

Ninth session of the Assembly of IRENA Abu Dhabi, 11–13 January 2019 16 June 2019

REPORT

OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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Report of the ninth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The ninth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held from 11 to 13 January 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. There were over 1570 registered participants, including 120 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, along with delegates from 147 countries and the European Union.

2. The President of the eighth session of the Assembly, Uruguay, represented by Mr. Guillermo Moncecchi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining declared open the ninth session of the Assembly.

3. Welcoming delegations, Mr. Moncecchi highlighted the momentum in the adoption of renewable energy and the sense of urgency to address climate change. He noted the vast range of benefits of renewable energy and stressed that energy policies must take the lead in driving economic growth and investments. Inclusion and sovereignty, he continued, are cornerstones of Uruguay's national energy policy. Mr. Moncecchi highlighted the successful outcomes of bilateral and regional collaboration with IRENA and other stakeholders in facilitating the exchange of experiences and strengthening partnerships. He expressed the importance of promoting the exchange of experiences and information among the members of the Agency through South-South cooperation, both intra-regional and extraregional. He also proposed the creation of a global Alliance of countries that face similar challenges in terms of high incorporation of renewable energies in their energy matrix and that also have electricity surplus, in order to exchange experiences, best practices and analyse technological solutions. He also commended the Agency for the impact of its analytical work on technologies and innovation, system flexibility and energy transformation roadmaps, as well as its growth in membership mostly from the Latin American region, both as Members and in Accession. He acknowledged the timeliness of the report of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation and concluded by thanking the Director-General for his commitment and efforts in leading the Agency.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

4. The Assembly had, at its eighth session, designated by acclamation China as President of the ninth session. Accordingly, the outgoing President proposed that the Assembly elect China, represented by Mr. Li Fanrong, Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration, as President of the ninth session.

5. The Assembly elected by acclamation China, represented by Mr. Li Fanrong, Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration, as President of the ninth session of the Assembly.

6. The Assembly had, at its eighth session, further designated, by acclamation, Colombia, Eswatini, European Union represented by the European Commission, and Yemen as Vice-Presidents of the ninth session of the Assembly.

7. The Assembly elected by acclamation as Vice-President of its ninth session:

- Colombia, represented by H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Suárez Londoño, Minister of Mines and Energy;
- Eswatini, represented by H.E. Mr. Peter Bhembe, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy;

- European Union, represented by Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the European Commission; and
- Yemen, represented by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Anani, Minister of Electricity and Energy.

8. The President informed the Assembly that he had proposed to France, represented by Mr. Saïd Rahmani, to act as Rapporteur of its ninth session.

9. On the basis of the President's proposal, France, represented by Mr. Saïd Rahmani, Deputy Permanent Representative to IRENA, was appointed as Rapporteur of the ninth session of the Assembly.

b. Adoption of the Agenda (A/9/1)

10. The President introduced the Provisional Agenda (A/9/L.1).

11. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (A/9/1).

c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

12. The President proposed to the Assembly that it appoint Angola, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Korea as members of the Credentials Committee.

13. The Assembly appointed these nine countries as members of the Credentials Committee.

d. Participation of Observers (A/9/2)

14. The President introduced the document 'List of applicants for observer status at the ninth session of the Assembly' (A/9/L.2).

15. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its ninth session to applicants included in the List (A/9/2).

Agenda Item 3: Host country and other opening remarks

16. Mr. Li Fanrong expressed his honour to represent China as the President of the ninth session of the Assembly. He highlighted IRENA's pivotal role in the energy sector and in providing analysis and data, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration and acting as a voice of renewables in promoting the irreversible momentum for a global energy transformation. The President further noted the importance of the Agency's regional initiatives such as the Clean Energy Corridors (CEC), engagement with multilateral development banks and facilitation of investments as well as the provision of technical support to countries and regions.

17. The President emphasised China's commitment to address climate change through renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency, as exemplified in the progress the country is making in diversifying its energy mix. He further drew attention to the close collaboration with the Agency in formulating clear medium- and long-term policies and strategies. The President called upon IRENA and its Members to continue to strive for a renewables-based energy future. He called for international and regional cooperation to be strengthened including through technology transfer, capacity building and technical assistance to enable countries, particularly developing countries, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The President encouraged IRENA to continue to support Members in developing enabling frameworks and innovative business models to mobilise the private sector. The President concluded by thanking the Director-General for his leadership in carrying out the mandate and vision of the Agency.

18. The Director-General, in his address to the Assembly, welcomed delegations and congratulated China on its appointment as its President, noting the country's leadership in the global energy transition. He highlighted that the record-level participation by Ministers, High-Level officials and other senior decision-makers, as well as members from the private sector, parliaments, civil society, academia and media, proves that IRENA has become a truly inclusive platform. He welcomed the Agency's newest Members, stating that the Agency has grown to 160 Members with 23 countries in the process of joining. He invited all delegates to participate in the upcoming discussions and work with the Agency towards building a sustainable energy future for all.

19. H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment welcomed delegations to Abu Dhabi on behalf of the host country, the United Arab Emirates, and highlighted the importance of this session of the Assembly. He emphasised that energy is at the core of economic progress and quality of life for people around the world. He highlighted the United Arab Emirates' national policies and efforts aimed at diversifying the energy sector in response to growing energy demand and urbanisation, and addressing climate change. He further stressed the potential of the energy transition to generate significant socio-economic benefits such as jobs and the development of new industries, among others. H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi recounted the rapid growth of IRENA to attain near universal membership and become a key player in international energy cooperation and thanked the Director-General for his leadership over the past eight years. He further emphasised that IRENA's work empowered governments and decision-makers to accelerate the energy transition and addres that the Agency plays a central role in supporting countries in their efforts to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (hereafter 'Paris Agreement').

20. The United Nations Secretary General's message to the ninth session of the Assembly was delivered on his behalf by the President of the Assembly (Annex 8).

21. Following the opening remarks by the President, the Director-General and the host country, the reports on the regional Ministerial and high-level meetings as well as the Legislators Forum and Public-Private Dialogue, held on the day preceding the Assembly, were presented:

Report from the SIDS Ministerial 'Fostering Energy Transformation in SIDS through Lighthouses 2.0'

22. H.E. Ms. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, reported on the Ministerial Meeting attended by Heads of State and Government, Ministers and officials from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and development partners. The event provided a platform for SIDS and development partners to engage in a dialogue focused on accelerating efforts for an affordable, resilient and renewables-based energy future.

23. H.E. Ms. Mata'afa acknowledged the remarkable uptake of renewable energy achieved by SIDS over the past few years, which has been enabled by the flagship SIDS Lighthouses Initiative facilitated by IRENA. She highlighted that the targets set in the initiative were met three years ahead of time, attesting to the unwavering political leadership, national ownership and enduring partnership among SIDS and partners. Building on that success, a more ambitious target of 5 gigawatts (GW) installed renewables capacity in SIDS by 2023 has been set under the recently launched new phase of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative. She stated that the new priorities of the initiative are shaped by the many pressing challenges that SIDS are facing, such as addressing climate change, food and water security as well as their commitment to increase climate resilience and implement regional and global frameworks such as the SAMOA Pathway, Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (UN 2030 Agenda).

24. She noted that participants at the event recognised that challenges remain with grid integration, sustainable transport solutions, affordable technologies - including storage, knowledge, and technology transfer. Against that background, she explained, countries made clear recommendations on the way forward, highlighting the need for tailored solutions to accelerate the energy transformation in SIDS,

including intensified technical advisory services, capacity building, strengthened technical training and institutional development specific to the unique challenges faced by SIDS.

25. H.E. Ms. Mata'afa stressed the importance access to affordable finance and the development of bankable renewable energies projects, fostering public education and awareness on renewable energy technology, and working on end-use solutions, most notably in the transport sector. She also underlined the importance of strong partnerships and international co-operation including through inter-SIDS cooperation, peer-to-peer learning and continued synergies with the private sector, as well as to reinforce the multi-sectoral importance of renewable energy in agriculture, health, water, food and tourism. Finally, she emphasised that the deployment of renewable energy is vital in advancing SIDS' economic, social and environmental priorities and called on partners to support SIDS in meeting these multiple objectives.

Report from the African Ministerial 'Scaling up Renewable Energy Deployment in Africa'

26. H.E. Ms. Irene Muloni, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda, reported on the African Ministerial, which gathered 23 Ministers and 38 African countries, High-Level representatives of regional organisations, development partners, financing institutions, as well as international organisations. The event served as a platform for countries to showcase successful practices in creating strong policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as presenting inspiring examples of project implementation that can be shared among countries. Participants also used this opportunity to highlight the challenges they face in the deployment of renewable energy technologies and propose key areas where more engagement is needed. H.E. Ms. Irene Muloni acknowledged the vital role of IRENA in supporting the acceleration of the deployment of renewable energy in sustainable and affordable terms that will fuel the welfare of the African economy. She highlighted that, as a result of falling technology costs, renewables have become the most affordable solutions for countries with limited financial and technological resources. She further noted that renewables have also become the pathway for many African countries to strengthen and achieve climate resilient energy systems and to reduce dependence on energy imports.

27. H.E. Ms. Muloni noted that participants stressed the need for selecting the right technology that can offer the highest performance under diverse local conditions in the region at the lowest cost. She additionally highlighted the necessity of creating strong policy and regulatory frameworks to promote greater involvement of the private sector, while improving bankability of renewable energy projects. She underlined that high costs of investment due to perceived or real risks in African countries have been identified by participants as a key barrier to the rapid uptake of renewables. She remarked that attention was drawn to the shortage of skilled labour and the need for capacity building in the African renewable energy sector while promoting technology transfer and strengthening of the domestic manufacturing capacity.

28. H.E. Ms. Muloni further noted that participating Ministers and High-Level representatives emphasised that developing enabling policies is key to achieving social and economic objectives such as jobs and local value creation, gender and youth empowerment, as well as supporting small and medium sized enterprises. She concluded by recognising the critical role of international cooperation and strategic results-oriented partnerships and called for enhanced coordination with the pan-African programmes and initiatives. In this context, she reported that participants encouraged the Agency to scale up its technical support to contribute to the energy transformation of Africa.

Report from the High-Level Meeting 'Renewable Energy in Latin America'

29. Mr. Guillermo Moncecchi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay reported on the High-Level Meeting, which gathered Ministers and High-Level representatives from 18 Latin American countries, as well as partner organisations. The meeting provided a forum to discuss the *Regional Action Plan: Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment in Latin America* and to identify priority areas for support in the region. 30. Mr. Moncecchi noted that during the meeting, participants recognised the work IRENA has undertaken in the region and emphasised the central role of renewables in the energy sector throughout Latin America, with growing investment coupled with significant cost declines and robust policy measures. Mr. Moncecchi underscored that the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, should seek to address some of the emerging challenges in the region, such as increasing levels of decentralised renewable generation, and the growing role of storage, sector coupling and access to finance for bankable projects.

31. Mr. Moncecchi noted the importance some participants attached to the complementarities between hydropower and variable renewable energy, as well as opportunities provided by power surpluses. This was in addition to countries highlighting the important role of bio-energy resources in Latin America, especially for sustainable transport, as well as the importance of geothermal resources for power generation and direct-uses. To advance in these areas, Mr. Moncecchi pointed out that some participants underscored the need to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the *Regional Action Plan*. In this regard, it was agreed that countries should increase the exchange of information and experiences on various aspects of the energy transformation to support renewable energy deployment in Latin America, and that IRENA should serve as a platform for this purpose.

32. In closing, Mr. Moncecchi emphasised that the *Regional Action Plan* for Latin America reaffirms the need for a strong regional approach to support renewable energy development in Latin America that can complement targeted bilateral engagements. Moreover, he underlined that the Plan has been initiated and will serve as a catalytic tool in Latin America's in its transition to a sustainable energy future.

Report from the '2019 Legislators Forum'

33. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas-Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Member of the Senate of Mexico, reported on the 2019 Legislators Forum, which gathered 44 members of parliament from 27 countries. She noted that parliamentarians once again welcomed the Legislators Forum as an effective platform to address the need for a sustained dialogue among parliamentarians, parliamentary associations and IRENA, echoing the support that such dialogue provides in the formulation of evidence-based policies and mechanisms.

34. Legislators emphasised the key role of renewables in accelerating the energy transformation and in reaching the goal of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 as set out in SDG 7 in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, discussions focused on the pivotal role that parliamentarians can play in facilitating and monitoring an integrated approach to the implementation of SDG 7 through partnerships and collaboration in national processes and with effective and accountable institutions.

35. Ms. Cuevas-Barron highlighted the key role played by parliamentarians in establishing concrete networks to achieve SDG 7. In this regard, participants called for working sessions on this issue with the inclusion of relevant stakeholders from industry as well as public and private sector entities. Legislators proposed six key areas for IRENA's engagement with parliamentarians:

- Accessing reliable knowledge, information and data on the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy to support their efforts in adopting relevant legislation, allocating budget and ensuring accountability for the implementation of SDGs;
- Institutionalising the Legislators Forum as a platform to further cultivate and connect a network of interested parliamentarians throughout the year, including developing a plan of action to support them in accelerating the energy transformation on the ground;
- Pledging to work with IRENA in organising parliamentary meetings at the regional level in coordination with regional parliamentary networks and assemblies;

- Developing a parliamentary toolkit to support members of parliament in championing the uptake of renewable energy through collaboration between IRENA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other international and regional organisations;
- Assisting parliamentarians launch initiatives in their constituencies, by facilitating adequate transfer of technologies through capacity building and technical advice;
- Identifying and discussing opportunities stemmed by cross-border grid connections to address the challenge of integrating variable renewable energy in power grids.

