



4 January 2016

Tenth meeting of the Council of IRENA  
23 – 24 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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## **Report of the tenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

1. The tenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 23 and 24 November 2015. The meeting was attended by the following Council members: Algeria, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Swaziland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Uruguay; as well as three alternates: Kiribati, Somalia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also in attendance were 59 other IRENA Members and other countries.

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

2. The Chair of the ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA, India, opened the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work**

#### **a. Election of officials**

3. **The Council elected by acclamation Mr. Upendra Tripathy, Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India as Chair, and Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy of New Zealand as Vice-Chair of the tenth meeting of the Council.**

4. **The Chair appointed Ethiopia as Rapporteur of the tenth meeting of the Council.**

#### **b. Adoption of the agenda (C/10/L.1)**

5. The Council considered and adopted the provisional agenda for its tenth meeting (C/10/L.1).

#### **c. Report of the ninth meeting of the Council (C/9/SR/L.1)**

6. The Chair introduced the draft 'Report of the ninth meeting of the Council'.

7. One delegation read out proposed amendments to the draft report pertaining to comments that this delegation had made during the ninth meeting of the Council. The delegation requested that these amendments be reflected in the final version of the report and noted that they would be submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

8. **The Council approved the draft ‘Report of the ninth meeting of the Council’ as orally amended (C/9/SR/L.1).**

**Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (C/10/2; C/10/CRP/1; C/10/CRP/2)**

9. The Director-General of IRENA, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, opened by welcoming delegations to the tenth meeting of the Council and congratulated Mr. Upendra Tripathy of India and Mr. Mike Allen of New Zealand on their re-election as the Council Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. He noted that the Council was attended by delegates representing a total of 80 countries and the European Union, which demonstrated the strong and continuing interest in IRENA’s work.

10. The Director-General presented the ‘Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015’ (C/10/2) and reflected on the Agency’s achievements to date. He stressed the outcomes and topical relevance of a number of IRENA publications, such as the 2015 edition of *Renewable Power Generation Costs* and the *Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2015*. Other programmatic highlights of the past two years included the release of the first and second edition of *REthinking Energy*; REmap 2030; Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs); the contribution to the Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting in May 2014, the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in New York, Clean Energy Ministerial meetings, SE4ALL activities; regional activities such as the Third International Conference on SIDS and the Africa Clean Energy Corridor ; as well as support to the COP20, COP21, G7 and G20 processes. The Director-General recognised the call from Members for IRENA to accompany programmatic products with corresponding communication and outreach strategies. He highlighted the main developments that IRENA has made in this regard, such as the fact that since 2014, IRENA products have been presented in some 13,000 media news items in almost 140 countries, which is an increase of 40% compared to the previous two-year period.

11. The Director-General emphasised the growing interest in the Agency, reflected in the close to 13,500 applications that were received in response to vacancy announcements and reflected on the fact that IRENA membership is nearing universality with 144 Members and over 30 States at various stages of accession, and 19 new Members joining in the last two years.

12. The Director-General informed delegations that 98.5% of the 2014 assessed contributions and 90% of the 2015 assessed contributions had been provided by Members, with an additional USD 900,000 in assessed contributions received post-release of the annual report, bringing the overall assessed contributions level to 96%. In addition, he noted that USD 9.2 million was received from Germany and USD 11.9 million from the United Arab Emirates as part of non-assessed core contributions, with another USD 2.9 million to be received from the United Arab Emirates. The Director-General thanked Belgium, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous voluntary contribution pledges totalling close to USD 15 million, USD 7.7 million of which has already been received. He indicated that, as of 30 September, 95% of the Agency’s budget resources had either been used or committed, corresponding to the pace of implementation of the work programme.

13. The Director-General introduced the Deputy Director-General designate, Sakari Oksanen of Finland, who will begin his work with IRENA by the end of the year.

14. An independent consultant presented the results and methodology of the impact assessment of the Agency's work, including details of Members' level of satisfaction regarding IRENA's work, as well as the Agency's overall perceived impact. The consultant explained how the relevance and outreach of 30 IRENA activities were assessed, and informed about the interviews that were held with IRENA Members, other external stakeholders and IRENA staff as well as, among others, the monitoring of online activities. He noted that the level of response to the Member survey, coupled with internal and external interviews, provided a solid and credible basis for evaluation of the Agency's impact to date. By means of statistics, he demonstrated that the results of all the assessed segments indicated that IRENA has been impactful to date and that it has pushed forward the global debate on renewables. The Members surveyed agreed that IRENA has delivered some significant and tangible achievements, which have had impact in advancing the global transition to renewables. A number of activities have delivered impact upstream on the renewable energy value chain, in order to help clear the bottleneck and promote the deployment of renewable energy. Furthermore, IRENA's substantial growth over the last three years has established the Agency as the global technical and knowledge leader on renewable energy, a credible voice of renewable energy in global forums and a country advisor. The consultant concluded that the evaluation was aimed at assessing the work to date. He noted that, looking forward, the views indicate that IRENA should focus on prioritising a core set of activities where IRENA is best placed to deliver impact. In addition, the Agency should bolster the strategic and activity level partnerships and communications which will help to amplify its impact. Finally, the Agency should continue to adapt its processes and organisation to remain agile and respond to changing needs.

15. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), Mr. Martin Schöpe of Germany, reported on the Committee meeting which took place the day before the meeting of the Council, and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/1 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

16. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Ambassador Conrod Hunte of Antigua and Barbuda, reported on the Committee meeting which also took place the day before the meeting of the Council, and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/2 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

17. In the discussion that followed, delegations expressed their appreciation for the detailed report by the Director-General and achievements to date, as well as their continued support of the Agency.

18. Several delegations highlighted national developments and expressed appreciation of specific initiatives and products, including the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative, REmap 2030, the Agency's contribution to the G7 and G20 processes, its work undertaken on Africa, Renewables Readiness Assessments, the Global Atlas, its work on renewable energy benefits, including socio-economic benefits, costing, employment creation, grids, renewable energy auctions and target-setting.

19. Multiple delegations appreciated and further encouraged IRENA's cooperation with international organisations and the private sector. One delegation referred to the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue and the International Forum on Energy Transitions co-hosted by China and IRENA in Suzhou, and underlined the importance of establishing a Global Coalition and Centre for Energy Transition. This was welcomed by another delegation. Some delegations noted that renewable energy applications in the heating and cooling, building, industry and transport sectors would need further development, and one of these delegations noted how the IRENA REmap study could be a starting point towards that development. A few delegations drew attention to the creation of a level playing field between renewable energy and fossil fuels. A number of

delegations emphasized that IRENA is being regarded as the global voice for renewable energy and is playing an important role in the global energy transformation. The work that IRENA will perform at and following the COP21 in Paris was welcomed and considered with high expectations and support from countries. Delegations took note of the positive sign symbolised by the growth in IRENA membership.

20. One delegation stressed the necessity of following up on any outstanding assessed contributions. Two delegations highlighted, by means of examples, the importance of voluntary contributions and encouraged other Members to contribute.

21. A delegation stressed the importance of the impact assessment that was conducted and called on all Members to participate more actively in such reviews in the future.

22. In response to the various interventions, the Director-General expressed appreciation for the strong support for and recognition of the Agency's work. He took note of the specific issues raised, noted a regular follow up on outstanding contributions, and reaffirmed the importance of a close cooperation with a large number of Members. He acknowledged that the Agency is present in, and contributing to a growing number of multinational and regional fora, signaling its global relevance, as well as the increasing importance given to the topic of renewable energy. He underlined the necessity of Members' involvement in the development of the Work Programme and Budget, as well as in the implementation of specific programmatic initiatives. In conclusion, he stressed the need for partnerships for the energy transformation, and pointed towards the opportunity of COP21 to send a strong signal that the energy transformation is underway and will lead to a positive change.

**23. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015', contained in C/10/2, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly, with any necessary updates, for consideration at its next session.**

#### **Agenda Item 4: Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 (C/10/3; C/10/CRP/1)**

24. The Director-General introduced the 'Report on the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017' (C/10/3), noting that the review of the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) is a culmination of a year-long process that involved broad consultations through several rounds of discussions with Members. In this context, he mentioned that the independent evaluation conducted by a consultant with Members and other stakeholders played a key role in this process, by ensuring impartiality and the ability to look at matters from a fresh perspective.

