

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

REPORT

OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Table of contents

| | Document Title | Document Number | Page |
|---------|--|------------------------|-------------|
| | Report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA | C/25/SR/1 | 3 |
| Annex 1 | Agenda | C/25/1 | 40 |
| Annex 2 | Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting | C/25/CRP/1 | 42 |
| Annex 3 | Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee meeting | C/25/CRP/2 | 45 |
| Annex 4 | Reports on Collaborative Frameworks | | 49 |
| Annex 5 | General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition | | 56 |
| Annex 6 | List of Participants | C/25/INF/4 | 128 |

Report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in-person in Abu Dhabi on 23-24 May 2023. The meeting was attended by 21 Council members: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Spain, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Zimbabwe, as well as 9 alternates: Bangladesh, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Uganda, and Uruguay. Also, in attendance were delegations of 59 other IRENA Members and 6 other States in Accession and other UN Member States.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Council of IRENA, Uruguay, represented by H.E. Mr Alvaro Ceriani, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Uruguay to the United Arab Emirates, opened the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur for their support. He reflected on the strong engagement of the Council in 2022 and the associated work accomplished, which culminated in important documents such as the Medium-Term Strategy for 2023-2027. He mentioned that the united commitment of Members empowers IRENA to move forward in mobilising action, empowers unparalleled international cooperation, and continuous innovation by taking the leading role in accelerating the renewables-based energy transition all over the world.

3. H.E. Mr Alvaro Ceriani outlined the national progress and planned initiatives displaying Uruguay's commitment to strengthening their renewables-based energy transition. He announced that Uruguay is advancing the second stage of the energy transformation and that the associated challenges include decarbonisation of the energy sector, particularly industry and transportation, and development of green hydrogen for both local and export markets. He further stated that Uruguay has completed the first pilot project on green hydrogen and seeks to promote development and production of green hydrogen in different dimensions and productive areas, including the transport of heavy cargo.

4. H.E. Mr Alvaro Ceriani underscored Uruguay's active collaboration with IRENA. He reported that the IRENA Investment Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean was announced by the IRENA Director-General during his visit in March 2023, and that its first edition is scheduled to take place on 6-10 November 2023 in Montevideo. He further announced that the energy week of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) is also scheduled to take place at the same time and invited Members to participate in the two events. He reiterated Uruguay's commitment to strengthen engagement with IRENA and the Membership to enable the realisation of the shared vision of a future powered by renewables.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

5. The Council elected by acclamation Antigua and Barbuda, represented by Mr Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, as Chair, and United States of America, represented by Mr Joel Hansen, Senior Energy Officer at the Department of State of the United States of America, as Vice-Chair of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council.

6. As proposed by the Chair, Tonga was appointed as Rapporteur of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council.

7. The Chair, Mr Tumasie Blair, expressed the commitment to steer the work and discussions of the Council meeting with the aim of supporting IRENA's mission and achieving the Members' common goal. He noted that owing to recent global events, the worsening challenges faced by many countries and Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) have hindered the progress towards universal energy access and have also negatively impacted investment flows that promote and deploy renewable energy. He mentioned that such challenges have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable economies and communities that require crucial concerted efforts and action and called for methods to secure further engagement and active participation of SIDS and other developing and vulnerable economies in the shaping of the global energy transition.

8. The Chair also announced that the fourth United Nations International Conference on SIDS will be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda in 2024 and emphasised that the conference presents a timeline for Members to deliver a focus on tangible outcomes such as increased tailored financing and investment initiatives, as well as a timeline to develop clean energy to improve the quality of life and livelihoods whilst leaving no one behind - particularly SIDS where the climate crisis presents a looming existential threat.

9. The Chair declared that a profound shift that would prioritise renewables at the core of climate action must be fostered and accelerated in order to ensure success. He mentioned that the discussions in the United Arab Emirates during COP28 will take stock of global progress on the climate and development imperatives wherein the IRENA governing body meetings will also present the perfect opportunity to periodically assess, accelerate, and realign the course of action to ensure the 1.5°C pathway and to also ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Council members for their trust and expressed his anticipation of the ensuing collaboration.

10. The Director-General, Mr Francesco La Camera, welcomed participants to the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council and noted that the wide participation is testament to IRENA's inclusive processes and the timeliness of IRENA's mission. He expressed his appreciation for the continuous leadership and guidance of the outgoing Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur in 2022 and congratulated the newly elected officials.

11. The Director-General highlighted the importance of the upcoming COP28 in December 2023, where the results of the Global Stocktake will determine the status of targets for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He pointed out that the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments indicated the off track from the 1.5°C pathway, which will bring severe results to the most vulnerable communities. He underscored that COP28 should offer a strategy on moving forward and advised that renewables-based energy transition serves as a key pillar of such strategy.

12. The Director-General informed that the World Energy Transition Outlook (WETO) shows that electrification and efficiency, fuelled by renewables, clean hydrogen and sustainable biomass are the most realistic pathway to obtain the 1.5°C target, and shared the findings from the 2023 WETO analysis. He first mentioned that renewables continue to dominate new capacity, with a new record of 300 gigawatts (GW) in additional capacity in 2022. He added that IRENA's finance landscape also shows a record investment in renewable at almost USD 500 billion and a total investment in the energy transition being increased to USD 1.3 trillion. However, he warned that the gaps still exist, including that deployment levels need to triple to an annual average of 1000 GW, and that the additional investment of USD 15 trillion is needed by 2030. He also emphasised that a change in the volume and type of investments is needed to drastically decrease the fossil fuel share by 2050.

13. The Director-General underscored that as shown in the trend in the past decade, the deployment is unbalanced both in terms of geographic and of sectors and technologies. He added that 85% of investment in renewables benefited only 50% of the global population, excluding countries that have massive access needs and strive for better lives and livelihoods. The Director-General called for a change in the reality and stressed that the renewable revolution need to be accelerated. He advised that energy transition can be a tool to shape a more equal and all-inclusive world, including overcome the physical barriers and build the infrastructure, as well as an evolved policy and regulatory architecture that accounts for changed dynamics and moves investment in the right direction. He further mentioned the need for a strategic shift in institutional capacities to be in place to ensure that skills and capabilities are aligned with the system being created.

14. The Director-General affirmed the need to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind and ensure a climate-safe life for current and future generations. He announced that the Council meeting agenda covers all sectors and geographies of the energy transition whilst also examining important programmatic and institutional subjects and stated that the discussions will deliver new insights and ideas on how IRENA can make this year significant and create a turning point in the global energy transition.

15. The Vice-Chair, Mr Joel Hansen stressed the responsibility placed on the elected officials of the Council as all IRENA Members work together to drive the urgency of the energy transition with IRENA at the centre of efforts. He reiterated the commitment to facilitate smooth and participatory proceedings and advised members of the Council to approach the elected officials should they wish to discuss any specific matters.

b. Adoption of the agenda (C/25/L.1)

16. The Chair introduced the Provisional Agenda (C/25/L.1) with the change of title of Agenda Item 3 to 'On the Road to COP28 – Renewables-based energy transition and critical materials'.

17. The Council considered and adopted the agenda, with the inclusion of the amendment of the title of Agenda Item 3 to 'On the Road to COP28 - Renewables-based energy transition and critical materials'.

Agenda Item 3: On the Road to COP28 - Renewables-based energy transitions and critical materials (C/25/BN/4)

18. The Director-General opened the session by emphasising that the world is not on track to implement the Paris Agreement – a reality that the Global Stocktake will underline at COP28 – and the need to identify ways to tackle the barriers, anticipate challenges, and harness

opportunities. He continued that critical materials are now justifiably at the top of the policy agenda in numerous countries, considering the energy transition will be metal and material intensive. He further stressed that the share of renewables needs to increase to at least 65% by 2030, from some 32% today, whereas electrifying end use, with the rapid growth of electric mobility, will add to the mineral market pressure.

19. The Director-General stated that according to IRENA analysis, the technical evolution of critical materials will be shaped by three shifting and overlapping dynamics. The first dynamic, most dominant in the short to mid-term, would be marked by physical constraints and challenges to keeping up with the rising demand for certain materials. The second dynamic already happening at scale will bring disrupting innovation, where new ideas and experiments for material reduction and substitution will achieve wide commercialisation. The still emerging third dynamic will hash out a bigger role for the circular economy, including more advanced and widely adopted methods of reducing, reusing, and recycling critical materials.

20. The Director-General noted that these dynamics present new opportunities for diversification of supply chains. Clarifying that energy related materials are not rare, he added that IRENA does not expect the global scarcity of any mineral to put a hard limit on the transition but foresees a need to increase and diversify extraction and processing to meet the growing needs. He stressed that developed countries account for most of the global production necessary for the energy transition but their share in production is much smaller. They can, however, leverage their mineral wealth to clean up the value chain and track both mainstream, midstream processing, and downstream. He also highlighted that some countries are already taking such a holistic approach.

21. The Director-General then underlined that the rush for raw minerals and metals is not a new phenomenon, reminding participants of the gold rush or any other extractive commodity. He added that mining has often played out as a tale of extremes, providing newfound comfort and prosperity, as well as a legacy of poor labour records, displacement, polluted waterways, and degraded land in mining community. He concluded by stressing that a renewables-based energy transition provides a chance to rewrite the script for extractive commodities and ensure value chains are more inclusive, ethical, and sustainable.

22. Ms Elizabeth Press, Director of Planning and Programme Support (PPS) gave a preview of IRENA's upcoming report on the geopolitics of critical materials. She began by reminding participants of the 2019 Global Commission report titled *A new world: The geopolitics of the energy transformation* and the deep dive on hydrogen released in 2022 and clarified that the new report is rooted in IRENA's analysis in WETO, and the anticipated advancement of the energy transition. Accordingly, there was shift in the primary energy supply between 2020 and 2015, with a reversal of percentages between renewables and other fuels, and policies aiming to replace one dependency for another. Ms Press noted however that fossil fuels and critical materials are fundamentally different. For instance, in 2021 critical materials amounted to about USD 96 billion whereas fossil fuels around USD 2 trillion. Moreover, their use differs since critical materials are used as an input in manufacturing and fossil fuels are burned. This leads to a very different dynamic around supply disruptions as disruptions in critical materials are related could delay the acceleration of the energy transition, whereas fossil fuel disruptions daily impact economies and households. She also stressed that the potential for reducing, reusing and recycling is already under discussion and considered in the development of value chains, which is not the case in fossil fuels. She continued by pointing out the difference in market size, which apart from some of the energy related commodities such as copper, it is not comparable.

23. Ms Press then explained that the report focuses on the short-term period as it is difficult to predict developments in innovation and the dynamism in the energy sector. The report looks at the range of scenarios and chemistries as well as anticipated demand, and how it will increase. She added that it explores the potential for scarcity in the energy transition by 2030 by looking at current mining, what exists, and current demand, and then based on the assessments of growth and the different scenarios, present an average of that and an estimated scarcity of these materials. For example, according to the report, platinum has a very low potential for scarcity by 2030, whereas lithium is on the other side of the spectrum.

24. Ms Press then stated that the report explores the greatest potential risks for the next five to ten years. The analysis shows that no country is self-sufficient in every raw material and interruptions in supply could affect virtually all countries. She explained that there are six supply risks in the short to medium-term especially for countries that are highly import reliant, stressing that the list is not exhaustive. She then brought up examples of cases demonstrating internal and external shocks, such as disasters, expressions of nationalism, mineral cartels, political and social instability, and market manipulation.

25. Ms Press added that the report also offers an analysis of different aspects of human security e.g., social, economic, labour, and climate issues such as water risks. Ms Press stated that the extractive industry had contributed to human insecurity in the past and there are concerns that the rush for additional minerals will worsen this trend. For instance, in certain cases, mining critical materials such as copper, lithium, nickel, and cobalt has caused serious harm to workers, indigenous communities, and the environment. She explained that the quality and quantity of available water could deteriorate over time as water usage is often high in water stressed areas.

26. Echoing the Director-General, Ms Press underlined that many mineral rich countries are developing ones, therefore the energy transition presents the opportunity to attract new investment flows to kickstart raw material production and capture value, if properly managed. In this respect, international cooperation is key because developing countries require infrastructure, technical expertise, and access to other production factors such as a workforce with specialised skills and affordable power. She concluded by stating that the report explored the range of strategies to reduce risks and open up new opportunities, mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities, increase domestic benefits, promote responsible, sustainable, and transparent mineral supply chains within the context of sustainable development.

27. Some delegations stressed that speeding up the deployment of renewables and electrification is crucial for a sustainable energy transition and that this process has accelerated in recent years. One delegation underlined the lack of access to modern energy faced by African countries.

28. Delegations also discussed their national strategies to accelerate the use of renewables, promote electrification, and the exploitation of national critical materials industries. Some delegations emphasised the resilience of renewables to shocks, including geopolitical ones compared to fossil fuels and stressed the key role of investments in renewables to ensure energy security.

29. One delegation elaborated on the challenges faced when trying to reach high levels of renewables in the energy mix such as security and stability of supply, efficient grid management and impact on communities, as well as solutions. Another recognised that the need to import renewable energy technologies continues to pose a risk and one delegation highlighted the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels, especially in developing countries, while another noted the challenge of disposing of stranded assets.

30. Delegations highlighted the strategic role of sustainable and secure supply chains of critical materials for the realisation of the energy transition and the growing interest and need for investments while other delegations stressed the need for value addition along the supply chain through international cooperation, to ensure a just energy transition for developing countries that are critical materials producers. Delegations also discussed the national policies to move up the value chain.

31. Some delegations stressed the importance of sharing knowledge and best practices and commended the work of the Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials. Some delegations called on IRENA to increase analysis on opportunities and risks of critical materials, including for regions.

32. Delegations elaborated on the challenges posed by onshoring and nearshoring of supply chains. One delegation supported standardisation and common legislative frameworks for the production and use of critical materials.

33. Delegations recognised the need for cooperation with organisations leading on this matter to further enhance IRENA's work on diversification of value chains and strengthen stability and predictability, as well as sustainable and transparent sourcing of critical materials for renewable energy. Some delegations underscored the importance of COP28 to ensure the world stays on the 1.5°C pathway.

34. The Council took note of the insights and views provided.

Agenda Item 4: Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (C/25/2)

35. The Director-General began his remarks by stressing that 2022 was a good year for renewable energy. According to IRENA's latest data, almost 300 GW of renewables was added to the energy mix, a record by all accounts. He pointed out that while in 2012, additions from fossil fuels and renewables were equal, by 2022, 83% of additions were renewable, with fossils and nuclear combined accounting for 17%. This trend indicates that renewable energy has moved from niche to mainstream in the past decade.

36. The Director-General added that investments in 2022 also reached record levels - as per IRENA's *Global landscape of renewable energy finance 2023* report, USD 1.3 trillion was invested in energy transitions, out of which USD 500 billion was in renewable technologies. He underlined that this is a major achievement, especially considering that countries are still recovering from the pandemic and struggling with the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine. He stressed though that the regional gaps and disparities continue to stand in the way of the global transition. Similarly, the uneven pace in distribution of renewable capacity in different regions persists. He explained that Africa, the region with the greatest energy access needs and the lowest per capita capacity, continues to lag, with less than 3 GW of renewables added in 2022. The Director-General stressed then that this kind of data and information forms the backbone of IRENA's value-added and a tool that policy makers can use to inform their actions. For instance, IRENA analyses informed the latest G7 work and WETO solar and offshore wind estimates formed the base for the target set out in the latest G7 communique. He then extended thanks to Japan for including IRENA in its G7 work and to the G20 Presidency of India for giving ample space to IRENA to inform the work on energy.

37. The Director-General also referred to the preview of WETO 2023, released in Germany at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue that showed that renewable deployment must triple to some 1000 GW per annum, to stay on a climate-safe path. He underscored that current plans do not correspond to this trajectory and investments need to reach USD 150 trillion, with around USD 1 trillion of investments to be divested from fossil fuels. He added that IRENA is collaborating with the COP28 President-Designate and Host Country, the UAE, to translate WETO numbers into concrete action to overcome barriers, especially in developing countries.

38. Turning to the topic of project facilitation - a priority of the Director-General from the outset - he noted that progress in this front is made and stated that since the launch of the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) platform in Egypt, IRENA has attracted additional institutional partners, including Masdar, ADFD, AIIB, IAB, and Swiss RE, with ongoing conversations with the OPEC Fund, Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank (MIGA). He informed that ETAF partners closed two projects in Malaysia and Uzbekistan, and additional projects will be announced at COP28. The Director-General stated that the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) remains a constant source of the project pipeline, providing technical assistance and capacity building, along with matchmaking services that benefit from an extensive number of CIP partners. He also highlighted that the first Investment Forum in Indonesia in 2022 marked the beginning of this stream of work, which was on hold due to the pandemic. IRENA will hold two more Investment Forums this year, to learn from this initial phase and refine the Forums in the months ahead.

39. The Director-General then mentioned some upcoming programmatic deliverables and key events. Specifically, he detailed several knowledge products in the pipeline, including *WETO 2023*, *Innovation landscape for smart electrification*, *Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation: Critical Materials*, and *Renewable Energy and Jobs: Annual Review 2023*, among others. The Director-General added that WETO 2023 will be released in two volumes. The first, to be published in June, will contain tracking, policy, and investment analyses, whereas the second, to be published close to COP28, will include socio-economic and international cooperation analysis. The goal is to provide well-paced analytical input and allow for the latest data and analysis to feed into WETO, notably from the Annual Jobs Review, jointly developed with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

40. Regarding events, the Director-General referred to the biennial Innovation Week and COP28. He emphasised that IRENA is working closely with the Host Country to support the energy transition agenda but also with other partners to use this political opportunity to drive the Agency's mission. He added that IRENA is working on several initiatives across sectors and geographies, and thanked Members for their active involvement in shaping them in preparation for COP. He also stressed that IRENA continues to lead the energy track within the UNFCCC climate action structures and remains engaged in different fora.

41. In concluding, the Director-General emphasised that IRENA's work would not have been possible without Members' engagement, support, and resources made available. He then extended thanks for all the timely contributions to the core budget as well as to donors for the over USD 17 million received and formally concluded, underlining that these resources empower IRENA to deliver on many fronts and bolster the programmatic output funded by core budget. He then stressed that while the task ahead is large, so is IRENA's global family that includes 168 Members and 16 States in Accession. The Director-General pointed out that this is the Agency's greatest asset and the progress to-date attests to this.

42. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), the United States of America (USA), represented by Mr Joel Hansen, Senior Energy Officer at the Department of State,

presented the outcome of the Committee meeting held on 21 May 2023, as contained in document C/25/CRP/1.

43. Delegations welcomed the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 and congratulated the Director-General and the Secretariat for organising the Council meeting.

44. One delegation called on IRENA to help Members coordinate and streamline Members' collective work. Another delegation expressed the hope that more countries would join IRENA.

45. Some delegations underscored that the growing share of renewables in the global energy mix indicates the dramatic acceleration of the energy transition and IRENA's success on this front. Some delegations called for comprehensive and urgent action to boost the renewables-based energy transition and achieve the 1.5°C pathway globally.

46. Some delegations elaborated on the national energy plans to promote renewables and reduce emissions and one delegation mentioned the work undertaken to promote the use of geothermal energy nationally.

47. Delegations welcomed the WETO preview. Some delegations appreciated IRENA's clear message on investment needs in renewable energies. One delegation proposed the WETO provide analysis and assessment of seasonal variation and gaps between supply and demand in every country, measures to address the future mass disposal of renewable energy equipment and measures to create resilient supply chains for critical minerals. One delegation encouraged IRENA to enhance work on green hydrogen and critical materials.

48. One delegation expressed concern that the incremental release of the report limits public interest and exposure and recommended launching WETO as a full report accompanied by a global campaign to maximise the outreach and influence.

49. Some delegations expressed appreciation for IRENA's valuable support to developing countries to accelerate renewables-based transition and achieve the global net zero target. One delegation underlined that the world is facing the dual challenges of energy security and climate change and called on IRENA to continue acting as a hub of cooperation and using its comparative advantages and global vision to promote the energy transition.

50. Some delegations thanked IRENA for the analyses and knowledge contributions to G7 meetings and referred to the areas of work agreed for the current G7 Presidency. One delegation welcomed IRENA's cooperation with the G20 Presidency of India.

51. Some delegations underlined the need to skill and reskill young people and women and facilitate their involvement in the energy sector. One delegation referred to the I ACT Project launched in 2022, to spread knowledge on energy transition as well as develop skills of young activists.

52. Some delegations underlined the key role of the Collaborative Frameworks in bringing together both private and public actors to accelerate the energy transition and promote dialogue and coordinated action. One delegation highlighted the need to strengthen dialogue, promote cooperation between regions, and coordinate efforts to generate knowledge and increase renewable energy in the energy mix.

53. Delegations recognised the importance of IRENA's project facilitation work and welcomed the work under the ETAF Platform. One delegation encouraged IRENA to use the lessons learned from project facilitation and disseminate best practices to African countries and some delegations welcomed the upcoming Investment Forums in the Latin America and Africa regions.

54. Delegations stressed that COP28 and the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake will be a key milestone and encouraged IRENA to play a high profile and strategic role at COP28 while calling for further updates throughout the year.

55. One delegation proposed that the Programme and Strategy Committee should focus on analysing the implementation of the work programme and called on Members to actively participate in PSC meetings, put forward topics for discussion and have intersessional meetings in preparation.

56. The Council took note of the Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, contained in document C/25/2.

Agenda Item 5: Reports on Collaborative Frameworks

57. The Chair invited the Council to consider the reports on Collaborative Frameworks and referred to the Information Note containing the reports on Collaborative Frameworks, which was circulated by the Secretariat on 18 May 2023. This Information Note is contained in Annex 4.

58. The Chair of the PSC relayed that Committee members noted the value of the fora and called for ways to be considered to expand engagement to national experts and stakeholders.

59. Delegations noted the key role of the Collaborative Frameworks in bringing private and public actors for accelerating the energy transition, promoting dialogue, discussions and coordinated action, and welcomed the idea of engaging national experts regularly in the meetings of the Collaborative Frameworks.

60. The Director-General stated that the Collaborative Frameworks are one of the instruments to fulfil IRENA's leadership role in the energy transition and invited Members to participate in setting the agenda of the Collaborative Frameworks.

61. The Council took note of the reports on Collaborative Frameworks.

Agenda Item 6: Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (C/25/3)

62. The Director-General stated that this would be the first Work Programme in the new strategic cycle, thus providing a great opportunity to examine IRENA's work critically as well as respond and align to the new strategic direction outlined in the current Medium-term Strategy (MTS). He reminded participants that the new mission calls for IRENA to lead the global energy transition, whereas IRENA's Theory of Change clarifies where and how the Agency will be contributing to the global efforts to transform the energy system toward resilient and inclusive community and economies. As such, he underlined the importance of selecting the right priorities and activities for the coming two years.

63. The Director-General then stressed that as energy transition is a crowded space, it is essential to make wise choices for the years ahead and receive Members' feedback and guidance to ensure this. He also thanked the Members that had already provided written input for the preparation of the framework. The Director-General referred to the feedback received when developing the MTS that reflected diverse and national and regional context and priorities and the need to balance them in the activities. He mentioned that this spans from development imperatives, energy security, resilience at all levels and local pollution considerations with the overarching backdrop of climate change and its wide-ranging consequences.

64. The Director-General proposed five areas of focus, which consider the diversity of the Membership, the current state of the energy transition, and contemporary policy priorities. These include physical infrastructure, energy transition investment, workforce, access and livelihood, and energy security and resilience. He underscored that this selection of substantive priorities will help IRENA streamline programmatic output within the larger strategic agenda in the coming two years to be able to help countries overcome some of the immediate barriers to transition, with a special focus on Africa, LDCs and SIDS.

65. Ms Elizabeth Press, Director of PPS outlined the four current strategic pillars around which IRENA implements successive Work Programmes, while the proposed one has a five-pillar structure. The Centre for energy transformation pillar will remain the knowledge backbone of the institutional work, consolidating flagship products such as the Annual Job review, cost analyses, performance of technologies, geopolitics, capacities, statistics, finance etc.

66. Ms Press explained that the second pillar on International Collaboration Network Hub, will be refined to focus on partnerships and collaborations, advancing existing initiatives, such as the Coalition for Action, SIDS LHI, Global Geothermal Alliance, Long-term Energy Scenarios Network, and the newly created Alliance for Industry Decarbonization and the Global Offshore Wind Alliance. The Governing Body meetings will remain a platform for international collaboration.

67. Turning to the Global Voice of Renewables pillar, she stated that it will go deeper into renewables rather than to the energy transition at large and how they impact other sectors and intersect with larger economic and social issues.

68. Ms Press clarified that the last two pillars relate to IRENA's direct work with countries, project facilitation and mobilizing finance for developing countries. IRENA's support for regions and countries will be streamlined around methodologies and processes mastered over the years, while still finetuning them to ensure predictability. The project facilitation work will continue apace building on the Climate Investment Platform and ETAF.

69. In concluding, Ms Press underlined that the MTS discusses a 360-degree approach – a priority for IRENA to ensure a greater link and feedback loop between analytical work and the work on the ground, to make it policy relevant and current. The second big change is the development of a results-based framework, in parallel to the elaboration of the new Work Programme, that will be done gradually. She clarified that this would be a shift towards impact-oriented work aligned with IRENA's Theory of Change, with the first step being the development of baselines.

70. The Chair of the PSC shared a summary of the Committee's deliberations on the Preliminary Framework. He noted that participants welcomed the Framework and determined that there was a sound basis for further development of the Work Programme. He added that the Committee discussed some of the obstacles to the energy transition and proposed refocusing on fewer but more impactful outputs as well as including a greater focus on enabling technologies. He also explained that participants discussed energy security and energy access issues and inherent

capabilities of a renewables-based system to secure these ends, as well as the need for IRENA to highlight these aspects of the energy transition.

71. The Chair of the PSC mentioned that participants welcomed the plans under the pillar on Center of the Excellence for Energy Transformation and noted the importance of the pillar on International Collaboration and Network Hub, underlining the need to drive collaboration and coordination in global energy transition. In addition, participants discussed the need to collaborate on physical infrastructure and encourage a continued focus on SIDS, Africa, and LDCs, including under IRENA's work on facilitating projects and mobilising capital. He relayed that participants also discussed the benefit of deploying a results-based framework to demonstrate IRENA's value added and a need for a stable budget and welcomed the use of non-core contributions. In concluding, he noted that participants called for exploring ways to ensure that the PSC meetings are more interactive and topical to encourage dynamic exchange of views on programmatic matters in the lead-up to and during the PSC meeting in October.

72. Delegations thanked the Director-General and the IRENA Secretariat for preparing the preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and welcomed the five programmatic priorities.

73. One delegation noted that the renewable energy scene has evolved since IRENA's inception and underlined the importance of ensuring IRENA remain flexible in developing such a multifaceted work programme and stay focused on delivering on its mandates. Another delegation noted that IRENA is well-placed to survey the global energy transition landscape for redundancies and gaps and advise Members on how to maximise time and resources.

74. Some delegations stressed IRENA's role in accelerating the energy transition by helping to promote to energy security and climate action, as well as mitigating geopolitical risks. One delegation emphasised the importance of diversified and balanced pathways to net zero with the use of different kinds of energy sources and technologies. Another delegation suggested that IRENA to take full advantage of its expertise and current limit of funding to identify and focus on the key issues affecting the expansion of renewable energy, and to strengthen research facility cooperation and result-oriented evaluation.

75. One delegation welcomed IRENA's approach as a results-driven Agency and noted that the 360-degree approach to programme implementation would require different experience and expertise among staff, as well as stronger partnerships. Some delegations called for the next iteration of the Work Programme and Budget to include a detailed breakdown of objectives with actions, milestones, and related resources and budget per Division, thereby forming a basis on which the Membership would be able to objectively assess the Agency's progress towards this aim.

76. One delegation underlined the challenge of promoting clean cooking and encouraged IRENA to elevate the topic as a priority. One delegation reiterated the lack of investment flows towards Africa, LDCs and SIDS, and encouraged IRENA to allocate more budgetary resources to support them. Delegations emphasised the importance of partnerships with international organisations to draw from diverse expertise and knowledge to promote energy access and energy transition.

77. Delegations welcomed the focus of the Support for Regions and Countries pillar and called for strengthening the linkages with the Support for Project Facilitation strategic objective to help create the enabling environments necessary for investments.

78. The Council took note of the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 as contained in document C/25/3 and provided its guidance.

Agenda Item 7: General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition

79. The Chair invited Members to share their experiences on priority actions and challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy and exchange views on issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond. He also invited Members to provide their statements in a written form, to be annexed as part of the Report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council. These statements are contained in Annex 5.

80. Delegations reiterated their commitment to energy transition and a more sustainable and cleaner future. They shared their ambitions, national goals and plans, progress made in implementation and deployment of renewable energy, and in the adoption of regulatory and legal frameworks to align energy transition agenda with domestic policies. Delegations noted several crucial enablers for energy transition and exchanged their experience in each area, including addressing technology gaps through promoting innovation and supporting research and development, as well as actions in promoting investment and providing financial incentives. On other key areas, delegations underscored the importance of diversifying energy resources to achieve energy security, and enhance energy efficiency, as well as responsible energy consumption. Delegations noted green hydrogen as one of the fuels for future and shared their plans to develop and implement their national strategies for green hydrogen. Delegations also exchanged experiences on various sources of renewable energy including solar, wind and offshore wind, hydropower, geothermal, amongst others.

81. Delegations underscored the importance of international and regional cooperation to achieve just, equitable and inclusive energy transition, as well as the key role of IRENA in providing a platform for collaboration and knowledge products. Delegations also reaffirmed their full support to IRENA's work and initiatives in the run up to COP28.

82. The Council took note of the interventions from Members.

Agenda Item 8: Programmatic discussion on Global Status of Geothermal Market and Technology (C/25/BN/1)

83. The Chair introduced the item and noted that geothermal, a source of both electricity and heat, has been mainly restricted to certain locations but is recently experiencing a broader scope of use in an increasing number of countries and applications. He informed the Council that to gain further insights into the market and a technology shift in the geothermal sector, IRENA collaborated with the International Geothermal Association (IGA), under the umbrella of the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA), to assess emerging trends that are likely to accelerate geothermal deployment and made recommendations to support the uptake of geothermal as a low carbon option in the near future.

84. The Deputy Director-General, Ms Gauri Singh in recognition of geothermal as a viable renewable source for clean energy transition, noted the growing momentum to include geothermal in national climate action plans to achieve net zero by 2050. She declared geothermal resources not only provide a reliable electricity supply and enhance system flexibility, but also offer an affordable and secure heat supply. She reported on the potential to expand the horizons of geothermal resources, beyond electricity and heat supply, to obtain critical minerals, such as lithium, for which the industry is advancing the extraction process towards a commercial scale. While noting the present installed capacity for geothermal is around 16 GW of electricity and 110 GW of heat, she highlighted the numerous challenges faced and advised that governments, industry, and other key stakeholders, including financial institutions, must collaborate to address the

relatively slow growth and the global deployment of geothermal, which is due to inadequate policies and regulations, the lack of financing and risk mitigation instruments, limited awareness and the lack of technical expertise needed. She recommended united efforts to de-risk geothermal investments and to develop viable solutions.