Report from the '2019 Public-Private Dialogue - Public and Private Actions Needed to Accelerate the Energy Transformation'

36. Mr. Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes, Vice President of the European Renewable Energies Federation and Chair of the IRENA Coalition for Action Working Group on "Towards 100% Renewable Energy", reported on the Public-Private Dialogue and noted the continued growth of the IRENA Coalition for Action comprising 80 members representing the private sector, industry associations, civil society and research organisations. He conveyed the view of Coalition members, that the energy transformation needs to be addressed with a sense of urgency and stated that joint efforts within the Coalition are now focused on increasing the uptake of renewable energy.

37. Mr. Hinrichs-Rahlwes noted that the Coalition's latest white paper '*Towards 100% Renewable Energy: Status, Trends and Lessons Learned*' presented during the Public-Private Dialogue session, shows that more than 50 countries worldwide and over 280 regions, and cities have already committed to a 100% renewable energy target. He highlighted that increasing ambition and implementation of renewable energy strategies is already technically feasible and beneficial from a socio-economic perspective. Strengthening partnerships among stakeholders, citizens, businesses, and policy-makers is essential to reach significantly higher shares of renewables.

38. Mr. Hinrichs-Rahlwes further emphasised the following key issues from the Public-Private Dialogue as crucially important to successfully accelerate the energy transformation: political will, clear targets, and a long-term policy framework that ensures a broad and just participation; non-discriminatory market access and locally adapted policy mechanisms allowing for both private and community-based investors to engage effectively; innovative strategies and technologies that increase system flexibility, enabling communities to play an active role to take full advantage of socio-economic benefits, including jobs and local value creation; as well as long-term and effective carbon pricing and the removal of existing subsidies on fossil fuels. Mr. Hinrichs-Rahlwes concluded by stating that the Coalition stands ready to work with all Members and other partners to significantly increase shares of renewable energy to 100%.

39. The Assembly received, with appreciation, the welcoming remarks and took note of the reports provided.

Agenda Item 4: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (A/9/3)

40. The Director-General introduced the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019, highlighting that IRENA has firmly established itself as the principal global framework for international collaboration on renewable energy with 160 Members and 23 States in Accession.

41. The Director-General emphasised that systemic global trends coupled with the imperative of sustainable development and climate change have shifted the paradigm on energy. He noted that rapid innovation has unlocked new possibilities and the falling cost of renewables and new business models have altered the contours of energy demand, production, distribution and use. The Director-General highlighted that the boundaries of the energy landscape are being redrawn by government policy, international agreements and decisions of investors reflecting changed priorities and increased public scrutiny.

42. Referring to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report: Global Warming of $1.5 \,^{\circ}$ C, the Director-General stressed that efforts to successfully limit global average temperature increase to $1.5 \,^{\circ}$ C will require actions on many levels. As mentioned in the IPCC report, an accelerated deployment of low carbon energy technologies and greater energy efficiency will be key solutions. He noted that IRENA's report on *Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050* estimates that a six-fold increase in the deployment of renewable energy in conjunction with energy efficiency measures is needed, if climate goals are to be met. Such a pathway could deliver around 90% of the energy-related carbon emission reductions needed by 2050. He continued that the share of electricity consumed in transport, heating and cooling needs to double from around 20% in 2015 to 40% in 2050. He highlighted that the *Roadmap to 2050* shows that a renewables-based energy future is possible, but that it requires fundamental shifts in strategies, policies, investments and mindsets.

43. The Director-General noted that these shifts are already taking place, with 180 countries having enabling policies in place. He highlighted that IRENA's capacity statistics showed that a record of 168 GW of new capacity was installed in 2017, which represents more than double the 83 GW of new non-renewable capacity that was installed. He also continued that the goal of 100% renewable is now being considered by an increasing number of countries around the world along with a significant growth in corporate sourcing of renewables. He emphasised that the cost-competitiveness of technologies has been a vital driver of the rising renewables ambitions, noting by 2020, all commercially available renewable technologies will be on par with or cheaper than fossil fuel sources.

44. The Director-General underlined the importance of innovation in the energy transition as a core element in the Agency's programmatic activities as showcased by the Second IRENA Innovation Week in Bonn as well as the analytical work of IRENA's report *Innovation landscape for a renewable-powered future: Solutions to integrate variable renewables.* The three major innovation trends reshaping the power sector, he continued, are electrification, decentralisation and digitalisation.

45. The Director-General emphasised that the transformation of the global energy system requires a decisive shift in investments. He highlighted the report of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation, which demonstrates that the ongoing transformation will have far-reaching implications for which both countries and industries must prepare themselves. He recalled that IRENA's Renewable Energy Roadmap (REmap) analysis estimates that the additional investments required would be around 0.4% of global GDP in 2050 but will more than pay off with an additional 1% in GDP growth in 2050. He added that if welfare benefits were also taken into account, the savings would be up to five times more than the additional costs of this investment in addition to the millions of new jobs that would be created in the renewable energy sector. The Director-General indicated that IRENA's latest *Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review* shows that more than 500,000 jobs were added globally in 2017, with the total number of people employed in renewables surpassing ten million for the first time. He emphasized that these are powerful facts and priority considerations for policy makers in meeting a range of objectives. In this context, he highlighted the report of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation, which analyses how the ongoing transformation will have far-reaching implications for which both countries and industries must prepare themselves.

46. The Director-General spoke of the importance of tailored advice, exemplifying this with IRENA's flagship activity, the Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) and noted that since 2011, IRENA completed 30 RRAs and two combined RRA-Remap studies. He further noted that more RRAs currently being undertaken. The Director-General highlighted the importance of regional work, including the development of regional plans. In this regard, he recognised the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently concluded with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

47. The Director-General stressed the importance of collaborative efforts. He recounted the success of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and expressed his expectation that the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative 2.0 will need to be responsive to the changing energy landscape, to be able to deliver across three key

imperatives: economic growth and development, energy security and universal access to energy, and environmental sustainability.

48. The Director-General highlighted that, the number of people without access to energy has for the first time fallen below one billion. He noted that 133 million people are benefitting from off-grid renewable energy solutions. Against this backdrop, The Director-General emphasised the need for further action and mentioned that IRENA's fourth International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC) took place in Singapore as examples of IRENA's efforts. He mentioned that IOREC evolved from a Conference based on technology, business and finance models, to one also encompassing a focus on job creation, food security, gender empowerment, sustainable economic growth, and delivery of healthcare services.

49. The Director-General also highlighted that, back-to-back to IOREC, IRENA organised the International Conference on Renewable Energy Solutions for Healthcare Facilities, bringing together key actors from the energy and healthcare communities. The Director-General further recalled the outcomes of the session on the review of SDG 7 at the United Nations High-level Political Forum in New York, which underscored the importance of accelerating the deployment of renewables to achieve other SDGs related to health, jobs, economic growth, sustainable cities and climate action.

50. The Director-General highlighted the critical role of women in driving the global energy transition at the pace and scale required and one that is fair and inclusive. He underscored IRENA's analytical work and report, *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective*, on women's role in renewable energy employment and decision-making globally, and emphasised the opportunities contained in the report to address barriers to gender equality.

51. Before concluding, the Director-General acknowledged the resources IRENA has received to date which have enabled the effective delivery of the Agency's programmatic agenda. He noted that the core assessed contributions received totalled USD 17.9 million and voluntary contributions from the Belgian region of Walloon, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates totalled USD 9.2 million. He also acknowledged the UAE, Germany and the Belgian regions of Flanders and Wallonia for their support to the Fund for Developing Country Representatives (FDCR) which enabled this Assembly to be inclusive and reflective of IRENA's participatory nature.

52. After the presentation of the Director-General, the President invited Members on the speakers' list to make their statements. The Vice-President, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Suárez Londoño, Minister of Mines and Energy of Colombia presided over the continuation of statements under this agenda item in the afternoon.

53. Delegations welcomed the progress on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019 and recognised the achievements of the Director-General, in establishing IRENA as the leading actor in the global renewable energy landscape over the past eight years. Members highlighted IRENA's impact as a global voice of renewables, a repository of knowledge and data, a network hub of stakeholders, and as a source of advice and technical assistance in promoting the global renewables-based energy transition. Delegations highlighted IRENA's role in shaping global energy policy and in contributing to Members' policy-making and planning, through regional engagements, particularly the SIDS Lighthouses initiatives, Clean Energy Corridors, and the South East Europe regional initiatives, and the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy, as well as through its knowledge products and tools such as Remap, RRAs and Global Atlas and Sustainable Energy Marketplace. Delegations further noted the importance of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 in shaping the future direction of the Agency and emphasised the need to continue to focus on its comparative advantages, and to strengthen its role in fostering action on the ground.

54. Delegations also highlighted the momentum of the global energy transition towards renewable energy driven by technological innovation, policies and declining costs. Delegations underlined the

potential of renewable energy to promote universal access to sustainable, affordable and reliable energy services and to generate economic growth and sustainable development.

55. Delegations highlighted the importance of policies and targets to accelerate the energy transition and investments. Some delegations mentioned that these policies were driven by concerns of energy security and access, the environment, human health and climate change. Several delegations noted that the objectives of these policies were to provide adequate and reliable supply of clean energy, support social and economic growth and the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to address the impacts of climate change.

56. Delegations stressed the importance of private sector engagement and strengthening enabling policy and regulatory frameworks to attract investments in renewables and accelerate the energy transition. Delegations emphasised that, although costs of renewables have decreased considerably over the last few years, they are still not affordable on the scale needed and thus, increasing investment in the development and deployment of clean energy, innovation and infrastructure continues to be a high priority. Delegations noted that sufficient investment would enable them to realise their clean energy ambition and bring socio-economic benefits, including through increased GDP and welfare, improved human health and environment, and job creation.

57. Delegations highlighted the positive impact of funding from the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility on implementing transformative renewable energy projects. They called on IRENA to assist Members in mobilising investments. Some requested support in capacity building and technical assistance in the use of international risk mitigation instruments in order to attract greater investment.

58. Delegations echoed the urgency to act on climate change that was presented in the IPCC *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5* $^{\circ}$ C, specifically with regard to limiting global warming to 1.5 $^{\circ}$ C. They mentioned that this would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in all sectors, most notably energy. Delegations, especially developing countries and SIDS, highlighted their vulnerability to the devastation caused by climate change.

59. Members affirmed their commitment to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and highlighted renewable energy and energy efficiency policies as a key strategy to this end. Delegations further emphasised that upscaling renewable energy is critical for achieving the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy. Delegations noted that IRENA, as the global voice of renewables, has an opportunity to play a leading role in realising these goals.

60. Delegations recognised the critical role of collaboration at all levels in advancing the decarbonisation of energy systems and economies. In this regard, delegations emphasised the importance of collaborating with international institutions, such as the World Bank and other regional development banks, the International Energy Agency, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC), and multilateral settings such as the G7 and the G20.

61. Delegations noted that innovation is at the heart of the energy transition. They recognised that innovation can help decrease the cost of renewables and increase investment potential and energy access, especially in rural areas, and provide solutions throughout the energy value chain. It was noted that innovation in technology must be complemented by innovation in business models to ensure that the energy transition is just, fair and inclusive. Delegations underlined the need to implement holistic approaches across sectors and technologies and emphasised the importance of accelerating sector-coupling and the integration of renewables in end-use sectors, transport, heating and cooling.

62. Delegations noted that the changing nature of the energy system provides opportunities for engaging and empowering citizens and communities in driving renewables deployment and sustainable development. Delegations also welcomed IRENA's work on gender in renewable energy and

emphasised that gender equality is an essential pillar for the energy transition and for achieving the SDGs.

63. Delegations affirmed their continued support to the Agency's mission and programmatic work with several delegations announcing additional voluntary contributions to this end. Two delegations highlighted the mutual benefits of the arrangements for secondment and Junior Professional Officers.

64. In his concluding remarks, the Director-General expressed his appreciation for Members' feedback and support to the Agency. He acknowledged the momentum of the global energy transition and international cooperation, and emphasised the importance of innovation, collaboration, ambition and determination in overcoming the many challenges ahead to reach a renewable energy future that will be vital for a sustainable and prosperous world.

65. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the 'Annual report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019'.

Agenda Item 5: Plenary Discussion - The Geopolitics of Energy Transformation (A/9/DN/1)

66. Presiding over the Assembly's deliberations, the Vice-President of the Assembly, Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy of the European Commission invited the Assembly to take up agenda item 5 on "The Geopolitics of Energy Transformation".

67. The Director-General introduced the report *A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation* and recalled that the need for a comprehensive analysis on the geopolitical implication of the energy transformation led to the establishment of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation (hereafter 'Commission') during the eighth session of the IRENA Assembly. The Director-General emphasised that, the energy transformation entails more than just a transition from one energy source to another. It will bring significant political, social and economic changes and will profoundly impact the geopolitical landscape as well as relationships between states.

