IRENA
International Renewable Energy Agency

Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025

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DIRECTOR GENERAL
Francesco La Camera
Director-General
since 4 April 2019

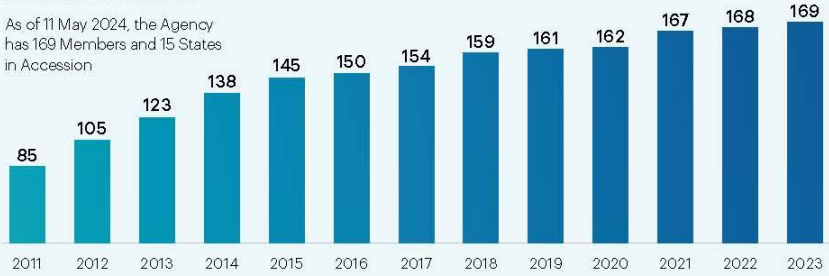
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
Gauri Singh
Deputy Director-General
since 8 January 2020

Year of establishment
2011

Offices
Headquarters in Abu Dhabi
Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn
UN liaison office in New York

IRENA MEMBERSHIP

As of 11 May 2024, the Agency has 169 Members and 15 States in Accession



14TH ASSEMBLY BUREAU

President: Rwanda

Vice-Presidents:
Angola
Dominican Republic
Georgia
Iraq

COUNCIL

21 Members

27TH Council
Chair-designate: Zimbabwe
Vice-Chair-designate: Bangladesh

28TH Council
Chair: TBC
Vice-Chair: TBC

Committees

Administration & Finance
Chair: Tonga
Vice-Chair: United Arab Emirates

Programme & Strategy
Chair: El Salvador
Vice-Chair: United States

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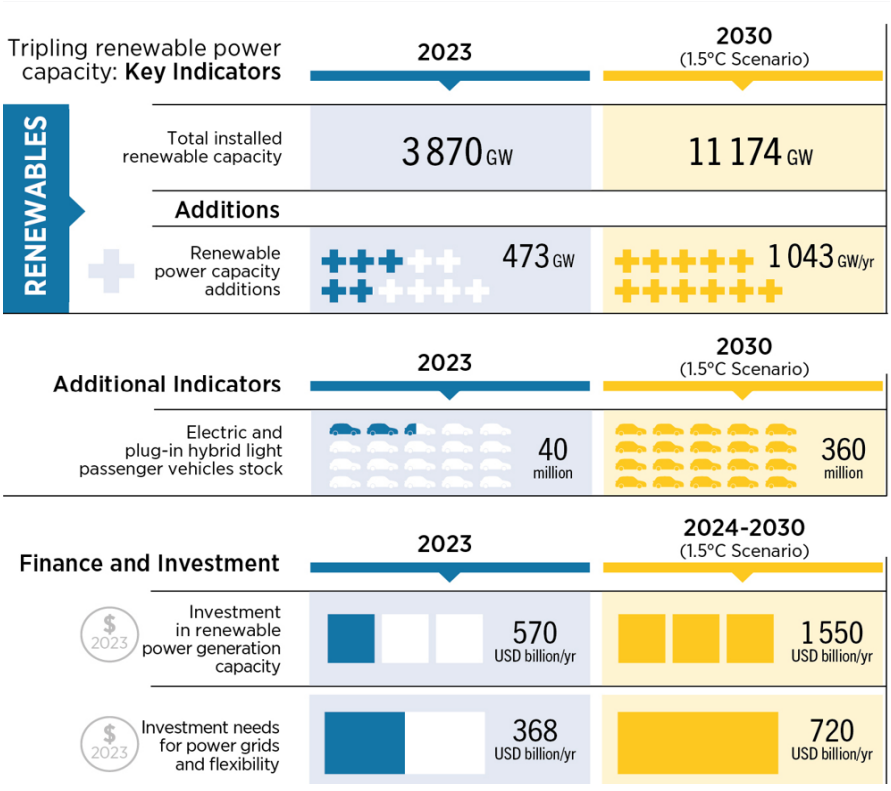
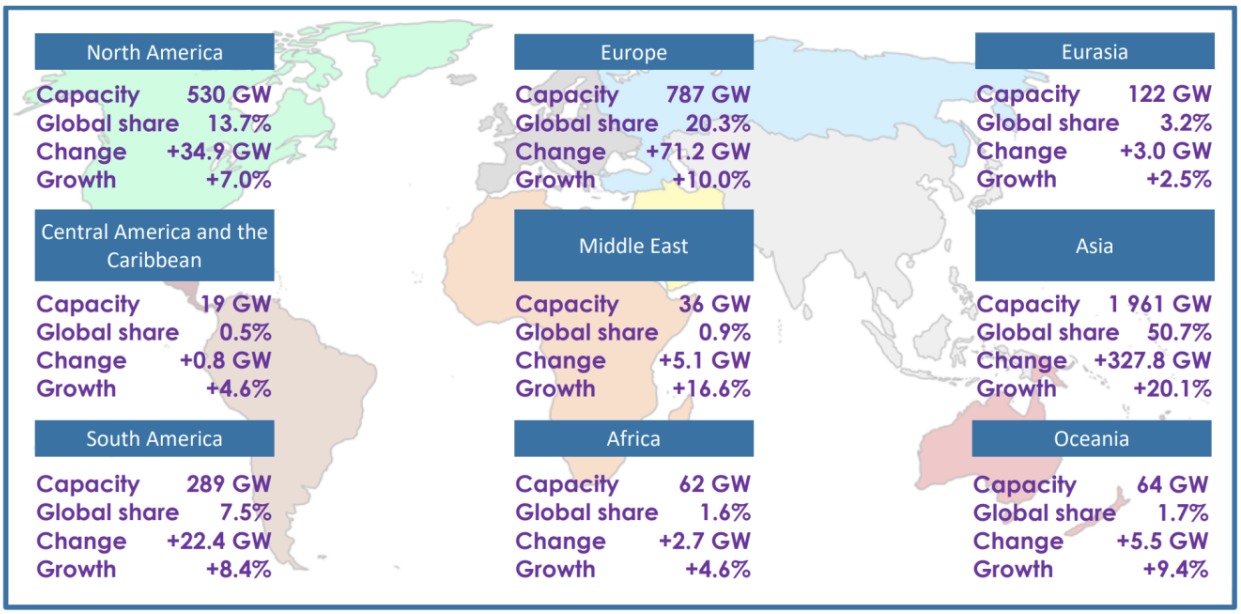
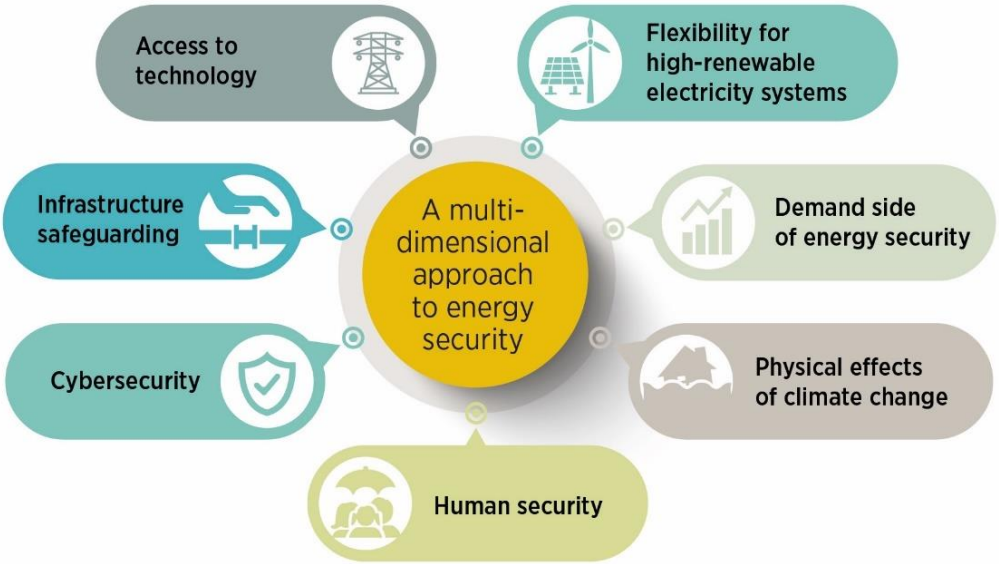
IRENA AT A GLANCE



