

## 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings

15-16 January 2022 (IRENA Assembly)

13-14 January 2022 (Related meetings)

# Executive Overview

## Message from the Director-General of IRENA

It is my honour and great pleasure to welcome you to the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly which will take place on 15 and 16 January 2022, and related meetings which will be held on 13 and 14 January 2022.

As the supreme decision-making organ of IRENA, the Assembly, comprising 166 [Members](#), has been recognised as a strategic global platform for inclusive and diverse discussions on all facets of the energy transition. The 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly session is taking place at a time when the imperative to transform the current energy system to one that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive has never been more apparent.

Marking the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Energy Transition Day and under the overarching theme of ‘Energy Transition: From Commitment to Action’, the upcoming session of the Assembly and related meetings will gather global leaders and energy decision-makers to address concrete steps to shift the energy transition to the next level in the coming decade and accelerate actions at the speed necessitated by climate, energy and development imperatives.

Given the importance of mobilising political momentum in pursuit of our shared goals, discussions at the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly will address pressing issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond, and allow for an exchange of perspectives, including among countries that are most impacted by climate change, and in tandem with heads of international and regional organisations, public and private entities and civil society representatives.

IRENA remains committed to strengthening international collaboration and supporting the path towards the new energy era through the recognition of local, regional and global realities. As we collectively strive to fulfil our global duty of shifting to an energy path aligned with our shared goals and expediting widespread and far-reaching change, I am confident that our efforts will further our collective ambition, accelerate actions to achieve just, equitable, inclusive and resilient energy transitions worldwide, and ultimately bring our people and planet towards shared prosperity.

This Executive Overview has been prepared to assist participants in navigating the Assembly and its related meetings, and in identifying unique opportunities to engage in topics of interest and relevance.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi.

Francesco La Camera

## IRENA 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly – Designated Bureau

The President and four Vice-Presidents designated for the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly are as follows:

**President:** El Salvador

**Vice-President:** Antigua and Barbuda

**Vice-President:** Bangladesh

**Vice-President:** Egypt

**Vice-President:** Greece

## IRENA 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings – A Detailed Overview

The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings is structured around the following:

### I. IRENA Assembly

#### A. Opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly – 2<sup>nd</sup> World Energy Transition Day

Saturday, 15 January 2022, 09:30 to 10:30

Marking the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Energy Transition Day, the Official Opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly will take place on 15 January 2022 at 9:30am. There will be high-level statements including by the President of the Assembly, the Host Country and the IRENA Director-General, among others.

#### B. High-Level Plenary on the outcomes of COP26 and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy

Saturday, 15 January 2022, 10:30 to 11:30

A moderated discussion on the outcomes of the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties at its 26<sup>th</sup> session, to identify actions and strategies to operationalise and effectively implement the commitments made in context of the energy transition.

#### C. Presentation of the Annual Report and Proposed Work Programme and Budget

Saturday, 15 January 2022, 11:30 to 13:00

The Director-General will present the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, as well as the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, for adoption by the Assembly.

Following the Director-General's presentation, the Assembly will witness the signing of a number of partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

Delegations will have the opportunity to **make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes**, providing guidance for the Agency's work and sharing their national experiences, **during the afternoon session from 14:30 to 18:00**.

#### D. Member Interventions

Saturday, 15 January 2022, 14:30 to 18:00

Delegations wishing to make an intervention under the Annual Report and/or the Proposed Work Programme and Budget are invited to **register in the Speakers List** by sending a request to [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), noting the name and title of the speaker, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Speakers List". The requests will be considered observing the international protocol precedence and the principle of "first come, first served".

A preliminary Speakers List based on requests received will be circulated in advance of the Official Opening of the Assembly.

Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat in advance of delivery. Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership and included in the official records of the session.