68. The Director-General thanked the Commission members for their time and contribution. He noted that their diverse backgrounds from public and private sector and from various energy industries contributed towards developing an insightful and comprehensive overview on the possible impacts of the energy transformation on power relations, trade, and root causes of geopolitical instability and conflicts. The Director-General also expressed his gratitude to the governments of Germany, Norway and the United Arab Emirates for their generous support for the work of the Commission, as well as the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its additional support.

69. The Director-General highlighted that with the implementation of appropriate policies and strategies, the benefits of the global energy transformation would outweigh the challenges. He stressed the importance of proactive and forward-looking choices that need to be made by leaders today to shape a more prosperous future that promotes sustainable economic growth, improve livelihoods, and foster social cohesion and stability and allows us to confront the challenge of climate change. He expressed his hope that the report will help governments, business, academia, think tanks, civil society and the media to better understand and adjust to the geopolitical changes.

70. Mr. Olafur Grimsson, Chair of the Commission, presented the report *A New World: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation* to the Assembly. He pointed out that a new geopolitical structure driven by technological and business advances of renewable energy is redefining relationships among countries and regions. He cited concrete examples outlined in the report to assist countries dependent on fossil fuels in addressing the challenges of the energy transition, while noting opportunities for energy independence for small and medium-sized economies. Mr. Grimsson highlighted that the report allows academic, business and political communities as well as citizens to appreciate the implications of the emergence of a new geopolitical structure. He called upon Members to take into account, when

defining policies and strategies, the new geopolitical map that is evolving as a result of the rapid growth of renewable energy.

71. Following remarks by the Chair of the Commission and the Director-General, Germany, Norway and the United Arab Emirates shared their reflections with the Assembly.

72. H.E. Mr. Peter Fischer, Permanent Representative of Germany to IRENA, thanked the Director-General and the Chair of the Commission for their vision and leadership in guiding the work of the Commission. He outlined that the shift to renewable energy sources will create new interdependencies which will require further international cooperation and trust among nations, as well as regulated and transparent markets and multilateral rules-based cooperation. H.E. Mr. Fischer noted the need to address cross-cutting global issues as a global community to pave the way for a more stable and peaceful world, while recognising the existing nexus between sustainability, climate, energy, water, food, development including security.

73. Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, Policy Director for Energy and Climate from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted that the report is the first comprehensive analysis of the geopolitical implications of the global energy transformation driven by renewables. In this context, he suggested, that IRENA could play a facilitative role in further developing this initiative. Mr. Ibrekk stated that the global energy transformation will lead to the emergence of new alliances and change in trade relationships while reducing oil and gas conflicts. He observed that new trade patterns will be created, and countries will expand collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world.

74. H.E. Dr. Nawal Al Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA, welcomed the Commission's report noting its contribution for the UAE's development of the energy sector. She stated that, although the UAE is a major producer of hydrocarbons, it recognises that the new era of the energy system belongs to renewables. She highlighted the UAE's national energy targets and developments which aim to deliver clean and affordable energy to reduce carbon emissions, maximise energy productivity, and stimulate economic growth. H.E. Dr. Al Hosany called upon the international community and decision-makers to seize the opportunities and address the challenges outlined in the report. She reiterated the UAE's commitment to, and active engagement with, global initiatives to strengthen capacity in policy and technological development towards a sustainable energy future, including within the framework of IRENA's membership.

75. Delegations welcomed the Commission's report and noted its relevance to government decisionmakers and business leaders in accelerating the sustainable energy transformation and tackling climate change. They also stressed that the energy transformation offers new opportunities to shape relations among countries and regions, while emphasising that multilateralism is the sole path to stepping up to international challenges for the increased uptake and deployment of renewable energy.

76. Delegations shared their national efforts, projects and ambitions in accelerating the energy transition from conventional fuels to renewable energy sources and new technologies. Delegations suggested that IRENA continues analysing the implications of the global energy transition while taking into account the special circumstances of SIDS. They encouraged the Agency to continue to play an active role in promoting innovative technologies and in creating an enabling environment for the exchange of knowhow. They also called for the impacts of the energy transition and its implications for the livelihoods of communities to be taken into account as the new geopolitical structure emerges.

77. In his concluding remarks, the Director-General expressed his appreciation for the thoughtful comments made by delegations and their growing interest in this topic. He reiterated the importance of multilateralism to address the challenges posed by the energy transition. He also identified enabling policy frameworks as key to providing confidence, certainty and transparency to investors to scale-up investments. The Director-General concluded that the work on the implications of this report would be carried out further and invited Members to continue to collaborate with the Agency on related activities in the future.

78. The Assembly took note of the report and the discussions.

Agenda Item 6: Socio-economic Benefits of the Energy Transition (A/9/DN/2)

79. The plenary discussion "Socio-economic Benefits of the Energy Transition" was presided by the Vice-President of the Assembly, Mr. Dominique Ristori, and comprised an introduction by the Director-General, followed by a presentation by the Secretariat and a panel discussion. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Jason Bordoff, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and included Mr. Thorsten Herdan, Director-General of the Energy Policy Department of Germany, Mr. José Dominguez Abascal, State Secretary for Energy at the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain, Mr. Daniel Schroth, Adviser to the Vice-President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Acting Director – KPFC, IRENA.

80. The Director-General, in his introduction, provided an overview of the Agency's work in analysing the socio-economic footprint of the energy transition. He underlined the need to shift the focus of discussions beyond technology innovations and capacity additions, to reflect the interactions between the evolving energy sector and the broader socio-economic system. He remarked the Agency's previous work on the topic since 2016, which showed that the benefits of renewables in the energy transformation go well beyond GDP and include various social and environmental aspects. He added that the Agency's future work on this issue would examine the structural drivers of the varying global and regional outcomes of the energy transition. He further underscored the importance of incorporating the socio-economic footprint into energy planning and policy-making to maximise the benefits of the energy transition and to ensure that it is just, fair, and inclusive.

81. Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Acting Director of the IRENA Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, delivered a scene-setting presentation, detailing the work conducted by IRENA on the topic. She presented the findings of the latest brief *Measuring the Socio-economic Footprint of the Energy Transition: The role of supply chains*, and noted that in current analytical approaches, energy is often treated as self-contained without consideration of the broader socio-economic system. She explained that an integrated assessment of the interactions between the evolving energy sector and the wider economy offers valuable insights into the socio-economic footprint of the energy transition, and into the emerging opportunities and challenges thereof.

82. Ms. Ferroukhi further emphasised the global benefits of the energy transition in terms of GDP, employment generation and human welfare, and showcased the differences that arise at the regional and national level, pointing out that the strength and depth of domestic supply chains plays a key role in determining how countries and regions will fare as a result of the transition's dynamics. She further presented the findings of a trade sensitivity analysis that showed positive net effects globally, with many emerging economies benefitting in a full localisation scenario. She concluded by highlighting the role of collaborative approaches to trade, and integration of industrial policies, skills and education, and social protection measures to achieve a just and fair energy transition.

83. Mr. Jason Bordoff introduced the panel discussion by welcoming the Agency's focus on this issue and highlighted some of the factors driving renewable energy deployment, to date. These included: reduction in the cost of technology, creation of domestic jobs, strengthening of the value chain, and the benefits of renewables in addressing climate change. Mr. Bordoff also highlighted that the political economy of the energy transition should be at the centre of the discourse so that both winners and losers from the process are accounted for. He emphasised that speed, scale and sustained efforts are required by policy-makers globally to achieve the desired outcome of a low carbon transition.

84. Mr. Thorsten Herdan shared Germany's experience in implementing energy policy measures that have contributed to cost reductions in the solar and wind industries globally. He noted that this was made possible through ensuring broad public support by engaging industrial actors and individual consumers. He remarked that incidental high electricity tariffs incurred by taxpayers in the process are

being mitigated through a structural tax reform currently introduced, to safeguard the wide social acceptance of the transition. Mr. Herdan outlined his Government's efforts to manage the impacts arising from the phase-out of coal, including through measures for the development of new economic sectors. He highlighted the different adaptation rates observed and emphasised that policies are required to ensure that those who are adversely affected by the transition are not left behind. On the localisation of supply chains, Mr. Herdan urged countries to identify their strengths and focus on them.

85. Mr. José Dominguez Abascal echoed the importance of supporting countries impacted by the transition. He shared Spain's recent experience. Complementing a decision to shut down all remaining coal mining activity at the end of 2018, a royal decree was issued to ensure a fair transition, through the promotion of other economic activities in vulnerable regions, and a coordinated plan to replace all coal power plants with renewable energy by 2027. On Spain's experience with subsidising renewables, Mr. Abascal explained that high feed-in tariffs introduced at the outset were needed, but that they resulted in significant public expenditure. He continued that for this reason, the Government introduced a framework to ensure investors' return on investments to replace the previous policy.

86. Mr. Daniel Schroth highlighted the significant advantage of developing value chains based on low carbon and climate-resilient technologies. He highlighted the example of a number of African countries that possess tremendous potential to supply agricultural produce, as well as processed products to global markets, while addressing the challenges of climate change through the application of resilient agricultural practices coupled with renewable energy-driven processing systems. Mr. Schroth offered insights on AfDB's policy work with countries that considers various synergies between energy and agriculture, education, gender and health and defining minimum levels of participation of local stakeholders in the value chain. He further acknowledged the importance of building and transferring competencies to countries with a view to address challenges in renewable energy deployment and in unlocking the socio-economic potential of off-grid energy solutions for creating employment opportunities in rural areas.

87. In the ensuing discussion, delegations welcomed IRENA's brief and commended the Agency's work on showcasing the socio-economic benefits of a renewables-based transition. Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to continue engaging with the Agency on this matter and called on IRENA to facilitate the sharing of best practices among countries to multiply the transition benefits. Delegations highlighted the importance of designing policies for maximising the potential benefits and to consider the nexus between energy and gender, health and cities in policy-making.

88. Delegations noted the importance of regional cooperation in accelerating the transition and welcomed the interdependence between regional and national targets as a solid reference for policy implementation. Some delegations highlighted the added value of implementing community-led renewable energy projects to complement government policies, with participatory programmes for citizens. A delegation drew special attention to the unanimity amongst the international community on the understanding between justice and fairness associated with the energy transition.

89. In addition, it was stressed that the energy transition provides an opportunity for strengthening policies aimed at achieving socio-economic equality whereby all citizens benefit from these developments, especially in circumstances where social disruption may be experienced during the transition to the full deployment of renewables. It was proposed that, it is timely to focus more on the socio-economic dimension of renewables in the energy transition.

90. The Vice-President of the Assembly concluded the discussion by welcoming IRENA's analysis and insights for guiding the energy transformation. He emphasised that the socio-economic impact of the ongoing energy transition must take into account the circumstances of countries, their different capacities, ambitions, and priorities. For these reasons, the transition policies should accentuate the opportunities inherent in expanding renewables while minimising the potential negative impacts. He underlined the significance of strong political will in creating sound policy frameworks that will maximise benefits for all countries and regions. Lastly, the Vice-President stressed that the social

dimension of the energy transformation presents economic opportunities, and urged governments to leverage those to ensure both, macro-economic benefits as well as a just and fair transition.

91. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 7: IRENA/ADFD Project Facility: Announcement of selected projects in the sixth cycle (A/9/5)

92. The Vice-President of the Assembly, Mr. Dominique Ristori, presided over the deliberations and invited the Director-General to introduce the item. The Director-General thanked the United Arab Emirates for its commitment to renewables deployment in developing countries through the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (hereafter 'Facility'). He also thanked the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and its Director-General, in particular, for the excellent cooperation in this partnership. He also expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Advisory Committee and the Panel of Experts of the Facility. He noted that the work of the Facility supported IRENA's mission worldwide, and that the Facility had received over 500 applications over its life cycle is a reflection of the increasing demand for low cost renewable energy financing, particularly in developing countries. He mentioned that the 24 grid-connected, mini-grid or off-grid projects selected to date are in Africa, Asia, Latin America and SIDS using solar, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal or hybrid technologies. He emphasised that these projects are creating jobs, building climate change resilience, reducing carbon emissions and are directly improving the livelihood of many. The Director-General underlined that these projects serve as an inspiration for IRENA Members to undertake further actions and mobilise resources and expertise to support renewable energy projects in developing countries. He highlighted that significant progress made to date by the Facility, presented in the report Advancing Renewables in Developing Countries. In concluding, he wished the Facility every success in continuing to help developing countries achieve the SDGs.

93. Mr. Mike Allen, Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Facility, introduced his report, noting the positive impacts delivered by the selected projects in fostering the deployment of renewable energy and sustainable development, in particular supporting small businesses of women. He reported an increase in the number of proposals by 25% for the sixth funding cycle compared to the previous one, as a result of an increase in regional outreach, and a marked increase in post-selection follow-up and engagement with other funding institutions for co-funding. He outlined that 112 executive summaries from 51 eligible countries were received, and the loans requested amounted to USD 1.1 billion. He highlighted that total project cost increased by 38% to USD 3.9 billion compared to the last cycle. Mr. Allen stressed the importance of government guarantees as a pre-requisite for the selection of projects and informed that IRENA refer other shortlisted projects to development funds and IRENA's Sustainable Energy Marketplace.

94. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development highlighted the successful strategic partnership with IRENA over the years and recognised the efforts made by the Advisory Committee and the Panel of Experts of the Facility. He underlined that the renewable energy projects funded by the Facility are delivering socio-economic benefits, improving people's livelihoods as well as contributing to sustainable development in recipient countries. H.E. Mr. Al Suwaidi announced the recipients of the projects selected for funding during the sixth cycle, as follows:

- Guyana Hinterland Electrification Programme: 5.2 MW grid-connected solar PV systems with a USD 8 million loan from the Fund;
- Liberia River Gee Mini-Hydropower Project: 2.1 MW run-of-the-river hydropower plant with a USD 8 million loan from the Fund; and
- Togo Dapaong Solar Project: 30 MW grid-connected solar PV plant with a USD 15 million loan from the Fund.

He also noted that the seventh cycle is open for receiving applications until mid-February 2019 (via IRENA's online dashboard).

95. The Vice-President invited representatives from the three countries, Guyana, Liberia and Togo, whose projects were selected for funding in the sixth cycle, to deliver a statement.

96. H.E. Mr. David Patterson, Minister of Public Infrastructure of Guyana highlighted that the Hinterland Electrification Programme aims to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and improve energy security and energy access in communities. The project would benefit 35,000 residents and create 120 direct and indirect jobs, thereby setting the stage for technology transfer and its replication in other communities. He further highlighted that the provision of renewable energy would support local industries and entrepreneurs, schools, hospitals and health centres, and that the programme would reduce CO₂-emissions and contribute to the country's vision of a green economy and clean energy future.

97. Mr. Stephen Potter, Program Director at the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency of Liberia stated that the River Gee Mini-Hydropower Project would enable transmission between neighbouring countries and grid extension to isolated communities and provide affordable and reliable energy to 30,000 people, households, businesses, industries and public institutions. The project will reduce the cost of electricity to households by 30%, increase energy security, and contribute to reducing power imports and CO₂-emissions.

98. Mr. Abbas Aboulaye, Director-General of Energy at the Ministry of Energy of Togo informed that the Dapaong 30 MW Solar Project aims to reduce the energy shortages, increase the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix, and reduce CO_2 -emissions. He highlighted that the project will provide 700,000 households, and small-scale businesses and industries with electricity and, at the same time, create 800 jobs and reduce the cost of power generation.

99. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the sixth project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility and progress to date' as well as the presentations and interventions on selected projects.

Agenda Item 8: Plenary Discussion: The Changing Role of Hydropower in The Energy Sector Transformation (A/9/DN/3)

100. The Vice-President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Suárez Londoño, Minister of Mines and Energy of Colombia, presided over the deliberations under this agenda item and invited the Director-General and Mr. Benoit Revaz, Minister of State of the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, to introduce the topic. The introductory remarks were followed by two panel discussions.

101. The first panel discussion on "Enhancing reliability and availability of hydropower through strategic operations and maintenance" was moderated by Mr. Richard Taylor, Chief Executive of the International Hydropower Association (IHA). It included a presentation by Mr. Amédée Murisier, Head of Business Projects and Development and Deputy Head of Hydro Power Generation at Alpiq Holding Ltd., followed by a discussion with Mr. Lamu Audu, CEO of Mainstream Energy Solutions; Mr. Liu Chongdong, President of China Three Gorges Power Operation International Co. Ltd.; Mr. Harrison Mutikanga, CEO of Uganda Electricity Generation Company Ltd.; and Mr. Pierre Lorillou, Senior Hydropower Specialist at the World Bank Group.

102. The second panel discussion on "Adopting modernised and innovative operation of hydropower fleet in the energy sector transformation" was moderated by Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Chief of Energy Systems and Infrastructure Division at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The panel discussion included a presentation by Ms. Chao Ma, Deputy General Manager, Department of International Business, Huanghe Hydropower Development Co. Ltd, and was followed by a discussion with Mr. Tron Engebrethsen, Senior Vice-President of Statkraft; and Mr. Travis Smith, Senior Vice President of SNC Lavalin Inc.

103. The Director-General introduced the topic and highlighted hydropower as a vital renewable resource in the energy transformation that can contribute to the decarbonisation of the global energy mix. He cited some specific examples of countries in which hydropower plays a key role in providing a stable supply of power. He emphasized the role of hydropower in enabling the integration of higher shares of solar and wind resources.

104. Mr. Benoit Revaz highlighted that hydropower is a mature technology in providing electricity and storage. He noted that several regions of the world still possess the untapped potential for developing hydropower. Mr. Revaz underlined that the optimisation, maintenance and refurbishment of existing hydropower capacity represents a cost-efficient alternative to the construction of new capacity. He concluded by emphasising the importance of appropriate market design and international guidelines for environmental and social best practices for the operation of hydropower.

105. Mr. Richard Taylor, the moderator of the first discussion "Enhancing reliability and availability of hydropower through strategic operations and maintenance", noted that hydropower operates in more than 150 countries and provides electricity for more than one billion people. Mr. Taylor emphasised the importance of sound operation and maintenance (O&M) approaches for hydropower infrastructure and equipment. He highlighted that hydropower can play a key role in facilitating the integration of variable renewables into the power system.

106. Mr. Amédée Murisier, in his presentation, stressed the importance of defining roles and functions regarding O&M as well as ownership, commercialisation of energy and asset management. He noted that pumped hydropower energy storage is evolving from a stable, safe supplier of energy to become an integrator of renewables providing flexibility to the energy system. Mr. Murisier stressed that a comprehensive approach to operating hydropower and assessing costs is necessary, incorporating O&M, operational risks, and the evolving economic and systemic environments.

107. Mr. Lamu Audu stressed the importance of human resources and capacity building for the effective operation of a hydropower plant. He further pointed to the challenge of reconciling maintenance and recovery with the need to generate revenue. Mr. Audu stressed that modern technologies such as satellites can help to optimise plant operation and flow management. He concluded that hydropower can play an important role in the energy system by providing flexibility but that associated costs need to be recognised.

108. Mr. Liu Chongdong emphasised that proactive risk management can ensure the long term stable and reliable operation of hydropower plants. He explained that coordination during the design and construction stages of hydropower projects, along with equipment risk management and preventive maintenance, are vital for the efficient operation of a plant. He closed by underlining the importance of exchanging best practices and knowledge on this topic.

109. Mr. Harrison Mutikanga emphasised the central role of hydropower in driving the energy transformation. He stressed the importance of enabling regulatory frameworks that ensure the sustainability of investments in the sector. Similarly, institutional arrangements and allocation of functions and roles along with planning for O&M are key factors in supporting the efficient operation of hydropower, as well as the need to manage climate change, transboundary resource issues and risk sharing, multi-stakeholder engagement, the exchange of best practices and expertise, and the availability of international guidelines and standards.

110. Mr. Pierre Lorillou highlighted that effective O&M could reduce the costs of repairing hydropower plants, and in so doing, make capital available for other projects. He stressed that O&M and feasibility studies should be integrated into the planning and construction phase. He emphasised the need to raise awareness and guide stakeholders on O&M, stressing the significant return on investment in O&M.

111. Ms. Rana Ghoneim, the moderator of the second discussion "Adopting modernised and innovative operation of hydropower fleet in the energy sector transformation", noted the role of hydropower in global power generation and highlighted the need for refurbishment of some of the installed capacity.

She stated that additional hydropower capacity represents a climate-friendly technology that can provide flexibility to the grid with higher shares of variable renewables.

112. Ms. Chao Ma highlighted the role of hydropower in supporting the integration of solar power generation by providing storage and flexibility options. She explained that hybrid power generation relies on a range of innovative tools including prediction models for the availability of resources. She added that combining solar and wind generation, for example, can facilitate the efficient management of transmission networks.

113. Mr. Tron Engebrethsen drew attention to the challenge of conducting maintenance while needing to generate revenue. He highlighted further challenges the hydropower sector faces such as increased precipitation, extreme weather events, water resource management and flood control. Furthermore, he stressed that hydropower plant operators have to adapt to regional structural changes in terms of economic activity and power consumption. Mr. Engebrethsen noted that refurbishing hydropower plants can improve revenue and environmental sustainability and concluded by stressing the importance of close collaboration between the public and the private sector in these activities.

114. Mr. Travis Smith highlighted that hydropower can complement the integration of solar and wind power generation by providing storage options. He observed trends of upgrades in hydropower plants and in the operation of reservoirs to respond to these grid requirements. Mr. Smith stressed the potential of digital innovation in ensuring that hydropower can continue to play a central role in the energy transition.

115. Delegations welcomed the plenary discussion on the role of hydropower in the energy transition as timely and important. Delegations highlighted the central role of hydropower in power generation and in facilitating the deployment of variable renewables by providing storage and flexibility to the grid. Delegations underlined that investments, O&M, modernisation and capacity building were needed to ensure that hydropower can fulfil this role.

116. It was emphasised that enabling legislation and market design must evolve to accommodate the changing role of hydropower in the energy transition. It was noted that cross-border hydropower projects are instrumental in optimising the use of resources and lowering cost. In this regard, it was noted that the services, in terms of storage and flexibility, must also be reflected in the cost of wind and solar power generation, including as part of regional grids. It was also noted that there is potential for the private sector to develop small-scale hydropower projects, and to optimise the market potential in run-off hydropower in many countries, taking into account the issue of water scarcity.

117. Delegations recognised the benefits that hydropower can provide, including economic growth, climate change mitigation, local environmental protection as well as flood control. The need for climate change resilience measures to be implemented in the hydropower sector and the potential to explore synergies with other sectors was also stressed. Delegations recognised the importance of sharing best practices and expertise and encouraged IRENA to continue to work on hydropower and to cooperate with the IHA, IEA and other partners.

118. The Vice-President concluded the plenary discussion by echoing that innovative O&M strategies can extend the durability and reliability of hydropower generation, improve energy efficiency and reduce cost. She emphasised that hydropower plays a key role in driving the energy transition and in enabling the integration of variable renewables. The Vice-President encouraged IRENA to continue to work on this topic and referred to the World Hydropower Congress in Paris in May 2019 as an opportunity for further collaboration and action.

119. The Assembly considered and took note of the presentations and interventions.

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Council Chair

120. The President of the Assembly invited the Chair of the Council to present his report under this agenda item.

121. Argentina, in its capacity as Chair of the additional, the fifteenth and the sixteenth Council meetings, represented by Mr. Esteban Andrich, National Director of Renewable Energy, reported on the activities of the Council during 2018 and referred delegations to the reports of the meetings, contained in documents C/AD/SR/1, C/15/SR/1 and C/16/SR/1.

122. Mr. Andrich highlighted the role of the Council to support the work of the Assembly in facilitating consultation and cooperation among Members. He noted that the meetings of the Council in 2018 saw a high level of participation, with the sixteenth meeting attracting more than 350 delegates representing 110 countries.

123. He highlighted the Council's discussions on ongoing and future programmatic activities which provided the membership with the opportunity to actively engage with and provide guidance to the Secretariat. Topics discussed included: Accelerating renewable energy deployment towards SDG 7 and links to other SDGs; Transforming power systems: emerging innovation trends; The Global Energy Transition, Region in Focus – South East Europe; Off-Grid Renewable Energy Solutions; Corporate Sourcing of Renewables; Clean Energy Corridors and Emerging Solutions for the Power Sector Transformation.

124. Mr. Andrich highlighted that during 2018, the Council also considered a range of administrative and institutional matters in preparation for the Assembly's consideration as well as the Council composition for 2019-2020 and the appointment of the next Director-General. He noted the extensive and inclusive consultation process with Members and other stakeholders to discuss trends and developments that may impact the work of the Agency in the evolving global energy landscape.

125. Mr. Andrich closed by thanking Samoa and Malaysia for their roles as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur respectively, as well as all Council members for contributing to the successful outcome of the Council meetings. He further expressed his appreciation to the Chairs of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programme and Strategy Committee for their role in supporting Member consultations in preparation for the Council.

126. The Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Council Chair.

Agenda Item 10: Administrative and institutional matters

a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/9/4; A/9/4/Add.1)

127. The President of the Assembly invited the Chair of the Credentials Committee, the Dominican Republic represented by Mr. Amer El Kadi, to introduce the 'Report of the Credentials Committee' (A/9/4). Based on its examination of credentials received, the Committee determined that 133 Members had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The Committee recommended that these Members be entitled to participate in the ninth session of the Assembly.

128. The Committee also noted that ten Members in attendance had not submitted credentials in the proper form and recommended that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the ninth session of the Assembly on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

129. The Committee further noted that five Members in attendance had not submitted any credentials and recommended that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate in the ninth

session of the Assembly on the condition that their credentials will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat by 1:00pm on 13 January 2019.

130. The Committee reiterated its recommendation to the Assembly to request the IRENA 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.

131. The Committee also reiterated its recommendation to the Assembly to call upon all IRENA 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 no later than the opening of the session.

132. The Assembly considered and approved the 'Report of the Credentials Committee' (A/9/4) and requested the Committee to provide to the Assembly, at the beginning of its consideration of agenda item 13, an update on the status of credentials.

b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (A/9/5)

133. The president introduced the item by recalling that the seventh cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility opened on 12 November 2018, and that the deadline for submitting online applications is 14 February 2019.

134. He also informed the Assembly that having considered recent consultations between interested Members on the matter, the following countries had expressed interest for membership of the Advisory Committee for the seventh project selection cycle: Chad, Ecuador, France, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, and Nigeria as members, and Pakistan, Philippines, and the Republic of Korea as alternates.

