The European Union concluded by expressing hope that the decision on the Council membership for 2025-2026 can be brought forward to ensure that a Council can be established and the important work can be carried forward.
378. The United States of America (USA) stated that it strongly aligned itself with the sentiment, spirit and substance of the interventions made by Ukraine and the European Union. The USA expressed its strong appreciation for the leadership role played by Georgia in overseeing and conducting the process. The delegation referred to Georgia's intervention and emphasised that in spirit of compromise, consensus, and unwavering commitment to the principles and the goals of the Agency, the Europe and Others Group put forward a list of qualified and capable candidates for Council members and alternates, who have demonstrated through actions, deeds, and words their commitment to the founding principles and the goals of the Agency.
379. Reiterating the interventions made by Ukraine and the European Union, the USA expressed deep and profound regret that a small number of Members, including from other regional Groups, decided to put an interest that one cannot possibly comprehend ahead of the Agency's. The delegation expressed that it was perplexed that in earlier statements, a Member

⁵ No stated objection to the nominations for Council membership was made by any member of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional Group.

can profess to be a responsible member of an international organisation, while continuing a month-long effort to block, derail, disrupt, undermine, and sabotage the important work of the Agency.

380. Further addressing interventions made regarding the politicisation of the work of the Agency, the USA expressed that IRENA Members share a strong sense of right and that an overwhelming majority of the Europe and Others Group as well as the three other regional Groups know that the nominations made by the Europe and Others Group do not politicise the work of the Agency. The USA further expressed regret that a small number of Members intervening to object and stand in the way of efforts, have politicised and obstructed the work of this Agency. The delegation concluded by expressing hope and urging every Member of the Assembly to support the nominations put forward by the Europe and Others Group to ensure that a Council is established and the important of work of the Agency is carried forward.
381. The United Kingdom joined the European Union, the United States of America, and Ukraine in thanking Georgia for its work as Vice-President of the fourteenth Assembly and in facilitating consultations. The delegation emphasised Georgia's intervention that the majority of members of the Europe and Others Group support the proposed slate of nominations. The United Kingdom expressed that a small number of Members are disrupting the functioning of the Agency and stressed that the priority for IRENA is to engage in its proper function as a technical Agency dedicated to the deployment of renewable energy at pace to ensure the realisation of the energy transition, particularly for countries most vulnerable to climate change. The delegation concluded by encouraging Members to approve the proposed slate of nominations.
382. The Russian Federation raised concerns over perceived double standards in the decision-making process, pointing to inconsistencies in the application of IRENA's rules. The delegation drew attention to document A/9/DC/2⁶ on the Council membership for 2019-2020 and stated that a Member's nomination to the Council was not accepted after submitting its interest past the deadline set by the Facilitator of the Group. The delegation noted, based on the intervention of the Facilitator of the Europe and Others Group, that the rules of the process have changed, despite the official decision of the Assembly taken in the past. Expressing the view that this appears to be an Assembly without an approved Statute and Rules of Procedure but rather an Assembly where one can do as they please, the Russian Federation called on the Secretariat and the Facilitators of regional Groups to adhere to one approach and clearly regulate all procedural aspects which govern the nomination process for Council membership and the Assembly Bureau.
383. China expressed its view that IRENA is the most important Agency in the field of renewable energy and that the Agency should adhere to the Statute and the Rules of Procedure to maintain fairness, balance between different geographical representation and ensure consensus-based decision-making regarding the nominations by regional Groups. The delegation noted the division between the Europe and Others Group and the difference in the understanding of the Rules of Procedure and stated that these divisions and differences should be resolved within the Europe and Others Group. In this regard, China suggested that

⁶ IRENA Council Membership for 2019-2020 ([link](#))

the Europe and Others Group should continue to consult and achieve consensus amongst its members before nominating a list of candidates to the Assembly.

384. Based on the interventions made, the President stated that the Assembly was not in a position to elect the Council membership for 2025 and 2026. Several delegations requested the floor.
385. The Dominican Republic expressed firm belief that issues within one regional Group should not impede the confirmation of the nominations by other regional Groups. The delegation noted that the IRENA Statute and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly do not contain provisions to address this matter and mentioned that it is within the scope of the President to propose and determine a way forward that would allow continuity of the work of the Assembly and the Agency. The Dominican Republic formally requested the President to confirm the Council membership for 2025-2026 with the nominations that achieved consensus within their regional Groups, on a group-by-group basis, rather than as whole decision.
386. Costa Rica referred to the interventions made by the United States of America, China, and the Dominican Republic and expressed the view that it is within the reach of the President and the Secretariat to propose a solution that would allow the confirmation of the nominations for those regional Groups that have reached consensus while providing more time to the regional Group that had not yet achieved consensus amongst its members.
387. Iraq expressed support for the views expressed in previous interventions requesting the President to confirm the nominations that have achieved consensus within their regional Groups. The delegation further suggested that more time could be given to the Europe and Others Group to achieve consensus among its members. The delegation stated that the lack of agreement may indicate that the Statute of IRENA, in light of the increased interest in renewables, may need revisiting in the future, in terms of the decision-making process. Iraq added that the lack of agreement within the Europe and Others Group should not hinder the work of IRENA as a whole, and reiterated its support for the calls made by delegations to confirm the nominations that have achieved consensus within their regional Groups, while the Europe and Others Group is given more time to achieve consensus.
388. The European Union expressed appreciation for the questions raised by some Members and noted that while some Groups appear to have an understanding within their Groups, the interventions from members of two other regional Groups to object have introduced a degree of uncertainty across regional Groups.⁷ The delegation expressed full understanding for Members nominated and awaiting a final decision on the Council membership for 2025-2026.
389. The European Union also agreed with views expressed that some of the rules remain unclear in helping situations where such discussions arise, and recognised the relevance for all Members to look into creating as much clarity as possible in the future, for the functioning of the Agency.
390. The European Union noted that IRENA has one Council, constituted in an equitable geographical distribution, representing all its Members, rather than four regional Councils, and

⁷ A stated objection to the nominations was raised by one other regional Group.

for this reason, stated that that one decision is required for the election of the Council. The delegation recommended additional time for consultations and for work within the IRENA Membership in order to achieve consensus and elect the Council membership for 2025-2026 as quickly as possible, in line with the fact that there is one Council which must function as a cohesive body for the well-functioning of IRENA and its important work.

391. Antigua and Barbuda stated that it fully supports the proposal put forward by the Dominican Republic, emphasising that this approach would allow for the continued work of IRENA and the Council. The delegation noted that it is common for regional Groups within international organisations to continue consultations on decision-making processes, even as other Groups move forward with their nominations. The delegation expressed surprise at the position taken by the European Union and recalled that in its previous intervention, the European Union encouraged the important work of the Agency to advance swiftly.
392. Antigua and Barbuda further highlighted that the regional Groups that have already reached consensus on their nominations are the ones most affected by climate change, and in need of renewable energy transformation as soon as possible. In this regard, the delegation expressed the view that it is within the mandate of the President to find a solution. The delegation encouraged the President to move for the endorsement of the nominations of the Groups that have reached consensus, while continuing consultations with the Europe and Others Group to find a way forward.
393. The President reiterated, based on the interventions made, that the Assembly was not in a position to elect the Council membership for 2025 and 2026 and proposed the suspension of the Assembly session for one hour to allow for consultations with members of the Assembly Bureau.
394. Before the suspension, the Dominican Republic reiterated its position that it is within the scope and mandate of the Presidency of the Assembly to ensure that the work of the Agency moves forward. The delegation objected to the lack of a decision at this stage, emphasising the need for action.
395. The President re-confirmed that the decision to suspend the Assembly for one hour to have consultations will remain and thanked Members for their agreement.⁸
396. After consultation with members of the Assembly Bureau, the President reconvened the Assembly and resumed consideration of the matter. The President informed that the Assembly Bureau held consultations with a view to finding an acceptable way forward and shared that each of the four Vice-Presidents held consultations with their respective regional Groups to consider the proposed draft agreement on the way forward.⁹ The President proposed to the Assembly the adoption of the draft agreement.
- 397. Hearing no objections to the proposal, the President confirmed that the proposal on the Council membership for 2025-2026 was adopted by the Assembly.**

⁸ At this juncture, the President and the Assembly Bureau proceeded with their consultations.