IRENA AT A GLANCE





SECRETARIAT AT A GLANCE

30 publications released

- Tracking COP28 outcomes: Tripling renewable capacity by 2030
- Geopolitics of the energy transformation: Energy security
- Renewable capacity statistics 2024

20 publications translated into ten languages

ZH EN FR PT JP IT DE ES AR RU

4 253 applications received for 11 vacancies

64 events organised/ co-organised by IRENA

29 virtual events + **35** in-person events

IRENA employs a talented and diverse workforce

185 posts filled

79 nationalities stationed in Abu Dhabi, Bonn and New York

IRENA staff gender balance

44/56

8 loaned or seconded officers

MEDIA COVERAGE

13 700 media articles in **49** languages across **141** countries

880 000 visitors to irena.org

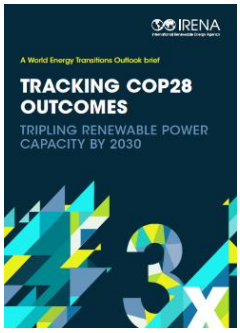
2.6 million page views

Advancing efforts to achieve a net-zero future for all

Guided by the Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027 adopted last year, IRENA's Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 continues to provide analytical, empirical and country support, while benefiting from a number of partnerships and collaborative arrangements. Furthermore, it has expanded its areas of work, extending support to regions as well as deepening its work in the areas of project facilitation and capital mobilisation.

The Work Programme continues to ensure the findings of the Agency's analysis are applied through meaningful programmatic activities to fill knowledge gaps and help shape immediate actions to promote a just and inclusive transition, including by driving investment at scale to support a global renewables-based energy system.

This report presents the Agency's programmatic activities undertaken since January 2024.



The historic decision at COP28 to triple renewable energy capacity globally and double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030 was largely based on the findings of the IRENA analysis presented in the World Energy Transitions Outlook. A companion brief on **Tracking COP28 outcomes: Tripling renewable power capacity by 2030**,[1] released at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) on 19-20 March 2024, offers the most recent tracking data and analysis of global progress towards the objective of tripling global renewable power capacity by 2030.

IRENA analysis shows that expediting the adoption of renewable energy, whilst also implementing complementary energy efficiency measures, presents the most feasible means to decrease global emissions by 43% by 2030, aligning with the conclusions drawn by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In 2023, the positive trajectory continued; IRENA data indicates that there was an unparalleled surge in renewable power additions – thus, setting a new benchmark in renewable power deployment. 473 GW were added to the global energy mix – accounting for 87% of total newly installed capacity – with solar energy accounting for 73% of this growth (Figure 1).

WETO brief

However, the renewable power capacity does not come near the required c. 1 000 GW per annum that should be deployed by 2030 to hit the target on time (Table 1). The progress in advancing the energy transition thus far is insufficient and its trajectory is markedly off course. Consequently, the average annual capacity additions required are now approaching 1 050 GW for the remainder of the decade to keep 1.5°C within reach. Under IRENA's 1.5°C Scenario, the Group of 20 (G20) countries alone would need to grow their collective renewable power capacity from less than 3 terawatts (TW) in 2022 to 9.4 TW by 2030, accounting for more than 80% of the global total capacity.

Furthermore, the distribution of renewable installed capacity remains highly uneven across the world, both in terms of geography and technology, preventing many countries in the developing world from accessing the development benefits offered by renewables. Solar and wind continue to dominate renewable energy deployment, which itself remains concentrated in a limited number of markets.

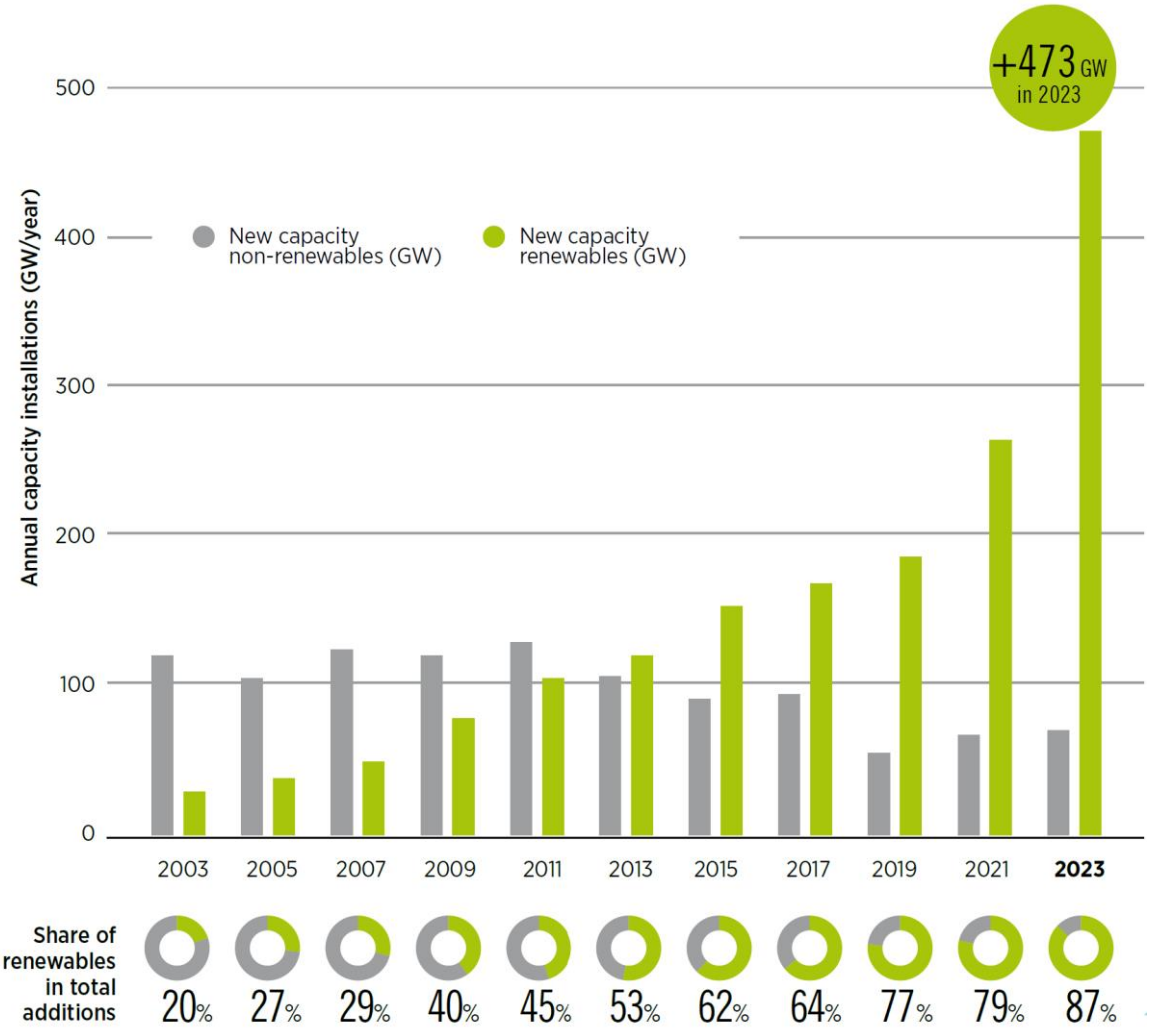
Success also hinges on sustainable and sufficient levels of investments towards the deployment of renewable energy, especially towards the countries in greatest need. In 2023, energy transition-related investments are estimated to have exceeded USD 2 trillion yet emerging market and developing economies accounted for just over half of global investments, with sub-Saharan Africa receiving the least investment in renewables.

