Twenty-eighth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 24-25 October 2024

Report of the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA

Summary of Discussions

Background

At its twenty-seventh meeting, the Council took note of the report of the Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group on the establishment of regional offices of IRENA and agreed to continue the discussion on this matter under the umbrella of the Open-Ended Group. The Council also agreed to request the Secretariat to provide further information on the open questions and issues raised, contained in the Report of the Open-Ended Group to Council, for presentation at the next meeting of the Open-Ended Group to be held prior to Council at its twenty-eighth meeting.

In line with the Council's recommendation, the Secretariat, in collaboration with Egypt, has prepared a Note (link), which provides feedback on the open questions and issues raised by Members since the initial Council discussion on this matter. Based on the feedback received during the meeting of the Open-Ended Group, the document will be revised and included as part of the sessional documentation for the upcoming Council meeting, scheduled to take place in October 2024.

As follow up to the Council conclusions, the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Group was convened on 14 October 2024 in a virtual format and was attended by 20 participants representing 14 IRENA Members. The meeting was facilitated by Dr Mohamed El Khayat, Executive Chairman of the New and Renewable Energy Authority of Egypt.

Introduction

In his opening remarks, Dr El Khayat recalled that during the third meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices, participants noted that most of the issues and open questions raised by Members remain unanswered. He mentioned that participants also raised the lack of a comprehensive assessment from the IRENA Secretariat, essential for informed discussions.

Dr El Khayat informed participants that a Note (link), which provides feedback on the open questions and issues raised by Members since the initial Council discussion on this matter, along with a proposed agenda of the meeting which was circulated in advance. He outlined the approach to the discussions and stated that the objective of the meeting was to have a focused discussion and hear Member's views

on the feedback provided by the Secretariat on the open questions, to provide sufficient elements to the Council's discussion on this matter, at its twenty-eighth meeting.

The Deputy Director-General, Ms Gauri Singh, in her remarks, welcomed Members and expressed appreciation to Dr. El Khayat, for facilitating constructive dialogue and collaboration among Members on this critical topic. Ms Singh also reaffirmed IRENA's commitment to supporting the group's objectives.

Ms Singh highlighted the landmark decision at COP28 to triple global renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030 and noted that achieving these ambitious targets will require deploying 1,000 GW of renewable energy annually. She announced that as the Custodian Agency tasked with tracking these targets, IRENA launched its inaugural Annual Report on October 11, 2024, during the Pre-COP in Azerbaijan. Ms Singh noted that the report provides key data and metrics to monitor progress toward these global energy goals.

Ms Singh recalled concerns raised by Members at the Open-Ended Group meeting in May 2024 and at the subsequent Council session in June and informed Members that the Secretariat, in collaboration with Dr. El Khayat, developed a document to provide the Open-Ended Group with a solid framework for its discussions. Ms Singh further emphasised that this Note, intended to offer clarity on the open-questions that remained unanswered and underscored the Secretariat's readiness to make necessary adjustments to the Note based on feedback from Members at the Open-Ended group meeting, before it is submitted for consideration by the Council, at its twenty-eighth meeting.

Mr Binu Parthan, Deputy Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP) outlined the key issues to be addressed in his presentation and noted that the Note was developed through extensive consultations within the IRENA Secretariat and benefited significantly from Dr. El Khayat's guidance.

Mr Parthan recalled that specific requests were made to the Secretariat to define the roles and responsibilities of potential regional offices, clarifying regional classifications, and outlining the proposed activities for these offices. He also noted that the Secretariat was requested to conduct assessments of necessary frameworks and explore the use of existing regional focal points to effectively address energy issues and facilitate coordination among national and regional entities.

Mr Parthan highlighted the potential responsibilities of regional offices, if established, would primarily support the implementation of IRENA's biennial Work Programme and Budget at regional and country levels, under the Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027. He mentioned that potential regional offices would enhance IRENA's regional engagement through increased presence and participation in regional events, strengthen collaboration with institutions that have energy and climate mandates, improve visibility and awareness of IRENA, and identify region-specific financing opportunities that are currently inaccessible.