85. The Deputy Director-General declared that, to facilitate collective efforts, IRENA established the Global Geothermal Alliance, as a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at enhancing dialogue, cooperation and coordinated action to foster geothermal development. She explained that the GGA has actively supported countries in their capacity building to develop enabling frameworks for geothermal projects and programmes across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Europe, and Asia. She also announced that the GGA has also identified the application of geothermal heat in district heating networks and in agri-food value chains as a critical area for sector growth. She provided an example in Mongolia where IRENA is providing support to the development of strategic heating plans that incorporate geothermal energy in district heating networks.

86. The Deputy Director-General referred to the *Global Geothermal Market and Technology Assessment* report, compiled under the umbrella of the GGA in partnership with IGA, which highlights the impact of factors such as resource type, enabling policies, legislative regimes, and risk mitigation instruments on the development of geothermal resources in various regions. She predicted significant expansion in this sector owing to the ongoing advancements in geothermal technologies, cross-industry collaborations, and the growing utilisation of low to medium temperature geothermal resources. She informed that the findings of the report will serve as a valuable guide to stakeholders to empower the advancement of deployment and utilisation of geothermal energy.

87. Mr Gurbuz Gonul, Director of Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP), in his [presentation](#), introduced the *Global Status of Geothermal Market and Technology* report, published in February 2023 and provided an overview of the global status of geothermal markets' development and technology. He announced that IRENA developed the report by working closely with more than 30 practitioners from institutions and partners of the GGA, who provided valuable contributions to the process. He declared that generation of electricity from geothermal resources started over 100 years ago and the installed capacity has gradually expanded to around 16 GW in 2021, which still constitutes only a fraction of the global renewable electricity capacity. He added that around 30 countries are generating electricity from geothermal with only five exceeding 1 GW of installed capacity to date. He mentioned that the capacity expansion lags far behind other clean energy technologies, despite the recent investments, especially in Indonesia, Kenya, New Zealand, and Türkiye, which have rendered some momentum. He highlighted that only 181 MW of geothermal energy was added in 2021 compared to 192 GW of solar and 75GW of wind and noted the untapped potential across different regions due to a range of challenges being faced in the sector.

88. On geothermal heat, Mr Gonul announced direct use applications have grown to 107 GW in 2020 from 70 GW in 2015, which marks over a 50% growth over a five-year period. This represented an average annual growth rate of about 9%, which was slightly lower in comparison the earlier years of the decade. He mentioned that wider utilisation of low and medium resources for such direct applications have opened up opportunities across the globe as there are over 90 countries presently using geothermal energy for heating and cooling purposes. He explained that the widely used geothermal heat pumps constitute three quarters of the market, mainly deployed in China, Finland, Germany, Sweden, and USA. He added that remaining applications include space heating through district heating networks, bathing, agri-food and industrial uses, and listed China, France, Iceland, and Türkiye as leading geothermal district heating markets.

89. On the best practices to create strengthened enabling conditions for geothermal capacity growth, Mr Gonul explained that a combination of effective legal and regulatory frameworks, policy instruments and risk mitigation mechanisms are needed. He stressed the importance of effective regulatory frameworks that are simple, clear, and can be approved within a short time span and provided examples of solutions across the globe to create enabling permitting conditions such as those in Chile, Kenya, and Mexico who have dedicated geothermal legislation, as well as the Netherlands and New Zealand, who have geothermal permits governed by a group of diverse laws in mining, water resources, electricity, or renewable energy laws. He added that in Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Tanzania the geothermal development is solely developed by the public sector. He further highlighted popular policy instruments such as tax credits to reduce capital and operational expenditures or to promote local manufacturing of geothermal equipment as well as feed-in tariffs (FIT).

90. Mr Gonul listed an example of utilised combination-policy instruments including local content standards and conducive tax regimes such as in Türkiye where they have increased geothermal installed capacity from below 100 MW in 2008 to over 1.7 GW in 2021. He added that Dominica included geothermal energy in their NDCs as the main driver for decarbonising the energy sector and the development of 10 MW geothermal powerplant that will completely change the power supply landscape and replace the fossil fuel-based generation currently existing in the sector. He added that dedicated geothermal risk mitigation schemes, mainly public funds, help to address the resource risks associated with the early stages of geothermal development, in emerging markets. Mr Gonul mentioned that East Africa and Latin America are examples of where risk mitigation mechanisms have been created and enabled geothermal development.

91. Mr Gonul highlighted that several challenges hindering the acceleration of geothermal development remain in place owing to existing inadequate conducive regulatory frameworks, as well as ineffective financial and risk mitigation schemes in many countries. He provided Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) as an example where the size of the electricity markets is small and where the remoteness of geothermal resources from populated centres has contributed to commercial risk of developing such resources. He declared that many countries lack technical expertise to evaluate and develop geothermal resources, as well as having inadequate data available in the early stage of projects to sufficiently site potentially successful geothermal wells. He added that corrosive and highly saline geothermal water add to the complexity due to excessive scaling in pipelines and wells such as in Djibouti.

92. Mr Gonul informed that geothermal development has faced opposition from local communities and indigenous people in some countries due to general misunderstandings or misconceptions on the risks posed by the geothermal development and the associated mitigation mechanisms. He noted the limited awareness, within various potential markets, amongst policymakers and the public on the opportunities and benefits that geothermal development can deliver. He further noted the difficulties caused in obtaining licenses or permits to develop resources – particularly in ecologically sensitive areas such as forests and national parks.

93. Mr Gonul reported that while geothermal developments are traditionally focused on high temperature geothermal resources for electricity generation which are available in only countries with a volcanic setting and accessed only through deep drilling, low and medium temperature resources are also found in more diverse settings such as sedimentary basins, shallow ground, hot springs, and are sometimes coproduced along with other natural resources. He also elaborated on the technology advancements that are driving the development of low to medium temperature resources for power generation, such as the binary cycle technologies which have realised the use of lower temperature resources to generate electricity. Mr Gonul explained that traditional geothermal energy is produced as a result of interaction between underground water and hot rocks

and noted that while the resources found in impermeable hot rocks cannot be extracted using traditional technologies, there are new technologies being developed that could enable the creation of pathways for water to flow through the hot rocks (*e.g.* drilling multiple horizontal wells or stimulating existing opening to increase their permeability) thereby facilitating the extraction of energy in the hot rocks.

94. Mr Gonul recognised the importance to leverage synergies that exist between geothermal and other related sectors such as the oil and gas industry which is also an extractive industry with comparable similarities. He noted that these synergies may help to improve efficiency in drilling operations, achieve higher energy input at lower costs, and enable access to a large quantity of available subsurface data. He also highlighted that the repurposing of abandoned oil and gas wells for geothermal production will reduce the cost of geothermal drilling. He announced that geothermal brines are known to contain commercially viable concentrations of critical minerals such as lithium, which is key to achieving the energy transition. He highlighted that several demonstration projects exist to prove the technology and commercial viability of extracting lithium, such as in Türkiye, where the entire local electric vehicle industry's lithium needs for the next 20 years could be met solely from geothermal.

95. On green hydrogen, Mr Gonul reported the production through electrolysis using geothermal energy is presently occurring in Iceland, Japan, and New Zealand. He also confirmed the high availability of geothermal plants and the high temperature in geothermal fields renders the production of hydrogen from geothermal energy more efficient. He recommended an integration of geothermal plants to green hydrogen value chains, particularly in small market such as SIDS, as it could contribute to a reduction in the associated commercial risk associated with the small electricity markets. He further recommended a collaborative and united approach to meet the multi-dimensional nature of the challenges impacting the geothermal sector to enable stakeholders to build strengths and find common solutions.

96. Delegations presented their national perspectives on the geothermal resource and energy deployment efforts, along with their ongoing projects, private partnerships, international cooperation, and capacity building efforts. Delegations also pointed out that the numerous advantages of geothermal as a reliable source of clean energy include that it is predictable, stable, dispatchable, highly resilient, indifferent to weather conditions, does not require storage, has minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a small ecological footprint, offers potential to extract critical raw materials from geothermal fluids, serves as a single source solution to decarbonise the electricity grid and residential heating and cooling, can create jobs, supports communities to meet their energy goals, can provide cost effective flexibility for energy system when combined with large heat pumps and storage, amongst others. A delegation highlighted that geothermal energy is going to rise to the occasion to aid the action needed for the transformation of the climate crisis.

97. The concerns expressed by delegations included the optimisation of the use of resources already exploited, high exploration, investigation and research costs, risks during the early phase of exploration, long project development pipelines that can result from regulatory hurdles, difficulties in ascertaining the appropriate evaluation of the resources, uncertainties around costs and revenues associated with the inherent geological risk, low carbon power sources that carry high capital costs at commercial scale which limits financial access to private sector financing, the struggles to compete with incumbent technologies, the lack of awareness of benefits. One delegation mentioned the key concerns raised by stakeholders to their national geothermal taskforce, which are the need for improved communication and consultation in the development process and the assurance of cultural considerations for sacred sites and water resources. This delegation also added that the stakeholders expressed the need to better understand the way geothermal energy can benefit them as well as the downsides of potential developments. A

delegation mentioned that the challenges for the development of the geothermal sector is the competition with other electricity sources for investors and access to the grid and added the need for concrete measures for development to include campaigns to reduce information deficits, accelerate planning and approval procedures, as well as the development of subsidy and mitigation programmes to stimulate further investments.

98. Delegations mentioned that the GGA serves as an institutional platform with a central role to enhance dialogue where exchanging best practices and success stories has a higher visibility and can also help to draw attention from stronger energy sector stakeholders and expressed their support to the GGA for deployment of geothermal energy on international agenda and promotion of seminars and technical workshops. Delegations mentioned that the critical need to address financing, policy, and regulatory frameworks, institutional and technical expertise, best practices, and technological innovation through international collaboration which they stated is critical to facilitate growth worldwide. Some delegations requested IRENA to assist them to secure partners to explore and develop their geothermal resources. Delegations welcomed IRENA and the GGA's further development of geothermal as a firm source of renewable energy for countries with such potential, and highlighted IRENA's role to ensure the roll out of best practices and to explore ways to support initiatives in this area to create a favourable linked framework and to provide awareness building and information campaigns. A delegation declared their expectation of IRENA to continue to analyse and share knowledge, as well as to include next generation geothermal exploration technologies and innovations on the production of green hydrogen using geothermal power.

99. The Deputy Director-General thanked Members for sharing their insights, experiences and the challenges encountered, as well as their strong support to the GGA. She noted the recognition of the resource as a baseload provider and further recognised the challenges mentioned include the initial high risk during the exploration phase, as well as the possible need for the public sector to absorb such risk. The Deputy Director-General reiterated the need to increase awareness on this resource and observed that whilst some countries have strong geothermal resources, many mentioned the medium to low heat resources and the need for IRENA to play a part in gathering partners through international cooperation to assist and support countries to harness such resources. She echoed the important role that geothermal will play in the decarbonising of the heating and cooling sector, especially homes and buildings, as well as providing jobs. She acknowledged that geothermal resource development can have a long gestation period and high upfront costs and noted however, it is also a source indifferent to weather changes and has the potential to serve as storage for renewable power from the intermittent wind and solar.

100. The Deputy Director-General stated that working groups and national action plans are being collated by countries to domestically support the forward movement of geothermal energy and underlined that Members' ambitions have evolved from megawatts to gigawatts, which she stated, is in line with the need to accelerate the pace and the urgency of the energy transition. The Deputy Director-General thanked Members for their strong support of IRENA's efforts and recognised that the challenges flagged require an in-depth exploration to guide future work.

101. The Council considered and took note of the presentation and subsequent discussions.

Agenda Item 9: Programmatic discussion on Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance (C/25/BN/2)

102. The Chair of the Council introduced the agenda item and invited the Director-General to deliver his remarks. The Director-General announced that the *World Energy Transition Outlook (WETO) 2023* calls for urgent and transformative measures to drive the renewables-based energy transition and added that the *Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance 2023* report by IRENA and the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) demands a significant scale-up of investments with governments and public financial institutions playing a greater role, especially in the Global North. He underscored IRENA's emphasis on the urgency for pragmatic and visionary leadership to address multiple global crises, including the climate crisis, energy crisis, geopolitical upheavals, economic recovery challenges, and the impact of global inflation. He explained that whilst the constrained financial resources and unpredictable economic situation are impeding investments, the ongoing energy crisis is compelling nations to swiftly adopt sustainable, dependable, and cost-effective alternative energy sources.

103. The Director-General informed that the *Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance* report underlines the insufficient flow of investments necessary to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of both speed and magnitude. He stressed that the report recognises a growing concentration of investments in specific technologies and countries and stated that investments in fossil fuels are simultaneously experiencing an upward trend, with substantial support still being provided to the industry in the form of subsidies. He informed that the IRENA presentation would touch on trends and provide key insights on how to scale up investments to support a just and inclusive transition, as well as the crucial role of public funding in driving this change. He explained that the report calls on governments and development partners to step up and ensure a more equitable flow of investments, particularly to countries that have considerable untapped potential but find it difficult to attract investments. He underscored that public funds and policy frameworks are needed to support the development of energy transition infrastructure, drive investments, and address persistent socio-economic gaps and further called for stronger international collaboration with a view to substantially increase financial flows from the Global North to the Global South.

104. In her [presentation](#), Ms Rabia Ferroukhi, Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) referred to the estimation included in the WETO that a cumulative investment of USD 150 trillion is required to realise the 1.5°C target by 2050, or over 5.3 trillion dollars annually. She reported that the biannual *Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance* report takes stock of renewable energy investments to date, highlights trends by technology, sector, region, source of finance, and financial instrument and has a dedicated analysis on investments in the off-grid sector. She noted that IRENA is the only agency to provide a comprehensive analysis on renewable energy investments that inform policy making, and that the IRENA analysis has featured in key products since the launch of the report by partner institutions such as the IMF, which helped to change the discourse around the role of public finance in the energy transition and showed the need to go beyond just mobilising private capital. She invited Council members to share their feedback on how IRENA's work can further support them and to share their experiences on attracting investment.

105. On the trend of global investment in energy transition technologies, Ms Ferroukhi noted that the USD 1.3 trillion investment in 2022 hit a record high being 70% higher than pre-pandemic level, yet annual investment needs to quadruple to achieve the 1.5°C target laid out in the WETO. She also mentioned that while renewable energy and energy efficiency remained the largest sectors, at almost USD 800 billion in 2022, their share in the total energy transition investments has declined due to other technologies such as electric vehicles attracting larger amounts of

investments. She highlighted that the investments in renewables reached a record-high of half a trillion dollars in 2022 but this figure is still less than one-third of the annual investment needed.

106. Ms Ferroukhi underlined the importance of phasing out investments in fossil fuel assets and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies to achieve the energy transition, as proposed in the WETO. She noted that the goal to redirect an annual USD 1 trillion from fossil fuels to energy transition-related technologies remains far from being achieved as the investments in fossil fuels continued to rise in 2022 and almost doubled in investments in renewables. She further noted that fossil fuel subsidies doubled in 2021 in 51 countries and are expected continue to increase in 2022 due to energy price pressures. She highlighted that fossil fuel subsidies in Europe reached USD 113 per person in 2020 which is more than triple those in the MENA region at USD 36 per person. On investment in renewables by technology and end use, she mentioned that power generation assets attracted an average of 90% of renewable energy investments from 2013-2020, and that preliminary data shows their share went up to 97% in 2022 while the share of end uses dropped to 3% from 8.5% in 2013. She advised that end-use investment must increase 20-fold from USD 13 billion in 2022 to USD 270 billion.

107. Ms Ferroukhi outlined investments in renewables by region and pointed out to the growing inequality with investments being concentrated in China, USA, and Western Europe while the least developed countries (LDCs) attracted only less than 1% of investments. She summarised that over half the population, mainly residing in developing and emerging economies, received only 15% of global investments in 2022 and highlighted that the disparity in renewables investments per capita received by developed versus developing countries has more than doubled over the past six years which reinforces existing world inequalities as far as the benefits of the transition are concerned. She stated that whilst the global socioeconomic impacts of the energy transition are positive, the benefits vary significantly regionally according to different starting points and contexts in terms of the economic structures, the resource endowments, the existing capabilities, and the capacities. She noted that these factors strongly influence the ability to attract investment and create local value chains that help maximise the benefits of the energy transition and advised that a just and inclusive energy transition demands a more equitable distribution of investments.

108. Ms Ferroukhi advised that a stronger role for public financing is needed as private capital favours low-risk investments and prioritises financial returns over social, environmental, and climate-related gains. She explained that when private capital flows to higher-risk environments, it does so at a higher cost, which results in the lowest income populations paying the most for often basic energy, which is essential for alleviating poverty and promoting socio-economic development. She recommended the urgent need for public financing, which is already stressed to breaking point in many developing countries, in the form of concessional loans and grants from multilateral institutions. She reiterated the need for increased international cooperation and global solidarity for a just energy transition due to the limited public funds available in the developing world.

109. Ms Ferroukhi noted that public investments currently play a greater role in off-grid renewable energy technologies which have provided energy access to more than 200 million people in the last decade. She stated that developing financial institutions (DFI) made up for the shortfall in private investment experienced during the pandemic as their contribution in 2021 increased by 67% in comparison to 2019 and continued to increase in 2021 according to preliminary data, as the sector received a 27% increase from 2020 with a record-high investments of almost USD 560 million in 2021. She mentioned that most investments in off-grid renewables go to solar home systems for residential use and further noted that micro and mini grids are increasingly attracting investments to serve commercial, industrial, and community-based applications such as schools and hospitals. She observed that the share of investments going to commercial and industrial

applications has tripled in 2015-2021 and emphasised that powering commercial and industrial applications is key to promoting local economies by creating jobs and economic growth, whilst enhancing food security and resilience. On concentration of investment, Ms Ferroukhi announced that the average transaction size has increased eightfold in 2013-2021 and smaller local enterprises find it increasingly difficult to access financing. She reiterated the investment gap remains at USD 15 billion needed annually to achieve universal access to energy compared to the half billion invested in 2020 and noted that public financial institutions are required to provide financing for both enterprises and consumers.

110. On the way forward, Ms Ferroukhi underscored the need to increase the availability of capital for public investments in renewables, and to transform lending to developing nations, which requires serious reforms of the international financial infrastructure. She mentioned that the USA pays less than 4% per year on 30-year borrowing for infrastructure, as opposed to poor countries who often pay above 10% on five-year loans. She elaborated that more grants and concessional loans are needed such as the 'loss and damage fund'. She also mentioned that international collaboration in the form of public financial flows from the Global North to the Global South is essential to achieve the 1.5°C target and to reap the associated socio-economic benefits. She added that public funds flow through intermediaries such as DFIs, global funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). Public funds can flow through different instruments, such as government spending such subsidies; debt including guarantees; equity and direct ownership of assets; and support for expansionary fiscal policy and appropriate regulations. She cautioned that these instruments should be distributed equitably, and care should be taken to ensure that not only a few major players in the industry benefit. She reaffirmed the Director-General's comment that the just and fair transition will remain at the centre of IRENA's work and highlighted the fact that IRENA's analytical work on this topic provided intellectual leadership a decade before these issues became mainstream in the energy transition conversations and will continue to support Members.

111. Delegations commended the presentation and presented their national perspective and status of progress on investment commitments, legal frameworks, and partnerships. Delegations took note of the positive aspects within the reports and expressed their alarm at the level of the uneven and unjust distribution of investments outlined within which underscores the need for directly funding countries with untapped potential that experience difficulties in attracting investment. One delegation mentioned the need to enhance the financial flows available to SIDS as access to financing for renewable energy remains a primary barrier to clean energy deployment in SIDS and they highlighted the need for more flexible international financial instruments and modalities. This was supported by other delegations who added that the effects of climate change are concentrated in these islands thus intensified work is needed to spread out investment. Delegations advised that for SIDS to achieve the renewable energy and electricity access target, IRENA and other donor agencies have to create innovative and de-risking financial facilities and streamline the process to make it easier and more convenient for the public and private actors to access.

112. Delegations also highlighted risk mitigation as a key element to attract investment and recommended blended finance. Another delegation suggested more dialogue is needed to increase the understanding of each position and means, and to de-risk investment to attract private finance. Delegations recommended the financial environment needs to be clear and safe for long-term investments for projects with a lifetime of 20+ years and emphasised that the lack of growth of investment in Sub-Saharan Africa over the last eight years remains a major concern.

113. Delegations noted the necessity of financial support to fight poverty and for infrastructure development, institution building, and human resources development. Delegations stressed the need for grants along with extremely low interest rate loans which would require reform of the

international financial architecture. Another delegation declared that financing will still be needed at two different levels to offer loans to low-income citizens and to community based solar applications. Delegations underlined the importance of adequate finance for countries to access to critical technologies, and the need for de-risking and concessional finance must be. A delegation listed the challenges to attract finance for renewable energy deployment in the developing countries as being the limited access to affordable financing, lack of expertise and capacity, the impacts of the economic situation on investment flows, interest rates and cost of capital, currency fluctuations, government policy and incentives, and the shifts in energy market dynamics. This delegation suggested special financial programmes or platforms to assess projects supported with the various financial instruments.

114. Delegations mentioned that the barriers to investment in renewables in developing countries range from sectoral issues such as a lack of grid related infrastructure and investment enabling policies such as auctions, to broader issues, such as a lack of local financing capacity and capital market infrastructure, and stressed the importance of increasing global investment in renewable energy whilst ensuring equitable distribution across sectors and countries, as well as called for stronger and dedicated international cooperation in financing mechanisms and conducive policy support to further accelerate the energy and climate transition agenda. Delegations mentioned incentives and regulatory frameworks need to be secure and robust both at the domestic and international levels to ensure the operation and offtake security and to also allow for enhanced focus on renewable energy financing of LDCs and SIDS and recommended the filling of gaps between investment and public budgets will become easier over the next five years due to lower costs and risks. On the needs to facilitate the process, delegations mentioned the requirement for additional technical load flow and short circuit studies, for reducing the vulnerability of solar plants due to storm and other challenges, as well as the additional need to create the capacity to be able to fund domestic projects.

115. On the role of the Agency, delegations advised that IRENA must be a facilitator and a bridge builder between those in need of renewables projects, those who want to set them up and operate them, and those who can finance them. They further recommended that IRENA must continue to support its Members and enable them to build regulatory frameworks which are attractive for domestic and international investors. A delegation pointed out IRENA's role as a key player in the training and dissemination of information and stressed that it is necessary to examine all the options and to explore the extra push that the financial institutions can make in rendering these projects feasible and bankable whilst also taking into account the technological advances that are reducing costs. Amongst the suggestions from delegations on their expectations of IRENA, the provision of support for the institution-building in each country as well as the provision of a continued analysis of each technology and region including the Global South was mentioned. Others suggested that IRENA could develop sensible financing models for less developed markets; act as an objective advisor for countries during the reform of their regulatory environments; and, to play a pivotal role in the conducting of deep studies to address challenges.

116. Delegations urged IRENA to continue its work in providing guidance, expertise, and technical assistance with targeted facilitation tailored for different needs of Members to attract investment and simultaneously close the financing gap for developing countries, particularly concerning fossil fuels, and welcomed the close ties IRENA has forged with multilateral development banks and views this partnership. Delegations also highlighted relevant events including the IRENA African Investment Forum to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in October 2023 tentatively and the Financial Impact Summit, scheduled to take place in France on 23-24 June 2023 which will include national and international financial institutions, as well as representatives from civil society and the public and private sector.

117. The Director-General thanked Members for the rich debate and observed that the discussions proved the debate was on justice as opposed to energy. He reflected that justice provides the means and tools for every human to have a healthy life for which an unequal distribution of this resource would mean an unjust world and referred to the statement of the UAE, as echoed by other delegations, which indicated the role of the Agency is to serve as a bridge from the need to change to the road to reality. He declared that having listened to Members he is more comfortable in the common-sense narrative to move forward in this process towards COP28, a narrative he hopes will become a reality.

118. The Director-General underscored the concerns raised on costs and risk and explained investments are considered risky as investors are unsure of any investment gain. He advised that in order to reduce the risk, and give more space to investment, it is essential to build a structure that will sustain the coming energy system. He reiterated the insistence that working on infrastructure denotes working on development which is vital and added that the multilateral financial institution will be called upon by COP28 to provide funding for much needed infrastructure to expose all the planet's renewable energy potential. He reflected that Africa is the most important powerhouse for green hydrogen for which potential will be untapped without infrastructure and pointed out the opportunity infrastructure offers to intersect the economic growth that approaches and to place that economic growth on a path that is concurrent with the decrease of emissions.

119. On adapting markets, the Director-General noted the present markets still manage to sustain the old energy system. He announced that IRENA has been working on market design in general terms and declared that, upon receipt of a request, IRENA is willing to try to support the building of Member's national market design. He listed the need to amend the legal environment and policy-fit for the new system as opposed to old exiting one and the development of the institutional capacity skills which, are on the narrative for COP28. He clarified that IRENA's coherent project facilitation works on a 360-degree basis to work on knowledge products that inspire the support of countries and their planning and emphasised it is the countries themselves that are the owners of their plans and projects with IRENA serving to support the implementation and realisation of their plans. He reflected on the support provided to 80 countries in the preparation of their contribution for COP26 in Glasgow and announced that IRENA has worked on assessing the energy renewable potential for 40 countries. He expressed the hope to move towards building a domestic energy transition outlook, as was actioned for Indonesia, Malaysia, and with the REmap for Nigeria and highlighted IRENA's ability to provide the right framework for the projects to become a reality with a Global Outlook to be proud of but that should include more specific regional and domestic circumstances and that could be presented in a form similar to a Regional Energy Transition Outlook.

120. The Director-General reflected that the world must acknowledge the need for small islands to move rapidly to clean energy for which they need concessional grants as opposed to loans. He announced the possibility - should resources permit - of an investment forum to be held per quarter during the year. In his reaction to the Members intervention on the transformation of mineral resources into batteries, the Director-General stressed that countries must be allowed to build a green industry which enable their national development and noted this will be good for the market as having more countries with such reserves for industrial products will decentralise the supply chain. He added that the ETAF is prepared to consider funding for this type of project and advised there is a good number of projects funded, or close to funding, for COP28. He mentioned that although ETAF does not end with COP28, it will be strengthened by it and become a useful instrument to implement the deliberations. He conveyed that IRENA is working with India on the G20 targets which are the most realistic way to build the path for a more renewable world and thanked Members for referring to 'one family' as he mentioned this reflects the solid united reality.

121. The Council considered and took note of the presentations and subsequent discussion.

Agenda Item 10: Programmatic discussion on Accelerating Finance for Energy Transition (C/25/BN/3)

122. In his introductory remarks, the Director-General declared that IRENA has invested considerable resources over the years in project facilitation services that support countries in their energy transition endeavours. He pointed out that IRENA consolidated these services in 2020 into a coherent institutional space to provide project facilitation support for all Members which is now delivering tangible results.

123. The Director-General informed that the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform, an initiative led by IRENA, was established to mobilise capital from global financial institutions and the corporate sector with the primary objective being to expedite the implementation of renewable energy projects as well as to accelerate the energy transition in developing countries. He reflected that during the COP26 the UAE pledged USD 400 million in anchor funding for ETAF through the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). He added that during COP27 the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Masdar, and Swiss RE joined the ADFD as funding partners by signing the ETAF Cooperation Agreements, and that a Call for Projects was also launched. The Director-General further noted that the OPEC Fund for International Development joined the ETAF at the IRENA Assembly in January 2023, to provide leading support for investment projects and technical assistance grant-financing for project preparation. He explained that IRENA has developed the ETAF charter together with the funding parties wherein the document outlined the governance framework for partner collaboration, and aligned the role and responsibilities of all partners, including IRENA which serves as the ETAF secretariat.

124. The Director-General mentioned that 32 project proposals were submitted to the ETAF platform to date, amongst which there were three solar PV projects in Uzbekistan, for a total of 897 MW, that have already benefited from ETAF financial support. He added that these three projects, expected to commence operation in 2024, will produce enough electricity to power more than one million homes or five million people while displacing more than one million tons of CO₂ emission each year. He further mentioned that IRENA is also providing project facilitation support through the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) where 53 projects have benefited from IRENA technical assistance, from which 29 projects are presently under matchmaking with financial partners, and three have already reached financial closure, including a 6.6 MW solar hybrid off-grid project in Nigeria, a 3 MW palm oil mill biogas power plant project in Indonesia, and a 29.99 MW solar PV plant in Malaysia. The Director-General announced that, on 17 May 2023, IRENA conducted the second meeting of the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation which focused on the concept of IRENA investment to accelerate finance for the energy transition and provided innovative financing instrument and solution to Members through the CIP and ETAF. He stressed that the transition will not happen overnight, but history has proven that societies have a great capacity to rise to challenges, develop creative and innovative solutions, and return stronger. He advised that a significant scale-up of investment with governments and public financial institutions will be required, particularly with the Global North playing a major role.

125. Mr Ahmed Badr, Director of Project Facilitation and Support (PFS) Division informed the Council that IRENA acts as a facilitator and not as a bank with regard to the work on ETAF and explained that the work on ETAF represents the efforts by the Agency to expand its knowledge on project facilitation and finance. He stressed the importance of this platform to enable IRENA

to deploy the knowledge ascertained to realise the action on the ground. He referred to the investment partners, ADFD, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Masdar and Swiss RE, as key players who conduct roles as bankers, due diligence and analytical work for investment, that connected the missing link for ETAF and by ensuring projects presented are bankable. Representatives from these institutions were present during the discussion on this matter, as agreed by the Council.

126. In his [presentation](#), Mr Badr added that ETAF's main framework of intervention on the renewable energy transition is supported by several countries. He stressed that to reach the 1.5°C target by 2050, USD 5 trillion per annum of energy investment is needed. He informed that ETAF contributes to this goal by positioning transformative and exemplary projects and noted that ETAF is part of IRENA's collective effort to respond to the global challenge of the energy transition.

127. Mr Badr mentioned that out of the 400 projects being explored from either ETAF or the CIP, 39 projects were fully supported as they had all the elements required to be presented to banks to explore investment interest. He added the Investment Forum is another important tool, which gathers policy makers, banks, and developers within the regional context to explore the challenges in terms of policy development to enable the bankability and elementary regulatory dimension of projects and referred to the first investment forum held in Indonesia in July 2022 as an example. He also described the activities of the CIP, established in 2019, included the support of 53 projects to the bankability stage and has 37 projects presently under the matchmaking stage. He mentioned that the matchmaking involves more than 80 financial partners in the CIP network - consisting of multilateral development bank (MDBs), international financial institutions, and international private sector banks. He further informed that the ETAF platform has a pipeline of 31 projects and reaching over 4 GW of projects under request to receive funding, which reflect the interest from Members.