[1] Available here.

Comparatively, on a per capita basis, advanced economies (comprising 38 countries and making up 14% of the world's population) attracted five times more investment.

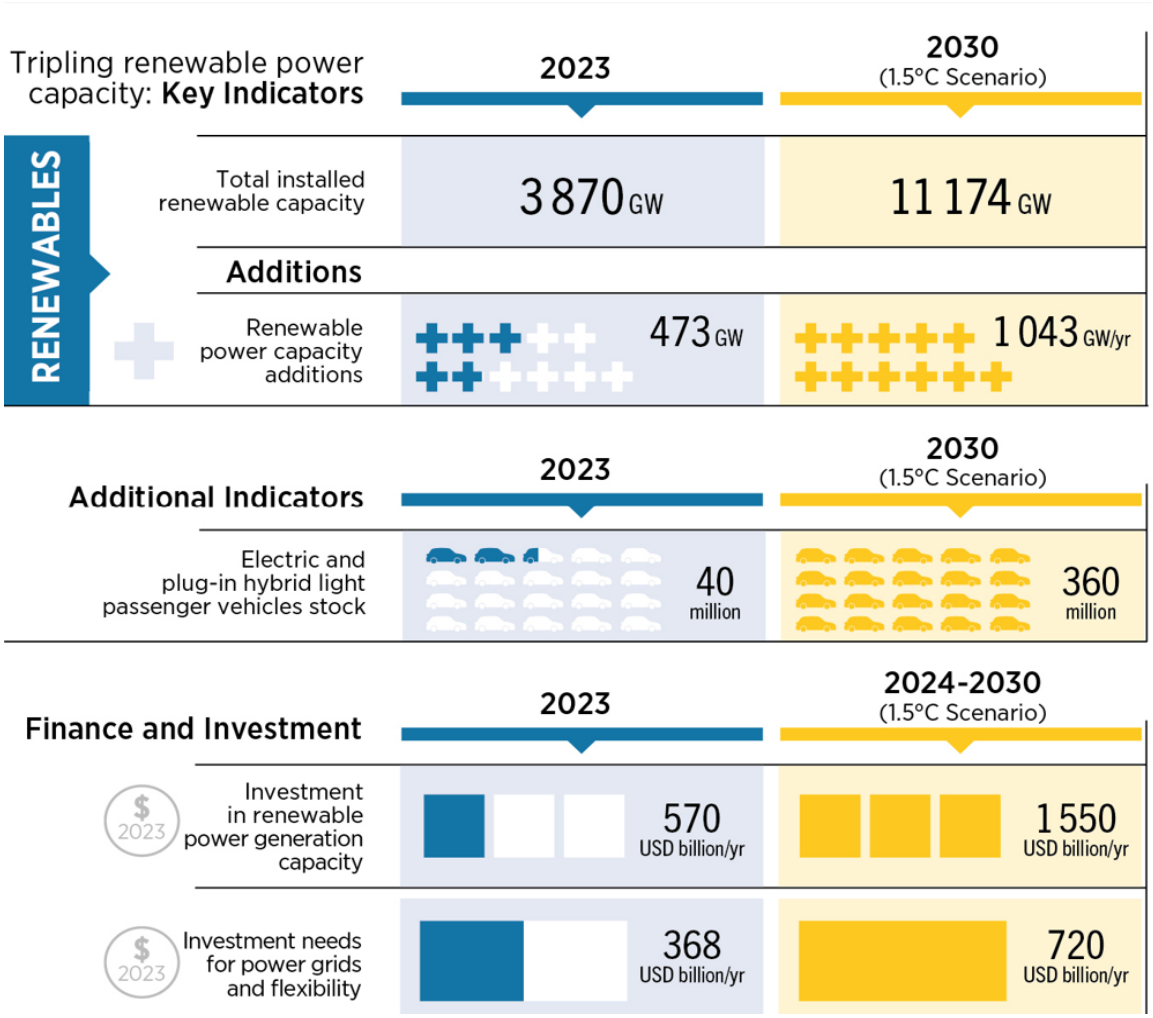
Tripling renewable power capacity by 2030 is both technically feasible and economically viable but requires commitment, policy support and investment at scale. To overcome the barriers impeding the global energy transition and to meet the targets by 2030, the report reiterates the need for a three-pronged approach: modernise and expand physical infrastructure; establishing policies and regulations; and building institutional and human resource capabilities fit for the renewables era. Critical enablers underpinning these pillars will be scaled up financing and intensified international collaboration.

Figure 1: Annual installed power capacity additions, 2003-2023.



Source: IRENA, *Tracking COP28 outcomes: Tripling renewable power capacity by 2030*, 2024.

Table 1: Key indicators for the energy transition show inadequate progress.



Source: IRENA, *Tracking COP28 outcomes: Tripling renewable power capacity by 2030*, 2024

