

Fourteenth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 17-18 April 2024

## **Background Note**

### **Plenary session**

### **Accelerated Renewable Deployment in Africa**

1. Africa stands at a crucial crossroads in its developmental trajectory, where energy plays a pivotal role in shaping its future. Despite having abundant renewable resources, the continent faces a significant energy access gap, with three-quarters of the global population lacking access residing there. Insufficient investment compounds this issue, with Africa receiving less than 2% of global investments in renewable energy over the last two decades. To address this, investments in the African energy system must double by 2030, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity for resilient and inclusive economies. Deploying renewable energy is key for Africa to address multiple economic, societal, and climate objectives simultaneously. Crucially, investments in the African energy system must significantly and rapidly grow to provide this essential service for resilient economies and societies.
2. The Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action recognises that the continent has the fundamentals to spearhead a climate compatible pathway as a cost-competitive industrial hub, with the capacity to support other regions in achieving their net zero ambitions. Renewable energy is an essential part of this vision, and the Nairobi Declaration calls for an increase of renewable capacity from 56 GW in 2022 to 300 GW by 2030, aligning with COP28's tripling renewable energy and doubling efficiency goals.
3. The Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) is designed to help realise this vision. Led by African countries with high ambition for renewables, APRA is an African country-led international alliance of governments and stakeholders working together to accelerate the deployment of renewables. By fostering a strategic transition to renewable energy, APRA aims to achieve several outcomes such as enhancing energy access, enabling green industrialisation, and improving economic and societal resilience.
4. APRA is pioneering a new approach to international cooperation, with a combination of a holistic approach to energy transitions and political leadership at the highest level for a systemic change. Guided by country-devised national plans, APRA mobilises action and commitments from public and private entities, and coordinates international efforts for meaningful, coherent and accelerated change. Based on the extensive consultations with countries, APRA has defined three primary short- and mid-term objectives: mobilising finance, engaging the private sector, and providing targeted technical assistance and capacity building. At present, Kenya, Ethiopia,

Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe are APRA members<sup>1</sup>, with Denmark, Germany, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States of America supporting the Partnership, and IRENA fulfilling the secretariat role.

### *Objectives of the session*

5. The objective of this Plenary session is to discuss APRA and its implementation strategy, and how international cooperation can accelerate renewable energy deployment in Africa through APRA. Within this context, IRENA Members and global stakeholders will discuss the potential for energy transition delivery priorities and their timely and comprehensive implementation in APRA countries and beyond. Emphasis will be placed on the different circumstances of African countries and regions, highlighting that a one-size-fits-all approach cannot be pursued. At the same time, discussions will identify how collective action can amplify individual efforts, as well as how the APRA model of cooperation can be expanded and amplified in Africa and beyond.
6. The session will include a scene-setting presentation by Kenya, followed by interventions from APRA members and an open discussion.

### *Guiding Questions*

- What concrete steps can APRA take to support its members in overcoming the existing challenges and accelerate the deployment of renewables in Africa, ensuring alignment with the ambitious goals set in the Nairobi Declaration and Agenda 2063?
- In what ways can international partnerships, such as APRA, be leveraged to enhance renewable energy deployment and investment across the continent?
- What additional resources or mechanisms should be considered to strengthen the impact of international cooperation in advancing renewable energy adoption across the African continent?
- How can APRA and other partnerships effectively contribute to building a robust local private sector in Africa, thereby fostering resilience in the renewables sector?
- How can IRENA best contribute to realising APRA's objectives?

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<sup>1</sup> It is envisaged that APRA will expand in the coming months and years, to engage more countries with high ambition on renewable energy and green industrialisation in Africa and beyond.