128. Mr Badr outlined the priorities and upcoming activities of ETAF. He stated that ETAF gives priority to developing countries and seeks all projects from IRENA Members and countries in accession. He added the ETAF platform supports projects in all scales and highlighted the core interest is SIDS, as well as countries in or post-conflict which are termed by the World Bank as fight conflict and volatile (FCV) countries. He also announced that three regional investment forums will take place including a first one in Barbados in May 2023, second one West Africa in October 2023 and the third in Uruguay in November 2023. He added that the ultimate target of ETAF, as agreed with the ADFD as the anchor investor, is to secure the financial closure of 5 GW by 2030.

129. Mr Badr also noted the second meeting of the Collaborative Framework of Project Facilitation took place on 17 May 2023 and announced that the third meeting is planned to take place in October 2023. He expressed gratitude to Austria and Egypt as the Co-facilitators of the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to support on-the-ground energy. Mr Badr declared that the Inter-American Development Bank announced their contribution as a partner recently.

130. Delegations commended the work achieved and expressed their appreciation for the efforts that are currently being undertaken by the Agency. One delegation mentioned the potential presented to fill a huge niche in the climate finance ecosystem and noted the area is ripe for expansion. This delegation also expressed the hope for future projects in developing countries to utilise any future investment in conjunction with long-term self-sustaining business models. A delegation requested further information on the signing of the ETAF charter and requested detailed information on the list of countries where projects are being rolled out and deployed.

131. One delegation outlined their new national climate fund project which can operate in all OECD and EAC recipient countries, is open to third parties, and will serve as a tool to contribute to the achievement of stability objectives in the context of international agreements on climate and environmental protections. This delegation also suggested an evaluation to take place to ensure the applicable rules of their new fund are compatible with ETAF. Another mentioned their national efforts to secure the investment needed for the transition using a range of different levers from planning, reform, targeted spending, and international collaboration. This delegation also mentioned the continuation of their publications on business models which are supported by revenue and capital funding for renewable energy sectors. A delegation mentioned their national efforts on developed and renewable energy policy for incentives through de-risking projects from which they hope to secure more partners through the IRENA platforms to mobilise finance. On the matter of the forums, a delegation requested a more practical showcasing of problematic areas in terms of investigation and on the whereabouts of funds to match the expectations. Another delegation expressed their eagerness to jointly host a regional Investment Forum with the intention of accelerating the mobilisation of more of their projects to the platforms.

132. In his reflection of the interventions made, the Director-General mentioned that the ETAF charter is an instrument to divide the responsibilities of the financial institutions and IRENA and reiterated IRENA's role to provide technical assistance to the finalisation of the project documentation and assessment of the bankability support for countries and projects developed, which would then be sent to the financial institutions. The Director-General confirmed that a draft of the charter will be shared with Members. He informed that IRENA is also receiving projects from private entities, on which governments may express their views on the appropriateness given the realities of their region. He reaffirmed IRENA's efforts to ensure transparency and ownership of projects and informed that Members will be engaged through the convening of quarterly Investment Forum events to cover 16 regional areas. He added that in preparation for COP28, IRENA strives to present a good cluster of funded projects to showcase the Agency's work, and that IRENA is an important instrument to discover other mechanisms that are agile and close to the needs of countries in terms of investment in renewables.

133. The Council considered and took note of the presentations and subsequent discussions.

Agenda Item 11: Administrative and Institutional matters

134. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Maldives, represented by Mr Ahmed Ali, presented the outcome of the Committee meeting held on 21 May 2023, as contained in document C/25/CRP/2. He expressed his appreciation to Germany, as Vice-Chair of the AFC and all Members who participated in the discussions and provided feedback.

135. The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee as contained in document C/25/CRP/2.

a. Human Resources

i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (C/25/4)

136. The Director-General presented the Report on Human Resources Management and Trends as contained in document C/25/4 and noted its complementarity with discussions on strategic

priorities for the next biennium, including during the PSC meeting, where it was outlined that the key programmatic priorities contained in the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2024-2025 must be underpinned by strong support from administrative services, particularly Human Resources. He highlighted that his vision for IRENA requires excellence in all facets of the Agency's work, which must be reflected in human resources management to attract and retain the best qualified professionals, ensure diversity of staff to reflect IRENA's global Membership and improve gender balance, including at the senior level.

137. To realise this vision, the Director-General informed of the development of an enhancement and improvement plan presently under preparation with the assistance of KPMG International Limited (KPMG), which is designed to improve staff retention by reviewing all facets of HR Management and will include recommendations on the way forward. He informed that a comprehensive report of the findings and recommendations will be presented to the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting and invited the Council to review the Human Resources trends and issues raised in the present Report and to provide feedback that will guide the Agency on its next steps.

138. Mr Bruce Neese, Director of Administration and Management Services (AMS) highlighted that the Report responds to the request by the Council, at its twenty-fourth meeting, to provide Human Resources trends relating to staff turnover rate, staff retention measures and years of service, as well as other key indicators, as standard annual reporting to the Council. Providing an [overview](#) of HR initiatives currently being undertaken by the Agency, Mr Neese informed that two job classification reviews were undertaken in 2019 and 2021 by different job evaluation experts and that a final evaluation of selected posts where the experts arrived at divergent results will be conducted in preparation for the upcoming Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025. He further mentioned that upon completion of this final step, a draft implementation plan will be prepared, taking into account the budgetary realities of the Agency.

139. Noting that staff departures will start accelerating from 2024 due to the 9 and 13-year tenure limits for Professional staff and in light of recent experience showing that most staff depart ahead of reaching full tenure, Mr Neese informed that as part of succession planning, senior posts are being advertised well in advance of scheduled staff departures. He further reported that IRENA has started to meet recruiting agencies for assistance with the expected increase in turnover and that the Human Resources unit has established generic rosters by grade for certain job profiles in IRENA's Divisions, which continues to extend to a broader range of posts to provide a basis for setting talent pipelines to ensure efficient and timely hiring outcomes in key functions.

140. Taking into account the views expressed by Members on improving staff retention, Mr Neese announced that in addition to the current LinkedIn training courses, the Secretariat has initiated a pilot programme with Coursera, an online training platform that offers a wide range of cost-effective learning opportunities and intends to broaden the pilot. Mr Neese further informed that a revised performance management directive is presently being circulated to senior management to enhance and clarify management and staff responsibilities and to serve as a basis for refresher training in performance management. In this regard, he stated that IRENA has been using an ERP-based performance appraisal process since 2020 and noted that more work is to be done in this area.

141. Mr Neese informed the Council that, effective 8 March 2023, IRENA established teleworking and telecommuting arrangements for 2023 to allow staff to improve work-life balance whilst ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of IRENA's mandate, noting that such arrangements are in line with the Agency's efforts to create a more supportive and flexible work environment. Mr Neese highlighted that, subsequent to the request of the Council at its twenty-fourth meeting to provide further information and analysis on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and

Inter-Organization Agreement initiatives, the Secretariat engaged an independent expert to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the financial, HR and policy implications of joining these initiatives and to prepare a technical paper outlining the key findings and recommendations for consideration by Members, as presented in document C/25/INF/2.

142. With regard to the HR audit on retention and data currently being conducted by KPMG, Mr Neese informed that this project, which started in mid-April 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023, included an assessment of the current state of HR through a review of all documentation, policies, procedures, HR workshops, as well as interviews with all Directors, staff focus groups and the Host Country. He stated that a report by KPMG detailing the results of the assessment will be shared at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council, and that this report will provide an improvement road map with suggested ‘quick wins’ for early action, medium-term goals, and long-term actions over five years. He further noted that relevant benchmarks will be provided, based on data from international organisations and industry to provide a measurement goal for the future. On the basis of the findings and recommendations of the review, the Secretariat will develop an action plan to systematically address staff retention challenges and implement enhancements to Human Resources management, as well as reporting to IRENA Governing Bodies. Mr Neese highlighted that in preparation for executing the action plan, the filling of vacant HR posts – most of which are Professional staff posts – remains an urgent priority so that recommendations provided by KPMG can be acted upon.

143. Mr Neese also presented a summary of HR trends for Professional staff and General Services staff on both fixed-term and temporary appointments, funded under the regular (core) and project (non-core) budget. He relayed that the average turnover rate for 2022 was 16% which has remained relatively consistent since 2018; and that the average length of service of current staff (180) is 4.4 years, with General Services staff at 6.6 years and Professional staff at 3.8 years.

144. One delegation reiterated that IRENA’s staff are its greatest asset and highlighted that the wellbeing of staff should be the leadership’s top priority to ensure that employees are best placed to serve the Agency. Noting the importance of the HR Management and Trends Report in this regard, the delegation recommended that IRENA provide the Membership with a more detailed Report, including an overview and detailed breakdown of HR data by Division, including core versus non-core staff data, levels, and grades, as well as the organisational chart for each Division, where consultants are engaged and the length of their engagement. The delegation welcomed the HR audit and requested that the findings are shared as soon as they are made available by KPMG, upon completion of the project.

145. Regarding the upcoming developments in senior staff vacancies and appointments, one delegation expressed appreciation for the foresighted approach to succession planning and suggested that the Secretariat informs the Membership about changes in senior staffing, including in cases where new Directors resume their positions or when there are vacancies for senior positions. Another delegation requested that IRENA make every effort to prevent the loss of knowledge, expertise and experience and encouraged the Secretariat to consider devising additional methods to retain these important aspects, such as practicing knowledge management and creating a skills matrix. Reiterating the central role of staff to IRENA’s mission, one delegation called for a “deep dive” on HR related matters at the next meeting of the Council to explore these issues in more detail. This delegation noted that as this could entail some preparatory work by Members, preliminary discussions could potentially be conducted under the AFC or other mechanism, in preparation for discussions at the twenty-sixth Council meeting.

146. The Director-General welcomed the recognition of staff as a valued asset and the emphasis placed on staff retention. He affirmed that the additional information requested on Human

Resources management and trends will be provided to the Membership and informed that the Agency is open to all Members who would like to gain a greater understanding of the Secretariat's work and operations. He welcomed the request for a "deep dive" on HR related matters at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council and proposed that informal consultations could be held with AFC members to prepare for the discussions, given the complex nature of the topic. The Director-General reiterated that the Agency is at a critical juncture as many Professional staff members are reaching their tenure limits and stated that efforts are being made to maintain the Agency's operations, including by engaging recruitment agencies. He emphasised that the Secretariat remains committed to leading the energy transition in support of the Membership and maintaining the high quality of work.

147. The Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends as contained in document C/25/4 and the interventions made, as well as issues raised on this matter in the report of the Administration and Finance Committee.

ii. Update on the initiatives to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the Inter-Organisation Agreement (IOA) (C/25/INF/2)

148. The Director-General presented the Information Note on the Expert evaluation on joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the Inter-Organisation Agreement concerning Transfer, Secondment or Loan of Staff among the Organisations applying the UN Common System of Salaries and Allowances (IOA), contained in document C/25/INF/2. He advised that the document contains a detailed outline of the advantages and disadvantages of joining the UNJSPF and the IOA.

149. Mr Bruce Neese highlighted that the Information Note addresses the request of the Council, at its twenty-fourth meeting, to provide further information and analysis on shifting to the UNJSPF and IOA. He explained that, guided by past discussions of the Council and the AFC on the matter, a technical paper was prepared by an independent consultant, who was the former Chief of the Pension Entitlement Section of the UNJSPF, addressing the costs and benefits as well as opportunities and risks of joining these initiatives.

150. Mr Neese outlined the advantages of joining the UNJSPF in comparison to the IRENA Staff Provident Fund. He informed that based on the current system of the UNJSPF and depending on a staff member's age upon separation, after five years of service, staff members would be eligible for a deferred retirement benefit if they are under the age of 55, early retirement benefit upon reaching the age of 55, or normal retirement benefit at the age of 65. He added that IRENA staff with under five years of service could reach a buy-in agreement using their current accumulated contributions in the IRENA Staff Provident Fund. He further conveyed that joining the UNJSPF may have a positive effect on staff retention, given that eligibility for a guaranteed monthly pension benefit only accrues after five years of service.

151. Mr Neese also listed the disadvantages of joining the UNJSPF, including that the average length of service of IRENA staff is presently 4.4 years, which is inadequate to qualify for a retirement benefit under the UNJSPF. He added that the lump sum withdrawal settlements under the UNJSPF are less favourable than the Staff Provident Fund, as under the latter, after six months of service the lump sum benefit would be equivalent to the total of the participant's contributions plus the contributions of IRENA. In comparison, the UNJSPF entitles only the departing staff's contributions plus 3.25% interest. Furthermore, the UNJSPF may present greater costs to the

Agency due to the need to create a pension fund office potentially staffed by a part-time staff member at the Professional level who may also be required to travel to meetings and training sessions of the UNJSPF. Mr Neese further added that joining the UNJSPF could require implementation of After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) to attract the transfer of United Nations staff, who are typically offered ASHI together with UNJSPF benefits upon retirement.

152. Outlining the advantages of the IRENA Staff Provident Fund, including with respect to the more favourable lump sum settlements as detailed above, Mr Neese informed that under the Staff Provident Fund, there is an opportunity for funds to grow into a larger pay-out depending on financial market returns. Furthermore, the IRENA Staff Provident Fund does not require the implementation of After-Service Health Insurance, nor does it require a pension fund office. In conveying the disadvantages, Mr Neese noted that the IRENA Staff Provident Fund does not offer a guaranteed monthly retirement benefit, that the pay-out is subject to financial market returns, and that the costs of the Staff Provident Fund could be higher if the UNJSPF did not require additional administrative staff. He advised that as a next step, these findings will be presented to IRENA Staff Provident Fund participants for their feedback.

153. With respect to the IOA, Mr Neese noted that while there is no direct cost associated with joining, there are some potential costs once an organisation becomes a member of the IOA, related to the assumption of liabilities of transferring staff. These liabilities include entitlements such as vacation balances, final pay-outs for repatriation grants, moving allowance, home leave, final travel entitlements and possibly the ASHI, should the transferred staff member retire from IRENA. On the other hand, the IOA may present an advantage to the Agency as it widens the talent pool for recruitment and offers increased mobility options for staff, thereby adding to IRENA's attractiveness as an employer of choice. He advised that all members of the IOA would have to vote on IRENA's bid to join, and without UNJSPF participation, there would be no incentive for IOA members to favourably consider IRENA's bid. Any further steps in this regard would therefore have to be assessed after seeking feedback from staff on the UNJSPF.

154. A delegation expressed anticipation of in-depth discussion on the matter during the "deep dive" on HR related matters in October, including hearing the views of IRENA staff on this issue.

155. The Council took note of the update on the initiatives to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the Inter-Organisation Agreement as contained in document C/25/INF/2, and the intervention made, as well as issues raised on this matter in the report of the Administration and Finance Committee.

iii. Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (C/25/5)

156. The Director-General presented the Report on the Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment, contained in document C/25/5. He stated that the proposed change to Staff Rule 105.3 would exclude time served as a General Service staff member toward tenure calculations, when a General Service staff member is appointed to a Professional level post. He noted that this amendment would be consistent with Decision A/12/DC/2 adopted by the Assembly at its twelfth session, whereby tenure restrictions were lifted for General Service staff, with the inclusion of a mandatory retirement age of 65 years. Tenure calculations would therefore apply from the first day a staff member assumes a post at the Professional level.

157. Mr Bruce Neese detailed that the proposed amendment to introduce Staff Rule 105.3 (d) further refines Staff Rule 105.3 and takes into account instances in which staff have been or are

appointed in the future from the General Service category to the Professional category, in line with tenure limits on length of employment. He noted that the proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 offers the opportunity for General Service staff to advance to the Professional level through open competition, without the disadvantage of counting prior time served as a General Service staff member toward tenure limits. This amendment facilitates equity with prospective external candidates who have no such restrictions and helps to build a talent pool internally and assist staff retention.

158. Mr Neese informed that at present, four instances exist of staff being appointed from the General Service category to Professional level, two of which took place under the previous Director-General, and two instances under the incumbent Director-General. He noted that other tenured organisations such as the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) do not count time served as General Service staff towards tenure calculations. He also emphasised that when qualified General Service staff members are appointed to the Professional level, they are fully subject to the applicable tenure limits from the date of their appointment, as per IRENA Staff Rule 105.3 (b).

159. One delegation reiterated the request made during the AFC meeting for detailed information to enable a comprehensive understanding of the issue before making an informed decision, specifically with respect to the entry requirements for General Service posts and Professional level posts respectively, how these requirements are being met when it comes to shifting from the General Service category to the Professional category, as well as the procedures of other international organisations with regard to such movement of staff. This delegation also noted that the proposed amendment is one of many changes that would have to be made in order to fully implement Decision A/12/DC/2 and requested that IRENA does a full analysis of its Staff Rules and policies, including further amendments that may be required.

160. The delegation further pointed out that in previous discussions on tenure, Members had agreed on the need to define the re-entry point of staff who have previously worked at IRENA and separated from service upon reaching maximum tenure. Noting that a four-year break in service was proposed by IRENA at the nineteenth meeting of the Council (C/19/3). The delegation also highlighted that there was no clarity on the hiring of former staff as consultants. The delegation underlined the importance of this policy consideration and requested IRENA to prepare a draft proposal for amendment, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting, and subsequently by the Assembly at its fourteenth session.

161. The Council took note of the Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment as contained in document C/25/5 and the interventions made, as well as issues raised on this matter in the report of the Administration and Finance Committee, including the preparation of a draft proposal for amendment that also considers the issue of the break in service, including the re-hiring of staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure, for consideration at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.

b. Arbitration

i. Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel (C/25/6)

162. Mr Terseli Loial, Legal Advisor, presented the report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel, as contained in document C/25/6. He informed that the Secretariat contacted the members of the current Arbitration Panel, considering that their two-year term is approaching expiration on 18 August 2023. He conveyed that four of the seven current members of the Panel – Ms Jan Beagle, Mr Francis M. Ssekandi, Mr Alberic Kacou, and Ms Maritza Struyvenberg – confirmed their willingness to have their term renewed by the Council for a further two years, and that the other three members did not wish to have their term renewed. In order to ensure that the Arbitration Panel is composed of the requisite number of arbitrators, he advised that the Director-General, in accordance with Rule 7 of the IRENA Provisional Arbitration Rules, proposes that the Council renew the appointment of the abovementioned four arbitrators for a further two-year term from 19 August 2023 to 18 August 2025 and approve for the same two-year term the appointment of two new arbitrators, namely Mr Andreas Vaagt and Mr Jay W. Pozenel. He informed that a detailed curriculum vitae for each of the candidates is available to Members on REmember, the secured area of the IRENA website and that in accordance with Rule 7.1, the Director-General consulted with the IRENA Staff Association, which agreed to the list of proposed arbitrators.

163. **The Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel as contained in document C/25/6 as well as issues raised on this matter in the Report of the Administration and Finance Committee, and agreed to appoint Mr Andreas Vaagt, Ms Jan Beagle, Mr Jay W. Pozenel, Mr Francis M. Ssekandi, Mr Alberic Kacou, and Ms Maritza Struyvenberg to serve on the Arbitration Panel for a two-year term from 19 August 2023 to 18 August 2025.**

ii. Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA (C/25/7)

164. Mr Terseli Loial presented the Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA, as contained in document C/25/7. He advised that no requests for arbitration have been received from staff members in respect of decisions taken by the Director-General since the establishment of the arbitration system in January 2013. He added that the system has therefore not been tested to date and no issue or concern that would need to be addressed has been identified. He conveyed that on this basis the Council may wish to consider the present report and recommend that the Assembly, at its fourteenth session, request the Director-General, after consultation with the staff representative body, to submit to the Assembly at its sixteenth session a report on the operation of the system and recommendations to address issues or concerns that may have been found in the process, including any recommendation or comment by an arbitrator on the need for amendment of the rules.

165. **The Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA as contained in document C/25/7 and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its fourteenth session.**

c. Report of the Director-General - Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken (C/25/8)

166. The Director-General introduced the Report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken (C/25/8) which covers the period 28 September 2022 to 19 April 2023. He listed the activities implemented by the Internal Audit office (IAO) subsequent to the report to the twenty-fourth meeting of the Council (C/24/5), including the submission of a comprehensive audit report to the External Auditor on recommendations and management actions on audit activities for the year 2022, pursuant to Financial Regulation 11.4 (c), as well as the provision of an advisory insight memo on the performance of the Staff Provident Fund given the volatility of global market conditions in 2022. He added that this memo covered areas such as investment strategy and optimal asset allocation mix, fund management approach and governance over provident fund management. A consultant was subsequently engaged by IRENA to perform a strategic investment review of the Fund and made a presentation to participants of the Staff Provident Fund on the proposed revisions to the current fund range, for their consideration.

167. The Director-General further mentioned that the audit on Administration of Justice was also finalised, in accordance with the Audit Plan for the Work Programme and Budget 2022-2023. He informed that this audit reviewed the existing framework for Administration of Justice and that the IAO made recommendations to strengthen and streamline the relevant policies and processes, as well as to communicate and reinforce policy requirements to staff and other personnel in clear, concise, and plain language to ensure clarity on when and how the policy requirements apply. He conveyed that the IAO also made recommendations to develop and implement missing policies and to finalise policies that are currently in a provisional state. He advised that the status of implementation of these audit recommendations will be reported at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council. He further conveyed the IAO followed up on the status of implementation of internal audit recommendations related to the previous audits of consultancy services and the HR policy manual and advised that, based on the results of validation procedures performed, the IAO noted that there has been progress made towards revising HR directives for consultancy services, performance management and recruitment. He added that these directives are expected to be finalised in 2023 and that IAO shall continue to monitor progress towards this end. The Director-General announced that he also received the Annual Audit Report relevant to the audit activities performed in the year 2022, pursuant to Section VIII of the Internal Audit Charter.

168. The Council took note the Report of the Director-General – Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken as contained in document C/25/8.

d. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022 (C/25/9)

169. Mr Bruce Neese presented the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022 as contained in document C/25/9, along with the Report of the External Auditor. He reported that the External Auditor submitted an unqualified audit opinion, confirming that the financial statements represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency at the end of 2022, and that its financial performance and cash flows were in line with applicable Financial Regulations and Procedures and in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards. He advised that the External Auditor raised one new audit recommendation relating to fixed asset disposals, and that there are presently two outstanding external audit recommendations.

170. Mr Neese provided a summary of the financial statements which reflected that USD 31.3 million, or 96.6 % of the 2022 budget of USD 32.4 million was utilised, and that Members paid 94.2 % of their assessed contributions in 2022. He added that the voluntary contributions to programmatic activities amounted to USD 26 million, which represented 46 % of total revenue received during the same period. He informed that the Agency had a financial statement surplus of USD 400,000 for 2022, with USD 75,000 in core cash surplus, as reflected in Note 18 of the financial statements.

171. The Council took note of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022 as contained in document C/25/9 and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its fourteenth session.

e. 2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (C/25/10)

172. Mr Bruce Neese, in his capacity as Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board, presented the 2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA as well as the Financial Statements of the Provident Fund for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, as contained in document C/25/10. He relayed that in 2022, the activities of the Provident Fund Management Board included a formal quarterly review of the Fund with Zurich LLC, the administrator of the Fund, and that the Fund's total net assets were valued at USD 23,111,415 in 2022. He informed that the performance of the Fund was closely monitored by the Staff Provident Fund Management Board in light of the extreme volatility associated with conflicts, global supply chain issues and fastest increase in interest rates since the 1980s, causing a significant loss in 2022. To date in 2023 the fund has witnessed a modest recovery. He further reported that the 2022 Financial Statements of the Staff Provident Fund were audited by the External Auditor of the Agency, Lochan & Co., and that the External Auditor rendered an unqualified audit opinion, confirming that the financial statements represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Staff Provident Fund. He reported that as of 31 December 2022 there were 175 participants in the Provident Fund and that the Provident Fund Management Board had met formally four times during the year.

173. The Council took note of the 2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA as contained in document C/25/10, as well as the issues raised on this matter in the report of the Administration and Finance Committee and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its fourteenth session.

f. Ethics Advisory Board - Appointment of Ethics Advisory Board members

174. The Chair announced the approaching end of term for Algeria, Germany and the UAE who were appointed to the Ethics Advisory Board at the twenty-first meeting of the Council for a two-year period. He announced that Germany and the UAE expressed their interest to continue in their role for a further term. He informed the Council that in response to the call for expressions of interest contained in the Notification of the Director-General, the USA shared its willingness to serve on the Ethics Advisory Board. He proposed the appointment of Germany, UAE, and USA as members of the Ethics Advisory Board for a two-year term from 2023 to 2025.

175. The Council appointed Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America as members of the Ethics Advisory Board for a two-year term from 2023 to 2025.

176. In his acknowledgement of the important role that the Ethics Advisory Board plays in the implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest of the Agency, the Chair expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Board members for having made themselves available. He congratulated the newly appointed Board members and invited the Director-General, the Ethics Officer of IRENA and the Ethics Advisory Board to jointly work together, as and when necessary.

177. As a serving member of Ethics Advisory Board, H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany of the UAE, expressed her honour to continue to serve on the Board. She highlighted that no ethical issue has arisen for attention by the Board and reflected that the application of excellent ethical standards within the Agency may be the reason there was no advice sought to date. Noting that the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest was adopted by the Assembly at its second session in 2012 and given the growth of the Agency in substantial, technical and institutional terms, she proposed a review of the process and procedures of the Policy in response to the evolution and growth of the Agency, and informed that the Ethics Advisory Board can provide an update on this review at the next meeting of the Council.

g. Committee membership and Chairmanship (AFC and PSC)

178. The Chair announced that the term of the current members of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), and the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) will come to an end at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council. He informed the Council that on 3 March 2023, the Secretariat invited IRENA Members to indicate their interest in the membership of the AFC and the PSC by 17 March 2023 with due consideration given to geographical distribution. The Chair also recalled that the two Committees have been encouraged by the Assembly and the Council to conduct their formal business in an open and participatory manner by providing all Members of the Agency the opportunity to participate equally in all Committee activities.

179. The Chair announced that the proposal for the membership of AFC for 2023 to 2025 is Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iraq, Togo, Tonga, Saint Lucia, and United Arab Emirates. He further announced that the proposal for the membership of the PSC for 2023 to 2025 is Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, El Salvador, Japan, Kenya, Singapore, Türkiye, USA, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe.

180. The Chair conveyed that the designations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the AFC will be communicated to the Council. He further conveyed that an expression of interest was received from El Salvador to serve as Chair of the PSC, and from the USA to serve as Vice-Chair.

181. The Council appointed Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iraq, Togo, Tonga, Saint Lucia, and United Arab Emirates as the members of the Administration and Finance Committee.

182. The Council appointed Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, El Salvador, Japan, Kenya, Singapore, Türkiye, United States of America, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe as members of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

183. The Council agreed and appointed El Salvador as Chair and United States of America as Vice-Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

184. The Chair congratulated the new members of the Committees and wished them success in their deliberations. He thanked the outgoing Committee members for their insightful and constructive discussions, as well as for the valuable feedback and guidance in the implementation of the work of the Agency.

Agenda Item 12: Arrangements for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council

185. The Chair noted the Secretariat's proposal to hold the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council on 19-20 October 2023 in-person in Abu Dhabi, with the related meetings of the subsidiary organs, the AFC and the PSC, scheduled to take place on 18 October 2023, in-person to allow for dynamic exchanges of views. The Chair called upon the Secretariat to propose dates for the Council meetings in 2024 for consideration by the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting.

186. The Chair informed the Council of the expressions of interest received from the USA and Panama to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council, respectively. He also informed the Council that the Secretariat will approach the Africa Group and the Asia and the Pacific Group on the proposal for designations of Chair and Vice-Chair of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council.

187. The Council took note and agreed that the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council will take place in Abu Dhabi on 19-20 October 2023, with the in-person meetings of the subsidiary organs scheduled for 18 October 2023. The Council also agreed to consider the proposed dates for its meetings in 2024 at the twenty-sixth meeting.

188. The Council designated the United States of America as Chair, and Panama as Vice-Chair of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item 13: Any other business

i. Further considerations on the proposal for the establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA (C/25/INF/3)

189. The Chair introduced the item and recalled that at its twenty-fourth meeting, the Council considered and took note of a proposal by Singapore to establish a regional office and subsequently agreed to establish an Open-Ended Group for Members to discuss matters relating to the Establishment of IRENA Regional offices.

190. Dr Mohamed El Khayat, Executive Chairman of the New and Renewable Energy Authority of Egypt, in his capacity as Facilitator, reported on the outcome of the first meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA (OEG) since the last Council meeting in October 2022. He recalled the background on the establishment of the OEG and its intended purpose and noted that the OEG met in a virtual format, on 27 February 2023 and was attended by 70 participants representing 42 Members. He expressed his gratitude to the participants of the OEG meeting for their participation and for providing their views and feedback.

191. Dr El Khayat shared a [summary](#) of suggestions and feedback received wherein some participants underlined that considerations should include some overarching and strategic implications of establishing regional offices on the functioning of the Agency, on how it might fulfil its mission, as well as on its interaction with Members in alignment with IRENA's objectives. He conveyed that, in addition to defining and focusing first on the urgent necessity of the establishment of regional offices, participants also mentioned the need to expand areas of discussion to include a common understanding of the strategic imperative of such regional offices, a clear vision of the rationale and purpose of establishing regional offices as well as a comprehensive alignment with the development strategy of IRENA. He noted that the issues raised by participants in their interventions included the need for detailed analyses on administrative, budgetary, procedural, and programmatic aspects of regional offices, as well as the

development of a roadmap outlining the process and timelines to guide discussions in a structured manner. He relayed that some participants highlighted that this roadmap may include the importance of establishing an open and transparent process as well as an equitable geographical scope and distribution of potential offices, should there be an indication to pursue such options.

192. Dr El Khayat informed that a participant suggested that Singapore could elaborate on its proposal submitted for a regional office in Singapore, including the associated resource requirements, budgetary implications, and sustainability, as well as addressing other issues raised by Members. He stressed that participants emphasised that there should be no additional increase on Members' assessed contributions. He conveyed participants' reflections which included the difficulties associated with time zones for attendance to virtual meetings by countries located in the Asia and the Pacific region; the source of financing for such regional offices; the fairness of a system for selecting country locations of regional offices; and the potential development of a survey to gather views of the Membership. Dr El Khayat invited the Council to consider the issues raised and provide guidance, and further requested the Secretariat to provide more information on the areas that require clarification.

193. The Director-General noted that the presentation covered open and pragmatic exchanges of significance to Members. He highlighted that achieving the Paris Agreement goal requires international cooperation and mentioned the benefits of a global approach, as witnessed through interaction amongst IRENA's 168 Members and 16 States in Accession. He underscored that IRENA's Membership is both diverse and global, which equips the Agency with the comparative advantage to support the Membership through the strong regional engagement and collaboration it requires. He mentioned that examples of regional collaboration such as the Investment Forums, as well as further improving the global findings of IRENA's WETO and Regional Energy Transition Outlooks, will facilitate collaboration and provide a coordination mechanism across various levels, facilitate first-hand data collection, enable efficiency gains and added value, and will also avoid duplication of work. He reflected that IRENA's forward-looking mandate requires forward-looking actions, which in turn requires in-depth planning along with administrative and programmatic considerations in order to have a definite impact. He thanked Members for their feedback and engagement in this discussion, and anticipated guidance from Members on various elements to achieve further clarity in moving forward.

