

10th Session of the IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings 10-12 January 2020 – St. Regis Hotel Saadiyat Island – Abu Dhabi

Executive Overview

Message from the Director-General of IRENA

It is my honour and great pleasure to welcome you to the 10th Session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings which will take place from 10 to 12 January 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

As the supreme decision-making organ of IRENA, the Assembly, comprising 160 Members, has become one of the leading global platforms for international co-operation on the energy transformation. The 10th Assembly is expected to attract the participation of Heads of State/Government, Ministers, as well as participants from countries yet to become Members of the Agency. As in previous years, invitations have also been extended to heads of international and regional organisations, public and private entities and civil society representatives to contribute to the energy transformation dialogue.

The upcoming Assembly session provides a timely occasion to take stock of progress in renewable energy, share knowledge and experiences, and consider how we can best support countries in creating enabling frameworks that attract investments and accelerate the energy transformation. Discussions at the Assembly will reflect the priorities highlighted by Members, spanning the developments and innovations in technology, policy, and investments.

We are entering a new era of change, one in which the energy transformation will drive economic transformation. This change, while bringing remarkable opportunities that can revitalise economies and lift people out of poverty, also heralds a time when international co-operation is of vital importance to help overcome the challenges ahead. In this regard, each IRENA Member contributes to the Agency's work and plays a role in making the Assembly the locus of knowledge and action on the energy transformation. With your support, we can provide an indispensable service to the global community in helping ensure that the transition is timely and just, and that the future is sustainable.

This Executive Overview has been prepared to assist you in navigating the three days of the Assembly and its related meetings, and in identifying high-level opportunities to engage directly on topics of interest and relevance.

I look forward to welcoming you in Abu Dhabi.

Francesco La Camera

IRENA 10th Assembly – Designated Bureau

The President and four Vice-Presidents designated for the 10th session of the Assembly are as follows:

President: Uganda

Vice-President: Burkina Faso

Vice-President: El Salvador

Vice-President: Luxembourg

Vice-President: Samoa

IRENA 10th Assembly and Related Meetings – A Brief Overview

The 10th session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings is structured around the following:

I. Plenary

Opening Plenary Session

11 January 2020, 10:00 to 10:30

The Official Opening of the 10th session of the IRENA Assembly will take place on 11 January 2020 at 10:00am. There will be high-level statements including by the Presidency of the Assembly, the Host Country and the Director-General, as well as reports by the rapporteurs of the previous day's High-Level and Stakeholder Meetings.

Presentation of the Work Programme and Budget and Member Interventions

11 January 2020, 10:30 to 13:00

The Director-General will present the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019, as well as the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, for adoption by the Assembly. Delegations may subsequently **make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes.**

** Delegations wishing to make such interventions from the floor in Plenary are invited to **register in the Speakers list** by sending a request noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Speakers List".*

Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters

12 January 2020, 17:00 to 18:00

The Assembly will consider the conclusions of the 17th and 18th Council meetings and will provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters. It will also consider the outcomes relating to the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility.

II. Ministerial Roundtable and Ministerial Plenary Sessions

Ministerial Roundtable and Ministerial Plenary Sessions (11 and 12 January 2020): One Ministerial Roundtable and two Ministerial Plenary sessions will take place, engaging Ministers and High-Level participants on specific topics:

- **Ministerial Roundtable: Decarbonisation – Green Hydrogen**

11 January 2020, 15:00 to 17:00

** In order to participate at the **Ministerial Roundtable**, you are requested to pre-register your Ministers and other Heads of Delegation by sending an email to Assembly@irena.org expressing their wish to attend the roundtable, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Roundtable".*

- **Ministerial Plenary Session: Renewables Investment in the context of National Energy Planning and Implementation**
12 January 2020, 10:00 to 13:00
- **Ministerial Plenary Session: Hydropower**
12 January 2020, 14:30 to 16:00

III. High-Level Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement

High-Level Meetings (10 January 2020): Two High-Level Meetings will take place, with the aim of managing key energy issues and sharing national experiences in Small Island Developing States, and deepening analysis of the changing geopolitical dynamics of the energy transformation:

- **High-Level Meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transformation in Small Island Developing States through Renewable Energy**
10 January 2020, 10:30 to 12:30
- **High-Level Meeting on The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation**
10 January 2020, 14:00 to 16:00

Thematic Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement (10 and 12 January 2020): Thematic meetings, organised by IRENA, and in collaboration with stakeholders, will be held over the course of the 10th session of the IRENA Assembly. The main objectives are to raise awareness of the importance of renewables and their impact on the energy transformation and sustainable development, connect policy makers, experts and innovators worldwide to learn from each other, and share best practice and experiences on issues of common interest.

Thematic meetings include:

- **International Dialogue on Global Best Practices for Strategic Long-Term Energy Planning**
10 January 2020, 10:00 to 13:00
- **OIF/IFDD – Réunion de Concertation Francophone: Identifier les nouvelles opportunités durables pour le déploiement des énergies renouvelables**
10 January 2020, 10:00 to 11:15
- **Renewable Energy in Cities**
10 January 2020, 14:00 to 15:30
- **Enhancing Dialogue among Countries with High Shares of Renewables in their Energy Systems**
10 January 2020, 16:30 to 18:00
- **Launch of the Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform**
10 January 2020, 16:30 to 18:00
- **Ocean Technologies in the Energy Transition: Sectoral Update and Actions to Reach Commercialisation**
12 January 2020, 13:15 to 14:15
- **Global Geothermal Alliance: Enabling Frameworks for Accelerated Geothermal Energy Development**
12 January 2020, 13:15 to 14:15

Stakeholder meetings include:

- **Legislators Forum**
10 January 2020, 10:00 to 13:00
- **IRENA Youth Forum**
10 January 2020, 14:15 to 18:00
- **Public-Private Dialogue**
10 January 2020, 14:30 to 18:00

IV. Evening Engagements

High-level Dinner for Women in Renewable Energy (10 January 2020): Invitees to a dinner hosted by IRENA and the United Arab Emirates in celebration of women in the renewable energy sector will receive an invitation.

The event will also feature the launch of a new publication on the role of women in the wind energy sector, presented by IRENA in collaboration with the Global Wind Energy Council and Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition. This publication constitutes the first effort to track women's presence across the full value chain of the wind sector, studies participation in technical versus non-technical roles, and analyses access to gender-inclusive policies and perceptions of gender bias.

Ministerial Dinner (11 January 2020): Ministers and Heads of Delegation will receive an invitation to a formal dinner hosted by the Director-General on the occasion of the 10th session of the IRENA Assembly.

Assembly Dinner Reception (11 January 2020): Participants are cordially invited to a dinner reception hosted by the Agency on the occasion of the 10th session of the IRENA Assembly.

Related Matters

Agenda: The provisional agenda of the 10th session of the IRENA Assembly as well as the annotations and background notes for the various discussions, will be made available 30 days in advance of the session.

Bilateral meetings: Subject to availability of space and services, every effort will be made to accommodate bilateral meetings. Requests should be sent to Bilateral@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly - Bilateral Meeting Request".

Requests for bilateral meetings with the Director-General should be addressed to the Office of the Director-General (ODG@irena.org).

Queries: Questions relating to the Assembly should be referred to the Secretariat (Secretariat@irena.org).

IRENA 10th Assembly and Related Meetings – A Detailed Overview

I. IRENA Assembly

A. Opening of the 10th Assembly

Saturday, 11 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

The opening will include several statements from the Presidency of the Assembly, the Host Country as well as reports from the High-Level Meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transformation in Small Island Developing States through Renewable Energy, the High-Level Meeting on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation, the Legislators Forum, the Public-Private Dialogue and the IRENA Youth Forum.

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

Saturday, 11 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

The Director-General will provide an update on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019.

C. Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021

Saturday, 11 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

The Director-General will provide an update on the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, reflecting considerations following Member comments and feedback during the 18th meeting of the Council.