25. The Director-General reflected that, since the adoption of the MTS for 2013-2017, the global landscape has shifted profoundly, and thus the challenge for IRENA is to stay focused on its vision while remaining flexible in light of developments in the sector. He noted that the MTS underscores that IRENA's principal instruments are its knowledge products, direct support to counties and regions, and the ability to convene stakeholders. He further noted that the MTS envisages IRENA as the global voice for renewable energy, to be achieved by being a centre of excellence, advisory resource for countries and network hub for cooperation.

26. He summarised the key conclusions of the MTS review, including:

- IRENA's programmatic activities are closely aligned with its strategic vision and objectives.
- The MTS 2013-2017 is relevant in its strategic direction.
- While the MTS' strategic direction remains relevant, IRENA's programmatic activities need to adapt to the changing environment.
- The remaining two years of the MTS will be a decisive period.
- The coming two years should provide for an inclusive consultative process to facilitate dialogue on the future strategic direction of the Agency in the post-2017 period.

27. In conclusion, the Director-General underlined the importance of building on the ongoing trend of targeted discussions on strategic and programmatic matters in the IRENA setting. He looked forward to the continuing discussion on the future strategy of the Agency, proposing that it could be integrated into the next meetings of the Council to enable a sustained and inclusive framework for engagement.

28. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), reported on the Committee meeting and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/1 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

29. In the discussion that followed, one delegation noted that renewable energy is one of the key solutions to climate change, and expressed support for worldwide efforts to de-carbonise energy systems. This delegation also pointed out that renewable energy is central to alleviating poverty, especially on islands, and expressed support for additional IRENA activities in the ASEAN region. The delegation also stressed the importance of partnerships and supported additional efforts to involve the private sector in IRENA's future activities.

**30. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017', contained in C/10/3, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.**

#### **Agenda Item 5: IRENA and Renewable Energy at COP21 (C/10/DN/1; C/10/INF/2; C/10/CRP/1)**

31. The Director-General opened the discussion by emphasising the importance of the upcoming 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, and the increasingly central role of renewables for the global climate agenda. He noted that IRENA's analytical work has shown the positive impact of renewable energy in climate action, and the need to increase global investment in its deployment. The Director-General highlighted the Agency's work in promoting the business case for renewables as well as initiatives such as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the formation of the Global Geothermal Alliance.

32. The Director-General outlined that IRENA has been called upon by the French presidency of COP21 to lead efforts in Paris to showcase the role and potential of renewable energy for addressing climate change, and emphasized that this provides an unprecedented opportunity.

33. The Director-General stressed that IRENA is well-placed to play a key role in the implementation phase beyond Paris as countries face the challenge of moving towards a transformation to low-carbon and climate-resilient systems as quickly as possible. He affirmed that practically all areas outlined in the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 could form a part of climate action, and that the Agency stands ready

to support Members in taking forward action on renewables as part of their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). He underscored the relevance of existing IRENA initiatives for climate action, including renewable energy policy analyses, Renewables Readiness Assessments, the Agency's regional action agenda and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace. He further underlined IRENA's key initiatives that have been showcased in the climate change discussion: the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative and the formation of the Global Geothermal Alliance. He concluded by underlining the importance of the next five years for renewable energy and climate action.

34. France, as host of COP21, emphasised the role of renewable energy and IRENA at COP21, as well as for climate action in general. It further highlighted the contribution of IRENA's ongoing initiatives to climate action, and looked forward to new initiatives being announced in Paris, including the Sustainable Energy Marketplace. The French delegation affirmed that renewable energy is crucial for keeping climate change within a limit of a 2°C increase, and encouraged IRENA and its Members to continue their support to ensure the success of the Paris conference. France also noted that despite the tragic events of 13 November 2015 in Paris, COP21 would proceed with enhanced security, although some public cultural events may be cancelled.

35. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) reported on the Committee's consideration of the item, and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/1 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

36. In the discussion that followed, several delegations commended France for its efforts with respect to COP21, and expressed their support for the success of the conference. One delegation highlighted the series of events under the 'RE: energizing the future' initiative at COP21, which it is organising in partnership with IRENA, SER, REN21 and the European Commission, and urged broad participation to ensure its success. Another delegation highlighted an event hosted by the International Council on Sustainability, focusing on world energy transition, as another point of engagement for the Agency.

37. Two delegations welcomed the positive contribution of the Agency's REmap initiative for the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) ahead of COP21. One delegation stressed that the international community finds itself at the beginning of global climate action, and that much is yet to be accomplished to achieve decarbonisation. Another delegation welcomed the recent release of the second edition of RETHinking Energy, as it shows that renewable energy is key to keeping temperatures below a 2°C increase. Some delegations highlighted the need to focus on the renewable energy deployment aspects of INDCs after COP21.

38. Two delegations noted the launch of the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) as an opportunity to accelerate the deployment of this source of renewable energy, and invited Members to join the GGA. One delegation encouraged the Agency to enable further opportunities for cooperation on renewable energy from waste materials. One delegation pointed to action to limit fossil fuel subsidies as an important part of climate action, and urged Members to sign a communiqué launched by the Friends for Fossil Fuel Reform.

39. Two delegations stressed the particular vulnerability of some developing countries, which emit very small volumes of greenhouse gases. One delegation noted the link between IRENA's work and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal on Energy (SDG7). It also pointed to projections suggesting that current pledges for climate action will result in a 2.8°C increase in temperatures, and emphasised more action will be required. The delegation argued that an agreement in Paris should be binding, and that a substantial amount of investment must be mobilised to implement it.

40. The Director-General summarised the discussion by pointing to a global consensus on the threat of climate change, and a collective aspiration for international action to combat it. He emphasised that IRENA's message at COP 21 is that renewable energy provides a climate solution that is practical, measurable, economically viable, and can be applied with current levels of technology. He concluded that the Paris conference will not only allow the international community to act on climate change, but will also demonstrate a common vision for the future, and affirmed the Agency's full cooperation and support for COP21.

**41. The Council took note of the presentation and the discussion.**

**Agenda Item 6: Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (C/10/L.4; C/10/CRP/1; C/10/CRP/2)**

42. The Director-General introduced the proposed Work Programme and Budget for the 2016-2017 biennium by noting that it is the result of a two year-long collaborative discussion on the future financing of the Agency undertaken with Members in the course of 2014-2015. He added that an important element of the work programme development has been the qualitative evaluation of IRENA's programmatic work, which emphasised that the Agency is now at a stage where it must prioritise the areas where it can make the greatest impact.

43. The Director-General stressed that in order to provide focus, the proposed Work Programme and Budget is underpinned by three strategic priorities:

- First is the continuous emphasis on the **business case** of renewable energy. IRENA's programmatic work and interaction with countries and other partners has made the Agency an increasingly authoritative and credible voice in making the business case for renewable energy, which can help ensure that significant resources are channelled to renewable energy projects.
- The second priority is **regional action**. IRENA's work with countries remains a key element of its Work Programme, and regional cooperation will become increasingly important, especially as countries look for options to advance low-carbon development and ensure security of supply.
- Third, to secure long-term impact, IRENA will prioritise the formulation of **strategic partnerships** to leverage respective strengths and resources, promote greater effectiveness and ensure sustainability of its efforts.

44. The Director-General noted that the programmatic work proposed for 2016-2017 contains a combination of knowledge products, in depth analysis, tools, advisory services and collaborative initiatives to meet the needs of a wide range of Members. He further noted that the proposed programme retains the already-established six thematic areas with defined objectives and expected impacts, while also including streamlined and rebalanced programmatic components to address feedback received through the consultative process, the recommendations from the external evaluation, and the experience gained to date. He pointed out that the six thematic areas reflect a balance of diverse needs and requirements among Members and also take into account evolving renewable energy trends.