194. Delegations thanked the Chair of the OEG and its members for the report and facilitation of discussions on the matter. One delegation mentioned the diverse challenges faced by Southeast Asian countries and suggested that IRENA could provide tailor-made regional support. It stressed the zero nominal growth policy being applied to budgets for international organisations and suggested that separate consideration could be given to the establishment of a regional office in Singapore, apart from the discussion regarding the potential establishment of other regional offices. Some delegations highlighted the importance of collaboration and suggested that the regional offices could serve as a practical tool to better understand different priorities and needs of Members in various regions, as well as to better tailor IRENA's analytical work and initiatives. One delegation underlined the need for defining and evaluating clear procedures, guidelines, and policies to enable effective coordination, cooperation and efficient utilisation of resources when considering any potential establishment of regional offices.

195. A delegation outlined the need for a comprehensive discussion on the means of funding, including whether the benefits and values gained by IRENA and its Membership would outweigh the cost of funding and management of potential regional offices. One delegation underscored that regional offices should neither be funded by existing resources of the Agency nor incur an increase in the assessed contributions of IRENA Members, while emphasising that the energy transition urgently requires very careful allocation of resources and commitments for investments, which, as stated in IRENA's analysis on finance, have not been met. This delegation further

pointed out that any discussion on the location of such offices should be taken with extreme caution and study due to the particular needs and priorities of each and every region. A delegation expressed its concerns regarding the budgetary implication of setting up regional offices and the need for long-term financial commitment, highlighting that sporadic voluntary contributions are not a reliable source to overcome budget constraints.

196. Another delegation further underlined the need for first gaining clarity and consensus on the establishment of regional offices in general, prior to engaging in specific discussions on potential regions and location. It highlighted that the establishment of regional offices would mark a major change to the general approach of IRENA to permanent representations around the world, and cautioned that careful assessment of the issue is required moving forward, including with respect to the strategic meaning of regional offices and their added value to the programmatic foundation of the Agency.

197. Delegations emphasised that the rationale and viability of regional offices should first be determined, with one delegation reiterating their view that the first priority of discussion on this matter would be to clearly determine the rationale, or lack thereof, for the creation of regional offices and how they would better position IRENA to meet its objective when compared with its current institutional arrangement. An exploration on the coherence of establishing regional offices with the Medium-term Strategy was also highlighted by one delegation as a necessary condition, in addition to ensuring that potential regional offices would complement each other functionally, instead of focusing only on geographic expansion. A delegation stipulated the necessity to ensure that all Members are given equal opportunities to host regional offices and embrace inclusivity.

198. Some delegations added the need for amendments to the IRENA Statute or Rules of Procedure to be considered, for clarity on the relationship between IRENA and any such regional offices and to prevent duplication. In this regard, one delegation highlighted the need for further discussion on how IRENA's work and mandate can benefit from regional offices and requested that more details be provided on IRENA's regional work by Division, and how such work could be improved or constrained by regional offices. One delegation mentioned that a survey by IRENA would facilitate the decision-making of the Council.

199. Delegations underscored the crucial element to align the creation of regional offices with IRENA's mandate, with one delegation emphasising IRENA's existing critical mandate, reiterating the need for justification of regional offices and cautioning against institutional redundancies. This delegation noted that such an endeavour would have far-reaching and long-term implications and would therefore require detailed analysis and deliberations on the issues involved before it is considered by the wider Membership at the Assembly.

200. The Director-General expressed appreciation for Members' inputs and feedback. He acknowledged that a deeper understanding of the feasibility of establishing regional offices is needed and that relevant documentation needs to be prepared to allow Members to examine this matter. He also mentioned that the demand for regional offices was unforeseen when establishing the Agency, which explains the absence of relevant provisions in the IRENA Statute. He further acknowledged the importance of Members' attention to IRENA's resource needs in relation to the tasks required by regional offices, should they wish to proceed on this matter. He confirmed that the Secretariat stands ready to provide further information as needed by Members for further discussion under the Open-Ended Group.

201. The Council took note of the report by the Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group on the establishment of regional offices of IRENA. The Council also agreed to continue the discussion on this matter under the umbrella of the Open-Ended Group, taking into

account the views expressed, with a view to providing a summary of its deliberations at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.

ii. Other matters raised by Members

202. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates provided an update on the proposal made at the eleventh session of the Assembly for the establishment of an International Day for Renewable Energy. The delegation advised that the UAE, in partnership with Panama, prepared a resolution document to be presented to the United Nations in June to establish the International Day for Renewable Energy on 26 January, the day IRENA was founded, and invited IRENA Members to support this resolution.

203. The Council took note of the update provided.

Agenda Item 14: Closing of the meeting

204. In his closing statement, the Director-General expressed his gratitude to the Chair and the Vice-Chair for the smooth conduct of the deliberations at the Council meeting, as well as Members for the rich discussion on relevant topics including mineral, geothermal and finance. He expressed his hope that the outcomes from the Council discussion can contribute to Members in building a new narrative for COP28 around closing the disparity gap. He thanked the Members for their comments on the WETO, as well as their efforts and feedback on the Agency's Human Resources initiatives which focused on securing and retaining the best personnel. He informed that the Secretariat would provide the follow-up information that was requested on the various topics. He commended the work of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council and added that it laid a solid foundation on which the future work will build upon.

205. The Chair conveyed his honour on guiding the work of the Council meeting. He reflected on the fruitful work of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council where the implementation of the current Work Programme, and the Preliminary Framework for the next biennium, allowed the Council to delve deep into the strategic direction for the Agency to remain relevant and to better serve countries - in particular SIDS and LDCs. He stressed that Members must continue to anchor short-term renewable energy goals within COP28, with the understanding that long-term goals will be achieved. He noted the discussions will allow IRENA to remain relevant and to serve as the policy force behind the implementation goals of the Paris Agreement as well as developing countries' national development plans and NDCs.

206. The Chair advised that the meeting revealed that IRENA is on the right renewable pathway, must continue to be the voice of the most vulnerable group of countries, and must also assist in the work on renewable energy policy. He added that IRENA has to continue to advocate for the availability of financing that would allow its Members to access the type of financing required for the energy transition. He noted that the discussions on the global status of geothermal market and technology, the global landscape of renewable energy finance, and accelerating finance for energy transition will allow continued collaboration across the international community and will also create the space for the action areas of IRENA to be more focused. He anticipated continued progress at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council in October 2023. He expressed appreciation to the Vice-Chair, and to the Council members for their contribution to the rich discussions. He expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat for all the support provided, as well as the interpreters and those working behind the scenes.

207. The Chair declared the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council closed.



23 May 2023

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Organisation of work**
 - a. Election of officials
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
3. **On the Road to COP28 – Renewables- based energy transition and critical materials**
4. **Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023**
5. **Reports on Collaborative Frameworks**
6. **Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025**
7. **General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**
8. **Programmatic discussion on Global Status of Geothermal Market and Technology**
9. **Programmatic discussion on Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance**
10. **Programmatic discussion on Accelerating Finance for Energy Transition**
11. **Administrative and Institutional matters**
 - a. Human Resources
 - i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends
 - ii. Update on the initiatives to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the Inter-Organisation Agreement (IOA)
 - iii. Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment
 - b. Arbitration
 - i. Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel
 - ii. Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA
 - c. Report of the Director-General - Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken
 - d. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022

- e. 2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA
- f. Ethics Advisory Board - Appointment of Ethics Advisory Board members
- g. Committee membership and Chairmanship (AFC and PSC)

12. Arrangements for the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council

13. Any other business

- i. Further considerations on the proposal for the establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA
- ii. Other matters raised by Members

14. Closing of the meeting

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (hereafter “PSC” or “Committee”) met on 22 May 2023. All Committee members attended the meeting, including Algeria (Vice-Chair of the PSC). The Committee reflected on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, including updates on the Collaborative Frameworks, and focused discussions on the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025.

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 May 2023.

Chair’s Summary of the outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting

1. Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (C/25/2), including updates on Collaborative Frameworks

The Secretariat briefed participants on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 and shared some programmatic highlights. Participants offered the following views and comments:

- The PSC welcomed the progress made in the implementation of programmatic activities, and expressed gratitude to IRENA for its work in this regard.
- The PSC expressed appreciation for the high quality knowledge products developed that provide invaluable support to national planning and policy making.
- Participants commended IRENA’s programmatic activities in support of the energy transitions of African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Participants emphasised the uneven distribution of climate investments across countries and regions. A participant also welcomed the work of Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform and Climate Investment Platform and expressed support for them in becoming a centerpiece of the Work Programme and Budget 2024-2025.
- Participants recognised the Collaborative Frameworks as important fora for discussions and encouraged IRENA to expand engagement with national experts and stakeholders

from across sectors. A participant also underlined IRENA's role at building and driving coalitions and collaborations, and called on the Agency to become a collaboration center.

- A participant expressed hope that the Alliance for Industry Decarbonization events can involve a wide array of organizations pursuing industrial decarbonization, and that initiatives under this umbrella can be aligned and streamlined.
- A participant proposed that IRENA support Members in managing their workload by mapping out energy transition workstreams and events and pointing out overlaps and gaps between initiatives and organizational mandates.
- Participants emphasised that IRENA needs to play an important strategic role in the preparation and delivery of COP28, in partnership with the UAE Presidency and all stakeholders, and called on IRENA to keep the Membership abreast of COP28 planning and development. A participant also expressed hope that Energy Transition Hub can be a keystone attraction at COP-28.

2. Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (C/25/3).

The Director-General introduced the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025.

Participants offered the following views and comments:

- The PSC welcomed the Preliminary Framework and the programmatic priorities as a sound basis for the development of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025. One participant proposed to include technology in the areas of priority, given its importance for energy transitions.
- A participant welcomed the attention on the obstacles to the energy transition, while remaining focusing on the realisation of ongoing priorities. Another participant commended the proposed refocusing on fewer but more impactful outputs such as flagships and reports with regional focus.
- A participant underlined the need to showcase in practical terms how clean energy systems can be secure and resilient and called on IRENA to demonstrate the security and resilience inherent in a renewables-based system.
- The PSC welcomed the plans under the pillar on Centre of Excellence for Energy Transformation.
- The PSC noted the importance of the pillar on International Collaboration and Network Hub, underlining the criticality of forging collaboration and coordinating international energy transition efforts.

- The PSC welcomed the focus of the pillar on Global Voice of Renewables and requested continued support and collaboration in physical infrastructure development regarding green manufacturing, clean cooking and energy access.
- A participant expressed supports for the pillar on Support for Regions and Countries, especially the work on SIDS, African countries and LDCs, and encouraged IRENA to enhance the links between this and the project facilitation pillar.
- The PSC welcomed the plans on Facilitating Projects and Mobilising Capital, in Developing Countries underling the importance of supporting access to finance and encouraged Member collaboration to this end.
- Participants underlined the need for budgetary stability and welcomed the reference to the use of non-core contributions.
- A participant proposed to elevate critical materials and supply chains to its own programmatic priority due to their increased significance as part of the renewable energy transition, while ensuring that SIDS, African countries, and LDCs are included in critical materials and supply chains efforts.
- A participant welcomed the reference to the establishment of a results-based framework to demonstrate IRENA's added value and to ensure IRENA becomes more efficient, impactful and accountable institute.

Other bussiness

- PSC called for a more active role by the Committee to review programmatic implementation, holding interactive and topical discussions with Members' support.

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee (hereafter “AFC” or “Committee”) met on 22 May 2023. It reviewed matters related to Human Resources, Arbitration, Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken, Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022, as well as the 2022 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA.

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its twenty-fifth meeting on 24 May 2023.

Chair’s Summary of the outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting

The following comments and recommendations were made:

1. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends

- The Director-General introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General – Human Resources Management and Trends, contained in document C/25/4, highlighting that the strategic priorities for the next biennium must be underpinned by strong support from administrative services, and in particular Human Resources.
- The Secretariat provided a detailed overview of the report, which included the following Human Resources initiatives and activities: ongoing job classification review; succession planning in light of planned staff departures in the coming period; building a talent pipeline through the establishment of generic rosters according to job profiles; online learning opportunities; performance management directive and training for staff; teleworking and telecommuting arrangements; a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and Inter-Organization Agreement (IOA) initiatives; the engagement of an external consultancy (KPMG) to conduct a Human Resources audit, examine retention issues and refine Human Resources reporting and planned Human Resources improvement roadmap based on the findings of this audit, as well as addressing the urgency of filling vacant Human Resources posts as a matter of priority so that recommendations provided by KPMG can be accomplished.
- Participants thanked the Secretariat for the detailed information and stressed that staff are the greatest asset of the Agency. One participant highlighted the significance of the Human Resources Management and Trends Report and suggested that the report be issued more regularly and in a more detailed form, including the provision of detailed breakdown of key Human Resources data by Divisions, core vs. non-core staff data, as well as work areas in which consultants are engaged, and the length of their engagement.
- Some participants welcomed the Human Resources audit being conducted by an external consulting firm and expressed that they look forward to reviewing the results as soon as the report has been finalised in preparation for discussions on the matter at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.

- While noting that the tenure policy has not been the reason for early staff departures to date, one participant suggested that examining staff exit questionnaires could be helpful in providing insight on staff turn-over rates at the Agency. The participant also noted that eliciting staff feedback on their pension plan preferences would provide useful inputs for the ongoing review of Agency's intention to join the UNJPSF.
 - Another participant highlighted the value of various data points in the report, especially given their interest in considering secondment and loaned officer arrangements with IRENA in the future.
 - The Secretariat welcomed the comments on the importance of staff at the Agency and informed that the results of the ongoing audit of Human Resources would provide greater clarity in relation to Human Resources matters at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council, including with respect to enhancements to the report as well as additional actions that could be taken in this regard.
 - The AFC took note of the report as well as interventions, questions and observations made, and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.
- 2. Update on the initiatives to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the Inter-Organisation Agreement (IOA)**
- The Deputy Director-General introduced the 'Information Note on the Expert Evaluation on joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the Inter-Organisation Agreement (IOA)', contained in document C/25/INF/2.
 - The Secretariat presented the initiatives to join the UNJSPF and IOA and provided a detailed outline of the technical paper prepared by an external UNJPSF expert including the costs, benefits, risks and opportunities of joining these entities.
 - One participant welcomed the assessment of UNJSPF and IOA and pointed out that the disadvantages of the participation in UNJSPF and IOA seem to outweigh advantages.
 - The Secretariat informed that the feedback will be taken on board, including with respect to obtaining staff views on pension plan preferences.
 - The AFC took note of the report as well as interventions, questions and observations made and decided to submit it to the Council.
- 3. Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment**
- The Deputy Director-General introduced the 'Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment', contained in document C/25/5.
 - The Secretariat informed that the proposed amendment to introduce Staff Rule 105.3 (d) further refines Staff Rule 105.3 and takes into account instances in which staff have been or are appointed in the future from the General Services category, which has no tenure limits, to the Professional category, which has tenure limits on length of employment. The Secretariat further stated that the proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 offers the opportunity for General Services staff to advance to the Professional level through open competition without the disadvantage of counting prior time served under the General Services category toward tenure limits, thereby facilitating equity with prospective external candidates who do not have such restrictions.
 - One participant stated that before making an informed decision, more information is needed on the following: the relevance of this amendment vis-a-vis the number of staff that have been appointed or are under consideration to be appointed from General Services to the Professional category; the requirements for appointment to the General Services category and Professional category respectively as well as how this will change when it comes to shifting to the Professional category; and the rules and procedures of other organisations with regard to such movement of staff from the General Services to Professional category. This participant also highlighted that this issue is one of many

changes the Council has to make, if the decision of the twelfth Assembly is to be fully implemented. The participant further enquired if IRENA has done a full analysis of its Staff Rules and policies, including further amendments that may be required in light of the Decision by the twelfth Assembly on the matter.

- The participant further pointed out that in previous discussions on tenure, the AFC had decided to define the re-entry point of staff, who have previously worked at IRENA and would have to leave the Agency due to reaching maximum tenure. The suggested break in service proposed by IRENA during the nineteenth Council was four years. (C/19/3 dated 4 October 2020). However, document C/19/3 did not clarify if former staff who have reached maximum tenure can immediately be re-hired as consultants. The participant requested that IRENA prepares, for the twenty-sixth Council meeting, a draft proposal for amendment, for consideration at the fourteenth session of the Assembly, that considers the issue of the break in service, including the re-hiring of staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure.
- The Secretariat took note of this request and committed to preparing the required information for consideration by the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting.
- The AFC took note of the report as well as interventions, questions and observation made and decided to submit it to the Council.

4. Report of the Director General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel

- The Secretariat introduced the 'Report of the Director General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel', contained in document C/25/6. The Secretariat presented six candidates willing to serve as members of the Arbitration Panel during the period August 2023 to August 2025.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.

5. Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA

- The Secretariat introduced the 'Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA', contained in document C/25/7.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration

6. Report of the Director-General – Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken

- The Deputy Director-General introduced 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/25/8.
- The AFC considered the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration

7. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022

- The Secretariat introduced the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2022', contained in document C/25/9.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.

8. 2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA

- The Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board introduced the '2022 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA', contained in document C/25/10.

- One participant noted the losses made in Staff Provident Fund statements and proposed that the Provident Fund Management Board consider diversifying the allocation of the Staff Provident Fund resources, allowing Staff Provident Fund members a choice of their asset allocations.
- The Chair of the Provident Fund Management Board informed that several review meetings were held with Staff Provident Fund members to assess the performance of the Fund. In addition, an external consultant was engaged to conduct a thorough review of the performance of the Fund and recommend investment options, considering the diversity of the Fund's membership. As a result of these measures, the Provident Fund Management Board has made several new investment options available to the members, to take effect in June 2023.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.

9. Any other business

- One participant noted the new in-person setting for the AFC meeting after the Covid pandemic and suggested that more informal discussions and exchanges take place prior to next Council meeting to ensure that the meetings of the PSC and AFC are more dynamic in terms of the information presented and exchange of views on the various issues.

Abu Dhabi, 18 May 2023

Twenty-fifth IRENA Council and related meetings**INFORMATION NOTE****Reports on Collaborative Frameworks**

In response to Members' requests at the tenth session of the Assembly, and as recently as the twelfth session of the Assembly on several technologies and other themes for which they wished IRENA to facilitate targeted collaboration tailored to the associated opportunities and challenges, IRENA's Collaborative Frameworks have been established to promote engagement, facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, and enrich programmatic output. Mindful of the work already undertaken by the Agency, the wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists within our Membership and the advantages that may be reaped through wider global cooperation with other entities, the work of the Collaborative Frameworks continue to evolve to highlight the Agency's commitment to enhancing Member engagement and fostering ownership of programmatic output, while enabling peer-to-peer collaboration and exchange of national experiences, challenges, and respective solutions, including with stakeholders, where appropriate.

To date, eight Collaborative Frameworks have been established on relevant themes that reflect growing interest amongst the Membership for deeper insight into specific topics and technologies that are critical to accelerate the energy transition across countries, regions and the world. These include Critical Materials for the energy transition, Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems, Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, Green Hydrogen, Hydropower, Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions, Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables, and Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground energy transition.

The Collaborative Frameworks serve as effective vehicles for dialogue, cooperation and coordinated action for the benefit of the global renewable energy transformation. The Collaborative Frameworks have successfully held several meetings to date, guided by their scope of work as agreed by their respective members. To ensure a member-driven approach to the activities, each Collaborative Framework is Co-Facilitated by two IRENA Members who are elected to serve for a term of one to two years. Co-Facilitators steer the meetings and discussions held under the respective Collaborative Frameworks.

The following reports on the Collaborative Frameworks, presented to the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council, provide an update on the latest developments and activities of the Collaborative Frameworks. Members may wish to provide their feedback on these activities during their interventions, when this matter is considered by the Council on 23 May 2023, under agenda item 5 'Reports on Collaborative Frameworks'.

Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions

The urgency to accelerate the energy transition remains pressing as the world faces a wide range of crises ranging from the climate emergency to energy security needs and sustainable development imperatives. Enabling energy transitions at the speed and scale required will require tapping into a diverse pool of talents to meet national and international energy objectives and to address current and future skills shortages. In addition, comprehensive policy frameworks are needed to harness the potential of the energy transition to create jobs in all parts of the world, while ensuring that the jobs being created are decent jobs, that misalignments that will occur as part of the transition are addressed and that a wide range of groups including women and marginalised groups can benefit from these opportunities.

As countries are seeking to meet these challenges, the Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions, co-facilitated by South Africa and the United States of America, has focused on facilitating experience sharing and identifying avenues for international collaboration and action in line with priorities identified at the second meeting of the Collaborative Framework in October 2021.

On 27 March 2023, a virtual *Consultation on Workforce Development Priorities and Experiences* was convened for IRENA Members and stakeholders, bringing together 85 participants consisting of government and intergovernmental representatives, along with members from the private sector and civil society, to share their initiatives, ideas and lessons learned. Discussions highlighted the need for various approaches, including broad national just transition plans for workers and students to undergo training, educational programmes to address the skills needs of the energy transition as well as pursuing public-private partnerships. From a developing country perspective, it was emphasised that local value creation will be particularly crucial in ensuring that jobs are also created and sustained locally. In terms of inclusion, several IRENA Members and stakeholders offered examples of ongoing programmes that support women, marginalised groups, as well as communities that are expected to be adversely impacted. Several policy challenges were mentioned such as determining the sources of investments and the roles of public and private financing to facilitate the comprehensive policies needed for the energy transition, as well as options for addressing existing barriers to entry of several underrepresented groups to ensure their equitable participation in the transition. The discussions built on insights from the Roundtable on *Making Energy Transitions Work for People: Decent Jobs, Skills, Livelihoods and Inclusion* that was organised on 15 November 2022 at the margins of COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh in the IRENA pavilion.

In addition, the Co-facilitators supported a dialogue series under the umbrella of the IRENA Coalition for Action and chaired by the International Labour Organization to gather perspectives from labour and employer organisations on just and inclusive energy transitions. This included the Public-Private Dialogue on *Towards Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions: Social dialogue, skills, and decent jobs for all* held at the margins of the thirteenth session of the IRENA Assembly in January 2023. Insights from these discussions are being incorporated into a brief by the Coalition's Sustainable Energy Jobs Working Group.

The feedback received to date will also inform IRENA's ongoing and planned work in this space, particularly in light of the upcoming Work Programme for 2024-2025.

Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen

In 2023, two meetings, facilitated by Germany and the United Arab Emirates as Co-Facilitators, were planned for the Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen (CFGH). The meetings will focus on taking stock of global hydrogen deployment after years of strategy development and project announcements. Participants, including governments and industry stakeholders, will be invited to share their experiences on the barriers they face in scaling up hydrogen deployment.

The seventh meeting of the CFGH took place in a virtual format on 26 April 2023. To provide a complete picture of the current status quo, this meeting focused on the demand side of hydrogen, while the eighth meeting, to be held later this year, will focus on the supply side as well as how developing countries can benefit from the evolving hydrogen value chains.

Both meetings are closely linked to each other and will provide valuable insight for discussions at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, an important result-oriented milestone for all stakeholders to discuss potential bottlenecks in the field of hydrogen and catalyse solutions. Discussions at the CFGH meetings may also serve to shed light on where the world stands in bringing hydrogen and its derivatives forward for a sustainable global energy transition.

These meetings will be crucial in assessing progress and identifying challenges and opportunities related to hydrogen deployment. By bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences, the CFGH will help to create a more comprehensive understanding of the current state of hydrogen deployment and advance the development of solutions to overcome existing barriers. Given the emphasis on the need for multilateral collaboration, including under Japan's G7 Presidency for 2023, amongst others, this collaborative effort will help to ensure a coordinated global approach to scaling up hydrogen deployment.

The following conclusions were drawn from statements made at the 7th meeting of the CFGH:

- Taking stock of where the world stands in terms of green hydrogen and derivatives demand needs is crucial in understanding the progress made in recent years. Many strategies and project plans have been launched, with most countries focusing on hard-to-abate sectors.
- The demand for hydrogen and its derivatives, for instance in the steel and shipping industries, is expected to rise substantially due to the increasing number of projects being implemented at both small and large scales.
- Efforts are being made towards demand creation as well as building skills and capacity to fill in the technical knowledge gaps related to the production and use of hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives.
- The last two years have seen an evolving policy and regulatory framework landscape, which is essential for the successful creation of demand. It is important to continue monitoring progress and adapting strategies. There are a variety of policy measures needed to ramp up green hydrogen production and use, including common standards for trade, achieving the targets set by the Paris Agreement, and promoting local production of green hydrogen in regions like Africa.
- Promising policy and regulatory developments are taking place, such as the European Union Hydrogen Bank, the Japanese tax credit, and the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States of America.
- Life cycle assessments (LCA) are complex but effective tools for assessing the carbon footprint of any product and should be used to closely align incentives with emissions. It is essential to create value chains that are sustainable in a broader sense.

- It is important to avoid leaving developing countries behind in the development of future hydrogen value chains, given the existing renewable resources in these countries.
- Green hydrogen has the potential to not only reduce carbon emissions but also drive a new pathway for industrial development in the global South. The local production of green hydrogen and its derivatives in the African continent, for example, could trigger a local production of fertilizers and provide added value to green hydrogen's national demand. Therefore, it is important to consider the potential benefits of green hydrogen beyond its impact on carbon emissions and to explore ways to leverage its adoption for broader industrial and economic development.

Next steps:

- ❖ On 25-28 September 2023 at the IRENA Innovation Week 2023, a session on green hydrogen, open to the participation of all CFGH members, will be held.
- ❖ The eighth CFGH meeting, focusing on the supply side, is planned for Q3 of 2023.
- ❖ IRENA is supporting Japan's G7 Presidency in 2023 with two reports. One report will focus on hydrogen, covering all aspects around sustainable hydrogen production and trade from remote and developing regions, and CFGH participants will be invited to provide input.

Collaborative Framework on Hydropower

Since the last report to the Council, the Collaborative Framework on Hydropower held its fifth and sixth meetings in December 2022 and May 2023, respectively.

The fifth meeting of the Collaborative Framework served as an opportunity to update the Membership on the outcomes of the International Conference on Hydropower Financing in Developing Countries, co-organised with the Government of Switzerland. Building on the momentum of the Conference, this meeting featured a presentation on the potential roles of hydropower in the future energy mix in Africa, a region with large potential and which stands to benefit greatly from hydropower to improve access to electricity and to enable a renewables-based grid through increased system flexibility. The meeting showcased how [IRENA's African Renewable Electricity Profiles for Energy Modelling Database](#) supports the development of the African Continental Power System Masterplan. The meeting also served to appoint Canada and Zimbabwe as Co-Facilitators of the Collaborative Framework, taking over from Costa Rica and Switzerland.

The sixth meeting of the Collaborative Framework introduced the new Co-Facilitators and provided an update on the Collaborative Framework's achievements and the latest developments in the sector. During the meeting, priority areas such as work modalities and a workplan for the coming two years were discussed, including the results of an online survey, which provided a series of possible options for further research and analysis. The survey results showed that most respondents were interested in learning from other Members, hearing from experts and getting updates on the latest developments in the hydropower sector. While priorities were different for IRENA Members and stakeholders, both groups agreed that sustainability, resilience, appropriate remuneration, hydropower as a source of flexibility, as well as financing and bankability were priorities. Additionally, presentations were given on the work of the Collaborative Framework to date, the outcomes of the International Hydropower Development Conference held on April 2023 in Beijing, and Canada's experiences and priorities and recent hydropower developments. Hydropower was emphasised as a key player in the renewable energy sector and Net-Zero pathways with potential for growth, and pumped storage hydropower was highlighted as a game-changer.

Additionally, IRENA launched a report on [“The changing role of hydropower: Challenges and opportunities”](#) in February 2023, with the objective to raise awareness on hydropower’s perceived challenges and needs, and to serve as a catalyst for discussion in the context of the Collaborative Framework on Hydropower. The report was translated into Chinese in cooperation with the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute and China Society for Hydropower Engineering.

The next meeting of the Collaborative Framework will take place in the second half of 2023. Members are kindly encouraged to nominate Technical Focal Points to attend future meetings.

Collaborative Framework on Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables

The Collaborative Framework on Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables (CFOR) is based on the offshore renewables work undertaken by the Agency, the wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists within the Agency’s Membership and the advantages that may be reaped through wider global cooperation with other entities.

The sixth meeting of the Collaborative Framework, held on 4 May 2023, was the first session where Colombia and Denmark served as the Co-Facilitators for the 2023-2024 cycle.

The objectives of the sixth meeting were to:

- ❖ Present the briefs **“Scaling up Investments in Ocean Energy Technologies”** (prepared with Ocean Energy Europe [OEE]) and **“Enabling Frameworks for Offshore Wind Scaleup: innovation in permitting”** (prepared with the Global Wind Energy Council [GWEC]). The briefs aimed to provide countries with recommendations on how to address key challenges that arise from current permitting protocols for offshore wind including but not limited to the complexity of the administrative and bureaucratic processes; the lack of centralised authorities to oversee this process and a concise guide to decision-makers on how different financial instruments can be leveraged to draw investments to ocean energy technologies (wave and tidal).
- ❖ Discuss and exchange views on the technology and standards that are being developed and implemented for floating offshore wind projects globally. The inputs from these discussions will be used to inform an ongoing analysis that IRENA is undertaking for the G7 on floating offshore wind.

The following conclusions were drawn from statements made at the sixth meeting:

- ❖ Members were informed that the **“Scaling up Investments in Ocean Energy Technologies”** brief, prepared by IRENA and Ocean Energy Europe (OEE), was launched during the OEE Strategy Day on 29 March 2023 in Brussels and received positive feedback from the ocean energy community. Some of the key messages from the brief are as follows:
 - In the wider energy discourse context, ocean energy plays a role in the global energy transition. The opportunity to create new employment opportunities and the predictable nature of ocean energy source are key advantages.
 - To reap all the benefits from ocean energy, it is necessary that investments in this technology must be scaled up. There are high risk factors associated with ocean energy technologies and clear signals from governments will be required to provide visible future to green investors.
 - Across the ocean energy project lifecycle, public funding, grants, blended finance and revenue support must be provided to ensure this technology can mature in a similar fashion to that of solar and wind.