135. The Assembly appointed Chad, Ecuador, France, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, and Nigeria as members, and Pakistan, Philippines, and the Republic of Korea as alternates of the Advisory Committee for the seventh project cycle.

c. Audited Financial Statements for 2017 (A/9/6) and Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations

136. Mr. Bruce Neese, Acting Director of IRENA's Administration and Management Services introduced the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2017' (A/9/6), as well as the 'Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations' (A/9/7).

137. Mr. Neese informed the Assembly of the progress made on the implementation of recommendations, citing that one recommendation has been implemented and one recommendation is under implementation. The status of implementation of the audit recommendations was submitted to the Assembly for its consideration.

138. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2017' (A/9/6) and the 'Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations' (A/9/7).

d. Indicative IRENA scale of contributions for 2019 (A/9/8; A/9/DC/L.1)

139. Mr. Neese presented the 'Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2019', contained in document A/9/8, and the related draft decision A/9/DC/L.1.

140. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2019' (A/9/8) and adopted decision A/9/DC/1.

e. Staff Provident Fund (A/9/9)

141. The Chair of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board, Mr. Bruce Neese, introduced the item and referred delegations to the '2017 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA' (A/9/9), including the 'Audited Financial Statements' of the Staff Provident Fund for 2017.

142. He highlighted that Members are requested to appoint two Member State representatives to the Management Board of the Staff Provident Fund.

143. The Assembly appointed Germany and the United Arab Emirates to serve on the Staff Provident Fund Management Board.

144. The Assembly considered and took note of the '2017 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA' (A/9/9).

f. Report of the Director-General on secondment of personnel (A/9/10)

145. Ms. Salma Khalid, Human Resources Officer, introduced the 'Report of the Director-General on Secondment of personnel and related matters', contained in document A/9/10. She added that since the preparation of the report, two officers had joined the Agency under these arrangements.

146. Strong support was expressed by delegations for the arrangements of loan and seconded personnel.

147. The Assembly considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General on Secondment and related matters (A/9/10).

g. Report of the Ethics Officer (A/9/11)

148. Ms. Salma Khalid, Ethics Officer of IRENA, presented the 'Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest', contained in document A/9/11.

149. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest' (A/9/11).

h. Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA (A/9/12)

150. Mr. Terseli Loial, Legal Advisor of IRENA, introduced the 'Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA', contained in document A/9/12.

151. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA' (A/9/12).

i. Council membership for 2019-2020 (A/9/DC/L.2)

152. The President introduced the item and referred the Assembly to the proposed list of Council members for 2019-2020, contained in the annex of the related draft decision (A/9/DC/L.2), as submitted by Uruguay, the President of the eighth session of the Assembly.

153. Uruguay, represented by Mr. Guillermo Moncecchi, informed the Assembly that the regional facilitators provided updates to the Council at its sixteenth meeting in November 2018 on the status of consultations of respective groups and thanked all Vice-Presidents for their support in guiding their respective groups towards an agreement. He also thanked Members for their inclusive and constructive participation in this process. He wished the new Council members success during their upcoming term.

154. One delegation congratulated the new Council members and underlined that as renewable energy is pivotal for sustainable development as well as a fundamental element to combat climate change, all new members must be fully committed to fulfilling their obligations during the period of 2019-2020.

155. The Assembly adopted decision A/9/DC/2 on the membership of the Council of IRENA.

156. The President invited the newly-elected members of the Council, under the stewardship of the outgoing Council Chair and Vice-Chair, to designate a Chair and Vice-Chair for the seventeenth meeting of the Council.

j. Arrangements for the conduct of business under the agenda item 'Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA' (A/9/4; A/9/4/Add.1; A/9/13; A/9/INF/2; A/9/INF/2/Rev.2)

157. The President introduced his note on 'Conduct of business under Agenda Item 'Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA'' contained in document A/9/13. The President recalled Article IX.I of the Statute on the designation of the Director-General and informed delegations that, based on his consultations with Members, he had established that there was no consensus on one single candidate. He further noted that Members would therefore be requested to vote by secret ballot under agenda item 13, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to establish a two-third majority in favour of one candidate. At the invitation of the President, the Secretariat provided an overview of the voting process to Members.

158. The Assembly endorsed the note of the President on 'Conduct of business under the agenda item 'Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA'' (A/9/13) and decided to conduct its business under the related agenda item in closed session, as per Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

159. The President then invited the Assembly to consider the situation of those Members that are in arrears with the payment of their financial contributions to the Agency and recalled that, pursuant to Article XVII.A of the Statute, "any such Member shall have no right to vote if its arrears reach or exceed the amount of its contributions for the two preceding years. However, the Assembly may permit this Member to vote if it is convinced that the non-payment is due to circumstances beyond the Member's control."

160. The President referred Members to document A/9/INF/2/Rev.2, 'Status of the Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund', which mentions thirteen IRENA Members whose arrears reached or exceeded the amount of their contributions for the two preceding years as of 12 January 2019. The President noted that of these, eight were registered for this Assembly session and had submitted information on the circumstances for the non-payment of their contribution, for consideration by the Assembly.

161. On the basis of the information provided, the Assembly agreed to restore the voting rights of these eight Members and to permit them to vote at the ninth session of the Assembly.

162. Referring to draft decision A/9/DC/L.3, submitted for the consideration of the Assembly under item 13, the President informed Members that, after the appointment of the Director-General by the Assembly and in accordance with this draft decision, he would conclude a contract, in the name of IRENA and in his capacity as President of the ninth Assembly, with the new Director-General which will establish the terms and conditions of appointment and include provisions on salary, benefits, allowances, and conditions of separation from service. He concluded by stressing that he would ensure that this contract reflects international practice and precedents.

Agenda Item 11: Report from the Ministerial Roundtables and the Special Evening Event on Gender

163. The President invited the Rapporteurs of the two Ministerial Roundtables and the Special Evening Event to report on the discussions held during the previous two days.

Ministerial Roundtable 'Catalysing Off-Grid Renewable Energy Deployment towards Universal Electricity Access and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'

164. H.E. Mr. Claude Turmes, Minister of Energy of Luxembourg, reported on the discussions in the Ministerial Roundtable (hereafter 'Roundtable') 'Catalysing off-grid renewable energy deployment towards universal electricity access and SDGs', which gathered Ministers as well as senior representatives from the private sector, financing institutions and development organisations.

165. H.E. Mr. Turmes reported that participants recognised that universal modern energy access is a critical pillar of the energy transformation and that improved access in remote and rural areas brings a wide range of socio-economic and environmental benefits. He noted that during the Roundtable several concrete examples were shared of how off-grid renewable energy solutions, such as stand-alone systems and mini-grids, are delivering a wide range of electricity services. Participants emphasised that despite impressive gains in adoption over the recent past, there is a need to accelerate deployment substantially.

166. H.E. Mr. Turmes reported on key focus areas that emerged from the Roundtable to scale-up the adoption of off-grid renewable energy technologies. First, participants noted the importance of strong political will and holistic electrification plans and strategies that consider all available solutions. Second, the need for dedicated policies and regulations for the off-grid renewables sector was highlighted, citing IRENA's analytical work on the topic. Third, the necessity of affordable and tailored financing for end-users and enterprises was emphasised. Finally, participants noted the importance of capacity building and multi-stakeholder partnerships involving communities, the private sector, governments and civil society.

167. H.E. Mr. Turmes stated that a recurring theme of the Roundtable was the strong linkages between off-grid renewables and development, illustrated through the contributions of SDG 7 on Energy to several other SDGs including those related to health, education, gender and poverty. Citing national experience and IRENA's analysis, participants highlighted that benefits of off-grid renewables could be maximised by developing local employment and skills, empowering entrepreneurs, mainstreaming the gender perspective, and measuring success not just in terms of systems deployed or MWs installed, but as services delivered.

168. He reported that participants emphasised that clean cooking solutions deserve much greater attention. Progress on expanding access to clean cooking solutions has been lacking, and dedicated measures are needed to support their deployment. The participants also noted that synergies with energy efficiency need to be tapped to improve electricity services offered by off-grid solutions.

169. H.E. Mr. Turmes further reported that governments could strongly influence how quickly and in what manner off-grid renewables are deployed and ensure that no one is left behind and that socioeconomic benefits are maximised. He noted that distributional considerations and structural changes would also need to be integrated and this has to be a central tenet of a just, fair and inclusive energy transition. In concluding, he reiterated that off-grid renewable energy technology solutions now exist, it is cost-effective and proven, and, therefore, there is no impediment to ensuring its rapid adoption.

Ministerial Roundtable 'Transformative Innovation'

170. H.E. Mr. Victor Urrutia, Secretary of State of the National Energy Secretariat of Panama, reported on the discussions and outcomes of the Roundtable on Transformative Innovation and emphasised that,

in promoting innovation, it is essential not to address technology in isolation but to take a holistic approach. This approach should include business models, legislation and regulatory frameworks and system operation. In this context, he stated that participants discussed the importance of digitalisation and its benefits for power generation and grids, such as increasing flexibility and functionality, and to allow prosumers to participate in the market. In this regard, he proposed that issues such as privacy and cybersecurity should be given further consideration in the future.

171. He highlighted that participants recognised that considerable progress has been made in renewable power generation technologies, which has provided opportunities in decarbonising end-use sectors. Participants also emphasised that innovation in regulation and market design is needed, and that a balance should be established between stable, flexible and predictable regulation to ensure greater private sector investments and enable innovation.

172. He also pointed out that trials and demonstrations are an important aspect of innovation to mitigate risk at the commercialisation stage and called for the regulatory space to allow experimentation. He stated that participants recognised the importance of an open and cooperative approach to innovation that engages different actors, both from the public and private sector.

173. H.E. Mr. Urrutia reported that the Roundtable also highlighted a key role for IRENA in ensuring that the energy transition is inclusive and in using its convening power to bring together actors and facilitate the sharing of experiences on innovative solutions. He recalled IRENA's analytical work on this topic, including the innovation landscape report. In concluding, he observed that the Roundtable served as an important platform for participants to gain valuable perspectives and insights on innovation and on the development of new ideas.

Special Evening Event 'Gender in the Energy Transformation'

174. Ms. Habiba Ali, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sosai Renewable Energies Company, reported on the Special Evening Event 'Gender in the Energy Transformation', which was attended by representatives from government, international and non-governmental organisations, the private sector and global networks. The event focussed on how gender aspects are integrated across the energy sector and what best practices can be replicated to ensure that the energy transformation is not only inclusive, but also rapid.

175. Ms. Ali noted that there was broad recognition among participants that mainstreaming gender in the energy transformation is a critical pillar to advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and specifically for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and sustainable energy for all. She continued that the discussions highlighted the need to address social and cultural norms, enhancing access to education and finance opportunities, and raising public awareness on the gender aspects of the energy transformation.

176. Ms. Ali further noted that participants welcomed IRENA's recent survey on gender and renewable energy in the modern and access contexts, as well as the report *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective*. She informed the Assembly that participants prepared the *IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy* outlining areas for common action.

177. The Assembly took note of the reports and the IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy.

Agenda Item 12: High Level Segment – "Taking Stock of Progress" (A/9/DC/L.4)

178. The President introduced the item and informed the Assembly that this segment provided an opportunity for sharing views and reflections on progress made by the Agency since its establishment, and emphasised the importance of taking stock of progress in highlighting practices and approaches

that have led to the Agency's success. He invited the Director-General to address the Assembly, followed by Heads of State and Ministers, representatives from the host countries and the private sector.

179. The Director-General reflected on IRENA's status as the first intergovernmental organisation exclusively focused on renewables, highlighting the outstanding dedication and passion of countries and individuals who worked to conceive the Agency. He stressed its future-focused mandate and its headquarters' location in the Middle East as comparative advantages.

180. The Director-General highlighted, that in just eight years, IRENA has reached near universal membership. At the time of its inception, the prevailing narrative on renewables was one of high costs, unreliability and an uncertain future. IRENA's establishment disrupted this narrative. Backed by comprehensive data and analysis, IRENA has played an important role in raising an authoritative voice on the global energy discourse. Today, the Agency is the major international cooperation framework for renewable energy. It is a globally recognised centre of excellence, a source of authoritative advice to countries and a catalyst for partnerships and concerted action.

181. The Director-General mentioned that Fukushima was a key turning point, in shifting of the global energy discourse, many countries set out to review their energy choices and find new sustainable ways for economic growth. He added that while many countries sought to accelerate the deployment of renewables, they grappled with many questions about their energy potential, plans, policies and technology pathways to achieve this. The Agency sought to respond to these questions and uncertainties by developing concrete tools that could be rapidly deployed and replicated, taking into account the diverse needs and circumstances of countries.

182. The Director-General emphasised that the development of these concrete tools included the Global Atlas, Renewable Readiness Assessments (RRAs) and REmap. The Global Atlas, which was launched to assist countries in assessing their solar and wind resource potential, now brings together over 50 international research institutions to share over 2,000 renewable energy maps on a single platform now covering solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and marine energy potentials and expanding to site appraisals. RRAs were started in 2011 to assess the suitability of national conditions for scaling up renewable energy. Since then, over 30 RRAs have been completed, and containing clear actionable recommendations, many of which have been taken forward by the countries and development partners. REmap was launched in 2014 to determine the potential of regions, countries and the world to scale up renewables by analysing different long-term technology pathways and options. Since its launch, REmap has evolved to provide strategic insights to policy-makers to raise their ambitions for renewables deployment including in countries with vast expertise in renewables. Due to the high demand for RRAs and REmaps at the national level, the Agency began to conduct them in conjunction as was done successfully in Egypt and Thailand.

