

Her Excellency Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the UAE to IRENA.

IRENA 27th Council Meetings – Interventions and remarks

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (C/27/2)

Thank you, Chair.

Good day, Excellencies, fellow Permanent Representatives and Member States, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me start by extending a warm welcome back to Abu Dhabi. It's great to gather so soon after the 14th Assembly.

I would like to congratulate **Zimbabwe** and **Bangladesh** for being appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the 27th Council. And I would like to congratulate the **United States** and **Panama** for the **stellar job** they did as Chair and Vice Chair of the 26th Council.

Less than two months ago, when we convened for the 14th General Assembly, all members expressed their **keen interest** in seeing **tangible progress** across both IRENA's **programmatically work** and the **agency's governance**.

On this point, however, the 14th Assembly concluded with some **unfinished business**. So, as we move into the Council meetings this week, I hope that – for the sake of IRENA's **reputation and the delivery of its mandate** – we can address these outstanding issues in a **timely and satisfactory manner**.

Dear Director General, thank you for the **update** on the progress of the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget.

As we well know, the UAE and IRENA's long-standing collaboration has become a **key enabler** of an inclusive energy transition.

And, since our collaboration reached new heights at COP28 in December, the international community has **rallied** around the commitments made at COP28 to transition **away from fossil fuels** and triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. A target that this Agency had been calling for, **for a long time**.

And, as we all know, IRENA has been tasked with monitoring the global progress towards the tripling target by the COP28 presidency, **and** by the G7 to monitor the implementation of this same tripling target within the G7 group.

Let us be clear: this is a **big win** for the Agency.

Such a prominent role at the global level is **vital for IRENA's positioning** as the world's thought leader on, and global expert of, both renewable energy, and the energy transition.

The annual report that IRENA develops will be crucial for **consistently and objectively** assessing our collective efforts to deliver a climate-resilient, inclusive energy future.

And it **can** further **solidify** IRENA's leading position. However, we have not seen much **coverage** of this development since the Agency landed this win.

On the flip side, I'm sure you will have seen the **prominence** of the International Energy Agency in the **global media** just last week. The IEA did an **excellent job** in **promoting** and **communicating** their recent

report on the same tripling renewables target that **this** organisation has been commissioned to track, monitor and keep the world updated on.

While we should commend the IEA for their efforts in this space, we **should not be playing catch up** on a topic where we have **long-established credentials**.

We must **double down** on our communications efforts to highlight our work and contributions towards the tripling target before we lose any more ground **in our own back yard**.

I would also like to express my concern on the **faltering momentum** behind IRENA's **Clean Cooking initiative**.

Clean cooking has been part of IRENA's work programme since 2022, when we initiated the **Beyond Food initiative**, which was later incorporated into the Empowering Lives and Livelihoods programme. However, we have seen **little progress** since then.

During the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa in Paris, in May, IRENA **was not featured** as it should be. And I fear we may have been **beaten to the punch** on hosting a major event on this topic.

IRENA should not be in the wake of others. IRENA should be the **flagship** that others follow on clean cooking, tripling renewables, and many more topics.

As a **final point** to this committee, the 14th Assembly decided on the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, which included the **introduction** of the Results-Based Framework.

The present Progress Report **does not provide** an update on the Results-Based Framework, and we would like **clarity** on its **implementation** and **reporting** scheme.

Additionally, the Progress Report **does not provide insights** into the proposed Renewables Acceleration Fund mentioned in the approved work programme. Can we find out whether this has been implemented? What funds have been **received or targeted**, and what is the **overall governance framework** of the Renewables Acceleration Fund?

Thank you.