- ❖ The **“Enabling Frameworks for Offshore Wind Scaleup: innovation in permitting”** brief, prepared by IRENA and GWEC, received written feedback from 10 Member countries, and 6 of them provided first hand case studies that have been featured in the brief. Some of the key findings and updates to the brief were as follows:
 - Key solutions to address the challenges include: 1) mandating maximum lead times to permit offshore wind energy plants; 2) introducing dedicated centralised authorities and single focal points to lead efforts for permitting coordination; and 3) building digitalised, searchable databases for land registrations and siting of RE projects.
 - Key updates made to the brief include structuring the content of the brief to make it a practical document for countries that is more solution-oriented and opportunity-focused and adding an executive summary on the content of the brief.
- ❖ A panel discussion on the “techno-socio-economic” potential of floating offshore wind was organised. Some key takeaways were:
 - According to the latest IRENA data, the average installed costs for floating wind is around USD 7,000/kWh in 2021, and the average Floating Wind LCOE reached USD 0.10/kWh in the same year. There are large fluctuations in the historical data for floating wind installed costs, LCOE and capacity factors – indicating that the market is still very new.
 - From a regulatory perspective it is extremely important to set tangible infrastructure goals as this is often overlooked. It is necessary to also support supply chain development after a robust regulatory framework is put into place to respond to growing components requirements for floating wind technologies.
 - Countries that want to engage in floating wind need to develop tangible roadmaps that can help to achieve the national target set by decision makers.
 - From a manufacturing perspective, it is important to invest in port infrastructure if a floating market is found. Environmentally, more research on the actual impact of floating solutions on marine environments is needed. In general, the variety of species is dramatically increasing, with the equipment creating a safe environment and having positive effects on conservation.

Next steps:

- ❖ The **“Enabling Frameworks for Offshore Wind Scaleup: innovation in permitting”** brief will be finalised and published by Q3 2023.
- ❖ IRENA will undertake a short survey with CFOR members to collect data on national offshore wind targets and strategies.
- ❖ The seventh CFOR meeting is envisioned to take place in Q3 2023.
- ❖ The Floating Offshore Wind G7 Report will be launched by IRENA under the Japanese G7 Presidency, and a number of CFOR participants have expressed their interest to contribute to the analysis.
- ❖ Members are kindly encouraged to nominate Technical Focal Points to attend future meetings.

Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground energy transition

The Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to support on-the-ground Energy Transition held its second meeting on 17 May 2023. The Co-Facilitators, Austria and Egypt moderated the meeting and provided welcome and closing remarks. The meeting was attended by 41 participants and identified priority issues, objectives, collaboration modalities, and proposed the way forward for the Agency's work on project facilitation and support.

IRENA Secretariat presented the progress of its project facilitation initiatives, namely the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform. With regard to CIP, a 6.6 MW off-grid solar hybrid project in Nigeria and a 3 MW POME biogas power plant project in Indonesia benefited from IRENA's technical assistance and through IRENA's support reached their financial closure in October 2022 and March 2022, respectively. The ETAF Platform was launched during COP27 when the call for project was officially opened. IRENA Secretariat is currently working on the operationalisation of the ETAF Platform and after only six months, 30 projects have already been submitted and almost 900 MW of renewable energy projects have been financially closed. The initial objective to develop at least 1.5 GW of new renewable energy capacity by 2030 under ETAF is already within reach and other milestones are expected ahead of COP28.

The second half of the meeting focused on the following:

- Completed feasibility studies are one of the eligibility criteria for projects to receive support under the CIP and ETAF.
- Considering the huge potential for solar PV projects in Africa, IRENA will continue to play an active role in facilitating the mobilisation of renewable energy projects in the region.
- IRENA Secretariat is currently working on attracting new financing partners willing to submit a financial pledge and enlarge the geographies currently covered by ETAF. IRENA Secretariat remains available to continue the discussion with Members.
- The two projects presented during the second meeting, in both Nigeria and Indonesia, promoted the idea of increased shares of equity financing.
- Capacity building, with a focus on renewable energy project development and finance, is an important enabler to build the skills among project developers and local financial institutions to increase the pipeline of bankable renewable energy projects.

Next steps:

- ❖ IRENA Secretariat remains available to have bilateral discussions with Members interested in project facilitation initiatives.
- ❖ IRENA Members are encouraged to submit renewable energy projects in IRENA project facilitation platforms (CIP and ETAF) and the IRENA Secretariat remains available to support Members in the submission process.
- ❖ IRENA Members are encouraged to share information about IRENA's work under the CIP and ETAF Platform to national and local stakeholders, with a focus on local project developers.
- ❖ IRENA will share a questionnaire with Members and the participants to CF to receive their expression of interest in providing support to the work under the CIP and ETAF platforms.
- ❖ The next meeting of the Collaborative Framework will take place in the Q3 of 2023.
- ❖ Members are kindly encouraged to nominate Technical Focal Points to attend future meetings.

Annex 5

General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition

As agreed by the Council, statements made by Members under Agenda Item 7: General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition have been collected in written form and listed in alphabetical order, by category, in this annex. These statements have been shared by Members in the original language of delivery, with the inclusion of courtesy translation into English where provided and approved by respective Members.

Council members:

Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates and United States of America

Council alternates:

Bangladesh, Cyprus, Denmark, India, Malaysia, Mauritius and Uruguay

IRENA Members:

Belgium, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Statement by Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Statement

25th Council meeting of IRENA

Thank you, Chair. I would like to inform you on in short on the energy transition process and energy transition targets that we are going to achieve. And what's our implementation strategy on this regard.

Azerbaijan has ambitious target regarding increasing the share of the renewable energy in the total electricity installed capacity, which is 30% by 2030. Azerbaijan has a huge renewable energy potential with the economic potential of renewable energy sources in onshore, about 27 gigawatts, and out of which 23 gigawatts is solar and 3 gigawatts is onshore wind. The technical potential of the offshore wind in the territorial waters of Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea is that remind as 157 gigawatts.

In terms of the regulatory and legal framework, in 2021, renewable energy law has been adopted, and the law paves the way of renewable project oceans, net metering applications, renewable certificates, and the development of the renewable energy information system. We signed the binding agreements with the three developers on the solar and wind with the total capacity of 710 megawatts. And by the end of 2023, the first industry scale solar IPP with MASDAR, with capacity of 230 megawatt will be commissioned, and that will bring us closer to our target.

A part of that, I would like to stress that just in last two years, Azerbaijan signed the respective agreements such as implementation and framework agreements with several international energy investors on development solar, onshore wind, offshore wind, and green hydrogen with the capacity of up to 25 gigawatts.

We cooperate with the IFIs on the development of the assessment of potential for a low carbon hydrogen economy in Azerbaijan. And just after one week, the results of this assessment will be released on the occasion of the Baku Energy Week that we will have in Azerbaijan.

I would like also to stress the significance for us of the offshore wind development of the Caspian Sea which the great potential of offshore wind, and where one of the most promising water basins in terms of wind speed and wind quality. According to the initial estimation with the map, the technical potential is identified as 157 gigawatts, and 35 gigawatts of this potential is the shallow water potential.

In Azerbaijan, we identify offshore wind energy as one of the prospective areas in the field of the renewable energy. We believe that offshore wind potential will further contribute to the energy security of the country, as well as the export capability

Particularly, we're launching green corridor from Azerbaijan to the European Union through underwater Black Sea cable project. Moreover, offshore wind potential could be used for the green hydrogen production in the long-term perspective and exported through the existing pipeline infrastructure that connects us with the European energy markets.

That's all from my side. Thank you.

Statement by China

Agenda item 7: General Member Statements - National

Experiences on the Energy Transition

25th Council Meeting

【成员国能源转型经验分享】

近年来，中国顺应全球能源发展转型大势，立足自身能源资源禀赋，在保障能源安全的同时加快能源绿色低碳转型。2022 年中国非化石能源消费比重已达到 17.3%，非化石能源装机容量达到 12.7 亿千瓦，其中风光装机 7.6 亿千瓦，水电装机 4.1 亿千瓦。与此同时，中国在过去十年积极支持全球范围内能源转型，对全球非化石能源消费增长贡献度超过 40%，促进了陆上风电和光伏发电造价分别下降 30%和 75%。2022 年，为世界其他国家和地区贡献光伏组件达到 1.53 亿千瓦，占全球市场总量的 70%。

2022 年 10 月，中共二十大提出，积极稳妥推进碳达峰碳中和，深入推进能源革命，加快规划建设新型能源体系。下一阶段，中国将进一步发展壮大清洁能源产业，实施可再生能源替代行动，科学有序推进实现碳达峰、碳中和目标。一是加快实施可再生能源替代行动。统筹推进风电、太阳能发电、水电、核电规模化开发，因地制宜发展生物质能、地热能等其他可再生能源。确保 2025 年、2030 年非化石能源消费比重分别提高到 20%、25%左右。二是大力推动终端能

源消费转型升级。全面推进工业、建筑、交通等领域电能替代，力争 2025 年电能占终端用能比重达到 30%左右。**三是持续支持新兴技术发展。**重点提升风电、太阳能发电、地热能等开发利用技术水平和经济性，加强储能、氢能等前沿技术攻关。

当前，世界能源格局正在发生深刻变革和调整，国际社会日益成为你中有我、我中有你的命运共同体，加强国际合作是加快推动可再生能源发展的必由之路，任何国家都不能独善其身。**IRENA** 作为世界领先的国际能源合作组织，将为全球能源转型发挥更大作用。中方愿意依托 **IRENA** 平台继续深化与各国合作，在坚定不移推动本国能源绿色低碳发展的基础上，向世界提供中国智慧与中国方案，为全球应对气候变化作出更大努力和贡献。

Statement by China

**Agenda item 7: General Member Statements - National Experiences
on the Energy Transition**

25th Council Meeting

In recent years, China has followed the general trend of global energy development and transition, based on its own energy resource endowment, and accelerated the green and low-carbon transition of energy while ensuring energy security.

In 2022, China's non-fossil energy consumption has reached 17.3%, with the installed capacity of non-fossil energy reached 1.27 billion kilowatts, including 760 million kilowatts from wind and solar and 410 million kilowatts from hydropower. At the same time, China has actively supported the global energy transition in the past ten years, contributing more than 40% to the growth of global non-fossil energy consumption, which has promoted the cost reduction of onshore wind power and photovoltaic power generation by 30% and 75%, respectively. In 2022, China contributed 153 million kilowatts of photovoltaic modules to other countries and regions in the world, accounting for 70% of the total global market.

In October 2022, at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it was put forward that China will actively and steadily promote to reach carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, to further advance energy revolution, and to accelerate the planning and construction of a new energy system. In the next stage, China will further develop and expand the clean energy industry,

implement renewable energy substitution actions, and advance in a scientific and orderly manner to achieve the goals of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality.

The first is to accelerate the implementation of renewable energy alternatives. Make overall plans to promote the large-scale development of wind power, solar power, hydropower, and nuclear power, and develop other renewable energy sources such as biomass energy and geothermal energy according to local conditions. Make sure to increase the proportion of non-fossil energy consumption to around 20% and 25% in 2025 and 2030, respectively.

The second is to vigorously promote the transformation and upgrading of end-user energy consumption. Comprehensively promote the electrification in the fields of industry, construction, transportation, etc., and strive to make the proportion of electricity accounted for about 30% of the end-user energy consumption by 2025.

The third is to continue to support the development of emerging technologies. Focus on improving the development, utilization and economy of wind power, solar power, geothermal energy and other technologies, and strengthen research on cutting-edge technologies such as energy storage and hydrogen energy.

At present, the world's energy situation is undergoing profound changes and adjustments. The international community is increasingly becoming a community of shared future. Strengthening international cooperation is the only way to accelerate the development of renewable energy. No country can

stand alone. As the world's leading international energy cooperation organization, IRENA will play a greater role in the global energy transformation. China is willing to, based on the IRENA platform, continue to deepen cooperation with other countries, and on the basis of unswervingly promoting the green and low-carbon development of domestic energy, to provide the world with Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions, and to make greater efforts and contributions to the global response to climate change.

Statement by Egypt

Statement by Egypt

Agenda item 7: General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition

25th Council Meeting of IRENA

EGYPT: Thank you, Mr. President.

Egypt commends all the efforts exerted within renewable energy transition. We were able to achieve 20% of renewable energy, and this is for the period up to 2023. The production of renewable energy; wind and solar, amounts to more than 3,000 megawatts. In addition to more than 2800 MW of hydropower.

Furthermore, Egypt strives to increase the share of renewable energy more than 40% by 2030, and this would reflect the latest developments in the field. This has achieved due to the enactment of new legislations that would encourage the influx of \$4 billion, as FDI.

Furthermore, we have increased the renewable energy capacity to 31,000 square kilometers, dedicated to renewable energy projects. And this is thanks to the demand on hydrogen projects and electricity project and as a result of COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh.

Egypt is the voice of Africa, and this has been reflected through COP 27. And we are aiming at enhancing cooperation with all African countries in the fields of renewable energy. We also welcome cooperation with IRENA and the other member countries. Thank you.

Statement by Germany

Germany

- I would like to begin with the broader international context: In its latest report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the massive pressure to act with a view to the ongoing climate change. Global climate action must become more ambitious and be implemented more rapidly. The plans for reductions up to 2030 submitted so far to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) fall short of what is needed to meet the climate targets.
- Good news: the IPCC report also shows what to do: Key are renewable energies and energy efficiency as well as electrification of all sectors. These measures are the most cost-efficient and have the greatest emission reduction potential. This corresponds to the message spread by IRENA for many years.
- In its international climate and energy policy, the German government wants to contribute to a successful global energy transition. The central fora for cooperation include the UNFCCC, the G7, the G20, the multilateral development banks, OECD, IRENA and others. And of course, German climate and energy policy is embedded in the European framework.
- As a member country of the G7 we are pleased to report that the G7 Environment, Climate and Energy Ministers – with support from partners such as IRENA – agreed a few weeks ago in Japan for the very first time on collective targets for the expansion of renewable energy. Concretely: Offshore wind capacity additions of 150 GW and a built-up of solar PV capacities to 1,000 GW. Also, the G7 committed for the first time to phase-out all unabated fossil energy sources.
- Such steps are important for achieving greenhouse gas neutrality, and we are proud to be part of this common effort. We consider such quantitative goals made possible by our Japanese friends a good example of concrete and measurable action which could be a model at the international level (outside the G7).
- With a view to the national level, I would like to firstly mention that Germany committed to reach climate neutrality by 2045 by enacting the Climate Change Act. By 2030, emissions in the energy sector must be more than halved compared with today.
- In 2022, 46% of our electricity production was sourced from renewables. When it comes to heating and cooling, however, renewables had a share of only 17%. Hence, Germany still has

some way to go to reach its ambitious goal of 80% renewables in electricity generation on the one hand and 50% renewables in heating and cooling (both by 2030) on the other hand.

- I would like to mention that the use of nuclear power to generate electricity in Germany ended on 15 April 2023, as the last three nuclear power plants were shut down. This marks another important step towards a sustainable and renewable energy future.
- Against this background, Germany is significantly accelerating its energy transition expanding renewables and extending the application of energy efficiency measures.
- Secondly, as governments, we should serve as role models within our countries. This is why our entire Federal administration plans to be climate neutral by 2030. To achieve this, we have established a “Coordination Unit for a Climate-neutral Federal Administration” in the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. By the end of this year, this office is to draw up a programme of measures. An integral component thereof will be the first climate footprint analysis of the direct federal administration, which comprises approximately 130 institutions and will be updated annually.

7. General Members Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition

Your Excellences, Dear Colleagues,

- *Italy has been successful in advancing and reaching its renewable energy goals during the last decade. We reached ahead of time our renewable 2020 target, covering by renewables the 17% of our total energy consumption. By 2021, the penetration of renewables in our final consumption has progressed even further, reaching over 19% of our total final energy consumption.*
- *Focusing only on the electricity sector in 2021, the data are even more encouraging. Renewables represented almost 40% of all the electricity generated that year. By then the deployment of renewable reached almost 60 GW of installed capacity, and solar represented almost 1/3 of it (23 GW) followed by hydro (19 GW) and wind (11 GW).*
- *In 2022 the trend of the installation of new renewable capacity has gained new momentum and we tripled the installation of new capacity (+3GW) compared to what we did in 2021. If we focus on solar, last year over 200,000 photovoltaic power plants were installed in Italy. This is a 10% increase of our total solar capacity, in just one year .*
- *We now aim at having 2/3 of our power generation by renewable energy by 2030.*
- *On energy efficiency, Italy is one of the top performing countries worldwide. Since 2005, there was a downward trend in the national energy consumption. In 2021, in particular, primary energy consumption (excluding non-energy uses) fell by 18% compared to 2005, while final consumption fell by 16%, both by increasing energy efficiency and economic dynamics.*
- *To conclude, Italy has been well on track so far towards the achievement of its renewables targets. Nowadays we have requests for investments in the renewable sector for over 300GW, which means almost 4 times the capacity that is necessary to reach our targets by 2030. Even if there is still much to do, we can say that we are definitely moving in the right direction.*

7. General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition

- I would like to introduce on three of the latest action related to Japan' s energy transition.
- The first point is the promotion of Green Transformation.
- In February of this year, our Cabinet approved the “basic policy for realization of GX” in order to simultaneously achieve decarbonization, stable energy supply, and economic growth through Green Transformation.
- In accordance with this basic policy, we will work on two things:

The first one is thorough energy efficiency and conversion to decarbonized power sources such as renewable energy and nuclear power that contribute to improving the energy self-sufficiency rate.

The second one is support for upfront investment by issuing “GX Economic Transition Bonds” in order to realize public and private GX investment of more than 150 trillion yen (1.2 trillion dollars) over the next 10 years. Through this measure, we will promote the realization and implementation of the growth-oriented carbon pricing concept.
- The GX Promotion Act, which includes the necessary measures to implement this initiative, was approved in the Diet two weeks ago. In addition, the GX Decarbonized Power Source Act, which aims to develop a system to ensure a stable supply of electricity while promoting the use of decarbonized power sources, is currently under deliberation in the Diet.
- The second point is efforts to further accelerate the introduction of renewable energies and hydrogen.
- Last month, the Ministerial meeting on Renewable energies, Hydrogen, was held with the participation of Prime Minister.
- As part of this, we launched an “Action Plan for Expanding the Introduction of Renewable Energies” based on the “basic policy for realization of GX.”

- The action plan calls for (1) creating an environment for the introduction of renewable energies by accelerating innovation and building next-generation networks, and (2) promoting and disciplined renewable energy by expanding the introduction of renewable energies in harmonizing with local communities and ensuring appropriate business discipline.
- Regarding hydrogen, as a hydrogen energy advanced country, we will accelerate the construction of international supply chain, and support technological development to reduce the cost of water electrolyzers. In addition, we are currently working to revise the “Basic Hydrogen Strategy,” which was formulated ahead of the rest of the world.
- As the third point, in February and March of this year, the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with IRENA/GCF, held a workshop on strengthening the capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDs) to access climate finance. At the workshop, participants from 21 countries deepened their understanding of climate finance and confirmed further promotion of the use of climate finance in the future.
- We will continue to accelerate efforts toward realistic decarbonization in Japan and overseas and promote cooperation with IRENA through cooperative activities.

Statement by Panama

25va Reunión del Consejo de IRENA
Experiencias Nacionales en Transición Energética
Dra. Guadalupe González - Representante de Panamá

Panamá es uno de los países carbono negativo, sin embargo, desde el punto de nuestra matriz energética el 75% de nuestro consumo son derivados del petróleo, del cual Panamá es importador. Por esto, hemos propuesto al país la Agenda de Transición Energética, el cual es nuestro documento de política energética de mediano plazo conformado por 5 estrategias nacionales para cerrar la brecha de acceso universal, introducir la movilidad eléctrica, aumentar nuestra generación distribuida, ser más eficientes y promover el uso racional de la energía, y todo esto nos conlleva a innovar el sistema interconectado nacional.

Desde el sector energético nos hemos impuesto metas ambiciosas, y hemos aumentado nuestra contribución determinada a nivel nacional, ya que, con la Agenda de Transición Energética, al 2050, nos hemos propuesto lograr una reducción de las emisiones totales del sector energía del país en al menos el 24% y en al menos 11.5% al 2030.

Panamá ha duplicado la capacidad instalada solar que de la mano de la infraestructura eólica e hídrica nos ha llevado a generar por dos años consecutivos el 80% de la generación que requiere nuestro sistema interconectado nacional.

Creemos firmemente que la transición energética debe ser justa e inclusiva, por ello hemos desarrollado programas en el que involucramos a la juventud y las mujeres. Con el programa de las Campeonas Solares hemos capacitado a 26 mujeres de la Comarca en la instalación y mantenimiento de sistemas solares y con la Academia ODS7 hemos formado a jóvenes, ya no solo de Panamá, pero también de la región centroamericana y latinoamericana como líderes de la transición energética.

Finalmente, también creemos en el futuro del hidrógeno verde y por ello en estos momentos tenemos a consulta pública la Estrategia Nacional de Hidrógeno Verde con lo que buscamos posicionar a Panamá como la Ruta Global de hidrógeno verde y sus derivados, potenciando su ubicación geográfica e infraestructura para abastecer con energéticos renovables al sector logístico, doméstico, marítimo, aéreo y transporte terrestre, desarrollando a la vez capacidades que permitan establecer un mercado innovador de este vector energético en el país.

Courtesy Translation

Statement by Panama

Panama

National Experience on the Energy Transition
Dr Guadalupe González – Representative of Panama

Panama is one of the carbon negative countries, however, from the point of our energy matrix, 75% of our consumption is derived from oil, of which Panama is an importer. For this reason, we have proposed to the country the Energy Transition Agenda, which is our medium-term energy policy document made up of 5 national strategies to close the universal access gap, introduce electric mobility, increase our distributed generation, be more efficient and promote the rational use of energy, and all this leads us to innovate the national interconnected system.

From the energy sector we have set ourselves ambitious goals, and we have increased our nationally determined contribution, since, with the Energy Transition Agenda, by 2050 we have proposed to achieve a reduction in total emissions from the country's energy sector by at least 24% and at least 11.5% by 2030.

Panama has doubled the installed solar capacity that, alongside our wind and water infrastructure, has led us to generate 80% of the power required by our national interconnected system for two consecutive years.

We firmly believe that the energy transition must be fair and inclusive, which is why we have developed programs in which we involve youth and women. With the Solar Champions program, we have trained 26 women from the region in the installation and maintenance of solar systems and with the ODS7 Academy we have trained young people, not only from Panama, but also from the Central American and North American region as leaders of the energy transition.

Finally, we also believe in the future of green hydrogen and for this reason we currently have the National Green Hydrogen Strategy for public consultation, seeking to position Panama as the Global Route for green hydrogen and its derivatives, with the strong basis of the country's geographical location and infrastructure for the supply of renewable fuels to the logistics, domestic and maritime sectors, while developing capacities that allow the establishment of an innovative market for this energy vector in the country.

Statement by Portugal

PORTUGAL

Thank you so much. Thank you for waiting. It created a bit of suspense, but I can ensure you that, in Portugal we are moving forward and fast on the energy transition. So actually, we started more or less 20 years ago with this process of focusing on renewable energies, which also ensures that nowadays we are I would say in a more comfortable position because we can build on the past experience.

Our main goal is to focus on our endogenous resources. That's why we focus on renewables. We have no gas and no oil. And focusing on – on renewables, we are keen also to ensure diversification of energy sources to ensure the stability that – a system that is more and more dependent on renewables needs.

Our goal is, as I said in the panel in the morning, to reach 80% of renewables in electricity production by 2026. So, in three years' time, we are very confident that we will be able to achieve that. We have changed permitting and licensing procedures in Portugal recently that goes hand-in-hand with measures to compensate municipalities and – and local communities. And so, I'm confident that we have the right framework to - to move things forward.

Our focus on energy transition is basically four goals. The first one is, of course, climate sustainability. We aim at being climate neutral by – by 2045. But that's not our only goal. We also want to ensure, well, security of supply. That's why we rely on our indigenous resources. We want to ensure affordable prices and cost-competitive prices for the industry.

And finally, we know that having clean, reliable electricity and energy in general attracts industries, and that's also the reason why we are following this path.

The acceleration factors, let's call them like that, in our renewable mix are currently solar. And in particular, we are focusing a lot on decentralized production. So, renewable energy communities where we have simplified procedures also empowered consumers so that they have more information on what they can achieve with these – with these communities. So that on solar and offshore wind, we will launch an action still this year, mainly on floating.

Coupled with that, we are developing our national storage strategy. And we also have a green regime strategy to ensure that we develop all the potentialities of the value chain in an integrated manner. This is basically the strategy on energy transition for Portugal and the current status right now.

Thank you.

Statement by Republic of Korea

General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition

Thank you Chair. I would like to begin to share Korea's experience of the energy transition by offering a brief overview of the Korean government's energy policy directions.

The Korean Government has set several goals for the deployment of renewable energy based on the criteria of being reasonable, feasible, cost-effective, acceptable to residents, and contributing to the domestic industry.

Last year my Government announced a plan to expand the proportion of renewable energy in total power generation to 21.6% by 2030; and this year again set a goal to increase the proportion to 30.6% by 2036 with a balanced deployment of solar and wind power.

We also set out the national plan in March 2023 for carbon neutrality and green growth, in particular, by enhancing demand-side efficiency through a reasonable energy pricing system based on market principles and by establishing energy infrastructure, such as power grids and storage systems.

We are also planning to create an ecosystem focused on clean hydrogen through various means; first by establishing hydrogen related infrastructure, second by diversifying hydrogen mobility, and third by expanding the scope of hydrogen utilization by building hydrogen clusters and cities.

In 2019, the Korean government started to carry out pilot projects for "hydrogen cities" in three cities. This year, my Government added six more hydrogen cities that would use blue hydrogen as a fuel in buildings and transportation.

Busan, one of the candidates for the World Expo 2030, is actively expanding the hydrogen related transportation infrastructure. If Busan holds the World Expo 2030, we expect visitors will be able to fully experience how these hydrogen cities would be operated.

Going forward, we will continue to establish more partnerships with various developing countries for a global renewable-based energy transition and net-zero capacity-building as we will continue to expand the green ODA. We look forward to greater cooperation with IRENA Member states through Collaborative Frameworks and Climate Investment Platforms. Thank you.

25º CONSEJO DE IRENA

DECLARACIONES GENERALES DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS

ESPAÑA

Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Excelencias, distinguidas delegadas, delegados:

1. La transición hacia una economía descarbonizada requiere de un esfuerzo conjunto de todos los países comprometidos con los objetivos perseguidos en el Acuerdo de París. Por ello, resulta fundamental la labor de IRENA como plataforma de cooperación y punto de encuentro entre sus Estados miembros. Este foro nos permite comparar nuestras experiencias como miembros de esa plataforma colaborativa.
2. En el caso de España, el cambio hacia el nuevo modelo energético descarbonizado se fundamenta hoy en **tres pilares fundamentales**:
 - [La Ley de Cambio Climático y Transición Energética](#), que establece los principios rectores en la estrategia de descarbonización de nuestra economía al 2030 y 2050.
 - [El Plan Nacional Integrado de Energía y Clima \(2021-2030\) y la Estrategia de Descarbonización a Largo plazo \(2050\)](#), que son los instrumentos de planificación estratégica que responden a la aplicación de regulaciones y compromisos establecidos con la UE.

Se espera que en 2030 la reducción de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero sea, al menos, del 23% respecto a 1990. La generación eléctrica renovable en 2030 será el 74% del total, coherente con una trayectoria hacia un sector eléctrico 100% renovable en la década de 2040. Asimismo, otra fuerza motriz transformadora será la presencia de renovables en el sector transporte que alcanzará el 28% por medio de la electrificación, con 5 millones de vehículos eléctricos en 2030 y los combustibles renovables.

Por alcanzar estos objetivos, está previsto instalar más de 60 GW de nueva potencia hasta 2030.

- [En tercer lugar, el Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia \(PRTR\), diseñado](#) por el Gobierno para la movilización de los fondos europeos destinados a la recuperación de la crisis provocada por la COVID-19. Se trata de una oportunidad única para acelerar los objetivos de la transición energética.

El Plan de Recuperación, aprobado por la Comisión Europea, se vertebra sobre cuatro pilares: la transición energética, la transformación digital, la cohesión social y territorial y la igualdad de género. En este reparto, la transición ecológica tiene el mayor protagonismo. Y es que cerca del 40% de los recursos se destinan a medidas climáticas y el 100% del Plan debe respetar el principio “Do Not Significant Harm” que garantiza que ninguna reforma ni inversión tenga un impacto significativo sobre el medioambiente. Por tanto, contamos con más de 10 millardos de euros, hasta el final de este 2023, que se destinan a inversiones en eficiencia energética, despliegue de energías renovables, autoconsumo, almacenamiento, redes inteligentes, flexibilidad, así como el desarrollo de nuevos vectores, como el hidrógeno renovable y la promoción de la electrificación del transporte.

3. Esta transición hacia un modelo energético sostenible es inaplazable, pero también conlleva efectos en el sector de la energía fósil que hay que mitigar. Por ello, es necesario contar con una **estrategia de transición justa como la adoptada por el gobierno de España**. Este instrumento permite la identificación y adopción de medidas que garanticen un tratamiento equitativo y solidario a trabajadores y territorios afectados por la transición hacia una economía baja en carbono.
 4. Creemos también que la **formación** debe adecuarse a un mundo laboral cambiante y que pueda dar respuesta a las necesidades de cualificación que necesitan las empresas y las de nuevos empleos emergentes.
 5. Por último, pero no menos importante, tenemos la responsabilidad de que los cambios en el modelo energético no dejen de lado a los más vulnerables. Por ello, hemos aprobado la Estrategia de **Pobreza Energética** que contempla un diagnóstico de la situación, establece la primera definición oficial de pobreza energética y el objetivo a 2025 de alcanzar al menos un 25% reducción con respecto a los niveles actuales.
 6. Permítanme ahora hablarles brevemente de los beneficios de las renovables en materia de cohesión territorial y social.
- Las renovables no son sólo una oportunidad para la inclusión de las regiones lo son también para el **ciudadano**. Hoy el ciudadano consume energía renovable, invierte sus ahorros en empresas y proyectos renovables y produce su propia energía renovable en el hogar. Entre las medidas que en la actualidad fomenta el Gobierno de España para incrementar la participación ciudadana se encuentra la promoción del **autoconsumo y los proyectos ciudadanos participativos por medio de las comunidades energéticas**, que permiten incrementar y diversificar los ingresos de las comunidades, aumentar la seguridad energética y la aceptación social de las renovables.