45. The Director-General emphasised that, to effectively deliver its programme, IRENA needs to remain dynamic, agile, innovative, and results-focused. He added that, building on the progress made in the current biennium, IRENA would continue to integrate communication and outreach in all aspects of its programme,

including continuous use of different languages. Furthermore, the programme management and coordination function would be refined to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of impact.

46. On the topic of the budget, the Director-General recalled that IRENA's current core assessed budget is USD 40 million, compared to the proposed core assessed budget of USD 46 million for 2016-2017. He explained that the USD 6 million additional component of the new budget includes: new Members' assessed contributions of USD 2.2 million; USD 1 million for inflation; USD 1.3 million to fully finance staff costs for the existing posts budgeted for 18 months in the last biennium; and USD 1.5 million to support core functions including communications and human resources and limited additional staffing, including for monitoring and evaluation, and budget.

47. The Director-General also explained that core non-assessed contributions comprise contributions from the Agency's host countries, Germany and the UAE. He reported that Germany had committed USD 10 million for the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) for the 2016-2017 biennium. He reminded delegations that the UAE bid contribution of USD 5.8 million per annum of bid funds for research and operations would terminate by the end of 2015. For 2016-2017, he reported that the UAE had committed to contribute USD 5 million (USD 2.5 million annually for the next 5 years), and continue its biennial support of USD 3.2 million for governing body meetings as per its ongoing bid commitment, in addition to approximately USD 1.1 million per annum for the staff housing subsidy and USD 0.46 million per annum for ICT support.

48. The Director-General stressed that the next Work Programme and Budget would be adopted in January 2016, at the sixth session of the Assembly, the first global intergovernmental meeting after COP21 in Paris, and that Members' ambition in this context would therefore send a message of the global commitment to renewable energy deployment. He closed by noting that, as IRENA's membership increases, so do the expectations and demands placed on the Agency and its limited resources. He highlighted that an effective, focused and results-oriented Agency is crucial to attaining Members' long-term objectives and to making a significant and sustained impact.

49. The Chairs of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) and of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported on meetings of the Committees and referred delegations to documents C/10/CRP/1 and C/10/CRP/2 for the Committees' recommendations to the Council.

50. In the discussion that followed, two delegations expressed their appreciation for how much the Agency has been able to accomplish in the first five years of its existence.

51. Several delegations appreciated the level of detail in the description of proposed activities and anticipated impact, and welcomed the balance between advisory work and analytical work. Delegations also expressed agreement with the proposed programme's three articulated priorities and its streamlining of the existing six thematic areas. One delegation appreciated the reduced number of components in the proposed Work Programme, and noted that further streamlining is possible in its view. One delegation expressed satisfaction with the overall strategic focus of the programme, but noted that some activities relate to country-level implementation, and cautioned against this direction. It also noted that, in its view, some activities were not sufficiently backed by core resources. Another delegation valued the detailed financial information included in the programme.

52. Two delegations thanked the Secretariat for the inclusiveness in the Work Programme preparatory process, and welcomed the dialogue promoted by IRENA.

53. Delegations encouraged work on all renewable energy technologies, including geothermal and hydropower. Delegations stressed that the Agency should strive to deepen partnerships with stakeholders, including with the private sector, to create synergies to enrich its substantive output and avoid duplication. Some delegations emphasised that renewable energy is increasingly a part of broader cross-cutting issues, and underscored the importance of relating IRENA's work to climate change action post-COP 21, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Another delegation suggested that IRENA should focus on overcoming new barriers resulting from an increased integration of renewables into energy systems, in three areas: system integration, market design fit for renewable energy, and risk mitigation for investments in renewable energy. One delegation welcomed the efforts to adopt a more coordinated approach to Africa, in partnership with multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other investment entities, and encouraged IRENA to support specific pilot projects. Another delegation requested clarifications on the framework and objectives of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor. One delegation stressed the importance of having adequate resources for the Habitat III conference and for IRENA's off-grid work. One delegation asked about gender balance in IRENA staffing.

54. Some delegations expressed support for specific activities included in the proposed Work Programme, including the Global Geothermal Alliance, costing work, work on the socio-economic value of renewable energy, islands work, especially the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN). One delegation supported IRENA's involvement in the sixth Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC 6) in Kuwait in April 2016. One delegation supported the development of concrete initiatives with the private sector that can stimulate overall demand for renewable energy, citing the example the 'REmade' label led by the Coalition for Action to demarcate goods produced using renewable energy.

55. On the topic of the budget, several delegations expressed support for the overall budget at the proposed level of USD 23 million annually (USD 46 for the biennium) in assessed contributions. Many delegations emphasised the importance of sending a strong message to COP21 regarding the importance of renewable energy as a solution to climate change and the commitment to IRENA.

56. Some delegations, while expressing strong support for IRENA, the work accomplished so far and the proposed programme of work, noted that they had budgetary constraints or were guided by a policy of zero nominal growth for all international organizations<sup>1</sup>. Two of these delegations requested a moratorium on increases for one year, due to the falling purchasing power of their currencies. Other delegations noted that while their governments generally seek zero nominal growth, they would consider a moderate increase taking into account that IRENA is still a young organisation. One delegation noted that, while it could not agree to the proposed increase, it was willing to agree to a 5% increase compared to the previous biennium. This delegation encouraged all other delegations to agree to an increase in their respective assessed contributions that is commensurate with their expressions of commitment to IRENA. This delegation also pointed out that the UN assessment scale was formulated under different circumstances, and that IRENA needs a financing structure that is more flexible.

57. Delegations stressed that all Members of IRENA have to play a part in making sure that the Agency is adequately funded to fulfil its important role. These delegations underscored that the Work Programme is vital to Members' shared commitment to promoting renewable energy. A delegation pointed out that if Members were seeking additional substantive work from IRENA, this should be accompanied by a

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<sup>1</sup> One country (Italy) specifically requested to be identified as affected by the zero nominal growth policy.

willingness to increase the amount of their support. Another delegation noted that a balance was required in order to have a budget that enables IRENA to live up to its mission while remaining efficient and affordable to Members.

58. A representative of the Host Country noted that, although some of its contributions resulting from bid commitments were terminating by the end of 2015, it would continue to support the organisation with non-assessed core contributions, on an annual basis until 2020, in the field of conference services, support to the operation of the Agency and its activities, staff housing subsidy, and IT support. He also referred to the Agency's move to its permanent Headquarters in March that year and stressed the importance of support from all Members to ensure long-term success of the Agency. One delegation pointed out that the end of certain bid commitments was previously highlighted, and that the budget development within IRENA was foreseeable for some time. Another delegation noted that, with the ending of part of the bid contribution from the Host Country, IRENA should seek alternative ways of funding, such as through an increase in core budget and additional voluntary contributions. Another delegation noted that striking a better balance between core budget resources and voluntary contributions for more marginal activities would release resources in light of budget constraints. Some delegations underscored their belief that a diverse funding basis is crucial to the future work of the Agency. In this context, another delegation welcomed further discussion on diversification of funding sources to make up for shortfalls or, alternatively, on prioritisation so that IRENA could operate with a smaller budget. One delegation encouraged IRENA to look into other sources of funding such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and noted that budget allocation could be adjusted in accordance with the impact of various activities. That delegation further noted that it would again provide a contribution to the Global Atlas. Another delegation stressed the importance of taking the rate of inflation into account for the budget, lest the amount available to support IRENA's work is reduced in real terms. Two delegations said that an examination of impact was key to effective prioritisation of activities.

59. In response, the Director-General expressed appreciation for Members' strong support for the direction IRENA's work is taking and for their confidence in the proposed Work Programme and Budget. He added that the Work Programme must respond to the needs of different constituencies, with enough flexibility to accommodate the diversity of the growing membership composition. He noted that the Agency must strike a balance by being a knowledge and advisory resource for all countries, while at the same time creating more tailored inputs for specific country needs. He acknowledged the budgetary constraints that Members face, but noted that very few secretariats are able to accomplish what IRENA has done with such limited resources. He noted that it would be unfortunate to see some IRENA activities cut, or potential implications on already limited human resources, in the event of a budget decrease. He underscored that, looking at core assessed and core-non assessed contributions, the proposed Work Programme and Budget is in essence a zero-growth budget, as the proposed USD 64.2 million represents only a USD 200,000 increase over the previous biennium, which amounted to USD 64 million.