183. The Director-General also highlighted how the Agency developed a global knowledge framework on renewable energy, particularly with the objective of demonstrating that a business case existed for the uptake of renewables. As the affordability of renewables was at the heart of this case, the Agency developed costing analysis based on a database of 17,000 real-life power generation projects and 5600 power purchase agreement and tender results. Today, he noted, the Agency's costing data is the worldwide reference in this area. The Agency also developed a statistical framework for renewables that brought together dispersed pieces, including annual capacity additions for different renewables technologies. Now, IRENA has an authoritative compendium of renewable energy statistics that is published every year.

184. The Director-General underlined that, as a result of cost declines, technology improvements and enabling frameworks, countries became more eager to harness the socio-economic benefits of renewables. This shifted the conversation from technologies and capacity additions to industrial transformation, prosperity and job creation. The Agency contributed to this shift with its ground-breaking analysis on the socio-economic benefits of renewables which acquired even greater significance with the priority now given to achieve a just, fair and inclusive energy transition. In 2013 the Agency published the first *Renewable Energy and Jobs* report, which was followed by annual reviews that are widely quoted by policy-makers. In 2016, the Agency's report, *Renewable*

Energy Benefits: Measuring the Economics, provided the first comprehensive analysis to quantify the socio-economic benefits at a global scale. IRENA's flagship report *Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050* presented findings that projected growth of global GDP of 1% by 2050 compared to business as usual scenario in the context of accelerated deployment of renewables to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Beyond, GDP the report points to the multiple social, environmental and health benefits and reduced air pollution and climate impacts. The Director-General expressed his hope that the Agency continues to advance this important dimension in its work.

185. The Director-General noted that as the membership of the Agency grew, there was a pressing need to develop robust engagements with countries and regions through dedicated partnerships and initiatives. In this regard, he highlighted the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative which was launched in 2014 and has already achieved its initial targets three years ahead of schedule. He noted the Agency's commitment to mobilise efforts and resources to implement the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative 2.0, an even more ambitious phase, to accelerate sustainable energy transformation in SIDS.

186. The Director-General also pointed to the Africa Clean Energy Corridor Initiatives in Southern, Eastern and now Western Africa, which promote cross-border energy trade and take advantage of economies of scale to attract investments. He noted that, these initiatives, which received high political support are informing national and regional energy planning and are being integrated into the continents' frameworks and plans for integration and infrastructure development. Additionally, the Director-General highlighted that the Clean Energy Corridor for Central America, launched in 2015, is progressing in collaboration with regional partners such as the Central American Integration System. He also pointed to the strengthening engagement with South East Europe, Central Asia and Latin America through dedicated Action Plans. He also noted the Memoranda of Understanding he has signed with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2018 and with the Kazakhstan-based International Green Technologies and Investment Center to advance the sustainable energy transformation in their respective regions and countries.

187. The Director-General mentioned that as the Agency grew, it continued to develop initiatives, tools and products to meet the needs of Members and help overcome the barriers to renewables deployment. Specifically, he mentioned the Global Geothermal Alliance, which aims to boost the development of geothermal energy; the Project Navigator, which helps to develop bankable projects; the Sustainable Energy Marketplace, which facilitates access to financing and the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development Project Facility which supports the financing of innovative projects. The Director-General also mentioned that the Agency's delivered ground-breaking analytical work, which provided new insights on a range of emerging issues such as corporate sourcing, geopolitics of the energy transformation and gender. He also emphasised how the Agency became actively engaged with the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, academia and research institutions, pointing out that such an open and inclusive approach was critical to the Agency's rapid development and success.

188. The Director-General highlighted that IRENA plays an important role in the global energy discourse and has become an authoritative voice for the renewable energy at the United Nations, a reliable supporter of regional bodies, a trusted partner in multilateral settings such as the G7 and the G20, a regular contributor to initiatives such as the Clean Energy Ministerial and an energy leader in global climate action. He also noted that renewable energy is a prerequisite for the achievement of many sustainable development goals and a critical element of the global decarbonisation strategy and a reliable pathway for the revitalisation of economies.

189. The Director-General noted that that since the beginning, he was convinced that securing Member support depended on the Agency's transparency, accountability and trustworthiness. He evoked to Members that his early focus as the new Director-General in 2011 was the establishment of sound administrative and management practices and prudent accounting of the resources entrusted to the Agency. He emphasised that this vision played a significant role in IRENA's ability to grow its core budget base, which doubled since 2011, and increasing non-core contributions. He mentioned that IRENA's administrative track record has been impeccable and its robust management foundations have withstood the test of time.

190. The Director-General highlighted the role of the Agency in providing an effective and inclusive international framework for collaboration to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and emphasised that the Medium-Term Strategy (2018-2022) adopted by the Assembly in 2018 provided a clear direction for the Agency to play a leading role in the transformation of the global energy sector in the coming years.

191. The Director-General cautioned that although the energy transition is progressing, it is not equally spread and energy poverty is still prevalent, especially in the developing world. He also encouraged others to empower those who are lacking energy today as it is key to our common prosperity and sustainable future. The Director-General reiterated that IRENA has a special and vital place in this future because renewable energy is a means to many ends, it is a prerequisite for the achievement of many SDGs, a critical element of the global decarbonisation strategy and a reliable pathway for the revitalisation of economies.

192. In concluding, the Director-General acknowledged the United Arab Emirates as host country for its steadfast support to the Agency and Germany, as its second home, for its unwavering support. He also acknowledged the support and friendships that have guided and nurtured the Agency through its formative phase with extraordinary dedication, persistence and energy. The Director-General thanked the IRENA staff for the passion, dedication and conviction they bring to the Agency as well as their competence and willingness to go beyond expectations.

193. H.E. Mr. Taneti Maamau, President of Kiribati thanked the Agency for its support and assistance to the Kiribati Integrated Energy Roadmap 2017-2025. He echoed the gratitude of SIDS to the Director-General for the forward looking and inclusive SIDS Lighthouses Initiative 2.0 and thanked him for the incredible and dedicated service he has provided to the Agency and its membership, particularly in the formative and pioneering years when the global challenges were severe.

194. H.E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda commended the inclusive and systematic approach of IRENA in the implementation of the Clean Energy Corridor in Africa. He saluted the leadership of IRENA and the Director-General for enabling Africa to advance on its key developmental priorities, including agriculture, food security, health, and gender programs.

195. H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu thanked the Director-General for his brave and stern message to the global community to take firm and decisive action in accelerating renewable energy deployment. As a result, he proudly mentioned that Tuvalu has achieved 100% electricity access of which 26% comprises renewable energy.

196. H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates highlighted that IRENA's presence in the United Arab Emirates, represented the first major multilateral organisation to be hosted in the Middle East and that this was a historical moment for the host country. He underlined that, while this initially presented a challenge for the Middle East as a hydrocarbon region, at the same time, it allowed the region to take advantage of its huge renewable energy potential. He thanked the Director-General for his role as the voice of authority on the progress and potential of renewable energy. In conclusion, he remarked that it was the UAE's honour to partner with the Director-General and the Agency.

197. Mr. Thorsten Herdan, Director-General of the Energy Policy Department of Germany congratulated the Director-General's attainment of near universal membership and underscored the importance of IRENA's presence in Germany, in particular, in moving the discourse on innovation with the establishment of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Center, in Bonn. He noted that under the leadership of the Director-General, renewables are now competitive and serve as a business model for one of the cheapest and environmentally friendly energy sources. He called on IRENA in its next phase to build on the accomplishments of the Director-General in strengthening its work on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, gender in the renewable energy sector and energy efficiency.

198. H.E. Mr. Mohamed Shaker El Markabi, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Egypt delivered a message from H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in which he highlighted the achievements of the Director-General and IRENA in fostering an enabling environment for renewable energy to attract foreign direct investment. He noted that Egypt is effectively playing an active role in grid interconnection with neighbouring countries. He further informed that Egypt is developing a centre, linking three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, and that Egypt will play a key role during its Presidency of the African Union in 2019 in ensuring that Africa benefits from clean energy.

199. Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan delivered a message from H.E Mr. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, in which he paid tribute to the Director-General for his contribution to IRENA and expressed his hope that IRENA will continue to follow the path paved by the Director-General and further develop as an organisation which makes a credible and intellectual contribution in the field of renewables. Mr. Tsuji invited IRENA to share its expertise at the G20 discussions on energy and climate change in Japan and at the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD 7, which will be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

200. Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the European Commission, noted that Europe is particularly proud of IRENA given that the founding conference took place on European soil in 2009 in Bonn, Germany. He recognised that under the leadership of the Director-General, IRENA has become an important catalyst for more cooperation amongst continents and countries in terms of policy, information exchange and sharing of best practices on technology and innovation. He further noted that in November 2018 the European Commission adopted its new long-term strategy on decarbonisation and set a vision for a climate neutral Europe in line with the Paris Agreement, in which electricity and renewables will play an increasing role across all sectors.

201. Mr. Francesco Starace, CEO of Enel recalled that ten years ago, renewable energy was called alternative energy and a decade later renewable energy is the fastest growing energy source. He said that IRENA has played a pivotal role in this decade of change. Moving forward, he noted that there would be a need for alliances between the private and public sectors as well as across industries. He remarked that the ability to innovate remains key for future progress for renewables and in the energy sector as a whole.

202. Mr. Li Fanrong, President of the Assembly, acknowledged the remarkable achievements of the Director-General and IRENA's prominent contribution over the past eight years in making renewable energy a source of mainstream energy. He remarked, that a decade ago, it was never imagined that renewable energy would play an important role to address global climate change. He noted that the Director-General was able to mobilise, in a timely manner, all the resources needed to promote renewable energy. He met with different stakeholders to advance renewable energy, engaged in high-level dialogues and with key decision-makers. Due to his tireless efforts, IRENA is now a famous brand in the world.

203. The President opened the floor for statements by delegations. 48 delegations intervened and underscored their appreciation for IRENA's support over the years. They shared their universal recognition for the strong and far-sighted leadership of Director-General, Adnan Z. Amin during the last eight years and wished him all the best in his future endeavours. They also acknowledged his role in ensuring growing membership of IRENA to reach 160 Members and 23 States in Accession.

204. Delegations commended the Director-General for his role in advancing the cause of renewable energy and applauded him for establishing IRENA as an effective global platform for renewables and international cooperation. Delegations acknowledged the Director-General's exceptional support for regional work, and targeted activities in SIDS and Africa. Delegations also commended his support for particular initiatives, such as energy access and geopolitics and acknowledged his engagement with G7, G20 and legislators. They also recognised the leadership of the Director-General in creating a strong financial and administrative system.

205. Delegations highlighted the importance and urgency of the energy transition towards renewable energy to curb climate change and achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 7. Some delegations noted that not only is the energy transition necessary, but it is possible, especially with reducing costs. Several delegations highlighted the benefits that the transition would bring and how IRENA has helped realise those benefits, including reduced dependence on fossil fuels, improved air quality and safety, increased energy access and security, increased economic deployment and employment and reducing inequalities within communities. Some delegations underlined their commitment to foster these benefits to the fullest by achieving 100% renewable energy. At the same time, several delegations noted that there are still some obstacles to obtaining these benefits, such as investments, energy access and security and storage.

206. Delegations emphasised that the transition should not stop at the power sector, but should continue through end-use sectors, such as transport, building, shipping and industry sectors. The importance of a just, fair and inclusive transition was highly recognized.

207. Delegations highlighted the policies and regulatory frameworks they have put in place to focus on renewable energy development, provide sustainability and good governance, and encourage technology development and innovation. Some delegations acknowledged IRENA's support in facilitating the sharing of experiences and best practices and providing capacity to support the development and implementation of these policies.

208. Delegations further highlighted the Agency's technical assistance support on long-term energy planning as well as on renewable resource assessments and emphasised the important role of several initiatives in advancing the deployment of renewables, including the Global Geothermal Alliance, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, REmap, the Clean Energy Corridors in several regions and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace. Delegations also emphasised the Agency's role as a platform for the exchange of best practices and knowledge, a source of advice and in raising awareness.

209. Delegations emphasised that the Agency should continue to analyse the socio-economic benefits, potentials and challenges of renewable energy, not just in terms of analysis but also in facilitating farreaching policy decisions and providing the capacity to support their implementation. It was suggested that the Agency analyses the digital gap and digital divide in the energy sector, in terms of access to data, information and communication.

210. Delegations welcomed the personal commitment made by the Director-General to the Agency and countries during his official missions and expressed profound gratitude not only for his contributions to national energy transition efforts but also for his friendship.

211. In his concluding remarks, the Director-General expressed his gratitude to delegations for their kind words towards him and for their praise of the Agency's achievements during the last eight years. He highlighted trust as possibly the most important of these achievements, emphasising that trust is the cornerstone to international cooperation as well as between Members and the Secretariat. In this regard, the Director-General stressed that strong and resilient institutions can be powerful catalysts for change and cooperation. He underlined that in eight years, the Agency and its Members have created and developed an institution that is an asset to the international community. He emphasised the need to further strengthen and empower the institution to fulfil its essential functions, support its Members, curb climate change and ensure a secure, prosperous and sustainable energy future for all.

212. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the Director-General's address to the Assembly, and the statements and interventions made.