#### **E. Reports from Ministerial Meetings and other events**

Sunday, 16 January 2022, 15:30 to 16:30

The Assembly will hear reports from the Ministerial Meetings held on 15 and 16 January 2022, and the Ministerial and other High-Level and Stakeholder Meetings held on 13 and 14 January 2022.

#### **F. Consideration of Administrative and Institutional matters**

Sunday, 16 January 2022, 16:30 to 18:00

The Assembly will consider the conclusions and recommendations from the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meetings and provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

## **II. Ministerial and High-Level Meetings**

### **A. Renewable Energy for Adaptation: A Water-Energy-Food Nexus Perspective**

Friday, 14 January 2022, 11:00 to 13:00

This Ministerial Meeting aims to engage Ministers and heads of organisations in discussing the adaptation benefits of renewable energy, with a specific focus on the linkages with the agriculture and water sectors. It will be an opportunity for IRENA Members and other organisations to showcase renewables-linked adaptation initiatives, share best practices and lessons, and discuss measures to attract financing for such solutions. The Ministerial aims to strengthen the link between the energy transition and climate action across sectors, and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Following introductory remarks and keynote presentations, delegations are invited to make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes and exchange views on the matter.

To ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”, by 7 January 2022.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **B. Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions in Africa: Promoting Development and Industrialisation**

Friday, 14 January 2022, 14:30 to 16:30

This Ministerial Meeting sets out to discuss the relationship between development and energy, diving deep into the interlinkages between SDG7 and other SDGs, including SDG8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. It will provide a platform to showcase leadership and commitments in support of putting energy transitions at the centre of development and industrialisation goals in Africa, and enable discussions amongst Ministers from Africa and IRENA’s wider global Membership as well as high-level private sector participants on this important topic.

The Ministerial Meeting will also see the launch of IRENA’s report ‘Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Regions’, developed in partnership with the African Development Bank.

Following introductory remarks and keynote presentations, delegations are invited to make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes and exchange views on the matter.

To ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”, by 7 January 2022.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **C. Flexible Grids for Smart Electrification: Pathways for energy system integration and end-use decarbonisation**

Saturday, 15 January 2022, 14:30 to 17:00

This Ministerial Meeting aims to engage Ministers and heads of private organisations in discussing best practices for transitioning towards decarbonised transport, buildings and industry sectors based on renewable electricity, focusing on the best practices for power sector transformation, including how to leverage the flexibility from the electrification of end use sectors to ensure a reliable, cost-effective, decarbonised power system.

Following introductory remarks and keynote presentations, delegations are invited to make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes and exchange views on the matter.

To ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”, by 7 January 2022.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **D. The Geopolitics of Hydrogen**

Sunday, 16 January 2022, 09:30 to 11:30

Following the launch of the report on the Geopolitics of Hydrogen on 15 January 2022, the main findings will be discussed by the Assembly, bringing together Ministers and invited High-level contributors, to exchange views on the evolving geopolitical energy landscape and the role of hydrogen, and highlight policy considerations in this dynamic sector.

Following a presentation and a scene-setting discussion, delegations are invited to make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes and exchange views on the matter.

To ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Roundtable by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Roundtable*”, by 7 January 2022.

A report on this Ministerial Roundtable will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **E. Accelerating the Energy Transition Investments and Finance: The Role of Local Financial Institutions**

Sunday, 16 January 2022, 12:00 to 14:00

This Ministerial Meeting aims to engage Ministers, heads of financial institutions and heads of private investor organisations in discussing best practices for crowding in local and national financial institutions for accelerating just and inclusive energy transition globally, focusing on partnership with governments, foreign direct investors and multilateral development banks and via new innovative climate-action related business models.

Following introductory remarks and keynote presentations, delegations are invited to make interventions within an allotted time of three minutes and exchange views on the matter.