After the Director-General's remarks, Members will have the opportunity **to take the floor and make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes**, providing guidance for the Agency's work and sharing their national experiences.

** Delegations wishing to make such interventions from the floor in Plenary are invited to **register in the Speakers list** by sending a request noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Speakers List".*

D. Plenary Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters

Sunday, 12 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

The Assembly will consider 17th and 18th Council conclusions and will provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

E. Facilitating finance for renewable energy in developing countries through the IRENA/ADFD Facility

Sunday, 12 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

IRENA has partnered with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) to facilitate finance for the deployment of renewable energy projects in developing countries and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. To date, 24 projects have been selected for funding by ADFD based on IRENA's recommendations.

During this session an announcement will be made of the projects selected for funding in the seventh cycle. In addition, projects selected in previous cycles that have advanced to implementation will be showcased. Loan agreements of selected projects will also be signed by ADFD and the project proponents while collaboration between IRENA and ADFD to achieve common goals continues.

II. Ministerial Roundtable and Ministerial Plenary Sessions

A. Ministerial Roundtable: Decarbonisation – Green Hydrogen

Saturday, 11 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

To tackle the negative climate impacts created by industry and transport, IRENA has been analysing the potential of green hydrogen and its role in decarbonising industry, shipping, and other hard-to-decarbonise sectors, which present a challenge for decarbonisation. At present, regulations and high costs limit the development of a green hydrogen industry, yet green hydrogen production can increase demand for renewable electricity and broaden the reach of renewable energy in some of the most carbon-intensive sectors.

This Ministerial Roundtable will be an important opportunity to showcase plans and projects from key countries and companies that are currently dedicating significant attention and resources to the development and scale-up of green hydrogen and hydrogen-derived synthetic fuels for decarbonisation.

A report on this Ministerial Roundtable will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 12 January 2020.

B. Ministerial Plenary Session: Renewables Investment in the context of National Energy Planning and Implementation

Sunday, 12 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

Building on IRENA's engagement and initiatives at the UN Climate Action Summit, this Ministerial Plenary Session, addressing the overarching theme of renewables investment in the context of national energy planning and implementation, will facilitate discussions on integrated and streamlined support for energy transitions in developing countries and emerging economies, particularly with respect to their energy plans, including NDCs, investments and de-risking instruments.

Energy Plans, Including NDCs: Energy planning plays a crucial role in developing coherent strategies and policies in a country's national energy transformation, as demonstrated by IRENA's Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES) network. Most countries have targets and enabling policies aimed at tackling multiple priorities through transitions in the energy sector. This discussion presents an opportunity for Members to renew their consideration of how renewables can contribute to national mitigation and adaptation efforts, and how best to engage several groups of stakeholders to ensure that energy plans and targets are attainable and contribute to the achievement of diverse economic, social and environmental objectives.

Investment Platforms: Strategic, result-oriented partnerships are essential in decluttering and streamlining support to countries to scale up energy transition investments. The Climate Investment Platform, established by IRENA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), in co-ordination with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is an example of inclusive partnerships put in place with the objective to promote accelerated, transformative and scaled-up investments to support ambitious NDCs and the pursuit of the SDGs. Discussions will focus on how governments and international finance, private sector and development institutions, as well as other key actors can enhance collaboration to advance climate investments in developing countries.

De-risking Investments: This topic will serve as a platform for Members to discuss barriers to a full-scale transition to renewable energy in terms of both technology costs and access to long-term affordable finance. Discussions will further address real and perceived risks faced by developers, investors and lenders, that affect the financing costs and competitiveness of renewable energy in developing countries. Participants will be invited to share experiences in the development of public and financial instruments to tackle these challenges.

C. Ministerial Plenary Session: Hydropower

Sunday, 12 January 2020 (Plenary Hall)

Following the Plenary Session on the Changing Role of Hydropower at the 9th session of the Assembly, IRENA Members, at the 18th meeting of the Council, agreed to an ongoing dialogue on this issue, given the role of sustainable hydropower in the global energy mix.