⁹ Arrangements adopted by the fifteenth Assembly on 13th January 2025 under item 14.j 'Council membership for 2025-2026' ([link](#))

398. After adoption of the agreement, Iraq mentioned that it endorsed the proposal in the spirit of collaboration, and requested clarification on the way forward, should the Europe and Others Group be unable to reach consensus within 60 days.
399. The Russian Federation, noting that the proposal was adopted swiftly by the President, shared its understanding that the Assembly has the sole authority to decide on Council membership and requested clarification from the Secretariat as to whether an extraordinary session of the Assembly would be held via e-mail and whether it would adopt the nominations by regional Groups. The delegation further sought clarification on the next steps following the deadline stated in the proposal.
400. The Director-General clarified that an extraordinary session of the Assembly can be convened at its request and that the decision-making on the Council membership for 2025-2026 could take place via written silence procedure. Consistent with the arrangements adopted, the Director-General mentioned that the President will inform Members of the nominations from each regional Group by the deadline and explained that if no objections are raised, consensus will be considered reached.
401. The President thanked Members for their flexibility and their agreement to his proposal. The President also thanked the Director-General for the clarification provided and advised the Assembly to take the matter one step at a time, instead of anticipating too much into the future. The President noted that an agreement was reached in the spirit of compromise and informed that regular updates will be provided to the Bureau on this matter.
- 402. The Assembly decided that members of the Europe and Others Group will continue their efforts to agree on a list of nominations to be presented to the Assembly in 60 days¹⁰ in order for the Assembly to elect the members of the Council in accordance with Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute.**
- 403. The Assembly also decided that upon receipt of the agreed nominations from the Europe and Others Group, the nominations for the Council membership 2025-2026 would be circulated by the President to all Members of the Agency in order to obtain consensus, via written silence procedure in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.**
- 404. The Assembly also decided that the nominations presented by the Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean Groups are considered final.**
- 405. The Assembly further decided that the term of the current Council (2023-2024) be extended until 31 March 2025, without setting any further precedent.**

¹⁰ As indicated in the agreement adopted by the fifteenth Assembly ([link](#)), Members of the Europe and Others Group will continue their efforts to agree on and present a list of its nominations for Council membership in 60 days from the date of the agreement, by **14 March 2025**.

Agenda Item 15: Establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office Vienna

406. The President invited the Vice-Chair of the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Council meetings, Bangladesh, represented by Ms Shahanaj Akhter Ranu, Counsellor at the Embassy of Bangladesh to the UAE, to report on the deliberations of the Council on the matter, on behalf of Zimbabwe, as Chair of the Council.
407. Ms Ranu recalled that at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council in June 2024, Austria presented its proposal for the establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office Vienna. In response to questions raised by Members on the proposal, at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council, a Note on the Establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office Vienna (C/28/14) was prepared as a collaborative effort between Austria and the IRENA Secretariat.
408. Elaborating on the contours of the Note, Ms Ranu explained that the Note outlined the proposed mandate of the Liaison Office in Vienna as follows: to increase collaboration with UN and other international organisations, country representations and relevant entities with presence in Vienna, and to increase awareness of IRENA's activities with Vienna-based entities.
409. The Note also underlined that the establishment of a Liaison Office in Vienna was delayed due to Austria's ratification process of the IRENA Statute, and Austria, having become a full Member of IRENA since January 2021, affirmed its readiness to establish this Liaison Office in Vienna.
410. Ms Ranu noted that during the twenty-eighth Council meeting, Austria informed that the Liaison Office aims to strengthen institutional links between IRENA and key institutions based in Vienna, broaden and deepen a network of organisations in the field of renewable energy, and mainstream renewable energy discussions without relocating work from Abu Dhabi or Bonn. Austria also informed that the Liaison Office in Vienna would be similar in size to IRENA's office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, with details of the structure included in the Note.
411. As conveyed by Ms Ranu in her report, Austria further affirmed that it would fund the office without affecting IRENA's core budget, and that all costs resulting from the operation of the Liaison office will be funded by Austria through a proposed core non-assessed contribution of USD 850,000 per biennium, aligning with practices for IRENA's Headquarters in Abu Dhabi and the IITC in Bonn.
412. Ms Ranu further highlighted that the activities of the Liaison Office would be included in the Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027, to ensure regular updates to the IRENA Governing Bodies on developments and progress regarding the establishment and functioning of the Liaison Office.
413. Ms Ranu informed that after an extensive discussion, the Council agreed to invite Austria and the IRENA Secretariat to prepare a decision for the fifteenth session of the Assembly on the establishment of the Liaison Office in Vienna, taking into consideration all the questions and issues raised.

414. Outlining the draft decision before the Assembly, Ms Ranu explained that it envisages the establishment of an IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna within the framework of the IRENA Secretariat, in line with the proposal contained in document C/28/14, and on the understanding that all actual staff and non-staff costs of the Liaison Office will be fully funded by the Austrian Government through core non-assessed contributions.
415. Ms Ranu further stated that the draft decision also envisages that the Government of Austria will grant to IRENA the privileges and immunities necessary for the operation of the Liaison Office, consistent with the status of IRENA as an international organisation. She noted that it also sets out the request to the Director-General to report annually on the activities of the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna, as part of his Annual Report to the Assembly.
416. In her report, Ms Ranu informed the Assembly that the Council is therefore recommending the decision, contained in document A/15/DC/L.7, for consideration by the Assembly.
417. A delegation expressed that while the proposal from Austria is well-intended, it has a few questions on the matter. The delegation requested to understand whether the objectives and goals of the Liaison Office in Vienna can be achieved in Abu Dhabi – and if so, why a Liaison Office would be needed in Vienna; and if not, what value the Liaison Office would add to IRENA.
418. Noting that the Government of Austria is willing to pay a significant amount of money to fund the operation, the delegation suggested that, if the objectives can be met in Abu Dhabi, Austria transfer the funds to IRENA's Headquarters in Abu Dhabi and take advantage of the synergy. The delegation further noted that additional funding is needed in Abu Dhabi, and expressed that it would be great if the Government of Austria could allocate those funds in Abu Dhabi.
419. These questions were seconded by another delegation, which expressed that it believes the purpose set for the Liaison Office in Vienna can also be achieved from the Headquarters in Abu Dhabi. Reflecting on the information provided on the matter, the delegation noted that while the Government of Austria has offered funding, it does not necessarily explain the benefit of having a new office in Vienna. The delegation expressed the view that in this context, it still believes that the Headquarters in Abu Dhabi is enough.
420. A delegation stated that it supports the adoption of the draft decision to establish an IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna. The delegation highlighted that the benefits of increased collaboration and additional resourcing, coupled with Austria's generous offer to cover all costs, make it a good opportunity to take forward.
421. In response to the questions raised, the Director-General clarified that a Liaison Officer and Liaison Office should be linked to the location of the work – and that, in this case, a Liaison Officer with the United Nations institutions in Vienna should be situated in a Liaison Office in Vienna, where these institutions are located.
422. The Director-General stated that the value of the Liaison Office in Vienna is evident, as it increases IRENA's capacity for effective dialogue with United Nations institutions based in

Vienna. Citing, as an example, the SEforALL Global Forum 2025 in Barbados which IRENA is co-organising, the Director-General expressed that this could be done much more effectively by someone based in Vienna.

423. The Director-General further stated that the Liaison Officer in Vienna would be able to support meetings with UN institutions in Vienna as well as other meetings across Europe, and that the Liaison Officer would be able to assist the activities of the Director-General, the IRENA Secretariat, and the Membership in that location, without the need for additional travel expenditures.
424. Recalling that the establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna was already foreseen in the decision to establish the IRENA Headquarters in Abu Dhabi and the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) in Bonn, the Director-General noted that this step concludes that long-standing process, with evident benefits for the work of the Agency.
- 425. The Assembly adopted the Decision on the Establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office Vienna (A/15/DC/7).**

Agenda Item 16: Arrangements for the sixteenth session of the Assembly

426. The President invited the Assembly to turn to Agenda Item 16 on the arrangements for the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The President noted that as per its Rules of Procedure, the Assembly is required to designate the President and the four Vice-Presidents for its sixteenth session, and to decide on the date of the next session.
427. The President stated his intention to take up all the designations for the sixteenth Assembly Presidency and Vice-Presidencies together.
428. The President informed the Assembly that the Dominican Republic expressed its willingness to assume the Presidency of the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The President further informed that Antigua and Barbuda, Kenya, Solomon Islands and Ukraine have expressed their interest and availability to serve as Vice-Presidents of the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
429. The President therefore proposed to Members to designate the Dominican Republic as President, and Antigua and Barbuda, Kenya, Solomon Islands, and Ukraine as Vice-Presidents of the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
430. The Russian Federation expressed its objection with the proposal by the President for leading positions of the Assembly, and the prestige of the nominations. The delegation expressed that it was really surprised to see that the list of candidates was circulated less than one day prior to the decision being taken. Noting that there also were no discussions on this topic within the regional Groups, the delegation explained that they had already expressed their disagreement with the nomination of Ukraine, and had declared their reasons for this.