213. The United Arab Emirates tabled a draft decision on behalf of the membership, to award Mr. Adnan Z. Amin the honorary title of Director-General Emeritus. The award pays tribute for his outstanding service and dedication to the Agency during the last eight years and for his instrumental

role in providing the international community with a strong international cooperation framework to accelerate the energy transformation.

214. The Assembly considered and adopted the decision 'Tribute to Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General' (A/9/DC/4).

Agenda Item 13: Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA (A/9/13; A/9/14; A/9/DC/L.3)

215. The President invited Samoa, in its capacity as Chair of the related item at the sixteenth Council meeting, represented by H.E. Ms. Faalavaau Perina Jacqueline Sila-Tualaulelei Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to IRENA, to present her report on the 'Recommendation of the Council to the Assembly regarding the appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA', contained in document A/9/14, which includes the Council's recommendation as set out in the annex of decision C/16/DC/1.

216. The Assembly considered and took note of the 'Report of the Chair of the related item at the sixteenth meeting of the Council on the recommendation of the Council to the Assembly regarding the appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA' (A/9/14).

217. The Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Council on that matter, requested the Council to undertake a review of the procedure on the Selection and Appointment of the Director-General of IRENA, contained in the Addendum to document A/5/5, on the basis of lessons learned during the process, including input from the Director-General Selection Committee in relation to its involvement therein, and to make recommendations to the Assembly.

218. In line with the arrangement endorsed by the Assembly under item 10.j, the President drew by lot the order in which the two candidates would make their presentation. The President invited each candidate to make a ten minute presentation on their backgrounds, views on the ongoing global energy transition and plans for the Agency. The President informed the Assembly that each candidate would be admitted to the plenary hall to give their ten minute presentation.

219. Mr. Germán Arce delivered his presentation to the Assembly.

220. Mr. Francesco La Camera delivered his presentation to the Assembly.

221. The Assembly took note of the presentations by the two candidates.

222. The Assembly proceeded with its decision-making on the appointment of the next IRENA Director-General.

223. In preparation for the voting process, the Chair of the Credentials Committee was invited to provide an oral update on the status of credentials received.

224. The Chair of the Credentials Committee informed the Assembly that following the approval of the the 'Report of the Credentials Committee' (A/9/4) on 11 January 2019, one of the Members previously included in the list of ten Members which had not submitted credentials in a proper form had clarified the status of its credentials to the satisfaction of the Committee, and another Member from this list had submitted credentials in the proper form. The Chair of the Committee further informed the Assembly that four of the five Members which had not submitted any credentials had submitted credentials in the proper form by the deadline of 1:00pm on 13 January 2019 as approved by the Assembly.

225. The Assembly took note of the update provided by the Chair of the Committee on the status of credentials and requested the Secretariat to reflect the updated information in the document to be issued as thereport of the Credentials Committee to the Assembly (A/9/4/Add.1).

226. The Assembly also agreed that, in case neither the representative of a Member nor his/her designated alternate are present to participate in the vote to be conducted under agenda item 13, any other delegate of the Member in attendance will be allowed to vote if he or she is identified as a delegate in the Member's credentials or other written communication to the Secretariat, and certifies in writing his or her authority to vote, provided that the representative will confirm in writing such authority as soon as possible.

227. The President reiterated that based on further consultations with Members, there was still no consensus on one single candidate, and invited the Secretariat to outline the details of the voting process.

228. The President informed the Assembly that pursuant to his invitation to delegations to volunteer to act as scrutineers to examine votes cast and count ballot results during the voting process, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America accepted to take on this responsibility.

229. The Assembly also agreed with the details of the voting process, as outlined by the Secretariat at that session, and appointed the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America as scrutineers.

230. The Assembly proceeded with the voting process, after which the President announced that Mr. Francesco La Camera obtained the required number of votes.

231. The Assembly appointed Mr. Francesco La Camera as the next Director-General of IRENA and adopted the related decision A/9/DC/3.

232. The Assembly continued in public session. The President announced the appointment of Mr. Francesco La Camera as the next IRENA Director-General and invited him to take the oath of office. The President congratulated Mr. La Camera on his appointment and wished him all success in leading the Agency.

233. Mr. La Camera, in his acceptance speech, reaffirmed his commitment to work with all IRENA Members. He acknowledged the work of Mr. Adnan Z. Amin and thanked him for what he has achieved as Director-General of IRENA. He concluded by recalling his vision for IRENA and assured Members that he would lead the Agency with integrity and a high level of ambition.

234. The Director-General congratulated Mr. La Camera on his election noting that he will be assuming office at a time of great change and opportunity in which the Agency is playing a critical role in advancing the world's energy transition. He emphasised the leadership role of the Director-General of IRENA in upholding the values of the institution, ensuring that its objectives will be realised in an impartial manner and keeping the Membership at the core of the Agency's mission. He concluded by assuring Mr. La Camera of his support during the weeks ahead to ensure a seamless transition.

Agenda Item 14: Arrangements for the tenth session of the Assembly

235. The President noted that Uganda had expressed its willingness to serve as the President of the tenth session of the Assembly, and Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Luxembourg and Samoa, as Vice-Presidents.

236. The President proposed to designate Uganda as President of the tenth session of the Assembly, and Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Luxembourg and Samoa, as Vice-Presidents.

237. The Assembly designated by acclamation Uganda as President of its tenth session of the Assembly, and Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Luxembourg and Samoa, as Vice-Presidents.

238. The President proposed 11 and 12 January 2020 as dates for the tenth session of the Assembly to allow for synergies with the World Future Energy Summit, starting on 13 January 2020.

239. The Assembly decided to hold its tenth session on 11 and 12 January 2020 in Abu Dhabi.

Agenda Item 15: Any other business

240. No other business was raised.

Agenda Item 16: Assembly conclusions and closing of the meeting

241. The President invited the Director-General to share his reflections at the closing of the Assembly. The Director-General thanked the President, Vice-Presidents and delegations for the fruitful discussions and for contributing to the successful outcome of the Assembly. He highlighted IRENA's achievement as a network hub for stakeholders, convening legislators, the private sector, civil society, scientific and academic community as well as government representatives. The Director-General recounted the achievements of the Agency's regional engagements and initiatives across the globe in supporting the energy transformation.

242. The Director-General stressed the urgent need to achieve universal access to energy by connecting the remaining one billion people. He further underlined the transformative power of technology and innovation in accelerating the momentum of the energy transition. The Director-General recalled the work of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, highlighting the need for governments to be aware of the geopolitical implications arising from the energy transition. The Director-General closed by expressing his conviction that the unprecedented progress of the energy transition to date has only been possible thanks to close international collaboration and the IRENA membership.

243. The President highlighted that the discussions over the last three days affirmed the centrality of renewable energy in the transformation of the global energy system. He stressed that IRENA demonstrated its role as the leading platform for international energy cooperation, allowing Members to exchange experiences and best practices, and to discuss challenges and solutions. The President noted the progress and impact of the Agency's programmatic work and highlighted the urgency of achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 7 on energy access as a key factor in promoting a just and inclusive transition.

244. The President noted the central role of innovation across all dimensions of the energy transition and called for all sectors and stakeholders to be engaged in this process with the Agency providing a space for this collaboration. He underlined the vital importance of the socio-economic aspects of renewable energy deployment, referring to IRENA's work in this area. He underlined the need to achieve a just, fair and timely transition, to overcome barriers to gender equality and to ensure women's full participation in all stages of the global energy transformation. The President closed by thanking participants for their collaborative support during the Assembly. He also thanked the Vice-Presidents for their contributions in steering the discussions.

245. The President of the Assembly declared the ninth session of the Assembly closed.



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11–13 January 2019

Agenda

<u>11 January 2019</u> Plenary

- 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. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

Continued: Member interventions on the Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

Ministerial Roundtable

"Catalysing Off-Grid Renewable Energy Deployment towards Universal Electricity Access and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

11 January 2019

<u>12 January 2019</u> Plenary

- 5. Plenary discussion: The Geopolitics of Energy Transformation
- 6. Plenary discussion: Socio-economic Benefits of the Energy Transition
- 7. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility: Announcement of selected projects of the sixth cycle
- 8. Plenary discussion: The Changing Role of Hydropower in The Energy Sector Transformation
- 9. Report of the Council Chair

10. Administrative and Institutional matters

- a. Report of the Credentials Committee
- b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
- c. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2017 and Status of Implementation of external audit recommendations
- d. Report of the Director-General on the indicative IRENA scale of contributions for 2019
- e. Staff Provident Fund
- f. Report of the Director-General on secondment of personnel
- g. Report of the Ethics Officer
- h. Report of the Director-General on operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA
- i. Council Membership for 2019-2020
- j. Arrangements for the conduct of business under the agenda item 'Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA'

Ministerial Roundtable

"Transformative Innovation"

13 January 2019

Plenary

- 11. Reports from the Ministerial Roundtables and the Special Evening Event on Gender
- 12. High-Level Segment "Taking stock of progress"
- 13. Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA
- 14. Arrangements for the tenth session of the Assembly
- 15. Any other business
- 16. Closing of the meeting



11 January 2019

List of applicants for observer status at the ninth session of the Assembly

IRENA Signatories / States in Accession

- 1. Austria
- 2. Brazil
- 3. Burundi
- 4. Chile
- 5. Guinea
- 6. Honduras
- 7. Kyrgyzstan
- 8. Liberia
- 9. Malawi
- 10. Timor-Leste
- 11. United Republic of Tanzania

UN Member States: Non-Signatories / Non States-in-Accession

- 1. South Sudan
- 2. Venezuela (Bolivian Republic of)

Others

- 1. 50Hertz Transmission GmbH
- 2. Access Power
- 3. Access to Energy Institute (A2EI)
- 4. ACWA Power
- 5. Africa Energy Commission (AFREC)
- 6. Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)
- 7. Africa Mini-grid Developers Association (AMDA)
- 8. Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)
- 9. African Development Bank (ADB)
- 10. African Trade Insurance Agency
- 11. Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 12. Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- 13. Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
- 14. Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
- 15. Arctic Green Energy Corporation
- 16. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- 17. Association of Industrials of El Salvador (ASI)
- 18. Below50 World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- 19. Bloomberg New Energy Finance (NEF)
- 20. Boston Consulting Group
- 21. CARICOM Development Fund
- 22. Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates
- 23. China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG)

- 24. Citigroup
- 25. Clean Energy Business Council
- 26. Clean Power Research
- 27. Climate Action Network (CAN)
- 28. Climate Institute
- 29. Columbia University
- 30. Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
- 31. Dentons
- 32. Deutsch-Ukrainisches Forum
- 33. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Benin
- 34. Developing 8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8)
- 35. Dii Desert Energy MENA
- 36. ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
- 37. East African Community Secretariat
- 38. Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP)
- 39. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- 40. Electricity & Cogeneration Regulatory Authority (ECRA)
- 41. Elia Grid International SA
- 42. Enel
- 43. Energia, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
- 44. Energinet
- 45. Energy Charter Secretariat
- 46. Energy Community Secretariat
- 47. Energy Futures Initiative (EFI)
- 48. Energy Watch Group (EWG)
- 49. Engie
- 50. eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality
- 51. Eurelectric
- 52. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- 53. European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- 54. European Energy Retailers
- 55. European Heat Pump Association (EHPA)
- 56. European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E)
- 57. European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
- 58. Factor Ideas Integral Services, S.L.
- 58. First Solar
- 59. Florence School of Regulation
- 60. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- 61. Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE)
- 62. French Renewable Energy Business Association
- 63. Friends of the Supergrid
- 64. General Electric
- 65. GEODEEP
- 66. German Energy Agency (Dena)
- 67. German Solar Association
- 68. Global Council for Tolerance and Peace
- 69. Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organisation (GEIDCO)
- 70. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- 71. Global Solar Council
- 72. Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

- 73. Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)
- 74. Government of the Cook Islands
- 75. Government of the Niue
- 76. Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) GO15
- 77. Hivos
- 78. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- 79. Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Chinese Taipei
- 80. Innogy SE
- 81. Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD)
- 82. Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)
- 83. Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)
- 84. International Energy Agency (IEA)
- 85. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- 86. International Geothermal Association (IGA)
- 87. International Hydropower Association (IHA)
- 88. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- 89. International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- 90. International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
- 91. Iran Renewable Energy Association (IrREA)
- 92. Islamic Development Bank
- 93. Kasese Municipality, Uganda
- 94. Khalifa University of Science & Technology
- 95. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)
- 96. League of Arab States
- 97. LO3 Energy
- 98. Mainstream Energy Solutions Limited
- 99. Mainstream Renewable Power
- 100. Middle East Solar Industry Association (MESIA)
- 101. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- 102. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)
- 103. NDC Partnership
- 104. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)
- 105. Novozymes
- 106. Nuvve Corporation
- 107. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- 108. Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA)
- 109. Pacific Community (SPC)
- 110. Pacific Power Association
- 111. Peace Boat Ecoship
- 112. Power for All
- 113. Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd. (RREL)
- 114. Renewable Energy Consortium for Research and Demonstration (Re-Cord)
- 115. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
- 116. Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA)
- 117. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)
- 118. Renewable Energy Institute
- 119. Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21)
- 120. Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4Med)
- 121. Renewables Grid Initiative
- 124. Research Institute of Solar Energy and New Energy Sources (IRESEN)

- 125. Rocky Mountain Institute
- 126. Rural Electrification Agency (REA)
- 127. SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE)
- 128. Selco Foundation
- 129. SIDS DOCK
- 130. Siemens
- 131. Sinopec Group
- 132. SkyPower Global
- 133. SNC-Lavalin
- 134. Solar Impulse Foundation
- 135. SolarPower Europe
- 136. Solar Sister
- 137. SOSAI Renewable Energies Company
- 138. Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)
- 139. South Centre
- 140. SPIC Huanghe Hydropower Development Co Ltd
- 141. State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC)
- 142. State Grid Energy Research Institute
- 143. Statkraft AS
- 144. Statnett
- 145. Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)
- 146. TERI School of Advanced Studies
- 147. Terrawatt Initiative (TWI)
- 148. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- 149. Total
- 150. Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL)
- 151. Ukrainian Wind Energy Association (UWEA)
- 152. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- 153. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 154. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
- 155. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- 156. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- 157. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- 158. University of Cape Town
- 159. University of Southampton
- 160. Vestas Wind Systems
- 161. VITO
- 162. We Care Solar
- 163. West African Power Pool (WAPP)
- 164. Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE)
- 165. Wood Mackenzie Energy Research & Consultancy
- 166. World Bank
- 167. World Bioenergy Association (WBA)
- 168. World Climate Ltd
- 169. World Future Council
- 170. World Health Organization (WHO)
- 171. World Wide Fund International (WWF)
- 172. World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)



11 January 2019

Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11 – 13 January 2019

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At its ninth session the Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee, consisting of the following members: Angola, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea.