To ensure timely planning, **delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Meeting by sending in their request** to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org), indicating in the subject line “*IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Meeting*”, by 7 January 2022.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

#### **F. Geothermal for Energy Transition, Sustainable Development, and Climate Action**

Friday, 14 January 2022, 09:30 to 11:00

This High-Level Meeting will convene the Global Geothermal Alliance Member Countries and Partner Organisations to discuss the crucial role of geothermal energy in the energy transition and its relevant contribution to climate action, offering a high-level platform for an exchange on challenges and opportunities in the deployment of geothermal solutions globally.

A report on this High-Level Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

#### **G. Peacekeeping Operations Energy Compact**

Friday, 14 January 2022, 15:30 to 17:00

Co-hosted by the Energy Compact’s leading entities – UN DOS, UNDP, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, and IRENA – this High-Level Meeting will discuss the opportunities that peacekeeping operations present for energy transitions in host countries – especially in rural and remote settings – through presentation of concrete project ideas. The meeting will also discuss implementation steps of the Renewable Energy in Peacekeeping Compact and highlight opportunities for additional partners to engage.

A report on this High-Level Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

#### **H. Actions to accelerate NDC Implementation and to strengthen Climate Resilience in Small Island Developing States**

Friday, 14 January 2022, 16:30 to 18:00

This High-Level Meeting is being organised through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and aims to engage Ministers, high-level representatives of development partners, multilateral and private organisations, in discussing the investment and capacity needs as well as identifying the appropriate enabling frameworks that will facilitate actions that contribute to the achievement of the SIDS commitments to the Paris Agreement and sharing best practices for transitioning towards climate resilient economies.

A report on this High-Level Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **III. Stakeholder Engagement**

#### **IRENA Legislators Forum: Parliamentary and regulatory actions to drive national energy transition policies: from commitment to action**

Thursday, 13 January 2022, 15:00 to 17:00 (Virtual format)

The 2022 edition of the IRENA Legislators Forum presents a timely opportunity for inclusive and diverse discussions on actions and most up-to-date policy measures that can guide Legislators in supporting countries to shift the energy transition to the implementation phase of national and international commitments.

This event will be held in a virtual format with simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Spanish. Delegates wishing to attend this event are kindly requested to register [at this link](#).

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **Public-Private Dialogue: Renewable energy and circular economy: Focus on end-of-life management of renewables**

Thursday, 13 January 2022, 17:00 to 20:00 (Virtual format)

This edition of the Public-Private Dialogue will convene policy makers, legislators, and members of the Coalition for Action to discuss circular economy and end-of-life management considerations for renewables, as well as what actions are needed from governments and the energy industry to accelerate global progress towards unlocking the benefits of a truly sustainable renewable energy sector.

This event will be held in a virtual format with simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Spanish. Delegates wishing to attend this event are kindly requested to register [at this link](#).

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

### **IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers**

Thursday, 13 January 2022, 18:00 to 20:00 (Virtual format)

Held under the overarching theme “Youth-led solutions to accelerate the energy transition and achieve climate objectives”, the 2022 edition of the IRENA Youth Forum will highlight the role of young people in identifying and developing solutions that can promote and accelerate the renewables-based energy transitions to achieve climate targets and other sustainable development goals.

It will also offer the opportunity to young people to interact and connect with global thought leaders, government representatives, and IRENA experts in identifying the essential areas that require support for youth to contribute to the advancement of a global energy transition.

This event will be held in a virtual format with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Delegates wishing to attend this event are kindly requested to register [at this link](#).

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 16 January 2022.

## **Elections and Appointments**

**Credentials Committee:** The designation and appointment of Credentials Committee members is expected to be officially confirmed at the start of the plenary session of the Assembly (item 2.c. of the Provisional Agenda).

**Thirteenth Assembly President and Vice-Presidents:** Before closure of the 12<sup>th</sup> session, the Assembly will designate the President and four Vice-Presidents of its 13<sup>th</sup> session, taking into account equitable geographic representation and rotation (item 13 of the Provisional Agenda).

## **Essential Information for Participation**

**Venue:** The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings will be held at the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, from 14 to 16 January 2022.