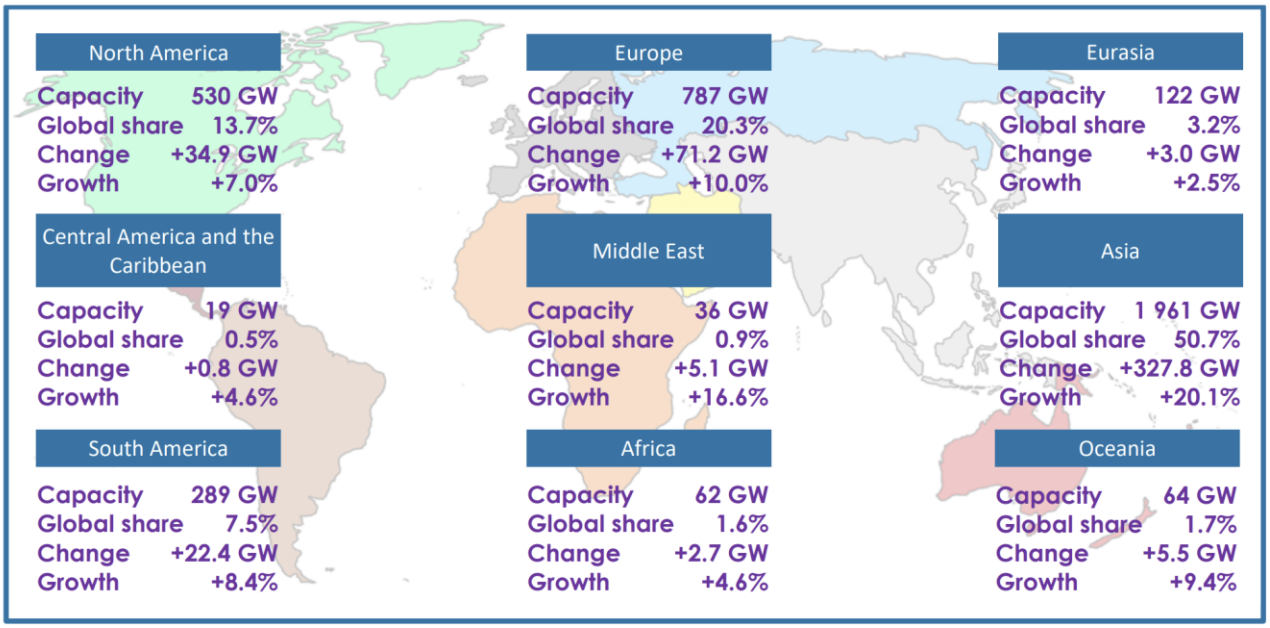
In his keynote presentation at the high-level panel on ***A Global Renewables & Energy Efficiency Target – Commitment to Action*** during the **Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD)**[2] - organised on 19-20 March 2024 - the IRENA Director-General presented the WETO brief. This session discussed the current state of the global energy transition, highlighting recent success stories and remaining challenges in countries and regions worldwide, as well as avenues and actions to ensure the implementation of the targets set at COP28. In addition, during the high-level policymaker breakfast on ***Fostering Africa-Europe energy cooperation: Implementing commitments and realising Africa's energy transformation***, the Director-General highlighted how the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) offers an opportunity for European countries to play a prominent role in partnering with Africa to achieve the COP28 targets.

The findings of the 2024 **Renewable capacity statistics 2023**[3] report demonstrate that renewable energy sources have solidified their position as the primary option for new power generation, reverberating throughout the energy sector in recent years. The upward trend continued in 2023, marked by a 13.9% increase in total installed renewable power generation capacity, which reached 3 870 GW by end-2023. Solar accounted for the largest share of the global total, with a capacity of 1 419 GW. Renewable hydropower and wind energy accounted for most of the remaining additions, with capacities of 1 268 GW and 1 017 GW, respectively.

In terms of regional distribution, once again, Asia accounted for the largest proportion of new capacity additions with 328 GW added in 2023, representing 69% of global new capacity added. This region is now home to a total of 1 961 GW of renewable capacity – 50.7% of the global total. The primary contributor was China, with a substantial addition of 298 GW. Europe and North America also saw expansions in capacity, with increases of 71.2 GW (10% higher than in 2022) and 34.9 GW (7% higher than in 2022), respectively. Oceania rose by 5.5 GW (9% higher than in 2022), primarily owing to capacity additions in Australia, while South America continued its upward trajectory, expanding by 22.4 GW (8.4% higher than in 2022). The Middle East achieved its highest-ever expansion, with the addition of 5.1 GW of new capacity in 2023, representing a growth rate of 16.6%. (Table 2).

[2] More information available here.
[3] Available here.

Table 2: Renewable generation capacity by region

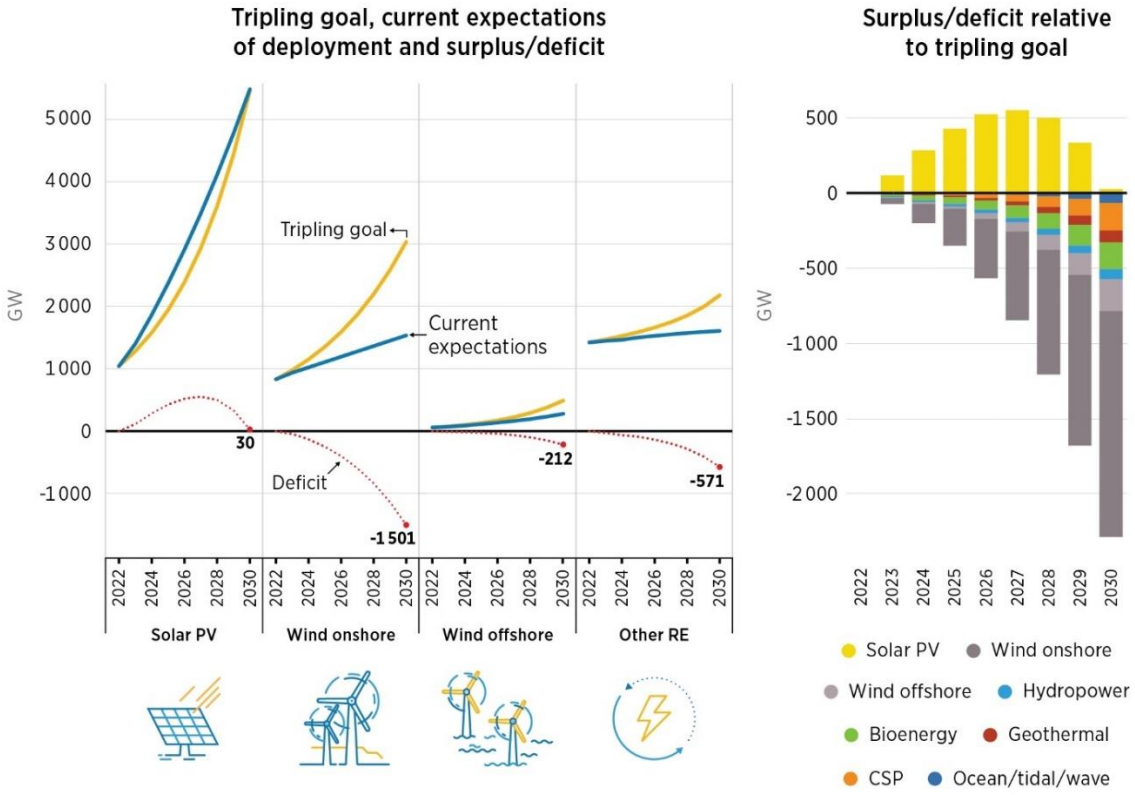


Source: IRENA, *Renewable Capacity Statistics 2024*, 2024

The Group of 7 (G7) countries will play an important role in delivering on the COP28 goal through the expansion of renewable power capacity within its members, and by leading action to address deployment and integration barriers and supporting emerging and developing economies in delivering their contributions. In support of the G7 Italian 2024 Presidency and to inform discussions during meetings among G7 senior officials as well the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Turin, Italy on 29-30 April 2024, IRENA developed three reports. The **Tripling renewable power by 2030: The role of the G7 in turning targets into action**[4] report showcases advancements made in various energy transition metrics, including those in enabling areas required to support the tripling goal (*e.g.* grid investments, renewable power curtailment, *etc.*). The report provides clear recommendations to the G7 on how to address the expected gaps in deployment and delivery risks, including the role of storage targets; the modernisation and expand of grids to cope with the tripling goal; the importance of developing a skilled workforce; the challenge increased cost of capital has (particularly for emerging markets); and the G7's crucial role in supporting emerging market and developing countries to ensure global alignment with the targets set at COP28 that help deliver Paris Agreement goals (Figure 2).

[4] Available here.

Figure 2: Current expectations of global cumulative renewable power capacity to 2030 by technology compared to the tripling goal, 2022–2030.



Source: IRENA, *Tripling renewable power by 2030: The role of the G7 in turning targets into action*, 2024.