2. The Credentials Committee met on 11 January 2019. The Committee elected Mr. Amer El Kadi of the Dominican Republic as Chairperson.

3. 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 attend the ninth session of the Assembly. The Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as at 11 January 2019.

4. The Committee determined that, as at 11 January 2019, 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:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The Committee noted that the Members listed below had not submitted credentials in the proper form, and recommends that the Assembly accept the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible:

Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Ireland, Paraguay, Slovakia, Somalia and Togo.

6. The Committee noted that five Members in attendance had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the ninth session of the Assembly on the condition that their credentials will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat by 12:00 pm on 13 January 2019.

7. The Committee recommends that the Assembly call upon all IRENA Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representative 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.

8. 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.



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11 – 13 January 2019

Report of the Credentials Committee

Addendum

1. In paragraph 4 of its report to the Assembly (A/9/4), the Credentials Committee provided the list of Members which had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, or which were represented by the competent authority and therefore deemed to conform to the credentials requirement.

2. In paragraph 5 of its report to the Assembly, the Credentials Committee provided the list of Members which had not submitted credentials in the proper form, and recommended that the Assembly accept the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

3. In paragraph 6 of its report to the Assembly, the Credentials Committee noted that five Members in attendance had not submitted any credentials, and recommended that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate in the ninth session of the Assembly on the condition that their credentials will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat by 1:00pm on 13 January 2019.

4. The Assembly considered and adopted the report of the Committee on the understanding that the list of Members contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 and the number of Members mentioned in paragraph 6 of the report would be updated to reflect the status of credentials by the deadline of 1:00pm on 13 January 2019.

5. Following the report of the Credentials Committee, one Member which was included in the list contained in paragraph 5 of the report clarified the status of its credentials and another provided credentials in a proper form. Four of the five Members referred to in paragraph 6 of the report submitted credentials by the deadline of 1:00pm on 13 January 2019.

6. The updated list of Members referred to in paragraph 4 of the report is as follows:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan,

13 February 2019

Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

7. The updated list of Members referred to in paragraph 5 of the report is as follows:

Australia, Botswana, Cameroon, Ireland, Paraguay, Slovakia, Somalia and Togo.

8. One of the Members referred to in paragraph 6 of the report did not submit any credentials.



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11 – 13 January 2019

Decision on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2019

The Assembly,

Recalling that the Assembly at its eighth session, through decision A/8/DC/1, adopted the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019;

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 2019 is based on the 2016-2018 Scale of Assessments as approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/70/245;

Noting that the Council, at its sixteenth meeting, considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2019, as contained in document C/16/7, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at its ninth 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 2019 as contained in document A/9/8;

Decides to adopt the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2019, as contained in the Annex to document A/9/8, as the applicable scale of contributions for 2019.



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11-13 January 2019

Decision on the IRENA Council membership for 2019-2020

The Assembly,

Noting that, pursuant to Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute, the Assembly shall, by consensus of the Members present, elect the members of the Council;

Noting further that Article X.A of the Statute states that the members of the Council shall be elected on a rotating basis as laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, with a view to ensuring effective participation of developing and developed countries and achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution and effectiveness of the Council's work;

Noting further that the election to the IRENA Council is also governed by Rules 69 and 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as contained in document A/5/5, with due regard being paid to the regional groupings set out in the annex thereto;

Recalling the decision of the eighth session of the Assembly to set 15 March 2018 as the deadline for Members to express interest in Council membership for the period 2019-2020 as a basis for further consultations as necessary.

Noting with gratitude the guidance received from the President of the eighth session of the Assembly pertaining to the overall process and *recalling* the extensive consultations conducted in the spirit of cooperation and transparency within each regional grouping between March and November 2018 by the President and four Vice-Presidents of the eighth session of the Assembly;

Commending the President and the four Vice-Presidents for their efforts to enable an inclusive and transparent consideration of the matter as well as the Members for their adherence to the procedure and deadlines and their efforts to reach agreement on Council seat allocation in a cooperative spirit;

Bearing in mind the need to ensure inclusiveness and engagement by all countries in the global effort to scale up the deployment of renewable energy and *encouraging* the Council in this context to ensure transparent and broad participation of all Members of the Agency in its work;

Decides to elect the members of the Council for 2019-2020 set out in the Annex to the present decision.

IRENA Council Membership for 2019-2020

2019

Members

- 1. Antigua and Barbuda
- 2. Burkina Faso
- 3. Cameroon
- 4. China
- 5. Dominican Republic
- 6. Egypt
- 7. Germany
- 8. Japan
- 9. Kiribati
- 10. Lebanon
- 11. Luxembourg
- 12. Mexico
- 13. Mozambique
- 14. Republic of Korea
- 15. Spain
- 16. Switzerland
- 17. Turkey
- 18. Uganda
- 19. United Arab Emirates
- 20. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 21. United States of America

<u>Alternates</u>

- 1. Argentina
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Chad
- 4. Cyprus
- 5. El Salvador
- 6. Italy
- 7. Malaysia
- 8. New Zealand
- 9. Nigeria
- 10. Philippines

2020

Members

- 1. Antigua and Barbuda
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Belgium
- 4. Burkina Faso
- 5. Chad
- 6. Cyprus
- 7. Dominican Republic
- 8. Egypt
- 9. Germany
- 10. Italy
- 11. Jordan
- 12. Kiribati
- 13. Malaysia
- 14. Mexico
- 15. Mozambique
- 16. New Zealand
- 17. Philippines
- 18. Switzerland
- 19. Uganda
- 20. United Arab Emirates
- 21. United States of America

<u>Alternates</u>

- 1. Argentina
- 2. Cameroon
- 3. China
- 4. El Salvador
- 5. Japan
- 6. Nigeria
- 7. Republic of Korea
- 8. Spain
- 9. Turkey
- 10. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11 – 13 January 2019

Decision on the Appointment of the Director-General of IRENA

The Assembly,

Recalling that, pursuant to Article XI.B of the Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), "The Director-General shall be appointed by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Council for a term of four years, renewable for one further term, but not thereafter";

Noting with gratitude the important work done by the Director-General Selection Committee as specified in document C/16/14;

Having taken note of the recommendation regarding the appointment of the IRENA Director-General adopted by the Council at its sixteenth meeting in decision C/16/DC/1, as well as the Report of the Council Chair of the related item at the sixteenth Council meeting contained in document A/9/14;

Further noting that, in accordance with Article XI.C. of the Statute of IRENA, the Director-General shall be responsible to the Assembly and the Council;

Decides to appoint Mr Francesco La Camera as the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency for a term of four years beginning on 4 April 2019;

Decides that the appointment of the Director-General shall be subject to the Staff Regulations and Rules of IRENA, including the Code of Conduct, insofar as they are applicable to him and subject to any special condition that may be decided by the Assembly or established in his contract;

Authorises the President of the ninth session of the Assembly, acting in the name of IRENA, to conclude a contract with Mr Francesco La Camera, establishing the terms and conditions of the appointment, including salary, benefits, allowances, and conditions of separation from service.

13 January 2019



Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11-13 January 2019

Tribute to Mr Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General

The Assembly,

Recalling its decision, A/l/DC/12 of 4 April 2011 by which Mr Adnan Z. Amin was appointed the first Director-General of IRENA;

Recalling also his critical role as Interim Director-General of the Preparatory Commission for IRENA during its final period from November 2010 to April 2011 and preparation for the first Assembly of IRENA;

Acknowledging with deep gratitude Director-General Amin's tireless efforts and dedicated service provided to IRENA during the past eight years;

Recognising his immense contribution towards establishing a sound institutional and administrative framework for the Agency, thus enabling it to successfully carry out its mission of accelerating the deployment of renewable energy across the world, while remaining an agile and inclusive organization;

Recognising further the significant achievements of IRENA during his tenure including in terms of reaching near-universal membership, expanding considerably its activities and providing effective support to its Members in the ongoing global energy transition to a sustainable future;

Placing on special record his leadership, vision, commitment and ingenuity in shepherding IRENA to its current standing as the authoritative global intergovernmental organization on renewables and a major platform for international cooperation on energy;

- 1. Pays warm tribute to Director-General Amin for his outstanding contribution to the establishment, development and work of IRENA, providing the international community with a strong international cooperation framework to accelerate the energy transformation.
- 2. Accords to Mr Adnan Z. Amin, at the conclusion of his tenure as Director-General of IRENA, the honorary title of Director-General Emeritus.



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO NINTH ASSEMBLY OF THE

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

Abu Dhabi, 10 January 2019

I am pleased to greet the ninth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency. You meet at a critical juncture. Climate change is moving faster than we are. The recent Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) outlined a catastrophic scenario if we do not act immediately to move from relying on fossil fuel energy to low-emission, resilient development. The approval of the Paris Agreement Work Programme at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Katowice in December has provided a solid basis for all Parties to address climate change and shift from brown to green energy sources. To heighten ambition and increase action, I am convening a Climate Summit in New York in September 2019. One of the main sectors in which I expect transformative new commitments is renewable energy.

The momentum around renewable energy is enormous. Solar photovoltaic technology alone has grown by a factor of 50 over the past decade and, in many countries, costs less than coal per megawatt. Yet, we are still only at the beginning of the renewable energy revolution. The IPCC stresses that we must reach net zero emissions by 2050. This will require that, at minimum, 63 per cent of the world's energy supply is fuelled by renewable energy by 2050.

To reach the levels of renewable energy needed by mid-century, we must strengthen enabling environments and mobilize the finance that can accelerate the clean energy transition. That transition must include off-grid and microgrid solutions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Small Island Developing States, to ensure that we reach the furthest behind.

Your leadership is critical. Let me take this opportunity to commend outgoing Director-General Adnan Amin for steering IRENA to become the global institution of excellence it is today. I wish you a productive Assembly that will contribute to a sustainable future.



IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy IRENA Ninth Assembly 2019

Participants in the special event on *Gender in the Energy Transformation* held on 12 January 2019 during the ninth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), have adopted the *IRENA Statement on Gender and Renewable Energy*.

The on-going energy transformation, driven by the imperatives of sustainable development and climate change, is bringing far-reaching change to our societies. Renewables are the backbone of this transformation, offering us the opportunity to create energy systems that can reconcile social, developmental, environmental and climate objectives. It is an opportunity that we must seize to build more inclusive, equal and prosperous societies.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 places the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Renewables can play a significant role in this respect. As a powerful vehicle for development, they can have a transformative impact on the inclusion and livelihoods of women, including in the access context.

Women's equal participation in all aspects of the on-going transformation is a question of fundamental fairness. Women's perspectives, expertise and leadership are also critical to ensuring informed and inclusive decision-making and a larger pool of talent in the renewable energy sector.

We welcome IRENA's report on *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective*, which examines barriers to women's participation in the renewable energy sector and outlines action areas to address the gender gap.

We appreciate that the share of women in the renewable energy sector is higher than in the conventional energy sector. We also recognise that it is still lagging behind.

We believe in the importance of strengthening international cooperation to advance gender equality in the energy transformation and commit to undertake the following:

- 1. Raise awareness about the centrality of gender equality and the increased participation of women to achieve an inclusive and fair energy transformation at the local, national, regional and international levels;
- 2. Share experiences and best practices related to policies, programs and initiatives that encourage and promote women's participation, leadership and decision-making in the renewable energy sector;
- 3. Foster women's economic empowerment by increasing access to investments and capacity building in entrepreneurship and employment in the renewable energy sector;
- 4. Support further analysis and collection of gender-disaggregated data in the renewable energy sector, including, among others, the use of indicators, monitoring and evaluation methodologies, and the analysis of gender-focused statistics;
- 5. Strengthen collaboration at all levels to overcome barriers facing women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

We call on IRENA to continue to inform evidence-based policy-making on the inclusion of women in the energy sector and to continue collaborating with other organisations and networks.

6 May 2019

International Renewable Energy Agency

Ninth session of the Assembly Abu Dhabi, 11-13 January 2019

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