60. The Director-General stressed the importance of coming to an agreement on the issue of the budget, as this will affect the preparations of the draft Work Programme and Budget for the sixth session of the Assembly. He underscored that the Council was meeting in the context of COP21, to begin shortly in Paris, which raises the stakes of the current conversation. Members' strong support for the Agency's work would send an important message that mirrors the commitment of countries to support renewable energy as a significant way to mitigate climate change.

61. In closing, the Council Chair reflected that the Council had agreed on the importance of fully funding the overall budget envelope of USD 64.2 million for the Work Programme 2016-2017, as proposed in

document C/10/L.4 of 15 October 2015. He continued that the majority of Members participating in the Council meeting had supported both the overall budgetary envelope and the core assessed budget at the level of USD 23 million per annum (USD 46 million for the biennium), and had agreed that this should be presented to the Assembly for its consideration at its sixth session. He noted that the Council had stressed the importance of this decision, especially in view of the upcoming COP21.

62. The Council Chair also took note that some Members participating in the meeting had expressed concern regarding their ability to accommodate an increase in their core assessed contributions resulting from the proposal provided in C/10/L.4. To address this concern, it was suggested that these Members consider a core assessed budget of USD 22.2 million per annum and provide their feedback by 30 November 2015 to the Secretariat. The Council Chair noted that this feedback would be circulated to Members on 1 December 2015. If no feedback were received, the proposed level of USD 23 million would be considered agreed.

63. The Council Chair further noted that if there were any Member who could not support USD 22.2 million per annum, the Secretariat would prepare a version of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget based on a core assessed budget of USD 21.4 million per annum, which would reflect core contributions of existing and new Members, but not inflation, full staffing costs for existing posts and the limited additional posts proposed in document C/10/L.4.

64. The Chair noted that the Secretariat would circulate a proposed Work Programme and Budget for consideration at the sixth session of the Assembly, reflecting the guidance received.

**65. The Council took note of the presentation and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 as contained in document C/10/L.4, and expressed agreement with the process proposed by the Council Chair.**

#### **Agenda Item 7: Programmatic discussion**

##### **a. Scaling up renewable energy investments: Risk mitigation and a virtual marketplace for renewable energy projects (C/10/DN/2)**

66. The Director-General opened by reiterating the importance of attracting greater levels of capital from private investors. He pointed out several barriers to scaling up renewable energy investments, including high financing costs resulting from investors' high perceived risks and the limited scale of renewable energy projects, which affects attractiveness to institutional investors. The Director-General mentioned that risk mitigation instruments and credit enhancement tools dedicated to renewable energy can target the specific risks and barriers, and structured finance can help scale up the investment size and lower due diligence costs, by standardising and aggregating the underlying investment vehicles. He stressed that a key topic for further consideration is how to increase the availability, affordability, and effectiveness of the instruments and structures for renewable energy investment. Highlighting the critical need to support project development and help projects move from initiation to financing, he introduced the concept and objective of IRENA's Sustainable Energy Marketplace (the Marketplace), an online platform for renewable energy projects in developing countries. He noted that the Marketplace can improve the bankability, and visibility of renewable energy projects by making markets more transparent and actively facilitating interaction of market players.

67. The Director of IRENA's Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, Mr. Henning Wuester, underlined the investment needed to massively scale up the share of renewables in the energy mix. Mr. Wuester emphasised the importance of increasing private investment for renewable energy through effective and efficient use of public finance, and explained as an example how the use of guarantees funded by limited public resources can leverage substantially more private capital. He noted that while renewable energy is cost-competitive in many places, perceived risks and barriers often impede investments, especially in emerging markets. Describing a range of tools, Mr. Wuester pointed out that existing risk mitigation instruments are not sufficiently used, and that dedicated instruments, tailored to renewable energy needs, are needed to cover some risks specific to renewables such as power off-taker risk (incurred by power utility companies' weak credit rating and liquidity constraints) and currency risk (typically resulting from currency mismatch between financed capital and tariffs). He explained that structured finance approaches can help improve project attractiveness to investors, in particular large institutional investors. Relatively small projects can be aggregated through standardisation, and instruments such as green bonds (fixed income instruments whose proceeds are dedicated to environmental initiatives including renewable energy projects) and YieldCos (publicly listed companies with long-term predictable cash flows generated by operational renewable energy assets) can bring renewable energy investments to the capital markets, freeing up project developers' capital to be used for developing new projects.

68. Referring to the challenge of initiating and identifying attractive renewable energy projects, Mr. Wuester explained the role of the Sustainable Energy Marketplace to build an attractive project pipeline and to bring investors and project developers together. He described the Marketplace as an online tool for match-making between various stakeholders and as a facilitation platform for project development. Mr. Wuester noted that the Marketplace is operational for projects in Africa already, and that IRENA is currently in the process of launching a separate Marketplace for both the Caribbean and Latin America regions, with a view to expanding the concept to additional regions, including all Small Island Developing States (SIDS), during 2016. He highlighted IRENA's ongoing efforts to establish partnerships with multilateral development banks as well as other initiatives to scale up facilitation activities in the Marketplace.

69. Mr. Wuester concluded by briefly introducing next steps, which include expanding the Marketplace globally, promoting the use of risk mitigation tools and structured finance through collaboration with international financial institutions, and supporting efforts to set up a risk mitigation facility dedicated to renewable energy projects.

70. A number of delegations welcomed the launch of the Marketplace, in particular with respect to its timeliness and regional focus. Several delegations noted that they expect the Marketplace to accelerate the pace of renewable energy investment by improving the access to finance for renewable energy projects and access to bankable projects for investors. Several delegations also underlined the importance of using the platform to engage partner organizations in facilitating the financing of projects. One delegation referred to a recent IRENA workshop in Santiago de Chile, which had highlighted the important role of regulatory frameworks and transparency, factors also relevant for the successful implementation of the Marketplace, which could contribute to opening markets for private investment and enabling market-based solutions for financing renewables.

71. With respect to IRENA's work on risk mitigation, several delegations agreed with IRENA's findings that power off-taker and currency risk are the key risks to be mitigated. Many delegations pointed out the importance of capacity building for project development and of applying innovative financial mechanisms dedicated to renewable energy. Some delegations noted the need to address financing challenges of small-

scale projects through the use of other financing resources such as crowdfunding and venture capital. With regard to the use of structured finance mechanisms, delegations mentioned that IRENA should tailor its approach to meet the needs of projects of different scales, cautioning that finding the right finance partner for aggregation of renewable energy projects may be difficult in some cases.

72. Delegations encouraged IRENA to continue to strengthen its work on renewable energy finance, and suggested that the Agency work closely with national banks and international finance institutions, such as the Green Climate Fund, to design and develop innovative risk mitigation mechanisms for renewable energy investments. One delegation pledged a voluntary contribution to support the Marketplace. Another delegation suggested that the option of secondments from financial institutions should be examined.

**73. The Council took note of the presentation and the discussions.**

**b. Power Sector Transformation (C/10/DN/3)**

74. The Director-General of IRENA opened the discussion by remarking that 2015 is expected to be another record year for generation capacity additions, and that renewables have cemented their position as the preferred power generation technology. Consequently, governments will have to move from target setting to policies that guide the deployment and power sector transformation. In parallel, international fora like the G7 and G20 have requested IRENA to assist countries in examining the different policy options for the power sector transformation. In this context, IRENA's publication 'The Age of Renewable Power' – launched at the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum in Japan - provides countries with a framework to assist in the development of national roadmaps for their power sector transformation and, moving forward, the Agency is strengthening its related activities in the proposed next work programme.

75. The Director of IRENA's Innovation and Technology Centre, Mr. Dolf Gielen, provided an overview of IRENA's existing activities on power sector transformation, including IRENA's collaboration activities with the International Energy Agency (IEA). These activities include a broad range of tools that have been developed to support governments on different aspects of the power sector transformation, such as how to develop grid connection codes, how to address variable renewable energy into long-term energy planning, and how to assess the costs and benefits of smart grids for renewables deployment. Mr. Gielen also gave examples where the Agency is working with governments to assess the impact of interconnectors, grid stability and energy storage on their power sector transformations.