431. The Russian Federation stated that it is strongly against the politicalisation of a strictly technical organisation, and turning this organisation into an arena of political discussions, political arguments, and false deliberations. The delegation remarked that unfortunately, such statements and discussions were witnessed during the previous day of the Assembly.
432. The Russian Federation further expressed that it considers it of vital importance to further abide by a depoliticised approach and to work together with joint efforts to strengthen the image and position of IRENA and its capacity as one of the leading world fora of united efforts to promote the just energy transition. In this context, the delegation stated that unfortunately, some countries and groups of countries, being aware of the open position of the Russian Federation for the sake of depoliticization and the technical work of IRENA, still systematically push for their agenda and accuse everybody else of blocking the work of the Agency. Highlighting that this causes a real surprise and still proves the attempts to block the work of IRENA by these countries, the delegation once again called for avoiding such attempts.
433. Belarus expressed that it fully supports the statement of the Russian Federation, and stated that it strongly objects to the nomination of Ukraine for Vice-Presidency of the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The delegation called for the depoliticization of the work of IRENA for the reasons that were mentioned during the discussions on the composition of the Council (Agenda Item 14.i).
434. Mali expressed that it fully supports the statements made by the Russian Federation and Belarus. The delegation stated that it has an objection to the candidature of Ukraine as Vice-President for 2026.
435. The Dominican Republic requested clarification on the regulatory basis by which the President has determined to decide on nominations of the Presidency and the Vice-Presidencies of the sixteenth Assembly together.
436. Ukraine expressed that the Russian Federation continues to demonstrate an obstructive approach and sabotage, clearly trying to destroy the organisation. The delegation stated that it has not heard any justification from the representative of the Russian Federation, and remarked that this may be because of the language barrier or because of the absence of arguments.
437. Ukraine further called on the Africa regional Group to explain to the delegation of Mali the possible consequences of the objection to the nomination of the Europe and Others Group, in terms of reciprocity being one of the main principles in diplomacy.
438. Cuba expressed that it insists on repeating that it opposes any attempt to politicise the work of the Agency. The delegation called for the preservation of IRENA's technical character and respect for the provisions of its Statute, and specifically Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which establishes that each regional Group must reach an agreement regarding the nomination of its candidates and alternates. The delegation stated that it ratified its commitment to the Agency, and appreciates that others are doing the same.

439. The European Union thanked the Bureau for the efforts throughout the Assembly session. The delegation expressed deep regret that once again, out of the entire Membership of about 170 Members who are engaging to deliver what they are working to deliver together at IRENA, a small group of four countries has decided to disrupt work.
440. The delegation noted that the argument is that the election of any one Member, in and by itself should be considered politicization, and stated that this is not an argument that carries any weight, or can be explained to anyone in any way that is understandable. In this regard, the delegation called on those Members to stop disrupting the work so that we can all help deliver on the energy transition, the just transition, and access to energy.
441. The European Union stated that, along with a number of like-minded countries, it is fully engaged to make sure that the decisions that have been put before the Assembly are adopted. The delegation expressed that it has supported all of the decisions put before the Assembly in a spirit of compromise and helping to bring the work forward and reiterated that it is with deep regret that decisions are not able to be adopted because of four out of the 170 Members of IRENA.
442. China noted that once more, the Europe and Others Group has not reached consensus regarding the nomination of the next Vice-President, and that according to the rule of consensus set by the Statute of IRENA, it suggests that the Europe and Others Group further consults, co-ordinates internally, and reaches a consensus, and then submits a proposal to the Assembly. The delegation reiterated that it suggests that consensus be reached before it is submitted to the Assembly.
443. The United States of America stated that it joins the European Commission as well as Ukraine in expressing profound regret that a very small number of Members have once again chosen to continue the pattern of obstructionist behaviour. The delegation further expressed that, given the vast majority of Members around the room representing economies of broad scale perspectives and commitments to renewable energy, a very small minority, without providing any substantive explanation, has once again decided to obstruct the workings and the business of the Agency.
444. The delegation stated that some of these few countries who object to the candidacy of Ukraine claim to be responsible members of international organisations, to want to depoliticise the work, and to want to contribute to the broad goals of IRENA. The delegation added that despite this, they failed to provide justification for the decisions they are taking, and explanation as to why they want to be part of the small minority of Members blocking the important work of the Agency.
445. The delegation expressed the view that, as Members of IRENA, they have a right to request respectfully that these Members that continue to stand in the way of the work openly and brazenly, at a bare minimum, have the moral courage to provide justification for their obstructionism and explain, to fellow Members who are here trying to advance the important work of the Agency, why they are committed to obstructing the work that Members have all agreed upon.

446. Antigua and Barbuda, noting that the Assembly had been having this discussion for a few hours, stated that it does not intend for Members to stay for another few hours to deliberate this issue. In this regard, and with a view to moving the discussion forward, the delegation proposed that the Assembly separates the Presidency from the Vice-Presidency for the sixteenth Assembly. The delegation stated that it is important that the Assembly designates the President as soon as possible, so that the Presidency can begin to carry out its mandate in terms of how the President intends to put forward proposals that would govern the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
447. Antigua and Barbuda, as one of the countries nominated for the Vice-Presidency, expressed the view that it was unfortunate that the designation for the full Bureau of the sixteenth Assembly is being delayed. The delegation stated that, as a compromise, it would suggest that the same approach and deadlines that were agreed by the Assembly for Council membership 2025-2026 by the end of March should also apply for the Vice-Presidency of the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
448. The delegation reiterated its proposal to separate the election of the President from the Vice-Presidents, and called on the Assembly to move to elect the President as swiftly as possible, and then find a working mechanism similar to what the Assembly had instituted for the Council membership 2025-2026, to move the Vice-Presidency process forward.
449. The United Kingdom stated that it would like to join the European Union and the United States of America in expressing its regret it was not possible to adopt the decision at that time. The delegation reiterated the point it had made earlier about the importance of IRENA's vital mission and noted the desire to be focusing on that instead.
450. On the proposal made by Antigua and Barbuda, the United Kingdom appreciated that there is a desire by all to move on from this issue as swiftly as possible, and recalled that the Assembly went over that argument at length at its last session. In this regard, the delegation stated that it was clear that a single decision should be taken on all of the arrangements for the next Assembly, and for that decision not to be split.
451. The European Union stated that it was aligned with the statement made by the United Kingdom with regard to one single decision to designate the Bureau for the next Assembly.
452. Switzerland noted that, as written in document A/15/INF/1, Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly is quite clear in that the designation should be jointly for the President and Vice-Presidents. The delegation reminded the Assembly that the discussion was not about the election as yet, but designation. The delegation explained that the formal election will take place at the beginning of the next Assembly, and emphasised that this is quite an important difference.
453. The Dominican Republic requested the President to have the Secretariat clarify which Members presented an objection under this agenda item. The delegation also reiterated a request for clarification on the regulatory basis by which the determination to treat this as a joint matter had been expressed during this Assembly session.

454. The United States of America requested that it be added to the list of countries that opposed splitting the decisions on the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency.
455. China, noting that everybody in the room was exhausted and that the sixteenth Assembly will take place in one year, suggested that the Assembly could adopt a solution similar to that regarding the Council elections, to give some more time and end the meeting as soon as possible.
456. Gambia stated that it aligns itself with the proposal from China. Noting that it appeared that the Assembly will not have consensus on the designation of the Bureau for the sixteenth Assembly, the delegation stated that the same approach could be used as that for the Council membership 2025-2026, so that the meeting could end that day. The delegation reiterated that it supports the proposal made by China.
457. The President, noting that there were no other requests for interventions, stated that his estimation was that the Assembly would not be able to reach an agreement at that time, and that there were some objections. For this reason, the President stated that as a way forward, he proposed to consult on the matter as soon possible and report to the Membership before the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The President also clarified that the issue was only on the designation, and not on the election, and asked the Assembly if there was agreement on his proposal.
458. The Dominican Republic reiterated its request regarding the number of countries that raised their objection to the designation of the sixteenth Assembly bureau. The delegation further stated that it would also like clarification, before closing, regarding the regulatory basis by which the President had made the determination to take up the designations of the President and Vice-Presidents together.
459. The Russian Federation requested the President to repeat once more the decision that the Assembly was going to take.
460. The President, in response to the request from the Russian Federation, reiterated that the Assembly does not have an agreement and there is a need for further consultations, which will have to be done before the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The President stated that this is the proposal for agreement, and asked the Assembly if there was agreement on this proposal.
461. Antigua and Barbuda expressed the view that the Dominican Republic asked two specific questions that require a response. Antigua and Barbuda further stated that with regard to the decision that is being taken – at least from its delegation which has a candidate for the Vice-Presidency – it wants to be clear that the same rules that the Assembly had made in the application to the Council membership are the same rules that the Assembly is making in the consideration of the Bureau for the sixteenth session, as that was not made explicitly clear.
462. The President consulted with the Secretariat and invited the Director-General to provide the explanations.