7. En lo que respecta a las energías renovables y sus impactos socioeconómicos, el desarrollo de las energías renovables no es solo una oportunidad, **sino que es una necesidad para garantizar en el medio y largo plazo una energía barata y con ello la competitividad de la economía española.**
8. Apoyada por España desde su creación, los logros de IRENA son evidentes, por ejemplo, en la generación sistemática de **conocimiento** sobre el coste de las renovables, su impacto macroeconómico o el diseño de sistemas de subastas por mencionar algunos temas, en los que el trabajo de IRENA ha sido utilizado como referencia para la elaboración de Plan Nacional de Energía y Clima de España.
9. La realidad energética, y en particular de las renovables, ha cambiado mucho en los últimos diez años. En este sentido, ya no hablamos de incrementar marginalmente unas tecnologías que están empezando a entrar en el sistema, sino que hoy ya tenemos que empezar a planificar el 100% de renovables y de los retos de un sistema liderado por renovables: evacuación a red, depresión de precios marginales, gestión inteligente de la demanda, almacenamiento, por citar algunos.
10. Pero todavía más importante es empezar a tener en cuenta en el marco de IRENA que la transición energética sostenible no involucra sólo las energías renovables, implica maximizar la realización del potencial en eficiencia energética, promover la generación descentralizada y el acoplamiento de los usos de la energía, electricidad, calor y frío y transporte, principalmente mediante la electrificación de la economía. **Todas estas iniciativas se ven bien recogidas en los diferentes programas y planes de trabajo de IRENA, en cuyo marco deberíamos abordar** los diferentes aspectos de la transición energética sostenible de manera completa, incluido el papel de la eficiencia energética, de la digitalización, de unas redes de distribución mucho más sofisticadas, o el cierre de las centrales convencionales, entre otros. Todo ello sin descuidar los aspectos sociales y geopolíticos de la transición energética.
11. La exitosa semana de la innovación de IRENA podría ser el marco perfecto para mantener todas estas conversaciones sobre la transformación de los sistemas energéticos y, en ese contexto, consideramos **importante también señalar la urgencia de implementar políticas climáticas en el corto plazo** de renovables que tienen un efecto rápido y son relativamente fáciles de desplegar.
12. Quiero acabar mi intervención ratificando el apoyo de España a IRENA y agradeciendo al Director General, Francesco La Camera, su labor en la Agencia.

Muchas gracias por su atención.

Courtesy Translation

Statement by Spain

25TH COUNCIL OF IRENA GENERAL STATEMENTS BY MEMBER STATES SPAIN

Mr. President, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

1. The transition towards a decarbonised economy requires a joint effort from all the countries committed to the objectives pursued in the Paris Agreement. For this reason, the work of IRENA as a cooperation platform and meeting point among its member states is essential. This forum allows us to compare our experiences as members of that collaborative platform.
2. In the case of Spain, the change towards the new decarbonised energy model is currently based on three fundamental pillars:
 - **The Climate Change and Energy Transition Law**, which establishes the guiding principles in the decarbonization strategy of our economy by 2030 and 2050.
 - **The National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (2021-2030) and the Long-term Decarbonization Strategy (2050)**, which are the strategic planning instruments that respond to the application of regulations and commitments established with the EU.
3. It is expected that in 2030 the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 23% compared to 1990. Renewable electricity generation in 2030 will be 74% of the total, consistent towards a 100% renewable electricity sector trajectory for the 2040's. Likewise, another transformative driving force will be the presence of renewables in the transport sector that will reach 28% through electrification, with 5 million electric vehicles in 2030 and renewable fuels.

To achieve these objectives, there are plans to install more than 60 GW of new power until 2030.

- **Thirdly, the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR)**, designed by the Government to mobilize European funds for recovery from the crisis caused by COVID-19. This is a unique opportunity to accelerate the objectives of the energy transition.

The Recovery Plan, approved by the European Commission, is based on four pillars: energy transition, digital transformation, social and territorial cohesion, and gender equality. In this distribution, the ecological transition has the greatest role. And it is that about 40% of the resources are allocated to climate measures and 100% of the Plan must respect the principle "Do Not Significant Harm (sic.)" which guarantees that no reform or investment has a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, we have more than 10 billion euros, until the end of 2023, which are allocated to investments in energy efficiency, deployment of renewable energies, self-consumption, storage, smart networks, flexibility, as well as the development of new vectors, such as renewable hydrogen and the promotion of the electrification of transport.

4. This transition towards a sustainable energy model cannot be postponed, but it also entails effects in the fossil energy sector that must be mitigated. For this reason, it is necessary to have a **just transition strategy like the one adopted by the Spanish government**. This instrument allows

the identification and adoption of measures that guarantee equitable and supportive treatment for workers and territories affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy.

5. We also believe that **training** must be adapted to a changing work environment that can respond to the qualification needs of companies and of new emerging jobs.
6. Last but not least, we have the responsibility that changes in the energy model do not leave the most vulnerable aside. For this reason, we have approved the **Energy Poverty** Strategy that contemplates a diagnosis of the situation, establishes the first official definition of energy poverty and the 2025 objective of achieving at least a 25% reduction compared to current levels.
7. Let me now briefly talk about the benefits of renewables in terms of territorial and social cohesion.
 - Renewables are not only an opportunity for the inclusion of regions, but they are also for the **citizen**. Today the citizen consumes renewable energy, invests their savings in companies and renewable projects and produces their own renewable energy at home. Among the measures currently promoted by the Government of Spain to increase citizen participation is the promotion of **self-consumption and partaking of citizen projects through energy communities**, which allow the communities to increase and diversify income, increase energy security and the social acceptance of renewables.
8. In regard to renewable energies and their socioeconomic impact, the development of renewable energies is not only an opportunity, **but rather a necessity to guarantee low-priced energy in the medium and long term and with it the competitiveness of the Spanish economy**.
9. Supported by Spain since its creation, IRENA's achievements are evident, for example, in the systematic generation of **knowledge** on the cost of renewables, their macroeconomic impact or the design of auction systems, to mention a few issues, in which IRENA's work has been used as a reference for the preparation of Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan.
10. The reality of energy, and particularly of renewables, has changed a lot in the last ten years. In this sense, we are no longer talking about marginally increasing technologies that are beginning to enter the system, but today we already have to start planning 100% renewables and the challenges of a system led by renewables: evacuation to the grid, marginal price depression, intelligent demand management, storage, to name a few.
11. But even more important is to start taking into account within the framework of IRENA that the sustainable energy transition does not only involve renewable energies, it implies maximizing the realization of the potential in energy efficiency, promoting decentralized generation and the coupling of other uses of energy, electricity, heat and cold, and transport, mainly through the electrification of the economy. **All these initiatives are well reflected in the different IRENA programs and work plans and within this framework we should fully address** the different aspects of the sustainable energy transition, including the role of energy efficiency, digitization, much more sophisticated distribution networks, or the closure of conventional power plants,

among others. All this without neglecting the social and geopolitical aspects of the energy transition.

12. The successful IRENA innovation week could be the perfect framework to hold all these conversations about the transformation of energy systems and, in this context, we consider it **important to also point out the urgency of implementing renewables climate policies in the short term** that have a quick effect and are relatively easy to deploy.
13. I would like to end my speech by ratifying Spain's support for IRENA and thanking the Director General, Francesco La Camera, for his work at the Agency.

Thank you very much for your attention

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates

Dear Colleagues and Members of IRENA,

The UAE has fully embraced the energy transition.

It is embedded in our Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative – the first to be announced in the region, which includes a 600-billion-dirham investment plan for clean and renewable energy sources over the next three decades.

We are currently reviewing and updating all of our energy strategies, including our Energy Strategy 2050 to reflect the most recent developments and transition pathways.

In our existing Energy Strategy 2050 we are aiming for a 50% share of clean energy in our total energy mix by midcentury.

We have currently more than 3 gigawatts of Solar PV operational. And we have another 6 gigawatts in the planning or already under construction for 2030.

Our renewable energy ambitions align with the direction outlined in the 2023 WETO report which calls for a tripling of current renewable energy capacity by 2030.

We are very confident that we will achieve our targets in time.

Almost two years ago, during COP26, we launched our Hydrogen Leadership Roadmap.

Since then, we have been collaborating with global partners – from Germany, Korea and Japan, to name three – on the implementation of hydrogen projects, policy frameworks and a national supply and demand network, to serve hard-to-abate sectors such as the aluminum and steel, mobility, industry and manufacturing.

We welcome the discussions in the Collaborative Framework of Green Hydrogen with other IRENA members on Green Hydrogen standards.

We are keenly aware that we must align on a common understanding of the standards governing the hydrogen economy, to avoid variance in the long run.

Variation and differentiation in standards will become problematic quickly. It will increase the burden of developers and hydrogen producers fulfilling different compliance requirements, and lead to an uneven roll-out of hydrogen technologies and capabilities.

The UAE has long been a leader in promoting clean energy and building effective partnerships that support communities all over the world.

As one example, the UAE provided more than US\$1.5 billion in financial support to build renewable energy plants in over 40 countries, including 30 SIDS.

The UAE's leading renewable energy company, Masdar, is a major investor in renewable energy globally, and has already helped install, develop and secure more than 20 gigawatts of renewable energy in more than 40 countries, both developed and resource-constrained.

By 2030, Masdar plans to grow its global renewables capacity to 100GW.

Clear national regulatory frameworks have been and continue to be crucial for the establishment of a renewable energy market which reduces risks for developers.

To ensure smooth project development, access to an open supply chain is critical.

These are some key areas where IRENA can continue to support member states: by providing technical expertise and guidance on technology, regulatory frameworks and project facilitation.

Statement by the United States of America

United States of America Statement

- Thank you, Chair.
- In recent years, the U.S. has demonstrated a commitment to accelerating the clean energy transition and rapid adoption of renewable technologies.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—or BIL—and the Inflation Reduction Act—or IRA—has put our Nation back on track to achieve our goals. It will dramatically accelerate the global energy transition by catalyzing new technology, lowering costs, attracting and generating new capital to clean energy sectors, and creating a surge in demand for inputs.
- With this legislation, we are utilizing the U.S. market to test and deploy the ingredients for a global explosion in renewables investment, that will export energy security and energy access, while creating jobs around the world.
- For the next five years, BIL has and will stand up 60 new programs, including 16 demonstration and 32 deployment programs, and it expands funding for 12 existing Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment programs.
 - Many of these funding and programs, such as the \$1 billion for system-level energy improvements in rural and remote areas and \$505 million for long-duration energy storage will promote the cost-efficient and effective use of renewable energy technologies.
- The IRA continues to put the United States on a pathway to achieving the Biden Administration’s climate goals, including cutting U.S. emissions by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030 and a net-zero economy.
 - The many tax credits for renewable energy, for example, will spur investment in these technologies.
- While BIL and IRA advance, demonstrate, and deploy renewable energy technologies, this Administration is also showing a continued commitment to early-stage R&D to develop renewable energy technologies.
 - The Administration’s FY2024 budget request to Congress, for instance, included a historic \$8.8 billion for DOE’s Office of Science to support world-class scientists and their work to finding the next game-changing technology.
- All these investments will grow the pie, so everyone can have a piece.
- The U.S. is investing unprecedented sums to unlock major technical advances in renewable technologies that will improve performance, reduce costs, and ultimately make renewable technologies more attractive to people.
- We’ll touch on this topic in more detail during the finance discussion, but this rapid innovation and deployment will only contribute to the growth of the clean energy sector globally.
- As we continue to research, develop, demonstrate, and deploy these technologies, we will also face challenges. We look forward to sharing—with IRENA and its member states who are also seeking rapid renewable energy adoption—our lessons learned and best practices to overcoming these challenges.
- Simultaneous to IRA and BIL implementation, the United States is committed to double down on global clean energy cooperation as we build tomorrow’s trusted and resilient supply chains together, including here at IRENA.
- Thank you.

Intervention by Bangladesh at 25th Council of IRENA

Thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the floor.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Good Afternoon

Since it is the first intervention by Bangladesh delegation at this session, let me congratulate Antigua and Barbados and United States of America on their election as Chair and Vice Chair of the Session. I also note with appreciation that Tonga is nominated the reporter of the session. Bangladesh delegation reaffirms its full support and cooperation to this team. Our heartfelt thanks to the Government of the UAE for their warm hospitality. We express sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for timely providing of all documents for the session as well as for necessary preparations for holding this session smoothly. We are confident that the session will attain its objectives.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh being an active and founding member of IRENA, has been working closely with IRENA since its inception. Given the energy security challenges currently facing our country, Bangladesh consider Renewables as the only reliable alternative to mitigate them. As a result, we have been actively engaging with such organizations that contribute to ensuring energy security, including IRENA. This year we are in the Council as Alternate and in the next year will serve as regular member. These increased engagements demonstrate Bangladesh's keen interest in the IRENA programmes. At the same time, Bangladesh looks forward to fruitful collaboration with and support from IRENA and the member states in our endeavours towards energy transition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Government of Bangladesh is working earnestly to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for its people, as well as for creation of additional jobs and investment in line with its vision to becoming a high income, smart country by 2041. Bangladesh has set a target to meet 40% of its electricity demand from renewable sources by 2041 while it has made remarkable progress in the power generation capacity for providing electricity to all. To achieve this renewable target Bangladesh is currently working on developing further required institutional framework like Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP), Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPMP) and Solar Energy Road Map besides acquiring required RE related technologies. However, it calls for huge investment in our RE sector, notably to the tune 20 Billion USD over next 20 years, more than USD 1 billion per year.

In addition, challenges facing our country from population pressure, land scarcity, import-based energy sector, climatic condition, lack of required technologies, just to mention a few stand in our sincere efforts to energy transition and to achieving the clean energy targets-thereby NDCs towards 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway. Not only Bangladesh, all LDCs and LDCs in transition and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are facing challenges of different degrees.

Statement by Cyprus

Dear Chair, Dear Director General,

Dear Excellencies,

Currently, climate change and rising energy prices have a profound impact on our daily lives. However, the Green Deal initiatives and the new Renewable targets set within EU (42.5%) are leading the global efforts towards a greener transition. These efforts have become even more crucial in light of the energy price crisis. Consequently, the interest in renewable energy sources (RES) has significantly increased in 2022-2023. Cyprus has implemented support schemes and various measures, such as speeding the administrative procedures to encourage the generation of electricity from RES for self-consumption.

Furthermore, the agricultural sector also receives support for off-grid projects, and recent endeavors have been undertaken to establish an environmental framework for Agrophotovoltaics.

1. The share of RES in the total final energy consumption reached 17,04%, in 2020, exceeding the mandatory national target by **31%** that was set in 2020, while the rate of increase is much higher for 2021, reaching 18.42%.
2. Cyprus is among the first countries in the world in solar energy penetration, accounting for more than 25% penetration in heating using only solar collectors for hot water (while the total share in heating and cooling is more than 40%). In Electricity Sector, the share is around 13% from photovoltaics. These figures are updated monthly since the applications, especially for Solar PVs, have quadrupled after the energy crisis.
3. Within the framework of various support schemes, many of which do not offer financial incentives, the number of applications received surpasses the total number of projects installed over the past decade. For instance, although the cumulative installed capacity of renewable energy sources (RES) until 2018 amounted to approximately 300MW, the current total installed capacity is nearing 600MW. Moreover, in the last two years alone, the number of completed applications received has exceeded 600MW.
4. It is important to highlight also that almost 30% of these projects' capacity is installed by end users (total of around 150 MW). Introducing the new framework (virtual net-metering and virtual net-billing) opens the horizon for end users to produce their own energy, even if the grid cannot support them fully or there is a limited space next to their consumption.
5. Nevertheless, given its energy isolation, the swift transition in energy sources has resulted in a new unfavourable record for Cyprus. Specifically, we are currently experiencing a significant **increase in green energy curtailments**, with a peak reaching 68% of the production, within a single day.

6. Thus, significant efforts are made, with the support of IRENA and FlexTool development, to analyze and include the deployment of storage systems, that will assist the isolated grid of Cyprus with the addition of hydrogen and other forms of storage in the energy mix.
7. We would like to thank the IRENA team in Bonn for their invaluable support and the insightful information shared through the Long-Term Strategies (LTS) network. We will use this collaboration to showcase our efforts' results in a dedicated side workshop during the upcoming COP28. This workshop will be held in conjunction with the Climate Growth Initiative and the International Scientific Conference, which is co-organized by IRENA, the United Nations, and the authorities of Cyprus and will take place in the coming October in Cyprus. The scientific and high-level conference that will be organized aims to present our findings and contribute to the global dialogue on sustainable development and climate action since the problem of RES curtailment, licensing procedure and innovation in cooling technologies is a problem that some isolated islands and countries might phase soon.



Danish membership statement IRENA council meeting 23-24 May 2023

- Thank you Mr. Chair
- Allow me to begin with the tasks ahead. While turbulent, these years are also crucial for the next decade. Many strategic choices and investment decisions will have to be taken, for deployment and delivery by 2030. The World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO) 2023 emphasize the critical need to deploy 1000 GW of renewable energy capacity annually to 2030 to stay on the 1.5-degree pathway. The UN Secretary General's Acceleration Agenda, launched in relation to the recent IPCC report, likewise set the stage for the necessary action and for countries net zero targets. We need to step up to the challenge!
- That is why COP28 is more important than ever. It is clear that the outcome of the first Global Stocktake must shift us onto a path to deliver on the promises of the Paris Agreement. We want to compliment the incoming presidency of UAE on their efforts, and thank you for the co-hosting of the Climate Ministerial in Copenhagen in March, together with the incumbent Egyptian Presidency. We stand ready to continue the close and fruitful cooperation in the coming months.
- This brings me to say a few words about our experience. Denmark began its energy diversification strategy during the oil crisis in the 70's. Until then, Danish energy production had relied almost entirely on imported oil. During the following 40 years, Denmark began constructing a domestically sourced energy supply, upscaling the use of renewables and making the entire system more energy efficient. Through clearly

defined ambitious targets, Denmark has transformed the structure of its energy system to become largely based on renewable energy source, yet fully reliable and with a high security of supply. The Danish success story proves that a clearly defined energy policy pathway, coupled with public-private partnership, as well as stable and transparent regulatory frameworks, is key to create the right framework for the energy transition.

- And to make it clear. Renewable energy sources are crucial in our efforts to abate global carbon emissions. Renewable energy sources are also an essential tool for countries wanting to secure their energy independence from expensive fossil fuel, and a key enabler of sustainable development - creating jobs and incomes, providing health benefits etc. We strongly value IRENA's approach to improving the global knowledge about the nexus between all these challenges, and identifying the socio-economic development opportunities of renewable energy deployment.
- On the way ahead, we are pleased to announce that a new increased and more strategic Danish contribution to IRENA is underway.
- Denmark highly appreciates the broad based cooperation with IRENA. A few examples: We cooperate closely on the Global Offshore Wind Alliance, aiming for a total offshore wind capacity of at least 380 GW by 2030. GOWA was successfully launched at COP27 and is gathering momentum. It currently counts 15 member countries and we look forward to welcoming more countries. We also come together with IRENA in a partnership with African countries in an effort of enabling frameworks- and mobilizing finance for renewable energy deployment. The needs of Africa have the attention of the highest level of our government and we are happy to contribute to a successful climate action

summit in Nairobi in September. We continue to support the SIDS lighthouse programme, we support the work on just energy transition and socio-economic effects of the energy transition.

- Let me therefore conclude by warmly thanking the Director General as well as all staff members of IRENA for their dedicated and valuable work, and for the strong and fruitful cooperation.

Thank You!

GENERAL INTERVENTION: MALAYSIA

Thank you chair, Excellencies, IRENA Council Members, IRENA Member Countries, Ladies & Gentlemen

First of all, Malaysia would like to congratulate Antigua and Barbuda as well as the United States of America for the appointment as the chair and vice chair of the 25th IRENA Council. Malaysia remains committed to the work of the IRENA council under both of your able leadership. We would also like to thank the Director General and his team in the agency for the progress report on the implementation of the work programme and budget for 2022-23, the chair for the Programme and Strategy Committee and the co-facilitators of the collaborative framework for the work programme and status of update. The work that the agency has undertaken at the regional and national level including its technical publications have provided my government with useful insights and reference on furthering the energy transition agenda in Malaysia. We hope that IRENA will continue with the good work.

Malaysia will continue to lend its unwavering support to IRENA for the invaluable work carried out. Malaysia like many countries in the world envisage for a net-zero climate future. We have an aspirational climate target of becoming achieving net zero GHG emission earliest by 2050. Among the important levers in which we will be focusing in our quest towards carbon neutrality is to systematically decarbonise our energy sector.

Therefore, the Malaysia Energy Transition Outlook Report, launched in March this year, which is the outcome of a combined effort between IRENA and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia, has provided our policy makers with valuable reference on the possible and plausible pathway as well as technological needs and investment required to transition towards a lower carbon energy system.

As a result of this study and its outcome, just 3 weeks ago, my government has announced an enhanced committed to undertake an aspirational low carbon energy pathway to accelerate our Renewable energy deployment in the power sector to 70% or 55GW by 2050, compared the current achievement of 25% or 10GW and the existing target of 40% in 2050.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

Malaysia holds that the development of sustainable energy must go hand-in-hand with the eventual wider adoption of electrification across many economic activities and processes. Therefore, the 5 folds exponential increase in RE capacity for power generation that we have committed is intended to have in place a low-carbon energy system with a clean electricity grid as the future energy carrier in our country to support our climate and energy transition agenda.

As the intended ramping up of RE will be very much solar centric, a robust and flexible grid is a prerequisite to enable our pursuit. We estimated that new investment amounting of approximately RM637 billion or USD142billion up until 2050 is required, which includes investments in RE generation sources, strengthening of grid infrastructure including transmission lines enhancement, energy storage systems integration, and grid system network operation augmentation. We hope to work closely with IRENA and any external parties in this area to ensure a just and systematic transition taking into account the building blocks of energy trilemma namely affordability, security and sustainability.

Let me end by again thanking IRENA for initiating the Long-Term Energy Scenario exercise in Malaysia which resulted in the publication of the Malaysia energy transition outlook report and definitely not forgetting the government of Denmark for funding the exercise. Malaysia has benefitted greatly and will continue to charge forward in our quest to decarbonise our economy and energy system.

Finally, Malaysia would also like to thank UAE for the gracious hosting of this council meeting as countries prepare itself for the forthcoming UNFCCC COP-28 meeting here in the UAE. It is heartening to see the collaboration and work between IRENA and the UAE in propelling the energy transition agenda within the climate change domain. Like what my minister has mentioned during the launching of the Malaysia Energy Transition Outlook, that “there can be no climate action without an energy transition”. Therefore, we believe that the synergy between IRENA and the UAE government as the host of the upcoming UNFCCC COP is in the right pathway.

With that I Thank You.

25th IRENA Council

22nd-24th May 2023

23rd May 2023

5:00 PM-6:00 PM- General Member Statements

National Experiences on Energy Transition

Firstly, I would like to thank IRENA for giving me the opportunity to share on Mauritius' experiences on its energy transition. The Objective of the Government is to move away from fossil fuel, phase out the use of coal by 2030 and integrating 60% RE in its electricity mix by the same timeline.

The objective is ambitious and the Government is putting much effort to reach its target. The production of electricity from RE sources is being democratised among all social classes and economic sectors. Government has put in place different schemes to cater for residential, commercial, industrial and utility scale electricity production.

Legal and institutional reforms have been undertaken to achieve better coordination in the energy transition.

Mauritius developed its first RE Roadmap of for the electricity sector up to 2030 in 2019 and same has been reviewed in 2022. The RE Roadmap caters for more affordable and mature technologies such as solar and onshore wind as immediate solutions. Technologies not yet matured such as marine RE

(wave, tidal, OTEC, etc) and offshore wind have been considered as from 2025.

The most challenging part in the energy transitions for Mauritius as a SIDS is its electricity grid. With a view to ensuring that the grid stability is not jeopardized with the massive deployment of intermittent RE sources by horizon 2030, the island is investing in smartening its grid and battery energy storage system (BESS).

As an alternative to BESS, Mauritius is also envisaging to carry out a feasibility study for pumped storage system which will make use of the excess RE produced to pumped back water into a reservoir for reuse in hydroelectricity production to meet peak demand.

Notwithstanding the above, Mauritius has already embarked on a pre-feasibility study for offshore wind to identify potential sites in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In the same vein, Mauritius is also envisaging to carry out a feasibility study for wave energy.

While some projects are being implemented through public financing, the main chunk of the investment are from the private sector through call for proposal. Investment for projects already committed and in the pipeline is estimated at about MUR 31 billion or USD 690 million. More than 90% of the investment in the renewable energy projects, particularly solar PV, will be from the private sector.

Financing is also being sought from Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) such the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the African Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, amongst others.

Mauritius as a SIDS, being vulnerable to climate change wants to set the example in reaching our target and look forward to the outcome of COP 28 and the support of the international community.

Thank you.



Embajada de la República Oriental del Uruguay

Representación Permanente ante IRENA

Abu Dhabi, Emiratos Árabes Unidos

Intervención Uruguay

25° Consejo de IRENA

23-24 de mayo de 2023

Sr. Director General de IRENA

Distinguidos representantes, delegados y colegas.

Para comenzar, quisiera extender nuestras felicitaciones al Director General de IRENA, Sr. Francesco La Camera y a la Secretaría de IRENA por una exitosa organización de un nuevo Consejo de IRENA. Agradecemos asimismo al gobierno de los Emiratos Árabes Unidos por su cordial hospitalidad.

Señor Presidente,

Uruguay ha continuado su activa colaboración con IRENA durante el presente año, trabajando de manera conjunta en su calidad de Presidente del 24° Consejo de la Agencia, presidencia que hemos recientemente trasladado a Antigua y Barbuda al comienzo de este Consejo. Esta activa colaboración no hace más que continuar reafirmando el **compromiso de nuestro país con las energías renovables y con el trabajo de IRENA.**

En relación al estrecho trabajo de Uruguay con la Agencia, deseamos destacar especialmente la exitosa **Visita del señor Director General IRENA, Francesco**

La Camera y su equipo al Uruguay en marzo del presente año. El Director General realizó varias actividades durante su visita, entre ellas, participó de reuniones de trabajo con autoridades y funcionarios del Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería (MIEM), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, y de otras organizaciones del sector energético uruguayo.

Asimismo, durante esta Visita, **Uruguay e IRENA lanzaron el Primer Foro de Inversiones para Latinoamérica y el Caribe de IRENA, que se desarrollará en noviembre del corriente en Uruguay** con el objetivo de facilitar la financiación y acelerar el crecimiento de la energía renovable en la región. Uruguay fue elegido para ser su sede, entre otros motivos porque nuestro país “quiere ser protagonista” en el dinámico mundo de la energía. Así lo explicó el Ministro de Industria, Omar Paganini.

De manera simultánea al Foro de Inversiones, y tal como se confirmó oficialmente la semana pasada, **se celebrará la Semana de la Energía de la Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE), en Uruguay**. Ambos eventos tendrán lugar en la semana del 6 al 10 de noviembre del corriente en Montevideo, **poniendo así al país en el mapa de la transición energética mundial.**

La Semana de la Energía es una de las principales instancias de diálogo político y estratégico en materia energética a nivel regional, ya que nuclea a los ministros del sector de los 27 países miembros de OLADE. Además de constituir un espacio de intercambio entre autoridades, referentes, académicos y representantes de empresas, en ella se expondrá acerca de las oportunidades y **tendencias regionales en el sector energético, así como sobre la incidencia del contexto internacional.**

Sin lugar a dudas, la simultaneidad de ambos eventos **reforzará la importancia de América Latina como actor relevante en este contexto.**

Señor Presidente,

En línea con los compromisos nacionales e internacionales adoptados por nuestro país, **Uruguay logró disminuir a la mínima expresión el uso de los combustibles fósiles en la matriz eléctrica.** En el año 2022 la matriz de generación eléctrica del país fue **91% de fuentes de origen renovable; a pesar de la acuciante sequía que aún sufre el país y que afectó fuertemente toda la generación de fuente hidroeléctrica.**

No obstante, **las energías renovables no son un fin en sí mismo, sino que son un medio para lograr, soberanía energética, impactar positivamente en el desarrollo local y descarbonizar la economía.** A partir de la matriz eléctrica consolidada en los últimos años Uruguay tiene ahora una gran oportunidad de avanzar en la electrificación (y por tanto descarbonización) del sector transporte y los usos térmicos industriales que hoy son responsables de la mayoría del consumo fósil que aún presenta el país.

En este sentido, el país avanza en la **segunda etapa de la transformación energética** la cual incluye, entre otros desafíos, **la descarbonización del resto del sector energético, esto es, la industria y el transporte, así como el desarrollo de una economía del hidrógeno tanto para el mercado local como para la exportación.** Uruguay considera que el desarrollo del hidrógeno verde es un paso natural en su proceso de descarbonización.

Uruguay a partir de la experiencia acumulada en la transformación del sector eléctrico viene **avanzando firmemente en el desarrollo del Hidrógeno a partir de recursos renovables**, analizando diferentes usos finales a los que orientar su producción a la vez que evaluando la factibilidad de su exportación.

Al respecto, cabe destacar especialmente que el país ha dado un importante paso hacia el desarrollo del hidrógeno verde con **la concreción del primer proyecto piloto.** Con el apoyo del Fondo Sectorial de Hidrógeno Verde, el **Proyecto H24U** conformado por un consorcio de las empresas Saceem y CIR, buscará sentar las bases para continuar avanzando en la transición energética en Uruguay.

El proyecto beneficiario apostará por el desarrollo y producción del hidrógeno verde en distintas dimensiones y áreas productivas. **La primera área de abordaje será el transporte de carga pesada**, responsable de aproximadamente el 28% de la demanda energética del país (según Balance Energético Nacional 2021) y que en la actualidad se abastece casi en su totalidad de derivados del petróleo.

El proyecto prevé el desarrollo, ingeniería y producción de hidrógeno verde que se utilizará en camiones que serán especialmente adaptados, y tendrán como destino el transporte de material forestal. Por otro lado, en etapas posteriores, el proyecto procurará inyectar hidrógeno verde en la red existente de Gas Natural.

La iniciativa permitirá impulsar el desarrollo de normativas y conocimiento, que permitan luego escalar la tecnología a otras actividades a nivel nacional, generando experiencia e insumos para el desarrollo de políticas públicas enfocadas en el desarrollo sostenible.

Se trata de un proyecto con fuerte transferencia tecnológica de empresas líderes a nivel mundial, que además capacitará a profesionales uruguayos para sentar las bases de futuros desarrollos para el crecimiento de la industria del hidrógeno verde en nuestro país.

De manera adicional, se señala que presentó su solicitud de autorización ambiental un proyecto a instalarse en el norte del país con miras a **la producción de metanol en base a hidrogeno verde.**

Finalmente, y en **materia de movilidad eléctrica**, Uruguay ha venido transformando su matriz de transporte al eléctrico. Aunque aún incipiente, se evidencia un crecimiento exponencial en la cantidad de vehículos eléctricos que circulan.

Esto es producto de las políticas públicas que se vienen desarrollando para incentivar esa transición. Políticas que van desde los incentivos fiscales hasta los promocionales económicos para diversos sectores.

Señor Presidente,

Respecto a los compromisos ambientales asumidos, se destaca que Uruguay presentó en diciembre 2022 ante la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático, su **Segunda Contribución Determinada a nivel nacional al Acuerdo de París**, con lo cual confirma su compromiso para atender la problemática del cambio climático.

Asimismo, Uruguay desarrolló un **Bono Indexado a Indicadores de Cambio Climático (BIICC)**, que alinea la estrategia de financiamiento público con los compromisos nacionales de sostenibilidad y desarrollo económico bajo en carbono.

Por último, se destaca que el país cuenta con **Certificados de Energías Renovables**, los cuales son un mecanismo de acreditación que atestigua que la energía producida fue generada a partir de fuentes renovables.