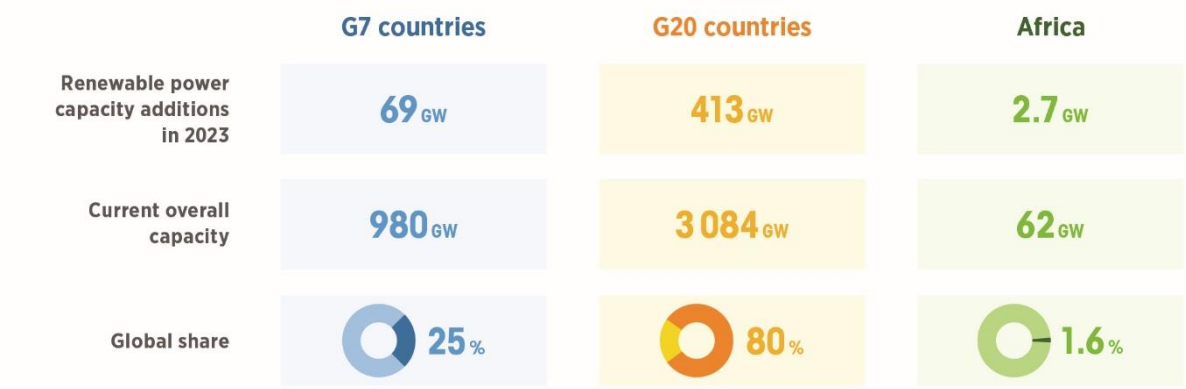
Renewable energy sources can contribute significantly to reducing carbon emissions in hard-to-abate sectors. While viable solutions are now more accessible than ever, and despite notable advancements and heightened interest from policymakers, none of the sectors facing significant decarbonisation challenges are currently projected to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. IRENA's **Decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors with renewables: Perspectives for the G7**[5] report presents eleven recommendations the G7 can adopt to accelerate the energy transition in hard-to-abate sectors in their countries. The report explores in detail the decarbonisation status, pathways and progress of five of these sectors; highlights cross-cutting issues, challenges and solutions; and provides concrete recommendations on how the G7 can establish the enabling conditions required to implement these solutions.

Africa continues to suffer from insufficient investment, with the continent receiving less than 2% of global investments in renewable energy over the last two decades. As a result, in 2023, the continent contributed only 1.6% of global renewable energy capacity growth. In the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change in September 2023, African leaders had called on the international community to contribute to the goal of increasing renewable capacity on the continent from 56 GW in 2022 to 300 GW by 2030. The G7 could lead international collaboration in support of African-led initiatives to achieve this target. IRENA's report, **The energy transition in Africa: Opportunities for international collaboration with a focus on the G7**[6], draws from the Agency's extensive work and partnerships with countries in the region, and builds on the work of G7 countries in Africa to date. It identifies priority areas for potential collaboration between the G7 and Africa, including increasing investment in infrastructure and enabling access to finance; expanding energy access and supporting the productive use of energy; effectively managing critical minerals for the energy transition; and

[5] Available here.
[6] Available here.

strengthening institutional frameworks and capacity. Figure 3 shows the stark disparity in renewable energy capacity when compared with the G7 and G20 countries. Africa saw only 2.7 GW of renewable power capacity additions in 2023, compared to 413 GW in the G20 countries, accounting for a mere 1.6% of global additions and indicating considerable scope for growth to unlock its renewable potential.

Figure 3: Geographical disparities in the distribution of renewables



Source: IRENA, *The energy transition in Africa: Opportunities for international collaboration with a focus on the G7*, 2024.

In the **G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué**[7] published on 30 April, G7 leaders tasked IRENA to track and monitor the group's collective contribution toward the global renewable tripling target by 2030.[8] The G7 Communiqué presented the group's pledge to increase system flexibility through grid reinforcement, in line with IRENA analysis of key metrics.

Falling within the range of IRENA's recommendations for energy storage capacity by 2030, it also called for the significant expansion of energy storage capacity, by more than six-fold by 2030, from 230 GW in 2022. IRENA, along with other organisations, was urged to continue working on industrial decarbonisation, and particularly standards and technology development for hard-to-abate sectors.

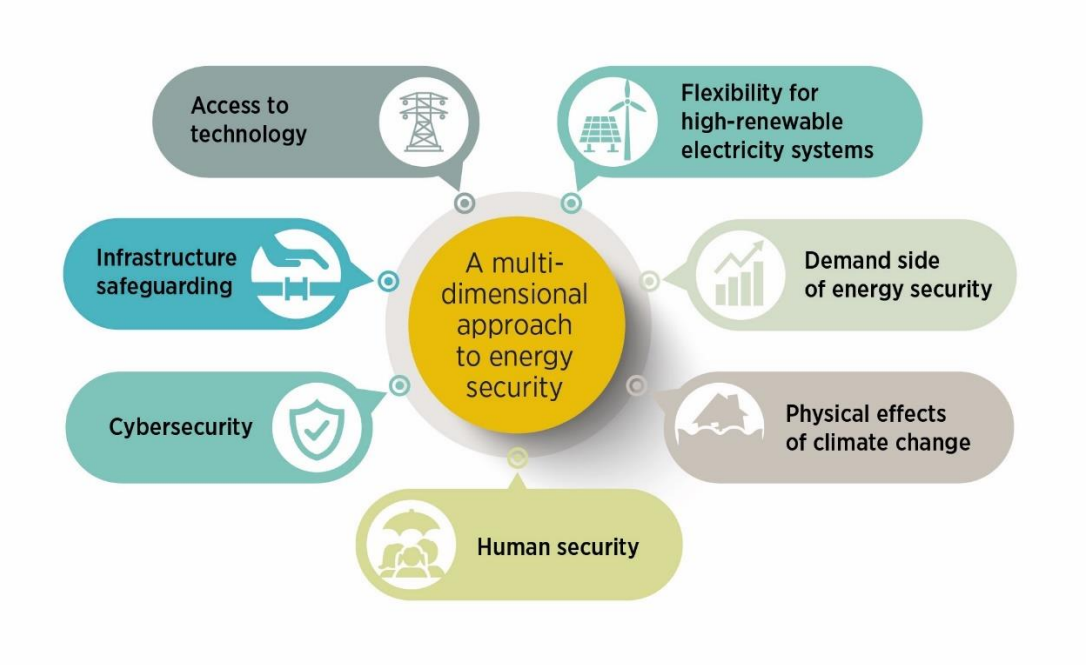
Achieving the ambitious COP28 renewables target will require concerted actions by the global community to modernise and expand relevant infrastructure, adopt enabling policies, adapt markets, and enhance institutional and human capacities. This will also inspire new perspectives on energy security, historically viewed through the lens of a fossil fuel-dominated era.

The latest edition of IRENA's 'geopolitics of the energy transition' series, **Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security**[9] report, developed under the IRENA Collaborative Framework on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, stresses the need for a different approach (Figure 4) from the fossil fuel era, and provides related policy recommendations (Figure 5), while placing people and planet at the centre of this changing energy security landscape. Specifically, the report cautions against merely transposing thinking from the fossil fuel era to a renewables-based system and identifies multiple issues to take into consideration during national decision making on resource endowments and comparative advantages. This is particularly crucial as governments make significant investments in infrastructure for systems that are increasingly electrified, digitalised and decentralised. Crucially, the report underlined that that efforts to enhance energy security are political as well as technical in nature.