Mr Parthan outlined the planned activities for potential regional offices would be to support IRENA's divisions in the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget and emphasised the need for developing tailored activity plans to the region and Members in the region, which can facilitate the implementation of IRENA's programs and initiatives at regional and country level. He also mentioned that potential regional offices would support multi-stakeholder initiatives and improve the on-the-

ground impact of project facilitation platforms (ETAF and CIP), engaging with stakeholders in regional investment forums to scale up efforts.

With regard to the definition of regions Mr Parthan highlighted that IRENA has six regional programs decided by geographical proximity, in line with the United Nations' classification. He further outlined the six regions as well as Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Europe, Small Island Developing States (covering both the Pacific and Caribbean), and Sub-Saharan Africa. He explained that further details on regional programs are provided in an annex to the Note[1].

Mr Parthan provided an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats of establishing IRENA regional offices.

Mr Parthan further stressed the need for a decision by the Assembly for the establishment of regional offices and that these regional offices would remain part of the IRENA Secretariat. He explained that the potential regional offices would be funded by the host countries through long-term agreements and outlined projected costs for staffing these potential regional offices, with estimates ranging from USD 450,000 to USD 600,000 annually, along with additional non-staff costs and initial cost of establishing the infrastructure.

Mr Parthan highlighted the current practices of regional focal points and noted that IRENA currently operates 3 regional focal points in Asia, the Caribbean, and in the Pacific, hosted by regional partner institutions. He further mentioned that these focal points supplement the Agency's Headquarter functions by enhancing outreach, ensuring effective coordination, and providing important contribution to deliverables such as the data collection, modeling and validation support conducted by Southeast Asia focal point for the report on the Energy Transition Outlook for ASEAN.

One delegation expressed appreciation for the presentation and requested clarification regarding the focal points in Asia, especially regarding details on the countries where these focal points are located. The delegation further requested clarification on the potential differences in roles if a regional office were to be established.

Mr Parthan highlighted that the focal point for Southeast Asia is located in Indonesia, facilitated through an arrangement with the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE). He also informed that the Focal Point the Pacific region operates from the South Pacific Commission (SPC) offices in Fiji, while the Caribbean focal point works independently without an institutional arrangement. He noted that while these regional focal points support current activities, their roles are significantly lower than what would be envisaged for the potential regional offices.

Dr El Khayat thanked Mr Parthan for his presentation and opened the floor for interventions.

Summary of discussions

Several delegations expressed appreciation to Dr El Khayat for facilitating the discussions of the Open-Ended Group and the Secretariat for the Note prepare, and the presentation delivered on the feedback to the issues and open question that remain unanswered.

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[1] The Note to the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA is available on page 7.

One delegation noted that while the information provided in the Note and the Secretariat's presentation is helpful, it does not fully address all concerns. The delegation reflected on the role of regional offices and agreed that such offices should enhance an entity's presence in selected regions, overcome language barriers, and provide active outreach, tailored to regional members' needs. The delegation further stressed that these offices should contribute to IRENA's Biannual Work Program and need to be aligned with the Medium-Term Strategy 2023-2027, approved by the Assembly, highlighting that the Note does not currently include such arrangements. The delegation emphasized that IRENA is not an implementation agency and noted that regional offices would require fewer technical staff and more policy advisors, facilitators, and communication specialists to conduct targeted outreach. The delegation raised concerns about potential duplication of work and a shift of knowledge away from existing headquarters and administrative offices.

The delegation noted that establishing regional offices would require significant administrative input and knowledge transfer from IRENA's headquarters, which would require additional capabilities, capacities, and resources. The delegation further expressed doubt regarding IRENA's readiness is for such a commitment, given the current state of its tight resources, as well as the lack of budget line item to support the development of these offices.

The delegation further elaborated on the necessary steps required to establish regional offices, emphasizing the need for allocating internal resources, including appointing a project manager to develop the organizational structure, exploring various options for the setup, defining terms of reference for engaging a consultant or research partner, and conducting the necessary research. The delegation also highlighted the importance of defining roles and responsibilities, identifying gaps in IRENA's processes and procedures, and reviewing regulations and staff rules.