Para finalizar, Uruguay ratifica su compromiso con IRENA, con las energías renovables, con el cuidado del medio ambiente y su disposición para contribuir a una fructífera reunión, así como a avanzar en la agenda de la transformación energética mundial.

Muchas gracias por su amable atención.

Courtesy Translation

Statement by Uruguay

Uruguay Intervention

25th IRENA Council

May 23-24, 2023

Mr. Director General of IRENA

Distinguished representatives, delegates and colleagues.

To begin, I would like to extend our congratulations to the Director General of IRENA, Mr. Francesco La Camera, and to the IRENA Secretariat for a successful organization of another IRENA Council. We also thank the government of the United Arab Emirates for its cordial hospitality.

Mr. President

Uruguay has continued its active collaboration with IRENA during this year, working together in its capacity as Chair of the Agency's 24th Council, a position that we have recently transferred to Antigua and Barbuda at the beginning of this Council. This active collaboration only continues to reaffirm our country's **commitment to renewable energy and the work of IRENA**.

In regard to the close work of Uruguay with the Agency, we wish to highlight especially the successful **visit of the IRENA Director General, Francesco La Camera, and his team to Uruguay in March of this year**. The Director General carried out several activities during his visit, among them, he participated in working meetings with authorities and officials from the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (MIEM), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other organizations in the Uruguayan energy sector.

Furthermore, during this Visit, **Uruguay and IRENA launched the first IRENA Investment Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Uruguay this November** with the aim of facilitating financing and accelerating the growth of renewable energy in the region. Uruguay was chosen to host it, among other reasons because our country "wants to be a protagonist" in the dynamic world of energy. As noted by the Minister of Industry, Omar Paganini.

Concurrently to the Investment Forum, and as officially confirmed last week, **the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) Energy Week will be held in Uruguay**. Both events will take place in the week of November 6 to 10 of this year in Montevideo, thus putting the country on the map of the global energy transition.

The Energy Week is one of the main instances of political and strategic dialogue on energy at the regional level, bringing together ministers of the sector from the 27 OLADE member countries. In addition to constituting a space for exchange between authorities, stakeholders, academics and company representatives, there will be a presentation on regional opportunities and **trends in the energy sector, as well as its impact on the international context**.

Undoubtedly, the two simultaneous events will **reinforce the importance of Latin America as a relevant actor in this context**.

Mr. President,

In line with the national and international commitments adopted by our country, **Uruguay managed to minimize the use of fossil fuels in its power matrix.** In 2022, the country's electricity generation matrix was **91% from sources of renewable origin; despite the pressing drought that the country is still suffering from and that strongly affected all generation from hydroelectric sources.**

However, **renewable energies are not an end in itself, but are a means to achieve energy sovereignty, have a positive impact on local development and decarbonise the economy.** Based on the consolidated electrical matrix in recent years, Uruguay now has a great opportunity to advance in the electrification (and therefore decarbonization) of the transport sector and industrial thermal uses that today are responsible for the majority of the fossil consumption still present in the country.

In this sense, the country is advancing in **the second stage of the energy transformation** which includes, among other challenges, the **decarbonization of the rest of the energy sector, that is, industry and transportation, as well as the development of a hydrogen economy both for the local market and export.** Uruguay considers that the development of green hydrogen is a natural step in its decarbonization process.

Uruguay, based on the accumulated experience in the transformation of the electricity sector, has been **advancing firmly in the development of Hydrogen from renewable resources**, analyzing different end uses to which to direct its production while evaluating the feasibility of its export.

In this regard, it should be especially noted that the country has taken an important step towards the development of green hydrogen with the **completion of the first pilot project.** With the support of the Green Hydrogen Sector Fund, **the H24U Project**, made up of a consortium of the companies Saceem and CIR, will seek to lay the foundations to continue advancing in the energy transition in Uruguay.

The beneficiary project will bet on the development and production of green hydrogen in different dimensions and productive areas. **The first area of approach will be the transport of heavy cargo**, responsible for approximately 28% of the country's energy demand (according to the 2021 National Energy Balance) and which is currently supplied almost entirely by petroleum derivatives.

The project foresees the development, engineering and production of green hydrogen that will be used in trucks that will be specially adapted and will be destined for the transport of forestry material. On the other hand, in later stages, the project will seek to inject green hydrogen into the existing Natural Gas network.

The initiative will promote the development of regulations and knowledge, which will then allow the technology to be scaled up to other activities at the national level, generating experience and inputs for the development of public policies focused on sustainable development.

This is a project with strong technology transfer from leading companies worldwide, which will also train Uruguayan professionals to lay the foundations for future developments for the growth of the green hydrogen industry in our country.

Additionally, it is noted that a project to be installed in the north of the country with a view to **producing methanol based on green hydrogen** submitted its request for environmental authorization.

Finally, and in terms of **electric mobility**, Uruguay has been transforming its transport matrix to electric. Although still in its infancy, there is evidence of exponential growth in the number of electric vehicles on the road.

This is the product of the public policies that have been developed to encourage this transition. Policies ranging from tax incentives to economic promotions for various sectors.

Mr. President,

Regarding the environmental commitments assumed, it is worth noting that Uruguay presented in December 2022 before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, **its Second Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement**, thus confirming its commitment to address the problem of climate change. climate.

Likewise, Uruguay developed a **Bond Indexed to Climate Change Indicators (BIICC)**, which aligns the public financing strategy with national commitments to sustainability and low-carbon economic development.

Finally, it is worth noting that the country has **Renewable Energy Certificates**, which are an accreditation mechanism that certifies that the energy produced was generated from renewable sources.

Finally, Uruguay ratifies its commitment to IRENA, to renewable energies, to caring for the environment and its willingness to contribute to a fruitful meeting, as well as to advance the global energy transformation agenda.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Statement by Belgium

25th Meeting of the Council

General statement: Belgium

On an invitation by Belgium, the second North Sea Summit was held in Ostend, on the 24th April. As a follow-up of the Esbjerg declaration (DK) signed on 18 May 2022, the Ostend declaration confirms the ambitions of the partner countries in terms of wind energy deployment but also hydrogen production and carbon capture. More precisely: Partner countries grow from 4 (BE, DE, DK, NL + Commission UE) to 9 (+ FR, IE, UK, LU, NO).

The summit has put together the Heads of State and Government, their Energy Ministers, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen also a delegation of 30 major private companies active in this sector.

The wind energy production in the North Sea today amounts at 30 GW. The ambitions are high: ensure a production of 120 GW in 2030 and 300 GW in 2050.

One of the main elements of the infrastructure will be an artificial island - Princess Elizabeth Island in the Belgian maritime zone - which would serve as a giant interconnector between the various wind parks and grid.

During the Summit, a particular attention has also been paid to environmental questions such as protection of marine biodiversity in the wind parks areas, carbon capture, security questions, supply of critical materials and the development of hydrogen production and trade.

In less than three months, we have hosted in Belgium two important energy summits that give an incredible boost to our European energy cooperation.

We are very pleased of the success of last week's Ostende North Sea Summit and the Ostende declaration. The targets we've set together are ambitious, but we are confident that, thanks to the close cooperation already shown so far by the nine partners, we will succeed in reaching those targets.

Statement by Colombia

Agenda item 7: General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition 25th Council Meeting of IRENA

COLOMBIA: First, I'd like to thank the UAE (United Arab Emirates) for their hospitality in hosting this council meeting, as well as their hard work preparing for COP 28.

In Colombia, we are on a roadmap for energy transition which is going to bring together efforts from different agencies and ministries of our government to reach our goals. Our roadmap is for hydrogen, for wind – offshore wind, as well as for public policies for a 40/60 balancing of our energy mix.

However, we have very ambitious goals in terms of realigning our objectives and making inclusion and equitable solutions the foremost priority. This is essential so that our government is aligned with the sustainable goals in Colombia, promoting economic and social equality in addition to industrialization, and technological advancement, as well as propelling us to a more sustainable future.

All of this must be part of a vision of mid- to long-term objectives with, again, an ethical and just commitment to our regions and territories. This is made up of different axes. One of these is planning – strategy planning, as well as activity design. And the roadmap that is going to help us overcome barriers in terms of the energy transition.

This is all the makeup of our roadmap, and now we have a long-term strategy to have goals for 2050 in aligning supply and demand so that the supply of energy can be done locally – more locally and based on social, economic, environmental, and fiscal measures, locally. Providing incentives to local citizens and, of course, upscaling this to a national level.

This is part of a national mid- to long-term vision which will allow us to bring together macroeconomic, fiscal, and tax measures all together so that the funding and financing of these measures can be made possible.

In this fiscal year, we have aligned our energy transition together with many of our decarbonization policies that are based upon the Paris Agreement, and we also have revisited many of the different international experiences so that we can meet the challenges that we have in common with them.

We have identified IRENA as one of our strategic partners in the construction and eventual implementation of our energy transition. And together with the countries that make up IRENA, we will have the strategic experience to rely upon and the dialogues that we can carry on with our partners in Central and South America which we are collaborating with in recent years in a roadmap that is coherent with our neighboring countries in Latin America.

We finally would like to request more information about the accelerator for financing and funding energy transition projects. And of course, we would like to ask IRENA to provide us with that information so that we can make sure that the implementation of these projects can be financially feasible and bankable. Thank you.

Statement by El Salvador

Statement by the Permanent Representative of El Salvador

H.E. Vanessa Interiano Elfarnawany

25th Session of the IRENA Council.

May 23, 2023.

Mr President,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I am pleased to share our national experience and highlight the many advances that are being made to accelerate the energy transition in my country.

When we talk about geothermal energy in El Salvador, we talk about development, commitment, and history. We started developing geothermal energy more than 40 years ago. We currently have 2 geothermal plants: The Ahuachapán Geothermal Power Plant and the Berlin Geothermal Power Plant, which together generate 190 Megawatts to the energy matrix.

This process of energy generation, which we have been perfecting over time, has been recognized by the Kyoto Protocol, which has allowed El Salvador to be a model for other countries on how to organize and carry out processes that ensure access to clean energy for its citizens.

Moving towards a sustainable energy transition is one of the priorities of our government and motivated by the benefits of the use of this energy, we plan to increase this figure with the construction of 2 new geothermal plants.

Mr. President,

For the Government of President Nayib Bukele, the use and development of clean energy has been a priority, especially the development of geothermal energy in the country, representing 25% of energy consumption; the rich resources that the Salvadoran territory has makes it possible to explore other sources of renewable energy, such as hydroelectric, solar and wind energy.

Currently, El Salvador together with IRENA and the IGA is working on the Centre of Excellence for geothermal energy, which will contribute to facilitate and promote the development of geothermal resources, through research and analysis. It will also serve as a door of cooperation because it will contribute to train nationals and foreigners in geothermal energy.

El Salvador has made great and extraordinary progress in the energy sector, becoming one of the countries that imported energy to export it, this has been possible thanks to the commitment made by the Government in the use of clean energy, good management of resources, to the improvement of national policies and an efficient operation. Nowadays, renewables represent 87% of the energy mix.

Mr President,

We would like to thank IRENA and the International Solar Alliance for their support in developing the Solar City Simulator. This application will help households, businesses and municipal authorities assess their electricity generation prospects using solar photovoltaic systems installed on the roofs of buildings.

Additionally, the Agency carried out in the country the first training for the development of green hydrogen, which according to the recommendation emanating from the REMAP Central America study is an alternative solution in the region to decarbonize the transport of heavy cargo by road, as well as an opportunity for a cleaner energy supply in international maritime transport.

I conclude, Mr. President, by reiterating our support for all the initiatives of IRENA and the UAE as President of COP28 - that involve promoting, expanding, and advancing the use of renewable energies with a view to achieving sustainable development and a successful COP28.

Thank you.

Agenda Item 7: General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition – French statement

- Dans un contexte d'urgence climatique et énergétique, la France, dans le cadre de l'Union européenne (et à l'instar d'autres pays) a choisi de se fixer l'objectif d'atteindre la neutralité climatique en 2050. Cet objectif est inscrit dans la loi depuis 2019. La France s'est également fixée des objectifs ambitieux en matière d'énergies renouvelables : celles-ci doivent atteindre 33% de sa consommation finale brute en 2030, dont 40% pour la production d'électricité, 38% pour la consommation finale de chaleur, 15% pour la consommation finale de carburant, et 10% pour la consommation de gaz. Ces objectifs seront mis à jour en 2023, en coordination avec les nouveaux objectifs climatiques européens pour 2030, et prendre en compte les nouvelles orientations du gouvernement.
- Pour atteindre ces objectifs, la France a déployé des moyens budgétaires conséquents pour la transition écologique et énergétique, conformément aux stratégies européennes Fit for 55 et RePowerEU. Le grand plan d'investissement « France 2030 », annoncé le 12 octobre 2021, est doté de 34 milliards d'euros déployés sur 5 ans. Près de la moitié de ce plan est dédié à la transition écologique et énergétique. La loi de finances pour 2023 prévoit de consacrer 60 milliards d'euros à la transition écologique. Ces outils accompagnent la mise en œuvre de textes législatifs français structurants qui engagent des évolutions de long terme, dans des secteurs clés tels que ceux des transports, du bâtiment, des déchets et de l'énergie¹.
- La loi climat et résilience, promulguée le 24 août 2021 est venue enrichir ce socle. Cette loi, sans précédent dans la diversité des thèmes abordés, a été préparée dans le cadre d'une expérience démocratique inédite en France, souhaitée par le Président de la République, la Convention citoyenne pour le climat. 150 citoyens tirés au sort ont ainsi créé les conditions d'un changement profond. Au-delà de l'innovation démocratique, cette loi contient de nouvelles mesures pour accélérer la transition du modèle de développement vers une société neutre en carbone. Elle permettra d'accompagner durablement les Français au quotidien dans leurs choix de déplacement, de logement, de consommation, de production.
- Depuis mai 2022 et pour la première fois sous la Vème République, la Première ministre est directement chargée de la planification écologique. Pour l'épauler dans cette tâche, elle a créé le Secrétariat général à la Planification écologique, chargé de coordonner l'élaboration des stratégies nationales en matière de climat, d'énergie, de biodiversité et d'économie circulaire. Cette organisation novatrice permettra de veiller à la bonne exécution des engagements pris par tous les ministères en matière d'environnement.
- A moyen et long terme, la stratégie énergétique française, annoncée par le Président de la République en février 2022 lors du discours de Belfort, repose sur quatre piliers : (i) la sobriété énergétique, c'est-à-dire consommer moins ; (ii) l'efficacité énergétique, c'est-à-dire consommer autrement ; (iii) l'accélération du développement des énergies renouvelables ; (iv) la relance de la filière nucléaire française. Cette stratégie revêt une importance d'autant plus stratégique dans le contexte de la crise énergétique liée à la guerre en Ukraine, qui, en mettant en lumière nos vulnérabilités énergétiques, nous incite à accélérer notre transition

¹ Loi hydrocarbures (2017), Loi énergie-climat (2019), Loi d'orientation des mobilités (2019), Loi anti-gaspillage pour une économie circulaire (2020).

énergétique, afin de garantir durablement notre sécurité énergétique et d'atteindre nos objectifs climatiques.

- Pour mener à bien l'ensemble de ces travaux, la France continuera de s'appuyer sur la solide expertise de l'IRENA./.

Courtesy Translation

Statement by France

France Statement

- In the context of climate and energy emergencies, France, as part of the European Union (along with other countries), has chosen to set the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. This objective has been enshrined in law since 2019. France has also set ambitious targets for renewable energies: they are expected to reach 33% of its gross final consumption by 2030, including 40% for electricity production, 38% for final heat consumption, 15% for final fuel consumption, and 10% for gas consumption. These targets will be updated in 2023, in coordination with the new European climate targets for 2030 and considering the new directions of the government.
- To achieve these goals, France has allocated significant budgetary resources for ecological and energy transition, in line with the European strategies Fit for 55 and RePowerEU. The investment plan, "France 2030", announced on October 12, 2021, has a budget of 34 billion euros to be deployed over 5 years, with nearly half of this plan dedicated to ecological and energy transition. The budget law for 2023 plans to allocate 60 billion euros to ecological transition. These tools support the implementation of structuring French legislative texts that involve long-term changes in key sectors such as transportation, buildings, waste, and energy.
- The Climate and Resilience Law, enacted on August 24, 2021, has enriched this foundation. This unprecedented law covers a wide range of topics and was prepared within the framework of an unprecedented democratic experience in France, initiated by the President of the Republic, the Citizens' Convention for Climate. 150 randomly selected citizens have thus created the conditions for profound change. Beyond democratic innovation, this law contains new measures to accelerate the transition of the development model towards a carbon-neutral society. It will sustainably support French citizens in their daily choices of transportation, housing, consumption, and production.
- Since May 2022, and for the first time under the Fifth Republic, the Prime Minister is directly responsible for ecological planning. To assist in this task, the Prime Minister has created the General Secretariat for Ecological Planning, responsible for coordinating the development of national strategies on climate, energy, biodiversity, and circular economy. This innovative organization will ensure the proper implementation of commitments made by all ministries in the environmental field.
- In the medium and long term, the French energy strategy, announced by the President of the Republic in February 2022 during the speech in Belfort, is based on four pillars: (i) energy sobriety, which means consuming less; (ii) energy efficiency, which means consuming differently; (iii) accelerating the development of renewable energies; (iv) revitalizing the French nuclear industry. This strategy is of strategic importance, especially in the context of the energy crisis related to the war in Ukraine, which highlights our energy vulnerabilities and urges us to accelerate our energy transition to ensure long-term energy security and achieve our climate objectives.
- To successfully carry out all these works, France will continue to rely on the solid expertise of IRENA.

Statement of Ireland

IRENA 25th Council meeting - General Member Statements,

Sheraton Corniche- Abu Dhabi

Chair, Director General of IRENA, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

- As already well stated by many IRENA members here today, Ireland would also like to recognise the vital work of IRENA in supporting, and indeed fast-tracking, the global transition to renewable energy. The renewable energy sector is vast, ever evolving and highly technical. Ireland appreciates the extensive expertise and support structures housed within IRENA, which serve to distil the complex themes for those of us who are not technical experts.
- We recognise that IRENA has a vital role advancing these critically important sectors, and we appreciate its efforts in building and fostering connections between policy makers and implementers in both the public and private spheres right across the world. The growth in membership to 168 members is a testament to this.
- This is a busy year for those of us working on climate policy in the UAE. With this event and the upcoming COP 28 taking place in Dubai this December, I would like to applaud our UAE colleagues for their leadership role in hosting these important spaces. We look forward to working with you and COP28 President-elect HE Sultan al Jaber over the coming year, and to supporting in any way we can to making COP 28 a pivotal moment in the international climate change space.

- All of us here in this room are focused on the twin-tracks of our national and multilateral ambitions and actions. I will first speak about Ireland's climate goals.

Ireland climate goals

- In terms of Ireland's own ambitions, we are taking our climate commitments seriously. Our recently announced Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development. The plan implements carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings, and sets out a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050.
- Wind and solar energy will play a critical role for Ireland to achieve this accelerated transition. Onshore wind continues to be one of the leading cost-effective technologies to achieve our renewable electricity and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, as well as displacing emissions in other sectors. Increasingly offshore wind will contribute to Ireland's renewable targets up to and beyond 2030 and will be key to successfully meeting the ambitious targets outlined in the European Green Deal and Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 as well as to protecting against security of supply risks

Offshore wind energy

- Ireland's offshore energy potential is colossal, due to its peripheral location at the edge of the Atlantic, with a sea area that is seven times

its landmass and contains the strongest regional wind speeds, Ireland has Europe's greatest offshore renewable energy resource.

- Harnessing this offshore wind resource will make a massive contribution towards achieving regional renewable energy self-sufficiency.
- The Climate Action Plan 2023 commits to achieving at least 5GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030 with an additional 2GW earmarked for the production of green hydrogen and other non-grid uses. It also includes a suite of actions to realise Ireland's offshore renewable energy (ORE) potential.
- Our Government has also committed to a long-term plan to take advantage of a potential of at least 30GW of floating wind post-2030. These ambitious plans would not only see Ireland achieve net zero but would also make a significant contribution to decarbonising Europe's electricity generation.
- Last November, Ireland launched the first auction under the new Offshore Renewable Electricity Scheme (ORESS 1). This sets Ireland on course to become one of the leading producers of offshore wind energy in Europe.
- The auction results surpassed expectations, both in terms of the total volume of renewable energy procured and the low price at which it has been secured. The hugely competitive price secured — at an average of €86.05/MWh — is one of the lowest prices paid by an emerging offshore wind market in the world. For comparison, the average wholesale electricity price in Ireland over the past 12 months was in excess of €200/MWh.

- Over 3GW of capacity has been procured from four offshore wind projects, which will deliver over 12TWh (terawatt hours) of renewable electricity per year.

Conclusion

- To conclude, this is challenging time, not only for those working in the energy sector but for the global community – nobody remains untouched by the global energy crisis.
- Ireland's significant offshore potential will help decarbonise Ireland and Europe's electricity generation, improve energy security and create jobs.
- Building consensus and sharing our achievements and lessons learned are fundamental pillars of IRENA and once again I congratulate on today's meeting .

Statement by Kenya

IRENA 25th Council

General Member statements: 23 May 2023

Kenya

Experiences

Energy Transition is underpinned on the need to contain global temperature rise below 2 degrees in order to forestall human existential threat in line with Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development imperatives.

Several decades ago, Kenya made the hard decision to embrace green energy development pathway at a time when it was not fashionable to do so. This decision is now paying off given the high shares of renewable energy in our energy mix.

Kenya has in the last two decades made significant strides in utilizing various renewable energy sources to improve reliability, increase capacity and increase electricity access. Renewable energy sources currently account for more than 92% of Kenya's electricity generation up from less than 60% a decade ago. Over 75% of Kenyans have gained access to electricity through government-led electrification efforts. Investments in renewable energy have been enabled by successful efforts to mobilize both public and private sector investment.

Energy is a public good and a key enabler for productivity at every level of society in Kenya. Kenyans have a collective aspiration to transform the country into a thriving middle-income economy that works for all. Affordable and reliable energy is at the heart of achieving these socio-economic goals and that is why it has been central to the current national development blueprint, Vision 2030.

Energy Transition

As part of the overriding energy transition objectives, Kenya aims to establish itself as a global leader in the drive towards decarbonized economic growth and to stimulate the efficient use of clean energy in Kenya at both industrial and household level. We have already prepared a long-term emission reduction strategy towards net-zero by 2050.

Challenges in the energy sector

To move further along this journey, however, Kenya needs to solve the main challenges in the energy sector which mainly revolve around energy equity and energy security.

Conclusion

- Kenya notes with satisfaction that a publication on Renewables-based clean cooking is planned for final quarter of 2023. We look forward to the transformative recommendations on potential accelerators for clean cooking.

Statement by Malta

25th IRENA Council, Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023
Intervention by H.E. Maria Camilleri Calleja
Permanent Representative of Malta to IRENA.

Thank you Chair,

Allow me to start by thanking the Director-General and IRENA staff, for organising this very important platform for exchange, as well as the UAE Mission to IRENA, for the exceptional support.

Five days ago, Malta hosted the Med9 Energy Ministers Meeting. Lying at the heart of this meeting's ambition was the European Union's aim to raise the bar on deployment of renewables in Southern European Mediterranean countries as a Green Corridor. Speaking on the situation in Malta, Energy Minister Dr. Miriam Dalli said that Malta is considering floating offshore renewables deployment, as the technology that can help the country take the required leap to ensure a higher share of renewables in its energy mix.

Malta's commitment to renewable energy aligns with the European Union's Green Deal, which aims to make Europe carbon-neutral by 2050. By investing in renewable energy, Malta is contributing to this goal while reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and increasing its energy security.

Having carried out a Pre-Market Consultation, the Government of Malta is currently finalising a policy document focusing on the funds needed towards innovative renewable energy projects that attract investment across all sea basins, including the Mediterranean, on two fronts: (1) the required financial support for research and innovation in new emerging

technologies, and (2) the required financial support for grid developments and proper infrastructure for the production, transmission, and storage of energy.

At present, Malta is powered by one natural gas-fired power plant, one interconnector linking Malta to Italy and therefore to the European Energy Grid and photovoltaic roof-top solar panels, both commercial and domestic.

As a next step, Malta's future vision for the power sector foresees sustained growth of generation from **renewable sources**, powered by large-scale offshore renewable technologies, such as floating wind and solar, and green energy imported over interconnections with neighbouring countries.

Investments in the **development of cross-border infrastructure** to ensure security of supply and enable further imports of renewable energy are considered crucial to achieve this vision. In view of this the Government has already announced its plans to invest in a second electricity interconnector with our neighbour Italy, enabling it to import renewable electricity and decrease the GHG intensity of the local power sector.

Malta is also actively studying the possibility of importing green hydrogen or biomethane, which will end Malta's isolation from the trans-European gas network but will also provide an opportunity to import renewable gases, once the market develops. Malta considers hydrogen as one of the many tools and solutions to help the EU achieve decarbonisation by 2050, in particular for hard-to-abate sectors and as a link between the electricity and gas sectors.

Finding balanced solutions for a small country like Malta and other Small Island States with limited land space is not always an easy process. Malta wishes the United Arab Emirates well in its hosting of the upcoming UNFCCC COP28 and augurs that this will be an occasion to continue moving towards more broadly accessible and sustainable renewable energy resources, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.

Statement by New Zealand

IRENA 25th Council Meeting, Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

Agenda Item 7. General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition

New Zealand

Thank you Chair.

Climate change, caused by greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), threatens global well-being. Only an urgent system-wide transformation can deliver the enormous cuts needed to limit greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Energy is central to this global challenge. An accelerated transition from fossil fuels to clean energy is required.

Energy transitions are complex, intersecting with a broad range of political, economic and social interests, but must be fair, equitable and inclusive and safeguards the most vulnerable. New Zealand is committed to developing a National Energy Strategy by the end of next year that takes into account these factors and ensures New Zealand decarbonises.

Chair, New Zealand has a long history of international development cooperation support for renewable energy and energy transition. New Zealand is providing NZ\$1.3 billion of International Climate Finance to developing countries between 2022 and 2025. The delivery of this funding is partner led, with at least half going to the Pacific where energy is a climate change priority for our Pacific partners.

The Pacific's contribution to global greenhouse emissions is small, however, the Pacific is the most petroleum dependent region in the World. Approximately 70% of electricity generation and nearly 100% transport still petroleum-fuelled. This undermines Pacific resilience, and Pacific Island Countries have made their ambition to end dependence on fossil fuels clear.

Pacific energy systems are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, affecting the resilience of the essential services, communities and economies. This means energy investment in the Pacific should support mitigation priorities, while ensuring outcomes improve climate resilience and climate change adaptation.

This transition from fossil fuels to clean energy will require enormous investment; in renewable energy and enabling infrastructure, the supporting regulatory and policy environment, and in institutional, organisational and human capacity and capability.

In this regard, New Zealand expresses our full support for the United Arab Emirates in their upcoming role as COP28 President later this year. The world is not on track to meet the Paris Agreement goals, and we therefore look forward to the UAE delivering an ambitious, inclusive COP that puts us collectively back on track to limiting warming to 1.5C.

Thank you Chair.

23 May 2023

IRENA COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2023

NORWAY

First, Norway would like to thank IRENA and council members for good cooperation while we served on the council as member and Vice-Chair. We wish current and new council members the best of luck in the work ahead.

- The Norwegian Government aims to develop more of our renewable energy potential. This will be needed to meet increased demand for electricity, reduce prices and strengthen energy security.
- We have increased the regulatory capacity to speed up the licensing processes for wind power, hydropower and grid-projects.
- The Norwegian government has high ambitions for offshore, especially floating wind. We have recently tendered 2 new areas for offshore wind, of 1500 MW each. There are plans to tender new areas regularly towards 2040, with a planned capacity of 30 GW in total. Our knowledge from the offshore petroleum sector will play a key role in this transition, creating new jobs and providing more clean energy.
- Achieving the energy transition requires stronger international collaboration, including collective efforts to channel more funds to developing countries. In response, Norway has established a climate investment fund which will invest in renewable energy projects in developing countries. The fund has already announced investments in several countries, among them South Africa. Norway is also a partner with G7 countries to the Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Indonesia and Vietnam and has launched a new Energy for Development Initiative.
- Norway welcomes IRENA's efforts to inform the Global Stocktake at COP28 in Dubai.
- We believe COP28 will be a unique opportunity for IRENA to demonstrate its role as an authority and thought leader in the global energy policy landscape.
- Through our voluntary support to IRENA we support various projects undertaken by IRENA, in particular projects related to the energy transition in SIDS and development of hydropower. We also participate in various Collaborative frameworks. Geopolitics and energy have never been as high on the agenda as it is now. Norway is pleased to be co-chair for the Collaborative framework on Geopolitics and of the energy transformation and we welcome the focus on critical minerals. We are furthermore looking forward to share with other members states our experiences of being a major producer and international supplier of both petroleum, natural gas and renewable energy.
- One thing we see as a further improvement in the collaborative frameworks, is the value of stronger participation from the private sector, like utilities, suppliers, academia, and financiers.

Statement by the Philippines

The Philippines would like to congratulate Antigua and Barbuda on being designated as Chairperson, and the United States of America on being designated as Vice-Chairperson for the 25th IRENA Council and Related Meetings. Likewise, the Philippines would like to thank IRENA, led by Director General Francesco de la Camera, for its work in fast-tracking RE and in empowering countries and facilitating cooperation for the much needed shift to renewables.

The Philippines, as it has always been, expresses its commitment to its pledges to scale up and fast-track the development and implementation of renewable energy (RE) to cost-effectively scale RE technologies and achieve real-world impact.

One of the objectives of the Philippines' Department of Energy (DOE) in achieving energy security while promoting low-carbon development, is to enact and implement an array of policies and programs that provide immediate and timely investments to support energy transition, while at the same time recognizing the importance of climate change mitigation from the perspective of accelerated energy transition and faster deployment of RE.

To date, we maintain our Energy Goal by accelerating and expanding the development of our indigenous energy resources to ensure we provide immediate accessibility and provision of affordable energy supply and services as we move towards a low-carbon future. The use of sustainable energy resources has been championed since the early 1990s, which are embodied in the Government Energy Plans and Programs that give preferential bias for environment-friendly, indigenous, and low-cost sources of energy.

In terms of energy self-sufficiency, indigenous energy resources accounts for about 43% of the total primary energy supply, while the remaining 57% are imported fuels. In the power sector, the Philippines in 2021 has recorded a total installed capacity of 26.883 Gigawatts (GW) of which 29% are from renewables, while on the generation mix, RE share is about 22% of the total energy generation.

To further meet the country's aspirational target, 52.826 GW of new and additional RE installed capacity is needed by the Philippines in the next 20 years which requires a massive amount of private sector support and investment.

As the Philippines is blessed with abundant sources of RE resources, part of our Energy Transition Goal is to ardently pursue measures that would further accelerate the energy transition in the country where we aspire to increase the RE share in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040. And to realize such, the country's DOE has been innovating its policies and strategies.