Geopolitics: Energy Security

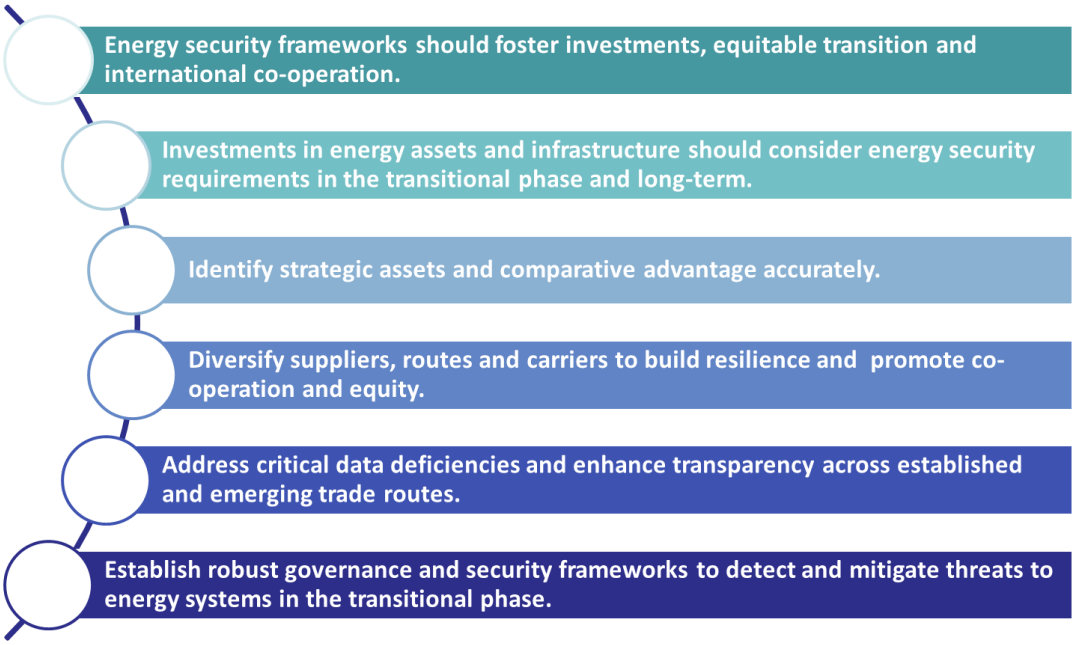
Figure 4: A multi-dimensional approach to energy security.

[7] Available here.
[8] More information available here.
[9] Available here.



Source: IRENA, *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security*, 2024.

Figure 5: Policy recommendations for the new era.



Source: IRENA, *Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security*, 2024

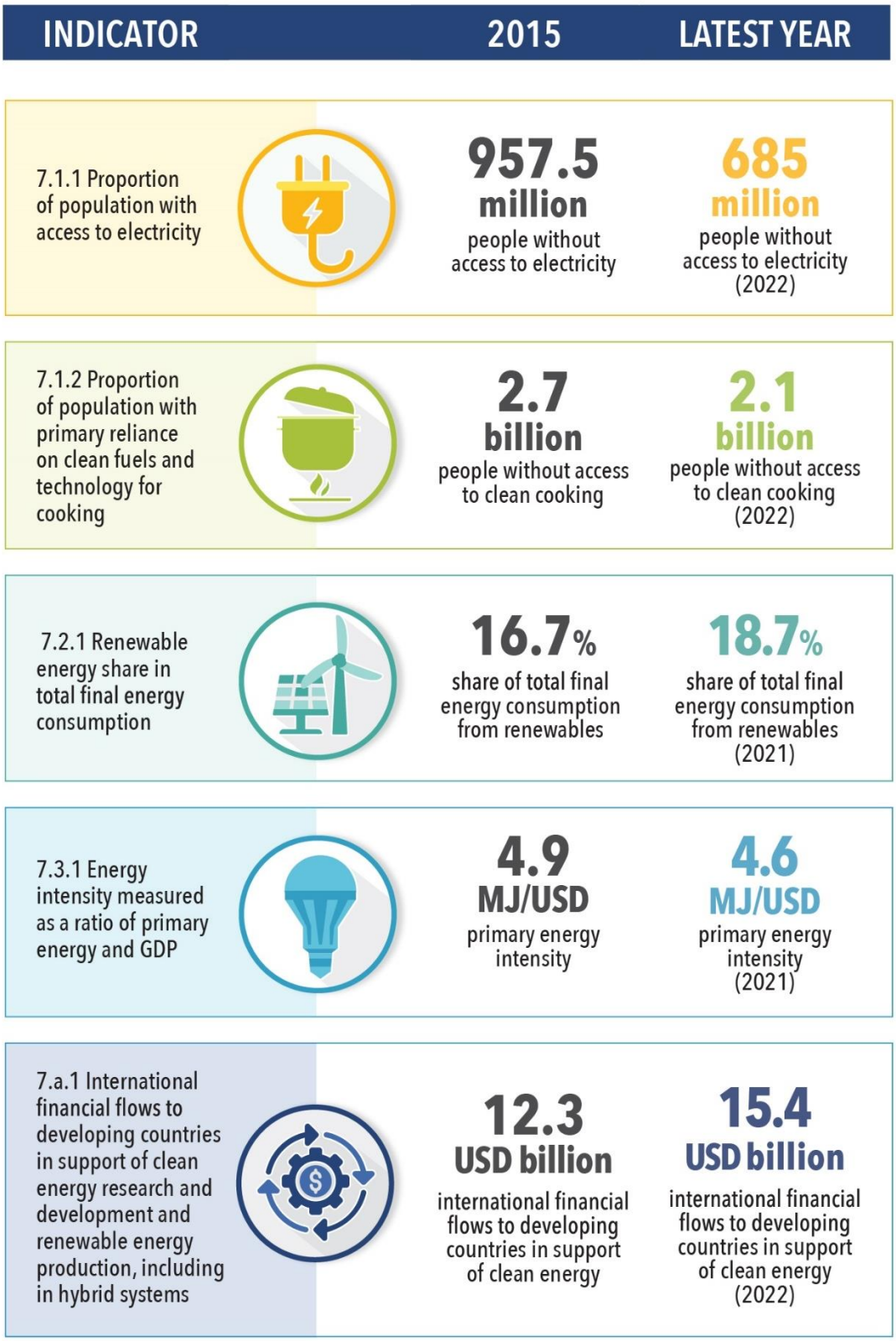
IRENA is a custodian of indicators 7.a.1 (International public finance for renewables) and 7.b.1/12.a.1 (Renewable capacity per capita) of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) and SDG 12, with the

responsibility of developing and publishing related statistics for these two indicators. The Agency published updated data for both indicators in the Global SDG Indicators Database[10] on 28 March – data that was also featured in the IRENA Capacity Statistics 2024 online tools. Using the updated indicators, IRENA developed storylines on renewable energy and public finance directed towards developing countries. IRENA's analysis shows that whilst global installed renewable energy capacity has been on the rise – reaching 424 watts per person in 2022 – developed countries account for 3.7 times more installed renewable energy capacity than developing countries. Meanwhile, whilst international public financial flows in support of clean energy in developing countries reached USD 15.4 billion (an increase of 25% from 2021), this remains around half of the 2016 peak of USD 28.5 billion. These findings will serve as IRENA's contribution to the United Nations SDG Report 2024, to be published in July 2024.