One delegation emphasized the need to clarify the functions and responsibilities of regional offices, as well as their impact on IRENA's structure and functions. The delegation also highlighted the importance of assessing potential legal and financial risks and ensuring the sustainability of the regional offices in the long term and noted that it would help assess the necessity of establishing regional offices.

One delegation expressed its support for the responsibilities and activities proposed by the Secretariat for the regional offices and emphasized that these elements are crucial for regions like Southeast Asia, which requires greater investment in interconnectivity and development of a framework for cross-border power trading. The delegation explained that the Southeast Asia region has attracted the second lowest level of investments in global renewable energy landscape, despite being endowed with plenty and bountiful sources of clean energy and underscored the need for IRENA to play a larger role in in establishing a presence within that region.

One delegation further agreed with the assessment that a regional office would enhance IRENA's in-depth reports and initiatives, driving better engagement with Members and raising the Agency's profile and visibility. The delegation underscored the importance contribution of potential regional in supporting IRENA's mandate in monitoring global progress towards the goals of tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030, as emphasized by the UAE's COP 28 Presidency. The delegation further highlighted that a regional office would contribute

significantly to these efforts through advocacy, publications, and supporting the development of bankable projects for various regions.

The delegation also suggested that any proposed changes to the Staff rules and regulations need to be presented to IRENA's governing bodies (Assembly and Council) and its subsidiary organs (Administration and Finance Committee and Programme and Strategy Committee), for approval. The delegation stressed the crucial aspect of integrating IRENA's Information Technology (IT) services and administrative management with potential regional offices, to ensure effective knowledge transfer and to maintain IRENA's organizational culture.

While acknowledging IRENA's current budget limitation, the delegation advanced that the only viable option for establishing regional offices would require host countries to fund Staff costs of staff, office spaces, and other related expenses. The delegation expressed strong concerns that this approach would not be in line with IRENA's statute. One delegation requested clarification from the Secretariat on the related processes in the Council and Assembly, should Members approve to the establishment of regional offices, considering there are no reference included in IRENA's Statute on this matter.

The delegation raised additional concerns about the lack of clear criteria for selecting host countries for regional offices and emphasised that a "first come, first served" approach is not strategic or professional, and could make the Agency venerable to conflicts, especially if neighboring countries also express interest in hosting regional offices. The delegation stressed the need for defined criteria before initiating the selections of host countries.

One delegation underscored the importance of defining and approving the process for selecting host countries before proceeding and recommended prioritising Members with significant renewable energy development, advanced technology, strong knowledge-sharing capabilities, and robust financing resources. The delegation noted that this would allow regional offices to maximize their contribution to IRENA's long-term development, both regionally and globally. Several delegations called for a fair and open selection process with consensus on the conditions for establishment, with one delegation suggesting that the Secretariat assists in determining the appropriate approval process before proceeding.

In summarizing its intervention, one delegation stressed that the current proposal for regional offices is far from a streamlined, professional approach and insisted that the proposal does not guide the Membership in its decision regarding the establishment of regional offices. The delegation mentioned that the need for thorough, professional study, accompanied by an open discussion of key issues raised in previous sessions, should the discussion on the establishment of regional offices continue.

Several delegations noted that host countries will cover administrative and staff costs and stressed that the costs of regional offices exceed staff and office costs and advanced that there are hidden costs potentially affecting IRENA's core budget, that have neither yet been identified nor quantified. One delegation enquired about other potential costs, such as internal travel and the travel of officials and requested a confirmation whether these costs would be part of IRENA's budget or also covered by the host country.

The delegation further expressed concerns that setting up regional offices may lead to either potential knowledge loss at IRENA's current offices or to duplication of work. The delegation suggested that

the existing IRENA regional focal points, with clear objectives, might be a more practical solution, and proposed that this issue be further developed for discussion at the next council meeting.

One delegation noted that while IRENA has currently several regional focal points, their impact is limited due to their small numbers. The delegation highlighted the important work done by a regional coordinator for IRENA based in Indonesia but pointed out that the scale of renewable energy efforts required in the region may not be covered by regional focal points alone. The delegation further noted that establishing a regional office would better serve the needs of Members, which many are lagging in renewable deployment, and would amplify IRENA's influence both globally and regionally.