In recognition of the growing importance of hydropower in contributing to system flexibility, reliability and resilience, this Ministerial Plenary Session will take stock of the technological, market and policy trends in maximising hydropower potential. Participants will share case studies, experiences and examples of best practices. The Session will include a mix of input from public and private high-level panellists.

III. High-level Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement

A. High-Level Meetings

High-Level Meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transformation in Small Island Developing States through Renewable Energy

Friday, 10 January 2020

Building on the collective leadership and commitment to accelerating the deployment of renewables in Small Island Developing States, at this High-level Meeting, participants will share their vision and experiences in the adoption of renewables, identifying new actions and commitments in light of the discussions at the UN Climate Action Summit.

A report on this meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Saturday, 11 January 2020.

High-Level Meeting on The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation

Friday, 10 January 2020

The transition from fossil fuels to the deployment of clean and renewable energy sources has significant implications for relations between countries. The ever-increasing demand for renewable energy will bring changes to political, economic and trade relations between states, socio-economic developments and industrialisation within them, as well as unprecedented demand for rare earth minerals, to advance innovation in the production and storage of renewables.

In this context and building on the findings of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation, this meeting will aim to discuss key issues in the changing geopolitical dynamics of the global energy transformation and IRENA's role in strengthening international co-operation in support of its Members.

A report on this meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Saturday, 11 January 2020.

B. Thematic Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement

Legislators Forum: Engaging Communities in the Energy Transformation – Adoption of National Policies

Friday, 10 January 2020

This annual Forum brings together parliamentarians to share their experiences in setting enabling frameworks to accelerate renewables deployment. The fifth IRENA Legislators Forum will focus on the overall theme of parliamentary actions to accelerate the energy transformation by engaging communities and promoting a just and fair transition and will offer the opportunity to discuss the adoption of national policies that support gender empowerment and contribute to national mitigation and adaptation efforts through the deployment of renewable energy.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Saturday, 11 January 2020.

Public-Private Dialogue: Adapting Market Design and Policies to Support the Integration of High-Shares of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE)

Friday, 10 January 2020

This annual meeting will bring together leaders from the public and private sector to discuss enabling frameworks, innovative business models and market design to accelerate the deployment of renewables. This year, the meeting will focus on the adaptation of market design and policies to support the integration of high-shares of variable renewable energy into the energy system, as well as region-specific discussions on scaling-up private sector investment to accelerate Africa's energy transition.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Saturday, 11 January 2020.

IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers

Friday, 10 January 2020

The Agency's first major event for and on youth will focus on the key role of youth in the global energy transformation. Participants will have the opportunity to voice their views on several topics linked to renewables and sustainable development. Held under the overarching theme "Renewables Beyond 2030: The Key Role of Youth in the Global Energy Transformation", the IRENA Youth Forum will showcase how renewables can catalyse action on a multitude of aspects of the sustainable development agenda beyond 2030, including the increased role of women in the energy sector, the development of innovative technologies, the role of renewables in mitigating the effects of climate change through the development of national plans of action, and equity and inclusion in the energy transformation.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Saturday, 11 January 2020.

OIF/IFDD - Réunion de Concertation Francophone: Identifier les nouvelles opportunités durables pour le déploiement des Energies renouvelables

Friday, 10 January 2020

This event is convened in co-ordination with the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD) for IRENA Members that form part of the French-speaking Francophonie to exchange views on the state of play in renewable energy deployment globally.

Enhancing Dialogue among Countries with High Shares of Renewables in their Energy Systems

Friday, 10 January 2020

As countries progress to the next stage of the energy transformation, IRENA has received requests from several Members to establish a platform for dialogue among countries with high shares of renewables already achieved in their energy systems, to promote peer-to-peer dialogue and exchanges leading to co-operation on measures and solutions for challenges faced in such systems. This event will focus on an exchange on the way forward for the implementation of the initiative explaining in more detail the structure, coordination and implementation modalities. Additionally, it will be a space for engaging countries with high shares of renewables in their energy systems, having a first discussion on successful solutions for deploying high shares of renewables. These countries will be connected to each other, as well as with countries that may soon reach such high shares of renewables in their energy systems.