IRENA contributed to the **Global Stocktake of SDG 7**[11] event held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 April, to review progress achieved at the conclusion of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) and raise ambitions regarding SDG 7. To inform the Stocktake and its outcomes, IRENA together with the other SDG 7 custodian agencies[12], developed the **Tracking SDG 7: Energy Progress Report brochure**[13] upon the request of the United Nations. The brochure provides a snapshot of the latest information on global progress in achieving access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The findings highlight that while there has been progress across all SDG 7 indicators in the last decade, the world is not on track to achieve the Goal by 2030 (Figure 6). Currently, 685 million people lack access to electricity and 2.1 billion still rely on polluting cooking fuels. While installed renewable energy generation capacity reached 424 watts per person globally, developed countries had 3.7 more installed capacity than developing countries, on average. Furthermore, international financial flows in support to developing countries reached USD 15.4 billion, up from USD 12.3 billion in 2015, yet still only around half of the 2016 peak of USD 28.5 billion.

Figure 6: Current status of indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 7

[10] Available here.
[11] The Stocktake was mandated through UNGA resolution 77/170, requesting the President of the General Assembly to convene a global stocktaking on global progress on SDG 7.
[12] World Bank, International Energy Agency, United Nations Statistics Division, and World Health Organization.
[13] Available here.



Source: IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank and WHO, *Tracking SDG7: The energy progress highlights; SDG7 Global Stocktake*, 2024.

In preparations for the Global Stocktake, IRENA was invited to outline the current status of renewable energy and finance in **Regional Consultations** organized by UN Energy between February and April 2024. At the

meetings, IRENA discussed progress related to SDG 7 indicators on renewable energy and public financial flows in support of clean energy, highlighting key shortfalls leading to inadequate progress. IRENA stressed that to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, the share of renewables in total final energy consumption (TFEC) would need to almost triple to 33-38% by 2030, while the flow of finance from developed to developing countries should substantially increase through official development assistance, risk mitigation and a more equitable landscape for lending.

In focus:
International Day of Clean Energy

In recognition of IRENA's leading role in accelerating the renewables-based energy transition globally, the United Nations proclaimed 26 January – the Agency's founding date – as the **International Day of Clean Energy**. The inaugural celebration coincided with the 15th anniversary of IRENA. In a video message, the IRENA Director-General stressed that "the establishment of an international day is a testament to the growing support for renewables seen worldwide. A fair, just, equitable and urgent transition towards clean energy is essential to avoid the worst of climate effects and spur sustainable development".

To commemorate the occasion, IRENA, together with the Permanent Missions of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA and the Embassy of Panama to the United Arab Emirates – the two countries that had tabled the resolution – on 25 January[14] organised the fifteenth edition of the Renewables Talk for IRENA Permanent Representatives in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the foundation of IRENA and the 1st International Day of Clean Energy.

The 15th edition of the Renewables Talk brought together high-level participants from IRENA Members and partners to celebrate the International Day of Clean Energy and raise awareness about the importance of clean energy in extending access to energy worldwide. It also advocated for international efforts to realise the objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda and provided insights into the outcomes of COP28 negotiations regarding the advancement of clean energy.
In addition, IRENA, together with the Permanent Missions of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations organised a virtual meeting on 26 January under the umbrella of the **Renewables Talk for IRENA Permanent Representatives**, with the theme **Building a Sustainable Future: Renewables for Climate Action and Sustainable Development**.[15]

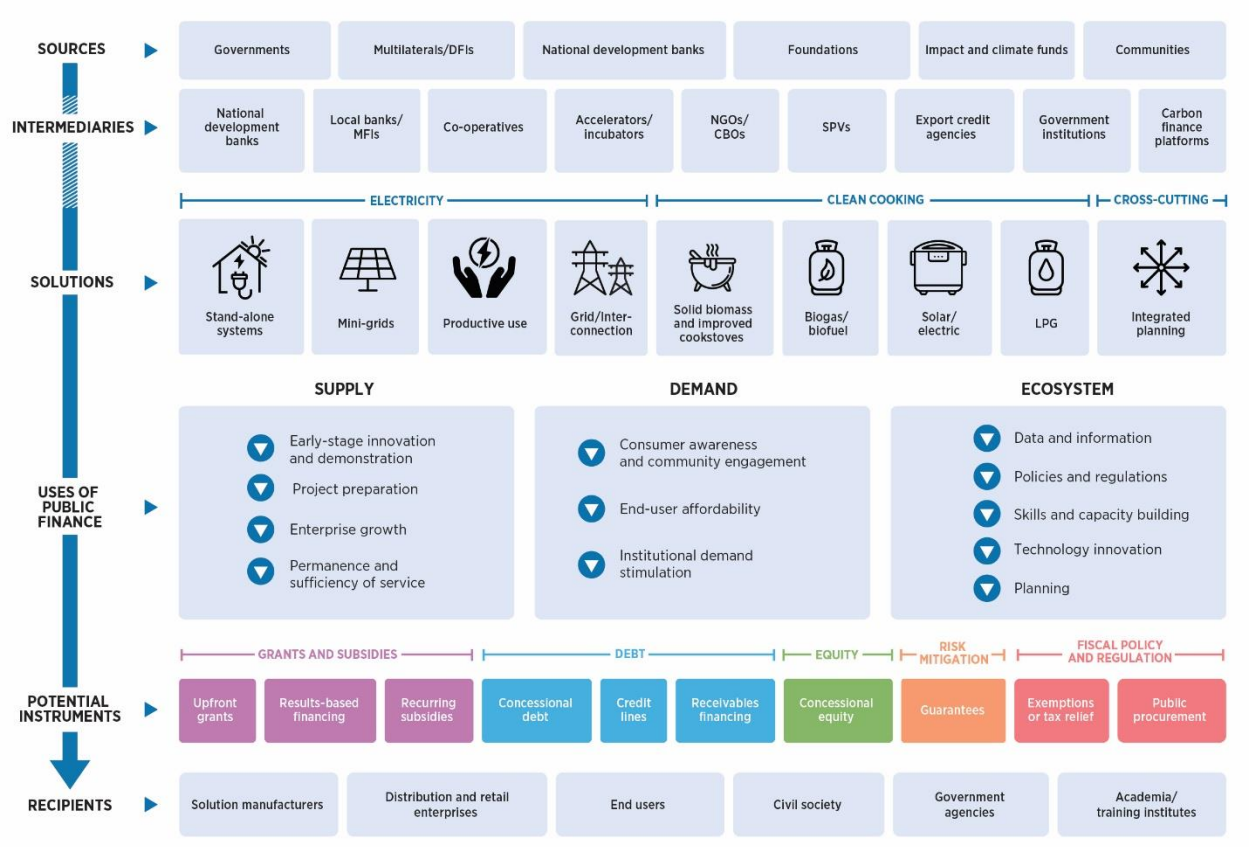
While a range of technological solutions already exist for electrification and clean cooking, public financing remains essential to deploy energy services in areas unaddressed by the market, e.g. planning and building energy infrastructure and an ecosystem that supports the sustainability and resilience of energy deployment – such as education, agriculture, healthcare, industrial development, capacity building, awareness raising and skills development.

IRENA's **Public finance and policy for energy access**[16] brief offers a framework to guide policymakers and public financiers in identifying the necessary finance to advance energy access (Figure 7). The framework (a) maps the public finance needs across the energy access ecosystem; (b) identifies challenges in scaling up public

[14] More information available here.
[15] More information available here.
[16] Available here.

finance for energy access; and (c) identifies stakeholder preferences across public finance instruments, intermediaries and recipients.

Figure 7: IRENA's framework for the use of public finance for expanding energy access.