463. The Director-General stated that, concerning the procedures that have been followed with respect to the President proposing for the President and Vice-Presidents to be taken up together, the Assembly may recall that this was done differently at the fourteenth session Part II of the Assembly, upon which Members asked for the decision to be taken together.
464. The Director-General informed that, on the basis of that experience from the previous session, the Secretariat suggested to the President to take up the designations of the President and Vice-Presidents together.
465. With regard to the consultations on this matter, the Director-General noted that no one had objected to having the Dominican Republic as President, and stated that, in line with the same approach that the Assembly adopted for reaching consensus for the Council membership 2025-2026, the President has taken note of all concerns. The Director-General further expressed the view that there was no reason to worry, as the nominated candidate will have to wait until the next year to start work under this role.
466. The Dominican Republic thanked the Director-General for the explanation and stated that it understands, from the explanation given, that the suggestion made to the President was on the basis of the Secretariat's understanding that it was the best way to move forward, and not a regulatory obligation derived from the Rules of Procedure.
467. The delegation further clarified that the objections that it requested the Secretariat to register and list out were not those against the Dominican Republic's nomination, but the other objections that were against one of the Vice-Presidents. The delegation reiterated that it would like clarification on which Members presented these objections.
468. The delegation added that it supports Antigua and Barbuda's proposal that the Assembly uses the same blueprint as it did for the Council situation to move forward with this matter, as it had already been agreed to by everybody.
469. Antigua and Barbuda reiterated the point made by the Dominican Republic and stated that it should be extremely clear that the Rules of Procedure do not say that the President and the Vice-Presidents should be designated together. In this regard, the delegation noted that when Members were quoting the Rules of Procedure, it was done in error, and expressed that it was happy that the Secretariat had clarified that the Rules of Procedure do not state that.
470. The Dominican Republic expressed that, as an IRENA Member, it is well within its right to request clarification of the proceedings, particularly under the critical proceedings that were ongoing. Explaining the nature of its question, the delegation stated that it heard other delegations quote that there had been four countries that had presented objections, whereas the Dominican Republic had only registered three. Therefore, in order to make sure that all are on the same page regarding which countries have presented objections to the nomination of one of the Vice-Presidencies, the delegation expressed the view that it is of utmost importance to mention this before the Assembly goes on to the next Agenda Item.

471. Dominica supported the request made by the Dominican Republic. Noting that the Dominican Republic is an IRENA Member, the delegation stated that if this request cannot be fulfilled, it has to be clarified under which Article of the IRENA Statute or Rules of Procedure this request cannot be fulfilled.
472. The Secretariat informed that, based on its records, there were three stated objections made during this Agenda Item.
473. The President, in response to the interventions made, reiterated that the Assembly does not have an agreement and there is a need for further consultations, which will have to be done before the sixteenth session of the Assembly. The President stated that this is the proposal for agreement, and asked the Assembly if there is agreement on this proposal.
- 474. The Assembly agreed that the President would consult on the matter as soon as possible and report to the Membership before the sixteenth session of the Assembly.**
475. The President invited the Assembly to consider the proposed dates for the sixteenth session of the Assembly.
476. The President informed that the proposed dates for the sixteenth session of the IRENA Assembly was circulated on 12 December 2024, identifying 11 and 12 January 2026 for the sixteenth session of the Assembly, with related meetings to be held on 10 January 2026. The President stated that, should there be circumstances that require changes to the proposed dates of the Assembly, the Membership shall be informed accordingly.
- 477. The Assembly agreed to the dates of its sixteenth session, to be held from 11 to 12 January 2026, with related meetings to be held on 10 January 2026.**

Agenda Item 17: Any other business

478. The United Arab Emirates reminded participants about the opening of the World Future Energy Summit (WFES), which includes awards and a day full of conferences. The delegation highlighted the value of attending and encouraged those who have previously participated to share their positive experiences.
479. The Dominican Republic, reflecting on its intervention made during the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council, highlighted the significant challenges that Caribbean Small Island States have been facing due to a severe sargassum crisis since 2011, largely driven by climate change, that has led to a range of detrimental impacts. The delegation shared that sargassum has inundated its coastlines, causing significant ecological, economic and health impacts. The delegation further stressed the urgency of the sargassum crisis and its damage to fisheries and marinas, which has led to considerable financial losses and deterred tourists. It also highlighted health risks faced by coastal communities with toxic gases released from the sargassum.

480. The delegation explained that the unpredictable nature of the sargassum blooms makes it difficult to manage, and challenges the resilience and sustainability of the affected Caribbean Island States. The delegation stated that the sargassum crisis could be turned into an opportunity and suggested that sargassum can be converted into electricity through several methods, primarily used as a fuel, that provides an approach to a renewable energy source while also mitigating the environmental impacts of the sargassum blooms.
481. The delegation highlighted the regional scope of this complex and urgent crisis and noted that, along with Caribbean SIDS and countries from the Latin America region, they made a unified request to the Assembly to request relevant Divisions of IRENA to introduce this topic for discussion in its relevant forums, including at the upcoming Council meeting. Furthermore, they requested IRENA to provide the Membership with information on the steps undertaken to ensure that it can provide up-to-date information on the current technologies and best practices for utilising sargassum as a renewable energy source at the upcoming meeting of the Council.
482. The delegation also requested the Assembly to prioritise and instruct relevant Divisions of IRENA to include, in its upcoming meetings, topics such as challenges faced by women and youth in accessing education, training, employment, and leadership opportunities in the renewable energy sector; strategies to empower women and youth as entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders in the renewable energy field; and the crucial role of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, blockchain, and advanced data analytics in accelerating renewable energy development solutions and fostering research and development collaboration to leverage these technologies for energy efficiency, grid integration and sustainable energy management. The delegation also added the need to ensure that the deployment of these technologies inclusively and equitably address potential social and economic impacts.
483. The delegation further highlighted prioritising and recognising social well-being and shared prosperity as the primary focus for the energy transition, ensuring the benefits of renewable energy are equally distributed, leaving no one behind. The delegation also called for integrating social considerations into all aspects of renewable energy planning, development, and implementation. The delegation expressed that IRENA, with its global leadership and expertise, can significantly accelerate the energy transition towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable energy future for all. The delegation urged the Assembly to take decisive actions and work together to ensure a prosperous and equitable energy future for coming generations. By addressing these critical topics, the delegation stated that IRENA could unlock the full potential of renewable energy and ensure a future where energy access, prosperity, and environmental sustainability can be enjoyed by all.
- 484. The Assembly took note of the proposals and issues raised under this agenda item.**

Agenda Item 18: Closing of the session

485. In his closing remarks, the President extended gratitude to the Vice-Presidents for their contribution to the various discussions on his behalf and thanked H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the UAE, and the Host Country for the warm hospitality. The President also expressed appreciation to all Members, delegations, panellists, moderators, multilateral stakeholder partners, interpreters, and colleagues who contributed to making the fifteenth session of the Assembly a success.
486. The Director-General acknowledged that the increased number of participants at this Assembly session emphasised the critical role that IRENA plays in international co-operation on energy transitions. The Director-General expressed anticipation for COP30 and its ambitious agenda. He stated that the Agency's role and planned activities during COP30 would be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Council.
487. Referring to the difficulties experienced in finding common interpretation of the rules and in determining a way forward, the Director-General suggested that the rules governing meetings of the Agency be updated. Accordingly, he proposed that the next meeting of the Council also considers the establishment an Open-Ended Group to review and adapt the Rules of Procedure to the new reality.
488. The Director-General thanked the President and the Vice-Presidents for their leadership and dedication. He recognised the challenging nature of this Assembly session and noted that only two Assembly sessions remain before the end of his term as Director-General of IRENA. He thanked Members for their support and continued engagement.
489. The President expressed that the IRENA Membership, much like renewables, is different and diverse across countries and regions. In this regard, he highlighted that Members must all play their part to come together for a better world for current and future generations.
- 490. The President declared the fifteenth session of the Assembly closed.**