76. Mr. Gielen also presented IRENA's plans to extend the activities on power sector transformation in the next Work Programme to include the analysis of dispatch models and different market designs, of the impacts of electric vehicles on renewable energy integration, and to apply existing methodologies and analyses in Member countries. The presentation concluded with a number of questions on how to balance the exchange of best practices with technical country assistance, how to further strengthen and prioritise IRENA's work on market design and enabling policy frameworks, and how to bolster international dialogue and ensure complementarity between initiatives.

77. Following the presentation, country representatives indicated broad support for IRENA's existing and future activities on the power sector transformation. A number of country representatives shared details on how renewable power generation is already impacting the power sector and government policies at a national level. For example, best practices were shared in the areas of grid expansion, interconnectors,

demand side management, the development of new electricity security matrices, the creation of enabling environments, market design, energy storage, power management systems, and long-term planning.

78. A number of delegations noted that power sector transformation challenges are unique to each country and that IRENA's country support at a national level is therefore welcome. At the same time, IRENA can play an important role in providing an international platform to share information on the impacts of different grid integration measures, share data on why targets for the integration of variable renewable energy shares were or were not achieved, and share the economic and environmental impacts of the latest technology developments and applications.

79. A number of delegations highlighted the importance of market designs, including capacity auctions, and the important role that it already plays in stabilizing grids with high shares of variable renewable energy. One delegate suggested to differentiate between liberalized and vertically integrated markets in the assessments of different market designs.

80. Finally, there was also broad support to continue to expand and strengthen cooperation between IRENA and other international and national institutions working on the topic of power sector transformation. This includes further cooperation with the IEA, especially since the power sector transformation will also require changes in conventional power generation technologies, but also with regional institutions like the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) or national institutes.

**81. The Council took note of the presentation and the discussion.**

**c. Measuring progress: Renewable Energy Statistics (C/10/DN/4)**

82. The Director-General introduced this topic by noting that increasing the share of renewable energy has been included as a specific target under the Sustainable Development Goal for Energy (SDG7) and that the demand for high quality and timely renewable energy statistics is likely to increase. He also thanked countries for their cooperation with IRENA's global data collection efforts. He noted that IRENA is well-placed to collect renewable energy statistics and put them to good use, with its focus on renewable energy and its work with countries on a broader range of topics such as REmap and the Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs). However, he further noted, there remain some communication challenges in terms of identifying the most appropriate people to contact in countries to help with the collection and validation of data.

83. The Senior Programme Officer for Statistics, Mr. Adrian Whiteman, presented an overview of IRENA's work so far on renewable energy statistics. The main points of the presentation were as follows:

- a) The REsource web platform is the main tool for dissemination of statistics, which can be obtained as charts or as user-defined tables. At present, there are about 6,000 views of these statistics each month. Publications include the IRENA country profiles and the capacity statistics yearbook, which presents all of IRENA's renewable electricity capacity data in English, French and Spanish.
- b) Capacity building has included workshops in several countries and regionally (in Southern Africa), where participants are being trained in the collection and validation of renewable energy data. These activities have been focused on countries where there are or have been RRAs.
- c) The number of countries returning the IRENA statistics questionnaire has increased during the first two data collection cycles and 73 countries have provided data. These replies account for about two-thirds of IRENA's capacity data. The remaining data points are obtained from secondary

sources, about two-thirds of which are national government websites. A major focus of IRENA's efforts will be to try to establish better communications with those countries that appear to have good data but with which IRENA has not yet established a relationship in the statistics area. Completing the data sets for renewable energy production and consumption will be much more difficult than filling gaps in the capacity data, and it would be a significant help if more countries could collaborate in this effort.

- d) One of the targets for SDG7 is to increase the use of renewable energy and the indicator for this is likely to be the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption. IRENA is ready to assist countries to calculate this indicator. Countries that appear to be more capable of monitoring progress towards these goals are more likely to receive the funding and technology transfer that is required, so it is important that their renewable energy statistics improve.

84. The Director-General closed by asking what countries and IRENA could do to improve the collection of renewable energy statistics, what guidance they could provide about building capacities for data collection and analysis, and how IRENA could provide the most effective support for monitoring the SDG7 target on renewable energy.

85. All of the interventions that followed confirmed that the collection of renewable energy statistics was vital for monitoring progress in the renewable energy transition and fundamental for the future development of renewable energy. There was also a general consensus among delegations that the proposal to provide capacity building (training) in renewable energy statistics was useful and that countries should support the data collection effort by nominating statistical correspondents.

86. Two delegations thanked IRENA for the capacity building it has provided, and a number of other delegations joined in recommending that statistical capacity building be focused on developing countries, particularly those where little is currently known about renewable energy.

87. Several delegations stressed the importance of collaborating with others working in this area, and mentioned potential partners such as the International Energy Agency, the ASEAN Energy Centre and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. IRENA was also encouraged to discuss with other agencies the most appropriate division of work in providing support to countries for the purpose of monitoring SDGs. It was also noted that this work should be integrated into the SE4ALL activities, where IRENA is the hub for renewables.

**88. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.**

## **Agenda Item 8: Institutional and administrative matters**

### **a. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (C/10/5)**

89. The Director-General affirmed that access to finance is a key pillar for raising the share of renewables in the global energy mix and that the joint project facility of IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) is helping to meet the financing challenge in the developing world. He expressed his appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and ADFD as partners in the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (Facility). He announced that during its first two selection cycles, the Facility has allocated USD 98 million of funding, while USD 146 million has been leveraged from other sources, funding a total of 11 renewable

energy projects. The selected projects will bring online 56 MW of new renewable energy capacity, and provide increased energy access for over 600,000 people in developing countries.

90. The Director-General welcomed that co-funding for projects had come from institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank and the UNDP Global Environment Facility, which demonstrates a growing consensus that renewable energy projects can have significant development and transformative impacts, offering better, healthier and more sustainable lives for communities worldwide.

91. The Director-General noted that the results of the third cycle selection process will be announced at the sixth session of the IRENA Assembly in 2016 and that the Facility's website opened for proposals for the fourth funding cycle on 11 November 2015, with improved application forms for an easier application process. The submission deadline for the fourth cycle is 15 February 2016.

92. He noted that seven IRENA Members have expressed interest to serve as members of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee to review projects in the fourth funding cycle: Antigua and Barbuda, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sudan and Zambia. He further noted that six IRENA Members have informed the Secretariat of their availability to serve as alternates: Djibouti, Egypt, France, India, Nigeria and the Republic of Korea. The Assembly at its upcoming session is expected to appoint members and alternates of the Advisory Committee for the fourth funding cycle.

93. Mr. Mike Allen of New Zealand, the Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee, referred the Council to the 'Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the third project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility', set out in document C/10/5, and reported that during the third cycle, the Facility received over 70 applications. He reported that the Committee recommended seven of these projects for funding, which represent a total capacity of over 70 MW, and a total project cost of USD 238 million, combining USD 78 million in loans from the ADFD with over USD 167 million from other sources through co-financing.

94. He also reported that the Committee continued to further develop and improve the Facility by enhancing the selection process and criteria and referencing IRENA's other areas of work to help improve applications. The Committee also sought to capture results after projects are selected, and implemented a results framework with engagement of the 11 selected project proponents. In addition, other funding partners were engaged for the shortlisted projects. Mr. Allen concluded by stating that several recommendations had been made for subsequent cycles, including on further assistance to applicants to improve their applications, dedicated resources for capturing results of the selected projects, and offering applicants the option of listing their proposal on the Sustainable Energy Marketplace.

95. In the discussion that followed, one delegation emphasised the importance of establishing links between the Agency and other financing institutions, and to bolster support for applicants for projects, to identify the best projects, and to ensure that the project proposals prepared maintain the level of quality needed for effective delivery.

96. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the level of outreach achieved by the Secretariat in respect of the Facility, and expressed its hope that details about the progress of previously selected projects would be shared soon. The delegation underlined that any issues experienced during the execution of projects should be reported back to the Advisory Committee, in order to strengthen project selection criteria, and mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.