Just recently, the Philippines' DOE issued a policy that eases the foreign ownership limit in RE investments to encourage and boost investment in the RE sector. In fact, in March 2023, it awarded its first 100% foreign-owned company to venture into offshore wind development in the country.

In the coming years, it is envisioned that the Philippine economy will expand to sustain the country's progress as this will form part of the implementation of the country's ambitious Intended National Determined Contribution to meet the Paris Agreement targets of 70% GHG emissions mitigation relative to business as usual by 2030 and realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

While the Philippines recognizes that there are still more great deals to be done, it remains committed to exploring collective knowledge and capability and seeking to foster collaboration between countries and governments to pursue sustainable development, energy access, security, and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity as we work to achieve energy transition and full RE industry development.

INTERVENTION BY SINGAPORE ENERGY MARKET AUTHORITY DIRECTOR (EXTERNAL RELATIONS) MR JONATHAN GOH AT AGENDA ITEM 7: GENERAL MEMBER STATEMENTS – NATIONAL EXPERIENCES ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION

25TH IRENA COUNCIL MEETING, 23-24 MAY 2023

1. Singapore is invested in the success of the global energy transition and is committed to playing our part to combat climate change. Last year, we announced our commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and peak our emissions at around 60 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030.
2. While Singapore accounts for only 0.1% of global emissions, we support global efforts to address the climate crisis and steward our resources for future generations. We will continue to work with the United Arab Emirates under its Presidency of COP28 this year to advance our climate change agenda.
3. Singapore is focusing on four supply switches to decarbonise our economy. This include (i) improving energy efficiency of existing natural gas-fired power generation units, (ii) accelerating solar deployment, (iii) tapping on regional power grids to bring in low-carbon electricity, and (iv) implementing other low-carbon alternatives such as hydrogen.
4. Regional power grids will be an important lever in advancing regional energy transitions. Earlier this year, the Energy Market Authority of Singapore granted Conditional Approval for the import of 1GW of electricity from Cambodia into Singapore. This signals the feasibility for cross-border electricity trade and its potential to accelerate the development of renewable energy projects in the region, bringing economic growth and increasing access to renewable energy. We look forward to more opportunities with the region to strengthen regional energy connectivity.
5. We are also actively exploring low-carbon alternatives. In 2022, our Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced a National Hydrogen Strategy at the Singapore International Energy Week, which outlined how hydrogen can support our decarbonisation efforts and the steps we will be taking for a hydrogen future. We are also undertaking a feasibility study to assess geothermal energy potential across Singapore.
6. The energy transition requires all stakeholders to enhance international cooperation, unlock new partnerships and seize new opportunities. Over the years, Singapore has partnered with like-minded countries and organisations to support our global decarbonisation efforts. Last year, Singapore and IRENA co-organised the 2nd Singapore-IRENA High-level Forum which brought together government and industry leaders to enhance investments and development of decarbonisation technologies for

energy transformations. We look forward in working closely with IRENA to engage the Southeast Asian region for a sustainable energy future.

IRENA 25. COUNCIL MEETING

INTERVENTION OF TÜRKİYE

- Thank you Chair.
- Türkiye's energy policy is shaped by its strategic inherent factors, constraints and opportunities. Türkiye has a growing population and increasing energy demand and import dependency regarding energy sources.
- However, Turkish economy has been growing steadily in the last 20 years, with an average GDP growth rate of 5.2%.
- And Türkiye set a target of achieving net zero emissions by the year of 2053.
- In this regard, diversifying energy sources and maintaining policies for transition to clean energy gains importance.
- Türkiye has made significant progress in renewable energy, especially with its investments in recent years, and our installed capacity exceeded 104 GW and the share of renewable energy in the total installed power capacity has reached 55%.
- With the models we have implemented, a strong solar and wind energy ecosystem has been created with its R&D, production and distribution. We rank 3rd in the world regarding PV panel production capacity.
- Regarding energy efficiency, our first National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, covering the period between 2017 and 2023, is aimed at reducing Türkiye's primary energy consumption by 14% by 2023 through 55 actions addressing the principal energy sectors.
- Furthermore, studies to prepare the second Action Plan is ongoing.
- With regard to our objective for net zero emissions by 2053, we have announced our National Energy Plan recently.
- According to our plan, we target to increase the share of renewable sources from 55% to 65%, as regards total installed capacity. The design of a balanced and redundant electrical power system is essential to the sector's security, providing as much diversity of resources and technology as possible at the point of ensuring energy supply security.
- As regards hydrogen, our aim is to blend 3.5% hydrogen to our gas grid and increase our electrolysis capacity to 5 GW by 2035. Our Hydrogen Technologies Strategy and Road Map was announced recently. According to the plan, the installed power capacity of the electrolyzer is aimed to reach 5 GW in 2035.
- Thank you and thank you for hosting us here and organization of this meeting.

Statement by Uganda

First is to congratulate the Chair on being selected to chair this IRENA Council meeting and the Vice Chair accordingly.

Also to thank UAE for being a good host. We have high hopes that the COP 28 will be a success in bringing together good ideas to address energy transition and most importantly to consider leaving no one behind.

The energy transition will be quickly integrated if all communities can quickly embrace the principles that guide the transition. We propose that energy transition should create more comfort to the beneficiaries.

As noted earlier, the geopolitics of different countries will affect the rate of energy transition. It will be very hard to avoid the disruptions of energy transition if communities are not settled. A case in point is the refugee migrations, which has a serious effect on service delivery and adoption. Uganda is home to several refugees who will always require energy for several services including cooking, lighting, refrigeration and transport. It is important to consider energy packages for refugee and refugee hosting communities.

It has also been well noted and truly appreciated of the need to mitigate the real risks presented by the potential disruptions of supply chains of critical minerals and the pivotal role they play in our realizing a JUST energy transition. Uganda has identified and mapped some of these critical minerals that it is endowed with as well as the sources of the relevant suppliers of the other respective critical minerals. Strategies are being laid so as to mitigate these risks and also identify opportunities for securing partnerships to safeguard the supply chain

To foster sustainable deployment, uptake and utilization of Renewable Energy technologies and services, Uganda is developing a productive use of energy roadmap aligned with our energy transition aspirations and cognizant of our desires to use this opportunity to spur sustainable transformational socio-economic development.

Uganda is making deliberate efforts, interventions and taking strategic actions to accelerate her sustainable adoption and promotion of e-mobility. The President set up a multi-stakeholder task force/think tank that has developed scenarios, pathways, strategies and frameworks to foster e-mobility

Also important to take note of is that the transition will bring the new challenge of waste disposal. Many communities will be dealing with a new type of waste not familiar with several areas. Such waste needs to be managed.

We appreciate IRENA for kick starting the discussion of renewable energy transition. Uganda has already started the high level discussion on renewable energy transition. Uganda has adopted an integrated approach to its energy development taking into account all energy resources available at our disposal to be responsibly and judiciously exploited to catalyze its industrialization aspirations. At the present, the country is developing the renewable energy transition plan to help determine where the key investments will be done to support the transition. The country is targeting to have full energy transition by 2050. Uganda will be happy to learn from other countries on the approaches that have been adopted for energy transition.

Statement by Ukraine

- Dear Director General, Dear Mr Chair,
- Distinguished Delegates!

Let me start by thanking DG Francesco la Camera, and the IRENA Secretariat, for preparing this session.

I want to brief the Distinguished audience about the developments in Ukraine since our meeting last January during the 13th Assembly.

Today is the 453rd day of Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine, and 9 years, 3 month and 3 days since Russia started its occupation of Ukraine's Eastern region of Donbas and Crimea.

As of May 2023, the Russian military deliberately destroyed up to 50% of Ukraine's energy sector, including 90% of wind generators and up to 40% of solar energy systems, which are critical for providing heating, water and power supply to Ukrainian people.

Russian armed forces completely destroyed wind and solar generation hubs in southern Ukraine thus undermining the vision and core goals and mission of the IRENA.

During this month, Russia attacked the Ukrainian capital – Kyiv 9 times with massive hypersonic missiles targeting energy infrastructure, killing civilians, and destroying residential areas.

At the same time, let me share some positive developments.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to DG and IRENA team for providing support to the initiatives proposed by Ukraine during the 13th session of the IRENA Assembly and subsequent set-ups on the use of IRENA's mechanisms in preparing a strategy for the transformation and strengthening the Ukrainian renewable energy sector aiming to attract investments and help recover Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

I am particularly grateful to DG, for responding positively to Ukraine's request on providing policy and practical recommendations on renewable energy projects in Ukraine, as well as mutual work on the Energy Transition Outlook for the Eastern Partnership Countries which is an integral part of Ukrainian renewable energy transformation.

Ukraine and IRENA's cooperation on these tracks may set a good example and serve as best practices for other members to follow in the future.

Let me also share the good news about the unique wind farm that has officially opened in Ukraine this week and is already generating green power. The plant's 19 turbines have an installed capacity of 114 MW, generating up to 390,000 kWh – enough to power 200,000 households a year. The project is one of the first to deploy 6 MW Enventus turbines.

This is Part of the Ukraine's broader strategy to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 and help Ukraine become a clean energy exporter to the European Union.

Taking this opportunity I want to express appreciation for the unwavering support in reforming energy efficiency provided to Ukraine by G7 and EU countries, and other international partners who stand with Ukraine.

Implementation of this wind farm project is an excellent example of Ukraine's resilience in the face of unjust and unprovoked Russian aggression, and also is a manifestation of our commitment to the Green Agenda despite the hardships and destruction brought by **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**, including its attempts to destroy our renewable energy facilities.

And let me use this opportunity to invite businesses and governments to participate in projects on energy efficiency as part of the Ukraine's recovery plan initiated by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Before concluding, let me reiterate my appreciation to DG Francesco La Camera for his leadership and the IRENA Secretariat's outstanding work in supporting Nations in their aspirations to meet the climate goals.

In this context, I would like to use this opportunity to wish the UAE, this year's host of the COP28, all the best in conducting the successful Summit.

Thank you.

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- Thank you for organising such a good agenda for this Council meeting, we are as always grateful for IRENA's leadership and analysis on the energy transition. In January, our Secretary of State for the new Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero joined the IRENA General Assembly, and we remain committed to IRENA, co-leading initiatives such as the collaborative framework for critical materials.
- The UK government is committed to Net Zero by 2050 and our British Energy Security Strategy (as well as recent "Powering Up Britain" publications) outlines how we accelerate the deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, which could see 95% of electricity by 2030 being low carbon.
- We commend IRENA's recent MoU with Masdar to collaborate on setting a roadmap to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and hope to see this momentum brought to COP28.
- Some key challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy for the UK include the following three issues, which we're sure other countries will share:
 - **First**, is the challenge of "dispatchable power" from renewables. Although we have ambitious, accelerated commitments on offshore wind and solar, we've now committed to ramping up nuclear power through the launch of "Great British Nuclear", for when wind and solar can't meet anticipated demand in low wind or sun scenarios. We're also committed to leading a global hydrogen economy (allowing opportunities for storage of dispatchable energy), and to ensuring CCUS is utilised in hard to abate sectors transitioning away from fossil fuels - but these policies take time and momentum to realise and have extensive funding and regulatory implications.
 - **Second**, is how we promote the use of renewable energy technologies such as heat pumps or EVs, the rollout of which will ultimately have a direct effect on public and private consumer finances. Challenges around cost to consumers for new technologies are important to note, and the transition to renewable energy tech can require detailed subsidies and business models.
 - **Third**, which other members will relate to, is grid flexibility where we face increasing challenges on the supply side around technologies such as nuclear, which are less able to flex in periods of energy uncertainty.
- Transparency and international collaboration is key, which is why the UK continues to publish our Net Zero Roadmaps and Renewable Energy Sector Business Models on our gov.uk websites.
- We look forward to our continued engagement with members to learn from and with each other.

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 23-24 May 2023

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. COUNCIL MEMBERS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Mr Tumasie Blair
Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN
Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN

ARGENTINA

H.E. Mr Jorge Agustin Molina Arambarri
Ambassador
Embassy of Argentina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Carlos Santiago Risso Dominguez
Counsellor
Embassy of Argentina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Juan Ignacio Diaz
Head of the Consular Section
Embassy of Argentina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Augusto Jose Jimenez Martinez
Officer
Embassy of Argentina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Hanae El Amrani
Commercial Advisor
Embassy of Argentina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

AZERBAIJAN

Mr Kamran Huseynov
Deputy Director
Azerbaijan Renewable Energy Agency, Baku

Mr Afgan Shahmarov
First Secretary
Embassy of Azerbaijan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

CANADA

Ms Nazrin Habizada
Lead Advisor
Ministry of Energy, Baku

Mr Loc Pham
Counsellor
Embassy of Canada to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

CHINA

Ms Elneda Dani
Second Secretary
Embassy of Canada to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Xiang Lei
Deputy Director
China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, Beijing

Mr Yuetao Xie
Deputy Director
China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, Beijing

Mr Fuqiang Yu
Officer
National Energy Administration, Beijing

Mr Yang Gao
Officer
National Energy Administration, Beijing

EGYPT

Ms Yufei Yang
Project Coordinator
China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, Beijing

Mr Mohamed El-Khayat
Executive Chairperson
New and Renewable Energy Authority, Cairo

H.E. Mr Sherif Issa
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Egypt to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Ali Ahmed Ali
Director of International Cooperation and Agreements
Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo

Mr Mohamed Metwaly
Head of International Cooperation
Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo

Mr Ahmed Monib
First Secretary
Embassy of Egypt to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

GERMANY

Mr Mohamed Fawzy
Computer Specialist
Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo

H.E. Mr Alexander Schonfelder
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Jan Weidner
Desk Officer
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Berlin

Ms Katja Decker
Head of Economic Affairs and Press
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Andreas Feil
Second Secretary
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Liga Bitane
Assistant
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Johannes Steinberger
Intern
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Maurizio Boehm
Intern
Embassy of Germany to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

GHANA

Mr Emmanuel Andoh
Minister-Counsellor
Embassy of Ghana to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Maame Aba Wilmot
First Secretary
Embassy of Ghana to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

IRAQ

H.E. Mr Mudhafar Al-Jbori
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Iraq to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Muddathir Saber Othman
First Secretary
Embassy of Iraq to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

ITALY

H.E. Mr Lorenzo Fanara
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Italy to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

JAPAN

Mr Jonas Badde
First Secretary
Embassy of Italy to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Yazan Al Momany
Scientific Attaché
Embassy of Italy to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Angela Tortora
Intern
Embassy of Italy to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

H.E. Mr Akio Isomata
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Japan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Masashi Hoshino
Director
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Tokyo

Mr Shintaro Tabuchi
Assistant Director
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Tokyo

Ms Mariko Kaneko
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of Japan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Yuki Inui
Counsellor
Embassy of Japan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Takafumi Mori
First Secretary
Embassy of Japan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Takayuki Kawamura
Second Secretary
Embassy of Japan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Tomoko Matsumoto
Senior Researcher
The Institute of Energy Economics, Tokyo

NIGERIA

Mr Joseph Sunday Olayande
Director, Energy Policy, Planning and Analysis
Energy Commission of Nigeria, Abuja

Mr Abdelnasser Abdallah
Deputy Director
Energy Commission of Nigeria, Abuja

PANAMA

Ms Guadalupe Gonzalez
Director of Electricity
National Energy Secretariat, Panama City

Mr Odilio Villanero
First Secretary
Embassy of Panama to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Alexandra El Dbeissy
Diplomatic and Consular Affairs Attaché
Consulate General of Panama to the UAE, Dubai

PORTUGAL

Ms Ana Cláudia Gouveia
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate
Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, Lisbon

H.E. Mr Fernando Figueirinhas
Ambassador
Embassy of Portugal to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Isabel Soares
Director of Institutional and Market Relations Services
Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, Lisbon

Mr Eduardo Braganca
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of Portugal to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Ana Catarina Soares Gonçalves
Adviser to the Secretary of State
Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, Lisbon

**REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

Ms Jaesoon Hahn
Minister-Counsellor
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Keunsang Cho
Commercial Attaché
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Donggyun Im
Second Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Hanung Lee
Third Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Heewon Im
Researcher
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul

RWANDA

H.E. Mr Emmanuel Hategeka
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Rwanda to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Ines Mutoni
Second Counsellor
Embassy of Rwanda to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Joanna Umuganwa
Executive Assistant
Embassy of Rwanda to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Pierre Muyombano
Communication Specialist
Embassy of Rwanda to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

SPAIN

H.E. Mr Inigo De Palacio Espana
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Spain to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Marisa Olano
Head of the International Relations Department
Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy, Madrid

Mr Victor Marcos Morell
Director of Renewable Energy and Electricity Market
Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy, Madrid

Ms Irina Sanchis Vives
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of Spain to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Andres Salinero Barbolla
Economic and Commercial Counsellor
Embassy of Spain to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Alvaro Angulo Maenza
Commercial Attaché
Embassy of Spain to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

TONGA

Mr Sione Sonata Tupou
Minister-Counsellor
Embassy of Tonga to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

**UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES**

H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany
Permanent Representative to IRENA
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Ms Beatrix Schmuelling
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Ms Hanadi AlNasa
Community Outreach Officer
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Faisal Barghouthi
Senior Account Executive
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Mohammed Abdulla
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Ms Bedoor Khalil
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Ms Jana Sabbagh
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Imad Lahad
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Ms Dimah Abdul Salam Al-Nazer
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Ahmed Gado
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Mohamed Mohamed
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Moustafa Nasef
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Abdelrahman Alaa
Official
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

Mr Emil Ammari
Photographer
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Abu Dhabi

**UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

Mr Joel Hansen
Senior Energy Officer
Department of State, Washington D.C.

Mr Aaron Ng
International Relations Specialist
Department of Energy, Washington D.C.

Mr Joshua Rodd
Foreign Service Officer
Department of State, Washington D.C.

ZIMBABWE

Ms Gloria Sibusisiwe Magombo
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

Ms Shorai Kavvu
Principal Energy Development Officer
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

Mr Onismo Chigejo
Counsellor
Embassy of Zimbabwe to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

B. COUNCIL ALTERNATES

BANGLADESH

H.E. Mr Md Abu Zafar
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Bangladesh to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Nirod Chandra Mondal
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Dhaka

Mr Muhammad Mizanur Rahman
Deputy Head of the Mission
Embassy of Bangladesh to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

CYPRUS

H.E. Mr Yannis Michaelides
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Cyprus to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr George Partasides
Industrial Extension Officer
Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Nicosia

DENMARK

H.E. Mr Anders Bjorn Hansen
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Merete Villum Pedersen
Chief Advisor of Green Diplomacy and Climate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen

Mr Amir Al-Rekabi
Intern
Embassy of Denmark to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

GREECE

H.E. Mr Antonis Alexandridis
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Greece to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Vasileios Theocharidis
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of Greece to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Stavroula Asimakopoulou
International Energy Affairs Expert
Ministry of Environment and Energy, Athens

INDIA

H.E. Mr Sunjay Sudhir
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of India to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Amarnath Asokan
Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of India to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Risha Oberai
Second Secretary
Embassy of India to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Aneez Shahal
Third Secretary
Embassy of India to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

MALAYSIA

Mr Mohamad Razif Hj. Abd. Mubin
Deputy Secretary-General
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change,
Kuala Lumpur

Ms Esther Lew
Principal Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change,
Kuala Lumpur

MAURITIUS

H.E. Mr Showkutally Soodhun
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Consulate General of Mauritius to the UAE, Dubai

Mr Muzaffar Nakhwa
Administrative and Public Relations Officer
Consulate General of Mauritius to the UAE, Dubai

Ms Amna Mohamed
Personal Assistant
Consulate General of Mauritius to the UAE, Dubai

UGANDA

H.E. Mr Zaake Kibedi
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Uganda to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Simon Kalanzi
Commissioner
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Kampala

Mr Simon Peter Ssekitoleko
Assistant Commissioner
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Kampala

Mr Michael Ahimbisibwe
Official
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Kampala

URUGUAY

H.E. Mr Alvaro Ceriani
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Karen Meyer Faure
Counsellor
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Barbara El Dbeissy
Commercial Counsellor
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

C. IRENA MEMBERS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| AFGHANISTAN | Mr Abdul Matin Amin | First Secretary Embassy of Afghanistan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| ALGERIA | Mr Messaad Riadh | Secretary Embassy of Algeria to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| ANGOLA | Mr Nelson Solano | First Secretary Embassy of Angola to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| AUSTRALIA | Mr Warren King | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Australia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Calvin Galloway | Second Secretary Embassy of Australia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Raghda Eltoukhi | Officer Embassy of Australia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| BELGIUM | H.E. Mr Antoine Delcourt | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Belgium to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| COLOMBIA | Mr Cesar Augusto Dominguez | Chargé d’Affaires Embassy of Colombia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Jaime Pacheco | Counsellor Embassy of Colombia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| COSTA RICA | H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Costa Rica to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Alfonso Murillo | Minister-Counsellor and Consul General Embassy of Costa Rica to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| CUBA | H.E. Mr Noberto Escalona Carrillo | Ambassador Embassy of Cuba to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | Mr Oldrich Zajicek | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Czech Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| DJIBOUTI | H.E. Mr Moussa Ahmed | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Djibouti to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| DOMINICA | Ms Kathleen Cuffy-Jno Jules | First Secretary Embassy of Dominica to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Mr Samuel Castro | Minister-Counsellor Embassy of Dominican Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| EL SALVADOR | H.E. Ms Vanessa Interiano | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Dirección General de Energía, El Salvador |
| ESTONIA | H.E. Mr Jaan Reinhold | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Estonia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Ode Liis Pino | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Estonia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| ETHIOPIA | H.E. Mr Oumer Hussien Oba | Ambassador Embassy of Ethiopia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | Ms Firehiwot Asrat | Minister Embassy of Ethiopia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Habtamu Baye Chekole | Minister-Counsellor Embassy of Ethiopia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Eyob Belachew Demissie | Second Secretary Embassy of Ethiopia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| EUROPEAN UNION | H.E. Mr Andrea Matteo Fontana | Ambassador Delegation of the European Union to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Sándor Szelekovszky | Head of Trade and Other Policies Delegation of the European Union to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Giulia Pietrangeli | Regional Advisor Delegation of the European Union to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Sumayya Ramadan | Secretary Delegation of the European Union to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| FIJI | H.E. Mr Naipote Katonitabua | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Fiji to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| FINLAND | H.E. Ms Marianne Kristiina Nissilä | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Finland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Milena Hakanpaa | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Finland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| FRANCE | Mr Quentin Perret | Sustainable Development Counsellor Embassy of France to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Romain Viennet | Intern Embassy of France to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| GAMBIA | H.E. Mr Fafa Sanyang | Ambassador Embassy of the Gambia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Mustapha Bojang | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Gambia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Musa Kanteh | Diplomatic Attaché Embassy of the Gambia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| INDONESIA | Mr Agus Tjahajana | Advisor to the Minister Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jakarta |
| | Mr Muhammad Yusuf | First Secretary Embassy of Indonesia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Karbela Rachman Adam | First Secretary Embassy of Indonesia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| IRELAND | H.E. Ms Alison Milton | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Ireland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Kevin Sheridan | Official Department of Environment Climate and Communications, Dublin |
| ISRAEL | Mr Amir Rom | Political Counsellor Embassy of Israel to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Noam Gastaldo | Attaché Embassy of Israel to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Naor Shilian | Political Assistant Embassy of Israel to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Irena Kazimov | Assistant Embassy of Israel to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| JORDAN | Ms Nour Al-Jazi | First Secretary Embassy of Jordan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| KENYA | H.E. Mr Kariuki Mugwe | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Kenya to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Paul Mbuti | Senior Deputy Director, Renewable Energy Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, Nairobi |
| | Mr Cosmas Kimutai | First Counsellor Embassy of Kenya to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Jacob Kibet Chepkwony | Principal Renewable Energy Officer Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, Nairobi |
| | Mr Kassim Ashraf Abdu | First Counsellor Embassy of Kenya to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Mercy Odongo | First Counsellor Embassy of Kenya to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Sharon Ekuam | Second Secretary Embassy of Kenya to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | | |
| LEBANON | Mr Pierre El Khoury | Director-General Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) |
| | Mr Jean Claude El Khoury | Economic Attaché Embassy of Lebanon to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| LUXEMBOURG | H.E. Mr Robert Lauer | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Luxembourg to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Ms Marianne Marcelle Geiben | Consul Embassy of Luxembourg to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| MALDIVES | H.E. Ms Aminath Shabeena | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Maldives to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Ahmed Ali | Director-General Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Malé |
| MALTA | H.E. Ms Maria Camilleri Calleja | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Malta to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| MONTENEGRO | Mr Mladen Bojanic | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Montenegro to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Isidora Dabovic | Second Secretary Embassy of Montenegro to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| MOZAMBIQUE | H.E. Mr Tiago Recibo Castigo | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Mozambique to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Joaquim Comboio | First Secretary Embassy of Mozambique to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Chico Verniz Mortar | First Secretary Embassy of Mozambique to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| NEPAL | Mr Bishal Bhattarai | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Nepal to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Til Bahadur Sunar | Second Secretary Embassy of Nepal to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| NETHERLANDS | Mr Douwe Buzeman | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of the Netherlands to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Hugo Brouwer | Energy Focal Point Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague |
| | Ms Sivan Fatah | Political Officer Embassy of the Netherlands to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Rutger Zieleman | Junior Economic Officer Embassy of the Netherlands to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| NEW ZEALAND | H.E. Mr Richard Kay | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of New Zealand to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Jessica Minehan | Second Secretary Embassy of New Zealand to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| NORTH MACEDONIA | H.E. Mr Abdilkadri Memedi | Ambassador Embassy of North Macedonia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Bekri Ajdini | Economic Counsellor Embassy of North Macedonia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| NORWAY | H.E. Mr Sten Arne Rosnes | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Norway to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Hilde Kvinge Skogseth | Administrative Secretary Embassy of Norway to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Vilde Skjelbred Solberg | Intern Embassy of Norway to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| PARAGUAY | Ms Sindy Suarez Perez | Second Secretary Embassy of Paraguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Paola Subeldía Blasco | Commercial Attaché Embassy of Paraguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| PHILIPPINES | H.E. Mr Alfonso Ver | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Philippines to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Marford Angeles | Deputy Head of Mission and Consul General Embassy of Philippines to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Emiaj Xela Calupitan | Political and Economic Assistant and Attache Embassy of Philippines to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| POLAND | Mr Jacek Buda | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Poland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Jakub Piatkowski | Third Secretary Embassy of Poland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Michal Lukaszewski | Official Embassy of Poland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| QATAR | H.E. Mr Mishal Al-Thani | Senior Advisor Qatar Energy, Doha |
| REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA | Ms Dana Paiu | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| ROMANIA | Mr Octavian Badica | Ambassador Embassy of Romania to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Amedeo Vasilescu | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Romania to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| SAUDI ARABIA | Mr Abdullah Alshehri | Head of Business Development Affairs Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, Riyadh |
| | Mr Ahmed Al Dowsary | Chief Specialist Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, Riyadh |
| | Ms Aseel Sami Al Bassam | Senior Analyst Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, Riyadh |
| | Mr Abdulrahman Abdullah Al-Amri | Expert King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, Riyadh |
| | Mr Saad AlQahtani | Renewable Energy Engineer King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, Riyadh |
| SENEGAL | Mr Papa Assane Mbengue | Second Counsellor Embassy of Senegal to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SERBIA | Ms Danica Savovic | Chargé d’Affaires Embassy of Serbia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SINGAPORE | H.E. Mr Kamal Vaswani | Ambassador Embassy of Singapore to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Jonathan Goh | Director Energy Market Authority, Singapore |
| | Mr Brian Tham | Senior Analyst Energy Market Authority, Singapore |
| | Mr Nicholas De Silva | Second Secretary Embassy of Singapore to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SLOVENIA | H.E. Ms Natalia Al Mansour | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Slovenia to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SOUTH AFRICA | H.E. Mr Saad Cachalia | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of South Africa to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Francois Hentschel | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of South Africa to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SRI LANKA | Ms Samanakkodyge Dilani Medhavi Peiris | Minister-Counsellor Embassy of Sri Lanka to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Thakshila Arnolda | Counsellor Embassy of Sri Lanka to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SUDAN | Ms Azza Mohammed | First Secretary Embassy of Sudan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SWEDEN | H.E. Ms Liselott Andersson | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Sweden to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Ola Pihlblad | Counsellor Embassy of Sweden to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SWITZERLAND | Ms Hanna Capeder | Regional Head of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Embassy of Switzerland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Rania Kirreh | Advisor for Cooperation and Sustainable Development Embassy of Switzerland to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| TAJIKISTAN | H.E. Mr Bahodur Sharifi Mahmudzoda | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Tajikistan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Akramjon Abdulloev | Counsellor Embassy of Tajikistan to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| THAILAND | Ms Nattaorn Limpichati | First Secretary Embassy of Thailand to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| TÜRKIYE | Mr Ihsan Emre Kadioglu | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Türkiye to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Halime Semerci Kuşçu | Head of Department Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ankara |
| | Mr Hakan Akata | Energy Expert Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ankara |
| TUVALU | H.E. Mr Aunese Simati | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Tuvalu to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Sunema Pie Simati | First Secretary Embassy of Tuvalu to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| UKRAINE | H.E. Mr Dmytro Senik | Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Ukraine to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Nataliia Korolova | Counsellor Embassy of Ukraine to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Yaroslav Linkevych | Second Secretary Embassy of Ukraine to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| UNITED KINGDOM | H.E. Mr Edward Hobart | Ambassador Embassy of the United Kingdom to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| YEMEN | Mr Tom Morley | Head of Intl. Clean Energy and Advanced Economies Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, London |
| | Ms Alison Hall | Deputy Consul General Embassy of the United Kingdom to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr James Allan | Head of Economics and Energy Embassy of the United Kingdom to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Gemma Habens | Climate Change Policy Manager Embassy of the United Kingdom to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Ivan Srbulov | International Clean Energy Analyst Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, London |
| | Mr Mohammed Al-Awlaqi | First Secretary Embassy of Yemen to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

D. SIGNATORIES / STATES-IN-ACCESSION

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| BRAZIL | Ms Eliana Zugallib | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Brazil to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Enrico Moro Gomes | Counsellor Embassy of Brazil to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Nadia El Kadre | Second Secretary Embassy of Brazil to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| CHILE | H.E. Mr Patricio Diaz Broughton | Ambassador Embassy of Chile to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Giovanni Cisternas | Consul Embassy of Chile to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| GUATEMALA | H.E. Mr Willy Alberto Gomez Tirado | Ambassador Embassy of Guatemala to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Carlos Cazali Diaz | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Guatemala to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Mr Jose Bassila | Counsellor Embassy of Guatemala to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC | H.E. Mr Ghassan Abbas | Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| | Ms Rania Al Rifaiy | Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |

E. NON-MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| VENEZUELA | Mr Nabil Khalek | Political Advisor Embassy of Venezuela to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |
| VIETNAM | Mr Thai Ha Vu | First Secretary Embassy of Vietnam to the UAE, Abu Dhabi |