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12–13 January 2025

Agenda

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. **High-level Panel on Accelerating the Energy Transition - The Way Forward**
 - REthinking Energy Geopolitics to accelerate the transition
 - Moving from Global to Regional – Opportunities for Accelerated Action to 3X
5. **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025**
6. **General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition**
7. **Ministerial Roundtable on Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition and Green Industrialisation Agenda**
8. **Ministerial Roundtable on Scaling up Finance to Support the Energy Transition in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies**
9. **High-level Panel on Energy Transition Pathways in Emerging Economies**
10. **High-level Dialogue on Tripling Impact in Small Island Developing States: Accelerating Renewables, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development**
11. **Ministerial Dialogue on Innovative Sustainable Finance**
12. **Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events**
13. **Report of the Chair of the Council**

14. Administrative and Institutional matters

- a. Report of the Credentials Committee
- b. Human Resources Management
 - i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends
 - ii. Decisions on Break-in-Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members and on Appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General
- c. Report of the Director-General - Secondment of Personnel and related matters
- d. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2023 and Status of the Implementation of External Audit Recommendations
- e. Report of the Director-General - Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025
- f. Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor
- g. Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund
- h. 2023 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA and Appointment of Management Board members
- i. Matters relating to Ethics
 - i. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest
 - ii. Review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest - Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations:
 - Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct
 - Policy on Protection against Retaliation for Reporting Misconduct or Cooperating with Duly Authorized Audits and Investigations
 - Policy on Addressing Prohibited Conduct, including Fraud, Corruption, and Other Financial Misconduct, and Discrimination, Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, and Abuse of Authority
 - Revised Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for the International Renewable Energy Agency
- j. Council membership for 2025-2026

15. Establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office Vienna

16. Arrangements for the sixteenth session of the Assembly

17. Any other business

18. Closing of the session

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

**List of Applicants for Observer Status
at the fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly
as of 12 January 2025**

IRENA Signatories / States in Accession

1. Brazil
2. Burundi
3. Cambodia
4. Liberia
5. Madagascar
6. Malawi
7. Syrian Arab Republic

Non-Member States

1. Venezuela

Others

1. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)
2. Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)
3. ACCESS SA
4. ACCIONA Energia
5. Africa Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA)
6. African Energy Commission (AFREC)
7. African Union Commission
8. Alkeymia Group S.L.U.
9. Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
10. AMEA Power
11. APLUS Enerji
12. AIESEC
13. Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)
14. Barry University
15. BASF
16. Beijing Hydrogen Energy Science & Technology Co., Ltd.
17. Biomass Energy Industry Promotion Association (CAPID)
18. Brussels Energy Club
19. Bureau Veritas
20. China Energy International Group Company Limited
21. China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN),
22. China Institute of Nuclear Industry

23. China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC)
24. China Society for Hydropower Engineering (CSHE)
25. Chinese Energy Storage Association
26. Clean Cooking Alliance
27. Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)
28. Climate Action Network (CAN)
29. Climate Champions Team
30. Climate Collective
31. Climate Compatible Growth
32. Climate Institute
33. Climate Parliament
34. Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)
35. Commonwealth of Nations
36. Community Energy Toolkit (COMET)
37. Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd. (CATL)
38. Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
39. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
40. Desert Technologies
41. Dii Desert Energy
42. Dubai Cable Company (Ducab)
43. Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE)
44. East Africa Community (EAC)
45. Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP)
46. ECCO The Italian Climate Think Tank
47. Economic Commission for Central African States (ECCAS)
48. Electricité de France (EDF)
49. Elisabeth Haub - Pace Law School
50. Ember
51. Emirates Nature-WWF
52. EMSTEEL
53. ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
54. Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS)
55. Energy Storage Industries Association of Turkey
56. Energy Watch Group (EWG)
57. ENGIE Energy Access
58. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
59. Etihad Water and Electricity (EtihadWE)
60. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
61. European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC)
62. European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
63. European Union Mediterranean Green Electrons and Molecules Network (EU MED-GEM)
64. Fondazione Antonio Emanuele Augurusa
65. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
66. Forestry Research, Kenya
67. GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA)
68. German Solar Association
69. Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)
70. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
71. Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)

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72. Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)
 73. Global Renewables Alliance (GRA)
 74. Global Solar Council (GSC)
 75. Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
 76. Global Wind Organisation (GWO)
 77. Green Grids Initiative (GGI)
 78. Green Hydrogen Organisation (GH2)
 79. Green Solutions International
 80. GreenEarthX Incorporated
 81. Greening the Islands Foundation
 82. Guidehouse
 83. Gulf Cryo Group
 84. HIF Global
 85. HiTHIUM
 86. HSBC
 87. Huanghe Hydropower Development Co., Ltd.
 88. Husk Power Systems
 89. Hydrogen Europe
 90. ICIEC - Islamic Development Bank
 91. Ignite Power
 92. Indian Institute of Delhi, Abu Dhabi
 93. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
 94. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)
 95. Indonesian Center for Renewable Energy Studies (ICRES)
 96. Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA)
 97. Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)
 98. Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)
 99. Institute for Research in Solar Energy and New Energies ((IRESEN)
 100. Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)
 101. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
 102. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 103. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
 104. International Chamber of Shipping
 105. International Electrotechnical Commission
 106. International Energy Agency (IEA)
 107. International Energy Forum
 108. International Finance Corporation
 109. International Hydropower Association (IHA)
 110. International Solar Alliance
 111. International Solar Energy (ISES)
 112. International Solar Energy Society
 113. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 114. IRENA Legislators Forum 2025
 115. IRENA Youth Forum 2025
 116. Islamic Development Bank
 117. Ivy
 118. Jiangsu Tianheyuan Hydrogen Technology Co., Ltd.
 119. Jinko Solar Co., Ltd.
 120. Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen)

121. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)
122. LinkedIn
123. Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)
124. LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd
125. Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy)
126. McKinsey & Company
127. Mediterranean Transmission System Operators Association
128. MENA Energy
129. Mercy Corps, USA
130. Mission 300 Accelerator
131. Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence
132. National Renewable Energy
133. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Foundation
134. NDC Partnership Support Unit
135. NEOM - ENOWA
136. Ocean Conservancy
137. Octopus Energy Generation
138. Open Society Foundations
139. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
140. Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Énergie et du Climat (OMEC)
141. Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE)
142. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund
143. Pool Énergétique de l'Afrique Centrale (PEAC)
144. Pooled-fund on International Energy
145. Power Africa at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
146. PowerChina International Group Limited
147. Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security (PI- CREF)
148. Ras Al Khaimah Municipality
149. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
150. Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA)
151. Renewable Energy Institute (REI)
152. Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21)
153. Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)
154. Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)
155. Roland Berger
156. Rural and Renewable Energy Agency
157. Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)
158. SATKA Renewable Energy Association of Iran
159. Schneider Electric
160. SDG7 Youth Constituency
161. SEKA Consultancy Ltd.
162. SGRRI
163. Siemens
164. Siemens Energy
165. SkyPower Global Group of Companies
166. Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK)
167. Smartenergy
168. SNAM
169. Social Alpha

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170. Solar Electric Light Company (SELCO) Foundation
 171. SolarPower Europe
 172. Sosai Renewable Energies Company
 173. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 174. Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)
 175. SSE
 176. State Grid Energy Research Institute, China
 177. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
 178. Strathmore University, Kenya
 179. Subsea7
 180. SUNGROW
 181. Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)
 182. Swiss Re
 183. Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables
 184. TAQA
 185. TES-H2
 186. The Energy and Research Institute (TERI)
 187. The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)
 188. TotalEnergies
 189. Turkish Wind Energy Association
 190. UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UAE
 191. Unilever
 192. Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
 193. United Nations
 194. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
 195. United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions
 196. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
 197. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 198. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
 199. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
 200. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 201. United Nations Foundation
 202. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 203. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
 204. United Nations Peacekeeping Force
 205. Univers Pte. Ltd
 206. University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana
 207. University of Southampton, United Kingdom
 208. Vestas Wind Systems
 209. Windplus Private Limited
 210. Women in Renewable Energy
 211. World Bank
 212. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
 213. World Climate Foundation
 214. World Future Council (WFC)
 215. World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)
 216. World Health Organization (WHO)
 217. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 218. World Resources Institute India (WRI India)

- 219. World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)
- 220. Xlinks
- 221. Zero Emissions Traders Alliance (ZETA)
- 222. Zhero
- 223. ZYMC Technology

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
 Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Decision on the Break in Service for Re-employment of Former Staff Members

The *Assembly*,

Noting the restrictions applicable to the length of service of professional staff pursuant to staff regulation 5.4;

Recalling that the Assembly provided the Director-General with the authority to extend appointments of staff members recruited and serving the Agency as of 15 January 2017 for up to four years, in addition to the periods currently provided in staff regulations 5.4 (b) and (c) (A/7/DC/4);

Recalling also the decision of the Assembly to lift restrictions on the length of service for staff in the general service category (A/12/DC/2);

Recalling previous deliberations at the twelfth and fourteenth sessions of the Assembly (A/12/DC/2, A/14/SR/L.1) and at the eighteenth, nineteenth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings of the Council (C/18/SR/1, C/19/SR/1, C/25/SR/1, C/26/SR/1), in relation to the length of the break in service for staff at the professional level and above;

Having considered the recommendations made by the Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings in relation to the length of the break in service for staff at the professional level and above;

Recalling Article XI.C. of the IRENA Statute, which stipulates that “[The] Director-General shall be accountable to the Assembly and the Council, inter alia, for the appointment of the staff as well as the organization and functioning of the Secretariat. The paramount consideration in the employment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity”;

Noting that pursuant to staff regulation 13.1, the Staff Regulations may be amended by the Assembly;

Noting further that pursuant to staff regulations 13.2 and 13.3, the Director-General shall provide and enforce such Staff Rules as necessary for the implementation of the Staff Regulations, and report to the Assembly such new and/or amended Staff Rules.