97. **The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the third project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility’ contained in document C/10/5, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.**

98. **The Council also took note of the expressions of interest received for membership in the Advisory Committee.**

**b. Use of languages in IRENA activities (C/10/6)**

99. The Director of IRENA’s Strategic Management and Executive Direction, Mr. Mohamed El-Farnawany, presented the note of the Director-General ‘Progress review: Use of Languages in IRENA Activities’ contained in document C/10/6 by recalling decision A/3/DC/3, by which the Assembly requested that the progress on language implementation be reviewed no later than at its sixth session. The presentation summarized actions taken by the Agency with regard to an assessment of the implementation of translation and interpretation in the Agency’s activities, including challenges faced; the results of the Agency’s contacts with other intergovernmental and UN organisations; its contacts with the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP) as well as conclusions drawn from these actions.

100. Following the presentation, one delegation acknowledged the value of using different languages, but pragmatically and on a case-by-case basis. That delegation emphasized that cost implications of such services should be carefully considered and that they should have no effect on Members’ core-assessed contributions. Another delegation acknowledged the Agency’s efforts towards multilingualism which would enhance cooperation and international collaboration while underlining the importance of cost-efficient implementation of language services.

101. One country noted that the Agency’s work gains more efficiency and impact when target audiences can receive information, and express themselves, in their own language. The same country recommended that the presentation to the sixth session of the Assembly includes additional details on the translation of publications to other UN languages, and the number of meetings held with interpretation, as well as any further action that could be taken in this area.

102. **The Council took note of the ‘Progress review: Use of Languages in IRENA Activities’, contained in document C/10/6 and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.**

**c. Report of the Ethics Officer (C/10/7)**

103. The Ethics Officer of IRENA, Ms. Salma Khalid, presented the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the implementation of the policy on ethics and conflict of interest’, contained in document C/10/7.

104. During the reporting period, the Ethics Officer received two requests for advice from staff members on ethics issues, both of which were satisfactorily addressed. No request for other issues or any other report requesting protection from retaliation for reporting misconduct was received. No issue requiring consultation with the Ethics Advisory Board in accordance with the terms of reference of the Board emerged during the reporting period.

105. The Ethics Officer further noted that a total of 31 covered individuals were required to complete the Disclosure of Interest form and that the majority of these 31 have complied with the requirement. The review of the submitted forms did not reveal any actual or perceived conflict of interest.

106. She further noted that, in the last year, the development of ethics training has been a priority. A basic training session to raise awareness on ethical behaviour and conduct has been developed in coordination with the Office of Human Resources as part of the induction programme for new joiners to IRENA, and the first sessions are expected to be held in December 2015. An online training on ethics is also currently being developed. In the year to come, the Agency plans to introduce additional tools to inform and raise staff awareness on ethics matters: these will include a dedicated section on the Agency's intranet, as well as periodic staff surveys on ethics and integrity awareness.

**107. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Ethics Officer on the implementation of the policy on ethics and conflict of interest', contained in document C/10/7 and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.**

**d. Report of the Director-General on internal audit (C/10/8; C/10/CRP/2)**

108. The Director-General presented the 'Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Internal Audit Office and internal audit recommendations and actions taken', contained in document C/10/8. He noted that the internal audit had been conducted in two areas, pursuant to the approved audit plan: physical count of fixed assets and the leave and attendance system.

109. He noted that the internal audit office had also validated the actions taken by IRENA Management to implement the internal audit recommendations that were reported at the ninth meeting of the Council and which were made in relation to three audit areas: the budget process, consultancy services, and status of implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning system. He reported that seven recommendations were fully implemented, and the remaining three are under implementation.

110. The Director-General noted that the recruitment process for the new Internal Auditor is underway and that he is hopeful that the successful candidate may join in early 2016. He added that the Secretariat has continued looking into the matter of Members' access to internal audit reports, which was raised at the last meetings of the Council. He noted that a procedure to govern the manner in which Members may request and have access to the internal audit reports for their viewing at IRENA Headquarters is being developed and will be finalised by the new Internal Auditor.

111. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), reported on the Committee meeting and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/2 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

**112. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the activities of the Internal Audit Office and internal audit recommendations and actions taken', contained in document C/10/8.**

**e. Status of implementation of the external audit recommendations (C/10/9; C/10/CRP/2)**

113. The Director of IRENA's Administration and Management Services Division, Mr. David Iyama, presented the 'Report of the Director General on the status of implementation of the external audit

recommendations', contained in document C/10/9. He noted that the external audit report presented an unqualified audit opinion on the Agency's 2014 financial statements. He further noted that the Council at its ninth meeting had considered the external auditor's report and the corresponding 2014 audited financial statements, contained in document C/9/6.

114. He reported that the external auditor also submitted a management letter to the Director-General that included audit findings and recommendations. The letter contained five recommendations with regard to the financial statements and one recommendation with regard to the Information and Technology (IT) systems of IRENA. Mr. Iyamah noted that out of the six recommendations provided by the external auditor, three have been fully implemented and the other three are under implementation.

115. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), reported on the Committee meeting and referred delegations to document C/10/CRP/2 for the Committee's recommendations to the Council.

**116. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the status of implementation of the external audit recommendations' as contained in C/10/9 and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.**

**Additional matter raised during the meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee: Maximum length of service of staff (C/10/CRP/2)**

117. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported on the Committee discussion under the item 'Any other business' regarding the issue of the maximum seven year length of service of staff with IRENA and referred the Council to document C/10/CRP/2 for a full account of the comments on this matter. The AFC Chair noted the AFC's recommendation that this matter be addressed at the eleventh meeting of the Council, bearing in mind the comments already received from Members at this and previous AFC meetings.

118. Two delegations expressed agreement that the seven-year limit in service should be revised and that the Secretariat should make proposals for Members' consideration to extend this limit or remove it, including practical implications. They expressed concern that the maximum length of service would affect staff retention, continuity of the work of Agency, and the motivation of future recruits of the Agency.

**119. The Council, taking into consideration the AFC Chair report and the views expressed, agreed with the AFC recommendation.**

**Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the sixth session of the Assembly (C/10/10)**

120. The Director-General announced that the dates of the sixth session of the IRENA Assembly are 16-17 January 2016 and that the meeting will be held at the St. Regis Hotel on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. He noted that the Assembly at its fifth session had designated Egypt as President of the sixth session of the Assembly, and Bangladesh, Cuba, Mauritius and Sweden as Vice-Presidents.

121. A representative of the President designate expressed gratitude for the opportunity to act as President of the sixth session of the Assembly, and assured the Council of his country's commitment to the success of the meeting as well as the promotion of renewable energy.

122. A delegation underlined the importance of transmitting documents necessary for the deliberations at the sixth session of the Assembly within the timeframe mandated by the applicable regulations.

**123. The Council took note of the interventions made on the matter.**

#### **Agenda Item 10: Arrangements for the eleventh meeting of the Council**

124. The Chair noted that two Members had expressed interest to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the eleventh meeting of the Council respectively, but that official confirmation of such expression of interest had not yet been received. He proposed that the Council be notified of the proposed designation, once a final confirmation of the interest of both of these Members to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair has been received.

**125. The Council agreed with this arrangement, and decided to hold its eleventh meeting on 24 and 25 May 2016.**

#### **Agenda Item 11: Any other business**

126. No matter was raised under this item.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting**

127. The Director-General, in his closing remarks, reflected on the important discussions held during the past two days. He highlighted the general consensus on the level of the overall budget of USD 64.2 million, which reflects satisfaction with the work of the Agency and is consistent with feed-back received from delegations during Council deliberations. He noted, however, the increasing disparity between the level of ambition expressed for the future activities of the Agency, and some Members' concern over their ability to fund these activities. He stressed that a lower budget figure would make it difficult to support the current level and quality of output of the Agency. He underlined the managerial challenges created by a potentially delayed agreement on the budget and expressed his hope that a way forward would emerge soon. He concluded by inviting Members to take part in IRENA's engagement at COP21 and encouraged them to affirm the role of renewable energy during the conference.