One delegation asked requested clarification from the Secretariat on whether the proposal by Singapore to host a regional office was still under consideration and it would be able to host and cover over all the associated costs or whether the current discussion was only focused on the establishment of regional offices in general, after which Members would express interest and a selection mechanism would need to be established.

One delegation invited the Secretariat to develop a roadmap outlining the next steps, timeline, and further details for the regional office activities, as previously recommended by Members.

One delegation reiterated views shared several delegations, emphasizing that the process for establishing regional offices would require further detailed review and thorough consideration, including an assessment to determine the best path forward for the proposals, before any decisions can be made. The delegation supported the proposal from another delegation, agreeing that the process for selecting host countries should be predetermined and approved, either by the Assembly or the Council.

Closing and next steps

Ms Gauri Singh acknowledged the comments and suggestions made by delegation and expressed gratitude for the guidance provided. Ms Singh recognized Members's feedback on the need for more clarity and detail regarding several aspects, including, structure of regional offices, the legal regulations relating to the establishment of regional offices. Ms Singh also noted that Members highlighted the need for further assessment on the roles, functions, and responsibilities of potential regional offices, including further discussions on the process for selecting host countries, considering the importance of establishing a clear, transparent selection process. Ms Singh noted that the Secretariat will build on the Note presented to the Open-Ended Group and address the issues raised by Members to provide a robust basis for the discussion on this matter.

Dr El Khayat expressed his gratitude to all delegations for sharing their perspectives and feedback. He acknowledged concerns raised and assured that these would be brought to the Council's attention. Dr El Khayat also added that he will work with Zimbabwe, Chair-Designate of the upcoming Council meeting and present an oral report on the outcome of the discussions of the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA, to the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council.

**The Note to the fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Group
on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA**

Background

At the twenty-sixth IRENA Council meeting in October 2023, Egypt presented an oral report on the outcome of the second meeting of the Open-Ended Group. The Council took note of the Report by the Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group (OEG) on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA. The Council also agreed to continue the discussion on this matter under the umbrella of the OEG, on the basis of the report by the Facilitator and the subsequent interventions made. As follow up to the Council conclusions, the third meeting of the OEG was convened on 23 May 2024 in a virtual format under the facilitation of Egypt and attended by 30 participants representing 20 IRENA Members.

Based on the conclusions by the last Council and in an effort to address the open questions and issues outlined in the report of the Facilitator of the OEG (Egypt), this document serves to inform the ongoing discussion. It covers issues relating to the roles and responsibilities of potential regional offices, a breakdown of activities proposed as well as the associated administrative, budgetary, and institutional framework necessary for establishing such offices.

Elements for discussion on the potential IRENA's constituent regional offices: responsibilities, activities, definition, framework and guiding principles

Responsibilities

Regional offices are expected to contribute to the implementation of IRENA's Biannual Work Programme and Budget within the framework of the Medium-term Strategy of the Agency. Regional offices would facilitate a better understanding of the energy landscape through stronger stakeholder networks within a region and increase IRENA's ability to provide a better level of support to meet the regions' needs. They can scale up engagement at regional and country levels in respective regions, leveraging enhanced regional presence and dialogue and improved outreach and coordination with various constituents of the Member States, regional and development partners, and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to achieving stronger impact on the ground. More specifically, the following indicative list of responsibilities could be taken into consideration to complement and strengthen the implementation of the programmatic work and strategic priorities of the Agency at the regional and country levels:

- Increase and strengthen IRENA engagement at the regional level for the implementation of IRENA's Work Programme and Budget through in-person exchanges and dialogue, joint work and activities, etc.
- Assist in expanding IRENA presence at the regional energy and climate related fora, events and platforms
- Further strengthen existing collaboration with regional organisations and other relevant entities

- Increase awareness and visibility of IRENA's activities with regional entities, regional and national programmes and initiatives
- Identify new opportunities at regional level for mobilising resources to support energy transition work in the region

Possible activities

While regional offices will function to support IRENA's divisions in the implementation of IRENA's Work Programme and Budget, a specific annual activity plan for each regional office would be developed.