1. Decides that:

- a) Current and all former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the exceptional period of thirteen years of service pursuant to Assembly Decision A/7/DC/4 shall not be eligible for re-employment by the Agency without any exception regardless of the category of staff, the type of the appointment (whether fixed or temporary), the level of the post or other criteria.
- b) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the maximum length of service of seven years specified in staff regulation 5.4(b), or nine years in

cases where a two-year extension had been granted pursuant to staff regulation 5.4(c), may be re-employed for a fixed-term after the expiration of thirty consecutive months following the date of their separation from the Agency (mandatory break in service), subject to the following requirements:

- i) No such re-employment shall be by direct appointment by the Director-General. For all positions that are to be filled, a vacancy announcement shall be issued and posted on the IRENA website. The object of issuing a vacancy announcement is to attract a wide variety of candidates for each position from a wide geographic and gender base. The selection of staff members for all such positions shall be on a competitive basis, in accordance with the established procedures;
 - ii) The total combined length of service of any such re-employed staff member shall not exceed thirteen years;
 - iii) A former staff member shall not be re-employed to a position that he or she previously held or substantively similar to a position that he or she previously held, irrespective of any change in the title of the position.
- c) Former staff members at the professional level and above, who have not reached the maximum length of service of seven years specified in staff regulation 5.4(b) may be re-employed for a fixed-term for a period equivalent to the difference between their total combined length of service and seven years. Any further re-employment of such former staff members shall be subject to paragraph (b) above.
- d) Former staff members at the professional level and above who were granted the exceptional extension of up to an additional four years of service pursuant to Assembly Decision A/7/DC/4 and have separated from the Agency prior to reaching the maximum length of service of thirteen years may be re-employed for a fixed term for a period equivalent to the difference between their total combined length of service and thirteen years. After completing such total combined length of service of thirteen years they shall be subject to paragraph 1(a) above.
- e) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the total combined length of service of thirteen years shall not be eligible for further employment by the Agency, without any exception regardless of the category of staff, the type of the appointment (whether fixed or temporary), the level of the post, or other criteria.

2. *Decides* that the maximum length of service of seven years referred to in staff regulation 5.4(b) applies to current and former staff members and includes their current and past periods of service.

3. *Adopts* the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations required to implement this decision, as set out in Annex I to this decision (the “Revised Staff Regulations”) in line with staff regulation 13.1.

4. *Takes note* of the amendments to the Staff Rules proposed by the Director-General in accordance with staff regulations 13.2 and 13.3 for the implementation of the Revised Staff Regulations, as set out in Annex II to this decision (the “Revised Staff Rules”).

5. *Decides* that the Revised Staff Regulations and the Revised Staff Rules shall become effective as of the date of adoption of this decision.

6. *Requests* the Director-General to promptly update the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules to reflect the changes thereto adopted pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) above, and take appropriate actions to implement this decision and to inform the staff accordingly.

7. *Requests* the Director-General to report on the implementation of this decision annually.

Annex I

Revised Staff Regulations

Proposed Change to Regulation 5.4

Regulation 5.4 Period of appointment and probation

- a) Appointment of the Deputy Director-General shall be for a period of up to four years, renewable for up to a further four years.
- b) Other staff members at the professional level and above shall be granted either a temporary or a fixed-term appointment. No continuing appointments shall be granted. Fixed-term appointments may be extended at the discretion of the Director-General. The initial period shall normally not exceed three years. The total length of service on fixed-term appointments for staff at the professional level and above shall normally not exceed seven years.
- c) The Director-General may extend the maximum length of service of seven years referred to in paragraph (b) above for staff at the professional level and above once for a period of up to two years provided that there is a documented record of performance and the need for such extension to ensure continuity of the work of the Agency. The maximum length of service applicable to staff at the professional level and above shall not apply to staff in the general service category.
- d) Staff members shall be required to serve a probationary period of six months. For certain categories of staff, especially for temporary and part-time appointments, the Director-General may, in the best interest of the Agency, adjust the length and conditions of the probationary period.
- e) A temporary appointment does not carry any expectancy, legal or otherwise, of renewal. A temporary appointment shall not be converted to any other type of appointment.
- f) A fixed-term appointment does not carry any expectancy, legal or otherwise, of renewal or conversion, irrespective of the length of service or its extension.

Re-employment of former staff members

- g) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the maximum length of service of seven years referred to in paragraph (b) above, or nine years in cases where a two-year extension had been granted pursuant to paragraph (c) above, may be re-employed for a fixed term after the expiration of thirty consecutive months following the date of their separation from the Agency (mandatory break in service), subject to the following requirements:
 - i. No such re-employment shall be by direct appointment by the Director-General. For all positions that are to be filled, a vacancy announcement shall be issued and posted on the IRENA website. The object of issuing a vacancy announcement is to attract a wide variety of candidates for each position from a wide geographic and gender base. The selection of staff members for all such positions shall be on a competitive basis, in accordance with the established procedures;
 - ii. The total combined length of service of any such re-employed staff member shall not exceed thirteen years;

- iii. A former staff member shall not be re-employed to a position that he or she previously held or substantively similar to a position that he or she previously held, irrespective of any change in the title of the position.
- h) Former staff members at the professional level and above, who have not reached the maximum length of service of seven years specified in paragraph (b) above may be re-employed for a fixed term for a period equivalent to the difference between their total combined length of service and seven years. Any further re-employment of such former staff members shall be subject to paragraph (g) above.
- i) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the total combined length of service of thirteen years shall not be eligible for further employment by the Agency, without any exception regardless of the category of staff, the type of the appointment (whether fixed or temporary), the level of the post or any other criteria.
- j) The maximum length of service of seven years referred to in paragraph (b) above applies to current and former staff members and includes their current and past periods of service.

Annex II

Revised Staff Rules

Proposed new staff rule 105.3 bis on Re-employment of former staff members

Rule 105.3 Types of appointment

- a) Staff members may be granted fixed-term or temporary appointments, as defined below. No appointment carries any expectation of renewal or conversion to any other type of appointment, irrespective of the length of service or its extension.
- b) A “fixed-term appointment” is a time-limited appointment of one year or longer. The initial period shall normally not exceed three years. The total length of service on fixed-term appointments for staff at the professional level and above shall normally not exceed seven years. The Director-General may extend this maximum period once for a period of up to two years. Such an extension may be made only when there is a documented record of good performance and of the need to ensure continuity of the work of the Agency. The maximum length of service applicable to staff at the professional level and above shall not apply to staff in the general service category.
- c) A “temporary appointment” shall be granted for a period of less than one year to meet seasonal or peak workloads and specific short-term requirements. The appointment of a staff member who has served for the maximum period may be extended up to a total continuous period of less than two years when warranted by surge requirements and operational needs related to special projects with finite mandate

Rule 105.3 bis – Re-employment of former staff members

- a) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the maximum length of service of seven years specified in staff regulation 5.4(b), or nine years, in cases where a two-year extension had been granted pursuant to staff regulation 5.4(c), may be re-employed for a fixed term after the expiration of thirty consecutive months following the date of their separation from the Agency (mandatory break in service), subject to the following requirements:
 - i. No such re-employment shall be by direct appointment by the Director-General. For all positions that are to be filled, a vacancy announcement shall be issued and posted on the IRENA website. The object of issuing a vacancy announcement is to attract a wide variety of candidates for each position from a wide geographic and gender base. The selection of staff members for all such positions shall be on a competitive basis, in accordance with the established procedures;
 - ii. The total combined length of service of any such re-employed staff member shall not exceed thirteen years;
 - iii. A former staff member shall not be re-employed to a position that he or she previously held or substantively similar to a position that he or she previously held, irrespective of any change in the title of the position.
- b) Former staff members at the professional level and above who have not reached the maximum length of service of seven years specified in staff regulation 5.4(b) may be re-employed for a fixed term for a period equivalent to the difference between their total combined length of service and

seven years. Any further re-employment of such former staff members shall be subject to paragraph (a) above.