**Transportation:** Shuttle buses will be provided to run between a number of hotels and the conference venue. For further information, please refer to the bus schedule [at this link](#).

**Stakeholder meetings:** The stakeholder meetings will take place on 13 January 2022 in a virtual format for all participants.

**Registration:** Participants may register for the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly and related meetings between 25 November 2021 and 7 January 2022 at <https://assembly.irena.org/>.

Participants may register for the stakeholder meetings at the following links: Legislators Forum ([link](#)), Public-Private Dialogue ([link](#)), IRENA Youth Forum ([link](#)).

**Badge issuance:** Badges will be issued on 13 January 2022, from 09:00 to 17:00, and from 14-16 January 2022 from 08:00 to 17:00, in the registration area (Manhattan lounge) next to the main lobby of the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

**Travel regulations:** Participants are encouraged to monitor national regulations for their travel to and from Abu Dhabi. For the latest information on the UAE's travel and quarantine regulations and COVID-19 updates, please refer to the following government portals:

- Guidelines for traveling to and from the UAE amid COVID-19 ([link](#))
- Travel from Dubai to Abu Dhabi ([link](#))
- UAE Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates ([link](#))
- Abu Dhabi Emergency Crisis and Disasters Committee for COVID-19 Pandemic ([link](#))

**Registration with the ICA:** Kindly be informed that delegates traveling to the UAE must register with the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) and obtain an entry QR Code prior to their departure. The ICA website may be accessed [at this link](#). Should you require any assistance, please contact IRENA Protocol at [protocol@irena.org](mailto:protocol@irena.org).

**PCR testing:** In line with UAE regulations, a valid negative PCR test taken within 96 hours of the meeting is required for accessing the meeting venue. The Secretariat has set up a walk-in PCR Testing Facility on-site at the venue. The Facility will be accessible on 13 January 2022, 13:00 - 19:00, and on 14 January 2022 from 09:00 - 13:00 upon presentation of a valid passport or Emirates ID. This service will be provided at no cost to all delegates attending the meetings in-person.

**Health and safety measures:** In the interest of health and safety and in line with UAE regulations, temperature checks will be conducted for all participants entering the venue. All participants will be required to wear face masks at all times within the venue.

To ensure that social distancing measures are observed, the usual seating arrangements will be amended to reflect the latest UAE COVID protocol procedures and will be observed in all meeting rooms throughout the session. All participants are advised to continue maintaining social distancing across the venue.

Sanitisation kits will be provided to participants, and sanitisers will be made available at all meeting facilities. All meeting facilities will be sanitised and disinfected before and after the meetings as well as during lunch breaks, on a daily basis.

**Medical services:** A designated isolation room has been allocated at the venue, in the event that a delegate requires medical assistance. Delegates are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat if they require medical assistance or are experiencing flu symptoms such as fever, coughing and/or sneezing.

Delegates who show visible flu symptoms will be provided medical assistance and isolated from the rest of the participants, in line with prevailing health and safety regulations.

## Related Matters

**Agenda:** The Provisional Agenda of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly as well as the annotations and the background notes for various discussions are included in this transmission.

**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](mailto: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 at [ODG@irena.org](mailto:ODG@irena.org).

**Interpretation:** Simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided during the Assembly session and related meetings.

Simultaneous interpretation for the stakeholder meetings on 13 January 2022 is as follows:

- **IRENA Legislators Forum:** English, French and Spanish
- **Public-Private Dialogue:** English, French and Spanish
- **IRENA Youth Forum:** Arabic, English, French and Spanish

**Live streaming:** In the interest of enhancing transparency and inclusiveness, the open Plenary, Ministerial and High-Level Meetings of the Assembly as well as the related Stakeholder Meetings will be live streamed on the IRENA website.

**Queries:** Questions relating to the Assembly, including on organisational arrangements, COVID Protocol and health and safety measures, should be referred to the Secretariat at [Assembly@irena.org](mailto:Assembly@irena.org).