Such activity plans will aim to facilitate the regional and country level implementation of IRENA's programmes, initiatives, tools, and platforms in the areas of IRENA competence, including, technology and innovation, policy and regulation, investment and finance. Through enhanced stakeholder coordination and ecosystem participation, the implementation effectiveness and on-the-ground impact of IRENA's programmatic work under several IRENA multistakeholder initiatives would be improved, such as, through the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), the Empowering Lives and Livelihoods with Renewables, the SIDS Lighthouses, energy transition country and regional assessments, outlooks and long-term planning. IRENA's project facilitation work through ETAF and CIP platforms as well as regional energy Transition Investment Forums would be improved and scaled up given the importance of on the ground engagement and coordination with project and finance stakeholders.

Current definition of regions for programmatic purposes

IRENA's current support for regions and countries is coordinated by the Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP) division. The delivery of IRENA's Work Programme and Budget at the regional and country level is facilitated through six regional programmes. Regions are generally defined on the basis of geographical proximity and regional political structures and inspired by the international practices by UN and development organizations, as relevant. Regional definitions are flexible i.e. one country may become a member of multiple regions, as appropriate, depending on the initiative and work scope. At present, for the purpose of IRENA's programmatic work, regional definitions include Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Europe, Small Island Developing States, and Sub-Saharan Africa. More details on the regional programmes are available in Annex.

SWOT Analysis

An initial SWOT Analysis of Regional Offices is presented below:

S	W	O	T
Strengths	**Weaknesses**	**Opportunities**	**Threats**
• Regional presence and in-person engagement; • More significant impacts from IRENA's work at the regional and country level; • Better level of engagement with members.	• Increased financial cost of engagement; • Increased administrative and management complexity associated with staff presence in more locations; • Need for established process for selecting host country	• Stronger collaboration with members and partners; • Explore possible resource mobilization opportunities only available at regional and country-levels; • Higher level of awareness and visibility of IRENA	• Ability to sustain regional presence beyond the pre-agreed duration (E.g. 10-year) of commitment by host country; • Long-term commitment by host-country to regional presence; • Continued long term relevance of region to IRENA's strategy and work programmes

Framework and guiding principles

The establishment of regional offices requires the approval of the Assembly, to be sought through the Council. Consistent with the status of regional offices of organisations of the UN System, IRENA regional offices would be part of the IRENA Secretariat, their staff would be under the authority of the Director-General and their heads would report to the Director-General.

Currently, there does not exist a framework approved by IRENA governance bodies that can be applied to potential regional offices nor are there any associated guiding principles. From an operational perspective, it is anticipated that regional offices would enhance regional engagement and support the implementation of IRENA's regional programmes. The potential regional offices could amplify the IRENA's capacity to enhance the programme implementation and delivery of IRENA work programmes. It is also expected that the country offices would enhance and improve the effectiveness of work programme delivery through regional presence and representation.

It is anticipated that any potential regional offices would be fully financed by the host country through a pre-agreed duration (e.g. minimum 10 years) of voluntary contribution covering both the staff and non-staff costs. It is expected that the regional offices will be staffed by one regional officer at P-4 level, one associate professional officer at P-2 level and one administrative support at G-5 level. The

estimated annual staff costs[2] for various geographic regions are presented below to provide a broad understanding of the quantum and range of costs:

Duty Station[3]	Estimated Annual Costs (US$)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	476,000
Bangkok, Thailand	444,000
Beirut, Lebanon	505,000
Geneva, Switzerland	607,000
Santiago, Chile	451,000

The non-staff costs will be in addition to the staff costs and expected to be a significant annual addition and would vary depending on the location of the duty station. Additional costs, in the first year, would also be applicable when establishing the regional offices and mobilising staff members.

Proposed administrative, budgetary, and institutional framework necessary for establishing regional offices

If regional offices were to be considered, they will become part of the IRENA structure and require human, administrative and financial resources. The Agency applies standard staff costs that are based on the United Nations salaries and allowances, which are regularly revised by the International Civil Service Commission. The standard staff costs for Professional and General Services categories of staff will depend on the location of regional offices. The prevailing staff costs and allowances will be factored into the preparation of IRENA's biennial Work Programme and Budgets.