Renewable Energy in Cities

Friday, 10 January 2020

Half of the world's population (over 3.5 billion people) now lives in cities. By 2050, this number is expected to nearly double. Cities already account for 65% of global energy use and 70% of human-made carbon emissions. Renewable energy offers solutions to several issues: from climate change and air pollution to geopolitical risks, supply uncertainties, price volatility,

and local and regional economic development. Renewables can thus make cities more liveable. In this context, urban energy planning assumes great importance.

The session will discuss the policies and technologies that allow cities to bring about a renewable energy future. It will draw on examples of how municipal leaders and administrators can accelerate the switch to renewable energy by acting as planners, regulators, financiers and operators of urban infrastructure.

In addition, the session will preview findings from IRENA's "Energy Solutions for Cities of the Future" project, funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project analyses policy experiences and includes case studies of renewable energy-powered initiatives, programmes and policies in medium-sized cities in China, Uganda and Costa Rica. The scope also includes technologies and innovations that can be transferred from developed cities to developing cities, including the rooftop SolarCity Simulator, demand-side management and geothermal district heating and cooling.

Launch of the Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform

Friday, 10 January 2020

Policymakers are increasingly benefiting from key indicators of the socio-economics of the energy transformation, particularly with respect to employment. IRENA continues to assess job creation in the renewable energy value chain and provide policy recommendations on ways to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities; to address spatial, temporal, educational and sectoral misalignments that the energy transition may trigger; and to ensure that transition outcomes are just.

IRENA initiated the Sustainable Energy Jobs Platform to advance knowledge and awareness of these issues and to co-ordinate efforts with key international partners. The session will serve as the official launch of the initiative, and feature a lively discussion involving key stakeholders.¹

International Dialogue on Global Best Practices for Strategic Long-Term Energy Planning

Friday, 10 January 2020 at the IRENA Headquarters in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi

Many governments develop their own official energy scenarios that underpin a wide range of planning documents, though the way they devise and use official scenarios differs across countries. This side event discusses different institutional approaches for devising government planning scenarios, building on IRENA's initial findings and highlighting elements of good practices, followed by a dialogue on how international communities can support countries to ensure that the good practices identified in the first segment of the discussion are implemented.

These discussions will assist government decision makers in understanding how good practice experience from around the world and ongoing international dialogues on this topic can help them ensure that their national planning processes are robust.

Ocean Technologies in the Energy Transition: Sectoral Update and Actions to Reach Commercialisation

Sunday, 12 January 2020

Scaling-up the commercialisation of ocean energy technologies would result in significant benefits for countries with coastal areas and island territories. In recent years some efforts have been put in place towards the commercial viability of wave, tidal and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) technologies, but the sector is still in need of further actions to reach commercialisation. Stronger focus is required in terms of policy, technology development,

¹ At present, Platform partners include the European Commission, the Global Green Growth Institute, GOGLA, the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, the International Labour Organisation, Power for All, SELCO Foundation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the World Bank.

funding and business models. IRENA Members have expressed their interest in identifying strategies and mechanisms that can accelerate ocean energy market growth. In response to this, IRENA has expanded its work in ocean energy, engaging with policy makers, private sector leaders, entrepreneurs and academia, and facilitating channels to discuss and agree on the next steps for the ocean energy sector uptake.

This session will provide an up-to-date overview of the sector status, country experiences and action areas to enable faster commercialisation of ocean energy technologies. The presentations will be followed by an open discussion with participants.

Global Geothermal Alliance: Enabling Frameworks for Accelerated Geothermal Energy Development

Sunday, 12 January 2020

In this event, members and partners of the Global Geothermal Alliance will have the opportunity to discuss and share experience on projects and programmes aiming to accelerate the deployment of geothermal power and heating projects. In this context, IRENA will provide updates on the latest geothermal activities undertaken by the Agency, including, inter alia, capacity-building activities on geothermal applications for district heating and cooling.