- c) Current and former staff members at the professional level and above having completed the total combined length of service of thirteen years shall not be eligible for further employment by the Agency, without any exception regardless of the category of staff, the type of the appointment (whether fixed or temporary), the level of the post or any other criteria.
- d) The maximum length of service of seven years referred to in staff rule 105.3 (b) above applies to current and former staff members and includes their current and past periods of service.
- e) A former staff member who is re-employed under staff regulation 5.4 shall be given a new appointment in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules. Subject to paragraph (f) below, the terms of such new appointment shall be fully applicable without regard to any period of former service.
- f) When a staff member receives a new appointment less than 12 months after separation, the amount of any payment on account of termination indemnity, repatriation grant or commutation of accrued annual leave shall be adjusted so that the number of months, weeks or days of salary to be paid at the time of the separation after the new appointment, when added to the number of months, weeks or days paid for prior periods of service, does not exceed the total of months, weeks or days that would have been paid had the service been continuous.

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Decision on the appointment of staff of the Office of the Director-General

The *Assembly*,

Recalling Article XI.C. of the IRENA Statute, which stipulates that the Director-General shall be responsible to the Assembly and the Council, inter alia for the appointment of the staff as well as the organisation and functioning of the Secretariat and that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity;

Recalling also that article XI.C of the IRENA Statute further stipulates that in the employment of the staff due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff primarily from Member States and on as wide a geographical basis as possible, taking particularly into account the adequate representation of developing countries and with emphasis on gender balance;

Recalling further that pursuant to staff regulation 5.3(a), the selection of staff shall be made without distinction as to race, sex or religion in a manner that ensures transparency of the process and as far as practicable, selection shall be made on a competitive process;

Having considered the recommendations made by the Council at its twenty-eighth meeting in relation to the appointment of the staff of the office of the Director-General;

Noting that pursuant to staff regulation 13.1, the Staff Regulations may be amended by the Assembly;

Noting further that pursuant to staff regulations 13.2 and 13.3, the Director-General shall provide and enforce such Staff Rules as necessary for the implementation of the Staff Regulations, and report to the Assembly such new and/or amended Staff Rules.

1. *Decides that* the discretionary authority of the Director-General to appoint staff members of his office outside the established procedures is limited to the positions of Chief of Staff and Adviser to the Director-General, it being understood that the Director-General shall exercise such discretionary authority with due regard to the requirements of Article XI.C of the IRENA Statute.
2. *Requests* the Director-General to announce all vacancies for the positions referred to in paragraph 1 above on the IRENA website, to attract a variety of qualified candidates for each position from a wide geographic and gender base.
3. *Adopts* the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations required to implement this decision, as set out in Annex I to this decision (the “Revised Staff Regulations”) in line with staff regulation 13.1.

4. *Takes note of* the amendments to the Staff Rules proposed by the Director-General in accordance with staff regulations 13.2 and 13.3 for the implementation of the Revised Staff Regulations, as set out in Annex II to this decision (the “Revised Staff Rules”).
5. *Decides that* the Revised Staff Regulations and the Revised Staff Rules shall become effective as of the date of adoption of this decision.
6. *Requests* the Director-General to promptly update the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules to reflect the changes thereto adopted pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) above, take appropriate actions to implement this decision and to inform the staff accordingly.
7. *Requests* the Director-General to report annually on the implementation of this decision.

Annex I – Revised Staff Regulations

Regulation 5.3 Selection of staff members

- a) Selection of staff members shall be made without distinction as to race, sex or religion in a manner that ensures transparency of the process. As far as practicable, selection shall be made on a competitive basis. The requirement of selection on a competitive basis shall not apply for appointment to the positions of Chief of Staff and Adviser to the Director-General which shall be subject to the discretionary authority of the Director-General. The Director-General shall exercise such discretionary authority with due regard to the requirements of Article XI.C of the Statute.

Annex II – Revised Staff Rules

Rule 105.1 Recruitment policies

- a) The paramount consideration in the selection of staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. For posts in the Professional category and above, due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff primarily from Members, taking into account the adequate representation of developing countries and gender balance. For all vacant posts which are to be filled, a vacancy announcement shall be issued in accordance with established procedures.

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Decision on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025

The Assembly,

Recalling that the Assembly at its fourteenth session, through decision A/14/DC/1, adopted the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025;

Noting that, pursuant to Article XII.A.1 of the IRENA Statute, mandatory contributions of Members are based on the scale of assessments of the United Nations, as determined by the Assembly;

Further noting that the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025 is based on the 2022-2024 Scale of Assessments as approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/76/238;

Noting that the Council, at its twenty-eighth meeting, considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025, as contained in document C/28/9, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at its fifteenth session;

Bearing in mind that new Members join the Agency periodically pursuant to Article VI of the IRENA Statute, and that the IRENA Scale of Contributions is to be adjusted to account for such new membership in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.2 to 6.4;

Having considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025 as contained in document A/15/INF/2;

Decides to adopt the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2025, as contained in the Annex to document A/15/INF/2, as the applicable scale of contributions for 2025.

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Decision on the Appointment of an External Auditor of IRENA

The *Assembly*,

Recalling Article IX.G.3 of the Statute, which provides that the Assembly shall, by consensus of the Members present, take decisions relating to the supervision of the financial policies of the Agency, the financial rules and other financial matters and elect the auditor;

Recalling Article XII.C. of the IRENA Statute, which provides the Assembly shall appoint an external auditor who shall hold office for a period of four years and who shall be eligible for re-election, and that the auditor shall examine the accounts of the Agency and shall make such observations and recommendations as deemed necessary with respect to the efficiency of the management and the internal financial controls;

Noting the provision, in Financial Regulation 12.8, that the arrangements for the annual audit as provided for in Article IX.G.3 of the Statute shall take into account the international nature of the Agency and ensure an open and competitive process for the selection of the External Auditor;

Noting the practice according to which the Secretariat has been selecting the external auditor through a competitive procurement process open to public audit institutions and private audit firms and recommending, through the Council, the selected audit firm for appointment by the Assembly;

Noting that the Secretariat, through a competitive procurement process, selected the firm Lochan & Co as external auditor for the period 2025 – 2028;

Having considered the Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor contained in document A/15/9 as well as the views of the Council on this matter;

Decides to appoint Lochan & Co. as external auditor for the financial periods 2025 – 2028.

Requests the Secretariat to prepare, taking account of the views expressed by Members on the matter at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council and the fifteenth session of the Assembly, a proposed process for the selection and appointment of the external auditor consistent with Articles IX.G.3 and XII.C of the Statute, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-ninth meeting and submission to the Assembly at its sixteenth session.

Also requests the Council to review the terms of reference and reporting requirements of the external auditor at its twenty-ninth meeting and provide guidance to the Secretariat accordingly.

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest Decision on Ethics Policy Recommendations

The Assembly,

Recalling Article IX paragraph I and Article XI paragraphs B, C and F of the Statute of IRENA;

Recalling that the Assembly, at its second session, adopted by its decision A/2/DC/7 the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for the Agency, which called for the establishment of an Ethics Advisory Board to assist with the implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest of IRENA and in ethics matters involving the Director-General, and on any matter that the Ethics Officer submits to it;

Noting that the Assembly established the Ethics Advisory Board through decision A/3/DC/6;

Underlining the necessity of fostering broad public trust and confidence in the decision-making processes and operations of IRENA, of achieving the highest standards of conduct and of protecting the reputation and integrity of IRENA;

Seeking to enhance a culture of respect and accountability in the Agency by all staff at all levels, including the Director-General, as well as by other personnel of the Agency;

Having considered the views of the Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meetings as contained in documents C/27/SR/1 and C/28/SR/L.1 following its consideration of the report and recommendations of the Ethics Advisory Board as contained in documents C/27/8, C/27/9 and C/28/12;

Having also considered the draft revised Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest and the other draft policies, as contained in documents A/15/12; A/15/13; A/15/14; and A/15/15, submitted by the Council with the aim of ensuring that IRENA ethics-related policies and practices are consistent with international best standards and practices;

1. *Decides:*

- a) to adopt the following policies as contained in documents A/15/12; A/15/13; A/15/14; and A/15/15:

- Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct.
 - Policy on Protection against Retaliation for Reporting Misconduct or Cooperating with Duly Authorized Audits and Investigations.
 - Policy Addressing Prohibited Conduct, including Fraud, Corruption, and Other Financial Misconduct, and Discrimination, Harassment, including Sexual Harassment, and Abuse of Authority.
 - Revised Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest.
- b) that the Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct shall be annexed to the contract between the Agency and all future Directors-General as part of their terms of appointment and an integral part of the contract.
2. *Requests* the Council to initiate discussions at its twenty-ninth meeting to establish the Disciplinary Committee called for by the Policy on Handling Allegations of Unsatisfactory Conduct and Misconduct against the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency and on Investigations and the Disciplinary Process for such Conduct.
3. *Requests* the Director-General to revise the Code of Conduct annexed to the Staff Rules to ensure consistency with the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest and, where appropriate, with the other policies referred to in paragraph 1(a), and to report the full text of the revised Code of Conduct to the Assembly at its sixteenth session, as required by Staff Regulation 13.3.
4. *Requests* the Council to review regularly the implementation of the policies referred to in paragraph 1(a).
5. *Requests* the Director-General to promptly take appropriate actions to implement this decision, including by entering into an appropriate agreement with qualified external investigative entities as provided for in these policies, and to inform the staff and other personnel of the Agency accordingly.
6. *Encourages* the Ethics Advisory Board to work with the Secretariat to identify any necessary revisions to the Ethics Advisory Board's Terms of Reference or other regulatory instruments in order to ensure full consistency between them, and to recommend any such revisions to the Council at its twenty-ninth meeting.
7. *Requests* the Director-General and the Ethics Advisory Board to report on the implementation of this decision annually.

Note by the President of the fifteenth Assembly

Arrangements adopted by the fifteenth Assembly on 13th January 2025 under item 14.j ‘Council membership for 2025-2026’

Following the presentation on the nominations for 2025-2026 IRENA Council Membership by the Regional Groups and the ensuing interventions by Members, the President notes that the Assembly is not in a position to adopt the nominations for the 2025-2026 IRENA Council Membership, as contained in A/15/CRP/1, due to a lack of consensus by the Assembly on this matter. The President proposes that the members of the Europe and Others Group continue their efforts to agree on a list of nominations to be presented to the Assembly in 60 days in order for the Assembly to elect the members of the Council in accordance with Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute.

The President announced that, upon receipt of the agreed nominations from the Europe and Others Group, he would circulate them to all Members of the Agency in order to obtain their consensus, via written silence procedure in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. He expressed the hope that this approach would allow the new Council to assume its functions on schedule, and in time to prepare its next session in May 2025.

The President further noted that the Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean Groups had reached full agreement on the nominations presented to the Assembly and listed below, which are considered final.

The President proposed that the term of the current Council be extended until 31 March 2025, without setting any further precedent.

Africa Group	
2025	2026
Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egypt 2. Kenya 3. Togo 4. Uganda 5. Zimbabwe 	Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egypt 2. Kenya 3. Togo 4. Uganda 5. Zimbabwe
Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mauritius 2. Senegal 	Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mauritius 2. Senegal

Asia and the Pacific Group	
2025	2026
Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. China 2. Iraq 3. Iran 4. Malaysia 5. Solomon Islands 6. The United Arab Emirates Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Japan 2. India 3. Republic of Korea 	Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Japan 2. India 3. Republic of Korea 4. Bangladesh 5. Solomon Islands 6. The United Arab Emirates Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. China 2. Iraq 3. Iran

Latin America and the Caribbean Group	
2025	2026
Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Antigua and Barbuda 2. Costa Rica 3. Mexico Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commonwealth of Dominica 2. Dominican Republic 3. El Salvador 	Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commonwealth of Dominica 2. Dominican Republic 3. El Salvador Alternates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Antigua and Barbuda 2. Costa Rica 3. Mexico

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Decision on the Establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna

The *Assembly*,

Recalling that the Preparatory Commission for IRENA, by its decision PC.2/SR adopted at its second session, had decided that “[within] the framework of the IRENA Secretariat, an IRENA Liaison Office to international agencies and UN Energy will be established in Vienna, to be funded by the government of Austria”;

Noting that the IRENA Statute provides in Article IX, paragraph J that “[the] Assembly shall consider and approve as appropriate at its first session any decisions, draft agreements, provisions and guidelines developed by the Preparatory Commission in accordance with the voting procedures for the respective issue as outlined in Article IX paragraphs F to I”;

Recalling its decision A/1/DC/8 on the work programme and budget of the Agency adopted at its first session, in which it noted that “the establishment of the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna has been put on hold”;

Recalling further that the Director-General, in the proposed Work programme and Budget submitted to the Assembly at its first session (A/1/DC/8, Annex 13, paragraph 31) had indicated that “the organizational and resource requirements for the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna will be determined at a later stage”;

Noting that the Government of Austria, in communications to the Secretariat and statements of its delegation to the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council, expressed its readiness to host an IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna and its commitment to fully fund the Liaison office's staff and non-staff costs; and

Recognising that the establishment of an IRENA Liaison Office to organisations headquartered or represented in Vienna, in particular those working on energy, climate change and environment issues, could strengthen cooperation and coordination between IRENA and these organisations and increase the outreach capacity and visibility of the Agency,

Having considered the information provided to the Council at its twenty-eighth meeting by the Government of Austria and the Secretariat on the proposed establishment of a Liaison Office in Vienna, including the estimated budget for the biennium 2026-2027, as contained in document C/28/14.

1. *Decides* to establish an IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna within the framework of the IRENA Secretariat, in line with the proposal contained in document C/28/14 and on the understanding that all actual staff and non-staff costs of the Liaison Office will be fully funded by the Austrian Government through core non-assessed contributions and that the Government of Austria will grant to IRENA the privileges and immunities necessary for the operation of the Liaison Office, consistent with the status of IRENA as an international organisation.
2. *Requests* the Director-General to report annually on the activities of the IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna as part of his annual report to the Assembly.

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. In view of the number of items to be considered by the Assembly at its fifteenth session, the Secretariat, in consultation with the President of the Assembly, put in place the arrangements described in paragraph 2, aimed at facilitating the timely examination of credentials of representatives of Members and the consideration and approval by the Assembly of the report of the Credentials Committee.
2. The Secretariat invited IRENA Members to submit by 27 December 2024 expressions of interest to serve as a member of the Credentials Committee, and the following Members, which had communicated their interest to the Secretariat, were designated to serve on the Credentials Committee pending their appointment by the Assembly on the proposal of the President in accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly: Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Iran, and Italy.
3. The designated members of the Committee met virtually on 11 January 2025, on an exceptional basis before their appointment by the Assembly, and elected Mr Andreas Feil, the representative of Germany as Chairperson.
4. The designated members of the Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in respect of the representatives registered to participate in the fifteenth session of the Assembly, based on information provided by the Secretariat on credentials received as of 11 January 2025 at 11.00 am GST.
5. At its fifteenth session the Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee, consisting of the members listed in paragraph 2 above, which held an additional meeting on 12 January 2025.
6. The Committee determined that, as of 13 January 2025 at 10.00 am GST, 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:
7. Algeria; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Canada; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; European Union; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Hungary; Iceland; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kiribati; Latvia; Lebanon; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Montenegro; Namibia; Nauru; Nepal; Netherlands (Kingdom of); New Zealand; North

Macedonia; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Samoa; San Marino; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; Togo; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; and Zimbabwe

8. The Committee noted that 4 Members had not submitted credentials in the proper form and recommends that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible. The Committee further recommends that the Secretariat follow up with these Members to remind them to submit their credentials as soon as possible.
9. The Committee noted that 17 registered Members had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members attending the Assembly be permitted to participate provisionally in the fifteenth session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials will be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The Committee further recommends that the Secretariat follow up with these Members to remind them to submit their credentials as soon as possible.
10. The Committee recommends that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representatives, 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.
11. 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.

ANNEX 11

FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

GENERAL MEMBER STATEMENTS – NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION

At the fifteenth session of the Assembly, delegations were invited to share their national experiences/statements on priority actions and challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy, and exchange views on issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond, under Agenda Item 6: General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition on 12 January 2025.

Delegations were also invited to submit to the Secretariat their statements in written form and in the original language of delivery. Statements received by the Secretariat are contained in this Annex, through this [link](#), as per the below alphabetical order.

IRENA Members:

Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Malta, Namibia, Nauru, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Togo, Türkiye, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe.



Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

ANNEX 12

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Fifteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12–13 January 2025

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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