Non-staff related expenditures will also depend on the office size, scope of work, location and attendant operational requirements. Timely assessment of staffing and operational needs, therefore, will be essential for the successful functioning of the regional offices.

A host country agreement would be required to regulate the relations between IRENA and the host country arising from the establishment of a regional office. The host country agreement would set out, inter alia, the legal personality and legal capacity of IRENA in the host country, the privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities of IRENA, those of delegates to IRENA or attending IRENA meetings or events in the host country, and those of IRENA staff, experts performing missions for IRENA and other IRENA personnel.

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[2] Estimated staff costs would be subject to change based on applicable rates regularly reviewed and adjusted by International Civil Service Commission

[3] Based on location of the 5 UN Regional Economic Commissions

Current IRENA practice of assigning IRENA regional points to support members address regional energy issues effectively and facilitate collaboration with both regional and national entities

At present, Asia and the SIDS regional programmes use a total of three focal points that are based in Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean recruited by IRENA through consultant contracts. These focal points are often hosted by regional partner institutions: the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) for the Southeast Asia focal point and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) for the Pacific focal point. The focal points work to supplement the functions of the Headquarter regional teams within a pre-defined scope of activities. They provide continuous crucial contribution to IRENA's engagement within respective regions through active outreach and effective coordination with country representatives and regional partners on the ground while also contributing to selected substantive deliverables. For example, the Pacific focal point has contributed to increased regional awareness of IRENA technical assistance and advisory support with respect to SolarCity Simulator and Quickscan 2.0 programmes and supported their implementation in Pacific SIDS. The Southeast Asia focal point has helped in the process of stakeholder consultations in developing the ASEAN Energy Transition Outlook.

Annex: Regional definitions as per the IRENA's programmatic work

Asia

The Asian region comprises a large, diverse and dynamic region, with around 4.7 billion people living in countries ranging from the world's largest energy consumers to small economies that are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The IRENA Asia regional programme covers countries spread across Asia, covering four subregions of Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South Asia.

Latin America (LatAm)

Latin America hosts some of the most dynamic renewable energy markets in the world, with more than a quarter of primary energy coming from renewables, twice the global average. Rapid cost reductions, maturing technologies and further renewable energy policy reforms offer an unprecedented opportunity to further tap into the vast renewable energy potential in the region. IRENA LatAm regional programme covers IRENA Members from Central America, South America, Mexico from North America and two Spanish-speaking Caribbean States.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Middle East and North Africa region covers countries that are part of the League of Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The energy transition towards renewables is well underway in the Middle East and North Africa. The region has an ambitious energy investment and diversification plans in place, driven by the need to meet growing energy demand, promote economic growth, maximise socioeconomic benefits and meet decarbonisation objectives. IRENA MENA programme covers IRENA Members from Middle East and North Africa.

Southeast Europe (SEE)

Southeast Europe has an abundance of renewable energy sources, and in recent years it strives to harmonize its framework with the EU, which have become leader in driving the deployment of renewable technologies. The Southeast Europe (SEE) programme focuses on enhancing the creation of more conducive frameworks for renewable energy investment that fits particular region context and countries specificities. The region encompasses countries from Southern and Eastern Europe. IRENA adopts a targeted approach and works bilaterally with the developing countries from the region, while engaging regionally through projects and initiatives.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) programme is organized as an initiative and covers a distinct group, located in the three geographical regions: the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), that face similar and unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Their vulnerability to exogenous economic, social and environmental shocks combined with their small population sizes, remoteness from international markets, and high transportation costs, make SIDS particularly vulnerable to the triple planetary crisis. The IRENA initiative the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI) is a framework for action to support SIDS in the transformation from a

predominantly fossil-based to a renewables-based and resilient energy system. The SIDS[4] LHI brings together SIDS and non-partner Small Islands Developing States.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) programme covers African countries, other than those belonging to the League of Arab States mainly located in North Africa. The SSA region is rich in renewable energy sources, including hydro, solar, wind, biomass etc. but consists of a significant number of countries that need IRENA support. The SSA regional programme covers IRENA Members from Southern Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and West Africa.

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[4] Not all SIDS are IRENA members or SIDS LHI partners.