In his closing remarks, the Chair noted India's proposed establishment of a specialised platform, namely the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for cooperation among solar resource rich countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and noted that the Prime Minister of India and the President of France would officially announce the launch of the Alliance on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France on the sidelines of COP21. The Chair noted that India seeks the support of IRENA Members covered

under the proposed Alliance to launch ISA and join the event in Paris on 30 November 2015. In closing, the Chair expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to chair the tenth meeting of the Council. He thanked IRENA Members for their active participation, and expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chair New Zealand, the PSC Chair, and the AFC Chair. The Chair thanked delegations for their commitment and engagement, which provided productive feedback and guidance for future activities of the Agency and closed the tenth meeting of the Council.

Tenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

23 November 2015

## **Agenda of the tenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of work
  - a. Election of officials
  - b. Adoption of the agenda
  - c. Report of the ninth meeting of the Council
3. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme for 2014- 2015
4. Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017
5. IRENA and renewable energy at COP 21
6. Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017
7. Programmatic discussion
  - a. Scaling up renewable energy investments
  - b. Power sector transformation
  - c. Measuring progress: Renewable energy statistics
8. Institutional and administrative matters
  - a. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
  - b. Use of languages in IRENA activities
  - c. Report of the Ethics Officer
  - d. Report of the Director-General on internal audit
  - e. Status of implementation of the external audit recommendations
9. Arrangements for the sixth session of the Assembly
10. Arrangements for the eleventh meeting of the Council
11. Any other business
12. Closing of the meeting

Tenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

4 January 2016

## List of participants

### Council members (19)

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	<b>Algeria</b>	Salah Attiya	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
2		Ramdane Ferhat	Minister Plenipotentiary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
3		Said Guezzane	Director-General	Centre for Research and Development of Energy and Natural Gas (CREDEG)
4	<b>Cameroon</b>	Oumarou Issa	Minister Plenipotentiary	Ministry of External Relations
5		Adama Saidou	Director	Ministry of Environment and Natural Protection
6	<b>China</b>	Wang Zhongying	Deputy Director General	Energy Research Institute
7	<b>Ethiopia</b>	Abdulkadir Risku Salih	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
8		Girma Risa	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
9	<b>Fiji</b>	Solomone Momoivalu	Chargé d'Affaires	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
10		Sarika Lata	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
11	<b>France</b>	Michel Miraillet	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
12		Clemence Barret	Deputy Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
13		Cyril Vial	Counsellor for Multilateral Energy	Ministry of Ecology
14		Martine Kubler-Mamlouk	Deputy Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
15		Philippe Geiger	Deputy Director of European and International Affairs	Ministry of Energy

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
16		Stephen Marchisio	Counsellor for Sector Strategy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17	<b>Gambia</b>	Momodou Njie	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Energy
18	<b>Germany</b>	Eckhard Lübke-meier	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
19		Alexander Haack	Head of Energy Programme	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
20		Andreas Krallmann	Official	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
21		Angelique Bachour	Assistant for Energy Affairs	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
22		Kerstin Fährmann	Head of Energy Division, Infrastructure, Raw Materials	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
23		Kirstin Bergmann-Schwinghammer	Executive Officer	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
24		Martin Schöpe	Head of Division	Federal Ministry for Economy and Energy
25		Sebastian Brokelmann	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
26		Timan Enders	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
27	<b>India</b>	Upendra Tripathy	Secretary to the Government of India	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
28		Brajesh Srivastava	Undersecretary	Ministry of External Affairs
29		Dilipkumar Khare	Director	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
30		Jagjit Singh	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
31		Neeta Bhushan	Deputy Chief of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
32		Thettalil Parameswaran Pillai Seetharam	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
33		Vinod Gautam	Attaché	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
34	<b>Italy</b>	Nico Longo	Counsellor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
35		Caterina Gigliuto	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
36		Fabiana Mennella	Official	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
37		Riccardo Toxiri	Advisor on Climate and Sustainable Energy	Ministry of Economic Development
38	<b>Japan</b>	Kanji Fujiki	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
39		Kaoru Yamaguchi	Senior Research Fellow	The Institute of Energy Economics
40		Keiichi Sugita	Deputy Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
41		Kenji Yoneda	Researcher	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
42		Koji Osumi	Section Chief	Ministry of Environment
43		Kotaro Suzuki	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
44		Mamoru Minami	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
45		Masayuki Dewaki	Assistant Director	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
46		Mizuho Komatsu	Administrative Staff	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
47		Osamu Ito	Deputy Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
48		Takuya Maeba	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
49		Tsuyoshi Tanaka	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
50		Wataru Nogaki	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
51	<b>Malaysia</b>	Datuk Loo Took Gee	Secretary General	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
52		Gladys Mak	Director	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
53		Lim Shean Pin	Principal Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
54		Mazita Marzuki	Counselor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
55		Nurhafiza Mohamed Hassan	Head of Licensing	Energy Commission of Malaysia
56	<b>New Zealand</b>	Mike Allen	Special Envoy for Renewable Energy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
57		Jeremy Clarke Watson	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
58		Merinda Lee Hassall	Development Manager for Energy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
59		Rebecca Hemara	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
60	<b>Poland</b>	Sebastian Stepnicki	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
61		Andrzej Lysiak	First Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
62		Joanna Makola	Junior Expert, Renewable Energy Department	Ministry of Economy
63	<b>Swaziland</b>	Henry Shongwe	Director of Energy Department	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
64	<b>Turkey</b>	Münib Karakilic	Director General	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
65		Hakansener Akata	Assistant Expert	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
66		Ilham Atus	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
67		Merve Kayserili	Assistant Expert	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
68		Mustafa Levent Bilgen	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
69		Sebahattin Öz	Head of Department	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
70	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	Thani Al-Zeyoudi	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
71		Adel Al-Hosani	Official	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
72		Ali Ozair Al Shaffar	Deputy Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
73		Fatema Al-Belooshi	Official	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
74		Ghasaq Yousif Shaheen	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
75		Hanan Al-Hamed	Official	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
76		Hannes Reinisch	Energy Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
77		Majd Marwan Raslan Jayyousi	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
78		Majed Dodeen	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
79		Mohammad Bastaki	Energy Analyst	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
80		Mohammed Al-Kobaisi	Energy Affairs Manager	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
81		Saeed Al-Dhaheri	Official	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
82		Sameer Janeel Assaf	Domestic Policy Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
83		Tariq Hamza	Official	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
84	<b>United States of America</b>	Tim Williamson	Deputy Director	Department of State
85		Alessandro Nardi	Foreign Affairs Officer	Department of State
86		Arvin Bhatt	Economic Officer	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
87		Mark Motley	Economic Chief	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
88	<b>Uruguay</b>	Nelson Chaben	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
89		Mahmoud Gaber	Administrative Assistant	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
90		Maria Urrutia	Secretary to the Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE

**Council Alternates (3)**

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1	<b>Kiribati</b>	Kireua Bureimoa	Director of Engineering	Ministry of Public Works and Utilities
2		Benjamin Tokataake	Secretary	Ministry of Public Works and Utilities
3	<b>Somalia</b>	Ahmed Daahir Mohamed	First Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
4	<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b>	Simon Atkinson	Official	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
5		Olivia Tunnell	Official	Diplomatic Mission to UAE

**Members of IRENA**

1. Albania
2. Angola
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Azerbaijan
8. Belarus
9. Belgium
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. Colombia
12. Comoros
13. Czech Republic
14. Denmark
15. Djibouti
16. Dominican Republic
17. Egypt
18. European Union
19. Finland
20. Greece
21. Indonesia
22. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
23. Iraq
24. Ireland
25. Israel
26. Jordan
27. Kenya
28. Kuwait
29. Latvia
30. Luxembourg
31. Mexico
32. Montenegro
33. Kingdom of the Netherlands
34. Norway
35. Oman
36. Pakistan
37. Peru
38. Philippines
39. Portugal
40. Republic of Korea
41. Romania
42. Russian Federation
43. Senegal

44. Serbia
45. Sierra Leone
46. Slovakia
47. South Africa
48. Spain
49. Sri Lanka
50. Sudan
51. Sweden
52. Switzerland
53. Tajikistan
54. Uganda
55. Yemen

#### **Observers**

#### **Signatories / States-in-Accession**

1. Lebanon
2. Liberia
3. Morocco

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

1. Ukraine

Tenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

23 November 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (C/10/2), the Review of the Medium-term Strategy (C/10/3), and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (C/10/L.4).

