

Tenth session of the IRENA Assembly

Launch of the Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform

10 January 2020, 16:30 – 18:00, Room B1
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

The success of the energy transformation comes in considerable part from the socio-economic benefits that countries and communities can derive by switching from fossil fuels to renewables and energy efficiency. In recognition of the central role of jobs in the energy transition, IRENA has documented the growth of employment and analysed the policy context since 2012. Worldwide, the expansion of renewable energy has to date created some 11 million jobs in different segments of the supply chain ([*Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2019*](#)).

Renewable energy employment is expected to continue to flourish as the energy transformation accelerates and the energy access improves. Creating a climate-safe system calls for USD 110 trillion worth of investments in the energy sector by 2050. IRENA's socio-economic footprint analysis demonstrates the potential jobs benefits which could be gained from strengthening and deepening of local supply chains ([*Global Energy Transformation: A Road to 2050*](#), 2019 Edition). By 2050, some 42 million people may be employed in the renewable energy sector under IRENA's Energy Transition scenario ([*Measuring the Socio-economic Footprint of the Energy Transition: Focus on Jobs*](#) - forthcoming).

At the same time, the transformation brings about structural changes that may trigger temporal, spatial, educational and sectoral misalignments between gains and loss of fossil fuel jobs. There is thus a need for a comprehensive set of policies (industrial policy, labour market and social protection policy, education and skills policy, and financial policy) to address such misalignments and to maximise emerging opportunities ([*Transforming the Energy System and Holding the Line on Rising Global Temperatures*](#)).

In recognition of these challenges and opportunities, IRENA initiated a “Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform” in context of the UN High-Level Political Forum 2019 (HLPF) on Sustainable Development stock-taking ([*Accelerating SDG 7 Achievement: SDG 7 Policy Briefs in Support of the High-Level Political Forum*](#)). The Platform focuses specifically on the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 (energy) and 8 (economic wellbeing and jobs). Following preparatory work with IRENA's international partners¹, the Platform will be officially launched at the tenth session of the Assembly.

The main purpose of the Platform is to coordinate relevant activities with partners, improve data quality and underlying methodologies, explore the policy implications of a just transition, and share experiences and best practices - and thus to contribute to an improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities bound up in the energy transition.

¹ At present, Platform partners include: the European Commission; the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNEN); GOGLA; the International Labour Organisation (ILO); Power for All; the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO); and the World Bank.



Objectives

- Inform Members about steps taken to create and operationalise the Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform and share plans for future activities.
- Provide an opportunity for Members to engage in Platform activities and to give feedback and guidance to the Agency on next steps.
- Exchange views on national experiences and best practices to strengthen the interlinkage between SDG 7 and 8 and to maximise employment in its quantitative and qualitative aspects.

Guiding Questions

- How can data and related knowledge of energy-employment linkages best be improved and shared?
- What action-oriented measures can governments initiate to address potential misalignments as the energy transformation unfolds? Can specific national-level experiences be scaled up and replicated?
- How can governments ensure that socio-economic benefits are shared widely for a just and fair transition?

Associated Publications

- Measuring the Socio-economic Footprint of the Energy Transition: Focus on Jobs (forthcoming, 2020)
- [Transforming the Energy System and Holding the Line on Rising Global Temperatures](#) (2019)
- [Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050](#) (2019 edition)
- [Accelerating SDG 7 Achievement: SDG 7 Policy Briefs in Support of the High-Level Political Forum 2019](#) (2019)
- [Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2019](#) (2019)

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