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 23 November 2015.

## **Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting**

### **Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015**

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work in implementing the Work Programme 2014-2015. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's implementation of the biennial work programme. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC expressed gratitude for the implementation of the programme to date and noted a growing maturity of Agency and its substantive products and services.
- The PSC welcomed the outcome of the external evaluation and noted that its recommendations should be taken into account as the Agency moved forward.
- Participants emphasised that IRENA's products are used by Members for their policy-making, strengthening knowledge, and that its activities are beginning to result in investment and project implementation. Participants also welcomed the Agency's contribution to different fora, including G7, G20, Berlin *Energiewende*, China Energy Forum, the Clean Energy Ministerial, India's Reinvest, to name a few.
- The PSC highlighted the importance of IRENA's continued focus on the energy transformation that is occurring worldwide.
- The PSC underscored the need for a wide range of partnerships for coordination with entities engaged in the sector, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), and encouraged close collaboration with the private sector.
- The PSC stressed the importance of IRENA's engagement in all sources of renewable energy, including biomass, geothermal, hydro, marine, solar and wind both in power, as well as in transport and heating/cooling.
- The PSC appreciated the high quality of IRENA's publications, and suggested that these materials could be more systematically disseminated.

- The PSC expressed gratitude to those countries that have already provided support for additional programmatic work through voluntary contributions, and encouraged additional countries to make similar contributions.
- The PSC agreed that prioritising IRENA's activities according to the direct needs of countries is important to the Agency's work.

### **Review of the Medium-term Strategy**

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the review of the Medium-term Strategy (MTS). The Secretariat presented the outcome of the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 in anticipation of the development of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC agreed with the finding that the strategic vision embodied in the MTS is still valid and correct, and that it can effectively guide the work of the Agency for the remainder of the current MTS period.
- The PSC emphasised that the MTS must remain dynamic and flexible, with the Agency adapting its programmatic activities to respond in a timely manner to the changes in the energy systems worldwide.
- The PSC noted the importance of engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and non-governmental organisations, in the process of developing the next MTS.
- The PSC agreed with a recommendation that the process for developing the new MTS for 2018 onward should begin at the next Council meeting, with an informal conversation among Members to take place at the PSC.

### **Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017**

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the programmatic component of the Agency's Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the streamlined and focused Proposed Work Programme that clearly identifies objectives and impacts, and details activities under the established thematic areas.
- The PSC recognised the relevance of the strategic priorities underpinning the Work Programme, specifically the business case for renewables, regional action and strategic partnerships.
- The PSC noted the need to balance analytical work and country support, and underscored the importance of identifying activities that should be funded by the core budget and those that could remain subject to voluntary contributions.
- The PSC supported IRENA's advisory role in countries' programmes and policy-making, and emphasised the importance of partnering with public and private entities that can implement projects.
- The PSC highlighted that, in view of the climate imperative and countries' INDCs, it would be important to make a clear link to these issues in the next iteration of the Work Programme.

- The PSC welcomed the focus on energy system transformation that is of high relevance to all IRENA Members and, in this context, noted the importance of market transformation.
- The PSC further noted that, given the dynamic nature of the sector, IRENA needs to remain flexible to respond to upcoming changes, including those stemming from climate action.
- The PSC highlighted the importance of additional work on decentralised solutions, and the connection between renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### **Renewable energy and climate change**

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on climate financing. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the options presented for IRENA's engagement in climate financing: support of climate financing institutions like GCF in project evaluation and programme design; supporting partner for beneficiary countries; or an accredited implementing entity.
- The PSC encouraged IRENA to pursue all three options in parallel, as well as advising commercial investors on opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

Tenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

23 November 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee met on 22 November 2015 to review and inform the Council on matters contained in the ‘Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015’ (C/10/2), the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017’ (C/10/L.4), the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’ (C/10/8), and the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’ (C/10/9).

### **Chair’s Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting**

The Chair presented the agenda, which was adopted without additions or modifications.

#### **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget**

- The Director-General presented the ‘Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget’, contained in document C/10/2.
- The Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

#### **Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017**

- The Director-General presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017’ (C/10/L.4), on resources required to meet the programmatic ambition while ensuring proper functioning of the support services activities during the biennium 2016-2017.
- One Member informed of its zero nominal growth policy in line with contributions made to other international organisations, and expressed a reservation regarding the proposed growth in the 2016-2017 budget, noting that further discussion and clarification are important.
- Another Member supported the proposed budget, stressing the importance of the Agency’s work, especially in the context of the upcoming COP21 and the role of renewable energy in climate change discussions.
- A Member stated that it also observes a zero nominal growth budget policy for other international organisations, but that it strongly supports the increase in the proposed 2016-2017 budget. The Member elaborated that the Agency is still evolving and that the demand for the Agency’s services and deliverables is on the rise. The Member noted that continuous support is needed to build upon the progress to date.
- A Member appreciated the level of detail provided in the proposed budget and recognised that budget growth is necessary despite Members’ resource constraints. Two Members encouraged the

Agency's Host Country to maintain its non-assessed core contribution comparable to previous years, noting the political visibility the country receives as a leader in clean energy in the region and in the global climate setting.

- The Host Country reaffirmed its continuing commitment that is evident in financial and in-kind contributions to IRENA, and invited other Members to show further commitment and support to the work of the Agency by supporting the proposed budget.
- The Director-General stressed that the proposed budget process has gone through extensive and rigorous reviews with a view to finding the most efficient ways to utilise resources and respond to Members' requirements and guidance. The demand for IRENA's services has been increasing along with the increase in its membership. As renewable energy gains more prominence as a solution for combatting climate change, the decision on the proposed budget will also be a message to the global community in the upcoming COP21.
- The Secretariat indicated that overall increment in the 2016-2017 core budget (assessed and non-assessed) amounts to USD 0.2 million, which is less than the increase attributable to the rate of inflation.
- A Member invited the representatives to deliberate on the possibility for IRENA to be included in the list of organisations supported by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as an opportunity to secure additional funding through ODA resources.
- The AFC Chair noted the general consensus in support of examining the possibility of an increase in the budget. The discussion of the proposed budget shall continue in the Council, while noting that the majority of Members was willing to accept an increase in the budget.

#### **Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken**

- The Secretariat presented the 'Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken' (C/10/8).
- The Secretariat updated the AFC on the selection process for the post of Internal Auditor.
- The Secretariat also informed the AFC that it had continued looking into the matter of Members' access to internal audit reports, and that a procedure thereon was under development.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

#### **Report of the Director General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations**

- The Secretariat presented the 'Report of the Director General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations' (C/10/9).
- Referring to an audit recommendation, one Member requested additional background on how the matter is being addressed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat confirmed that additional information is available in this regard.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

**Any other business**

- One Member requested an update on the matter raised during the 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in relation to the staff tenure limit of seven years.
- The Secretariat recalled the provision of the IRENA Staff Regulations limiting the total length of service of staff to seven years, with a possible limited extension for up to two years. The Secretariat informed the AFC that a review of this issue was ongoing, and that an assessment of the implications of this limit for the Agency had been conducted in the inter-sessional period. In this respect, the Secretariat indicated that, amongst the first cohort of staff who were appointed in 2011, 22 staff members on core posts, including 17 at the professional level or higher, will reach seven years of service with IRENA in 2018, amounting to 25% of the core workforce. The Secretariat expressed concern regarding the impact of all these staff possibly leaving the Agency at same time.
- One Member, while expressing support for the continuation of the service of staff with the Agency beyond seven years, highlighted the importance of addressing this matter.
- The Chair of the AFC observed that this matter would require consideration by the Assembly, and prior to that by the Council. He concluded that this matter would need to be addressed at the 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, bearing in mind the comments already received from delegations on the matter at this and at the previous AFC meeting.