Notes: CBO = community-based organisation. DFI = development finance institution. LPG = liquefied petroleum gas. NGO = non-governmental organisation. SPV = special purpose vehicle.

Source: IRENA, *Public finance and policy for energy access*, 2024

The status of the clean energy transition in small island developing states (SIDS) has two predominant contexts, each with specific challenges and socio-economic benefits related to increasing the adoption of renewable energy solutions. Some SIDS are predominantly electrified, relying heavily on imported fossil fuels. A sustainable energy transition for these countries requires integrating renewables into existing electrification schemes, thereby significantly reducing their dependency on imported fossil fuels, whilst strengthening local capacities and resources. Other SIDS have significant unelectrified populations. These countries often face economic vulnerabilities exacerbated by poverty, food insecurity, water-borne illness, lack of healthcare, volatile agriculture, deforestation and climate vulnerabilities. The least-electrified SIDS are now at a crossroads in their attempts to reach universal energy access: they can either increase access through imported fossil fuel use, or 'leapfrog' straight to clean energy by significantly scaling up progress in implementing decentralised renewable energy solutions.

To support SIDS in each of these contexts, IRENA published two companion reports. **The Small Island Developing States at a Crossroads: The socio-economics of transitioning to renewables**[17] report focuses on contexts where near-universal access to electricity has been achieved but where countries are still relying

[17] Available here.

heavily on imported fossil fuels. The brief provides an overview of the features of grid-based electricity systems in SIDS, explores the socio-economic and end-user benefits of renewables and outlines policy priorities to help accelerate grid-linked renewable energy deployment.

The **Small Island Developing States at a Crossroads: Towards equitable energy access in least-electrified countries**[18] report focuses on SIDS with significant unelectrified populations that face economic vulnerabilities and decentralised renewable energy solutions would offer significant socio-economic and environmental gains. Arrangements for sustainable finance, technology transfer, institutional capacity-building and local skills-building will all be key in such contexts. The brief focuses on three countries – Guinea-Bissau, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu – and examines the socio-economic benefits of energy access solutions in terms of progress potential, barriers, opportunities and recommendations for scaling up proven solutions. The reports were launched at a webinar[19] on 28 March, accompanied by two promotional videos.[20]

Within the energy community there has been growing debate on whether a 100% renewable energy system is technologically feasible, lowest cost, and most environmentally sustainable option for the decarbonisation of the global energy system. Against this backdrop, and building on the COP28 UAE Consensus momentum, the IRENA Coalition for Action published the brief, **100% renewable energy scenarios: Supporting ambitious policy targets**[21], which examines five energy scenarios: three focused on achieving 100% renewables and two striving for net-zero emissions. The brief evaluates and contrasts similarities and differences among these scenarios, providing recommendations to support ambitious policy objectives and achieve a fully renewable energy-powered system by mid-century. The brief was launched at the first part of the Annual High-Level Public – Private Dialogue, held on 16 April in the margins of the 14 IRENA Assembly, offering a platform for global leaders to delve deeper into required actions, innovative pathways, and comprehensive roadmaps towards a net zero system by 2050. The second part of the Dialogue took place virtually on 7 May.

IRENA's International Women's Day event on 8 March was held under the theme, **Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress Through Renewable Energy**[22], and aimed to amplify the voices and contributions of women, paving the way for accelerated progress in renewable energy and beyond. The stories shared and insights gained during this event contributed to the promotion of gender equality, which is critical in a world grappling with numerous socio-economic and environmental crises. The discussion highlighted that renewable energy emerges as a promising platform for championing gender equality and equity initiatives. Investing in renewables and empowering women, not only as beneficiaries but also as active agents of change, helps mitigate poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. Advocating alternative economic models that foster a shift towards a green economy and a caring society that amplifies women's voices is essential.

The event also served as the launch of **IRENA's Gender Survey 2024**. Contributing to data gathering is the best way IRENA can support countries and societies toward a just energy transition.

Gender survey 2024

[18] Available here.
[19] Available here.
[20] https://youtu.be/_pipzgfG7I0 and https://youtu.be/wUwrkCZxLgs.
[21] Available here.
[22] More information available here.

Harnessing technology and innovation

In recent years, the porential role of green hydrogen in transforming energy systems and advancing sustainable development in developed and developing countries alike has been widely recognised. In collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), IRENA developed the report, **Green hydrogen for sustainable industrial development: A policy toolkit for developing countries**[23], which explores avenues for developing countries to benefit from the hydrogen value chain. The report identifies seven primary economic activity clusters to spark green industrialisation, foster innovation, accelerate decarbonisation and generate employment. Policy coordination, comprising four key elements, stands at the centre of strategic action at the policy level. As such, prioritising local use of green hydrogen; aligning national objectives; starting with small- to medium-sized projects; and phasing implementation of green hydrogen production and applications are all proposed as key features.

Achieving net zero requires a comprehensive transformation of all sectors, including not just power but also end uses. Green hydrogen and its derivatives have a central role to play in reducing emissions and achieving the Paris Agreement targets. IRENA's ***International co-operation to accelerate green hydrogen deployment***[24] report, developed under the umbrella of the Agency's Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen (CFGH), assesses progress in green hydrogen deployment, including the development of green hydrogen supply and demand structures. The report's findings are a synthesis of the essential insights shared by IRENA Members and experts that participated in the Collaborative Framework's meetings held in 2023 focusing on demand and supply structures for green hydrogen.

According to the 2023 edition of the **Tracking SDG7: The energy progress report**[25], an estimated 2.3 billion people remained without access to clean cooking in 2021, indicating that the world is alarming off course in its efforts to meet Target 7.1 by 2030. IRENA's report, ***Advancing renewables-based clean cooking solutions: Key messages and outcomes***[26], summarises key findings drawn from a series of virtual knowledge exchanges organised in 2023, with the aim to facilitate in-depth dialogue on various technologies among practitioners operating in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The existence and availability of standardised renewable energy data is central to policy making in the context of the energy transition. However, policymakers lack any a comprehensive energy taxonomy that adequately addresses the nuances of renewable energy sources, especially in the context of the climate crisis. To address this issue, IRENA developed **Energy taxonomy: Classifications for the energy transition**[27]. IRENA's proposed energy taxonomy groups all energy sources, products and uses under three main groups within energy: non-renewable energy, renewable energy and energy storage. It goes beyond traditional classifications by categorising synthetic fuels like hydrogen based on their origins and introduces a new segment for energy storage to bring clarity to the diverse sources of energy used in storage technologies. The taxonomy constitutes a fist attempt at harmonisation and will remain a constantly evolving tool that is designed to improve the precision of energy statistics in line with global standards. It is important to note that the taxonomy is not for carbon accounting, which follows separate international guidelines.

IRENA's **Global Network of Long-Term Energy Scenario practitioners (Global LTES Network)** has made significant progress in assisting government energy planners and energy scenario practitioners in exchanging experiences and practices to enhance the development and use of LTES through extensive outreach, knowledge exchange and synthesis of practices across the global energy planning community.

[23] Available here.
[24] Available here.
[25] Available here.
[26] Available here.
[27] Available here.

Between January and May 2024, the Global LTES Network organised dedicated **webinars for peer-to-peer learning** within the energy scenarios practitioner's community. The webinars addressed pressing topics for the clean energy transition such as net-zero pathways, climate target achievement and the impact of the UNFCCC global stocktake in the energy planning process. The webinar series will continue throughout 2024, further enriching these key dialogues.

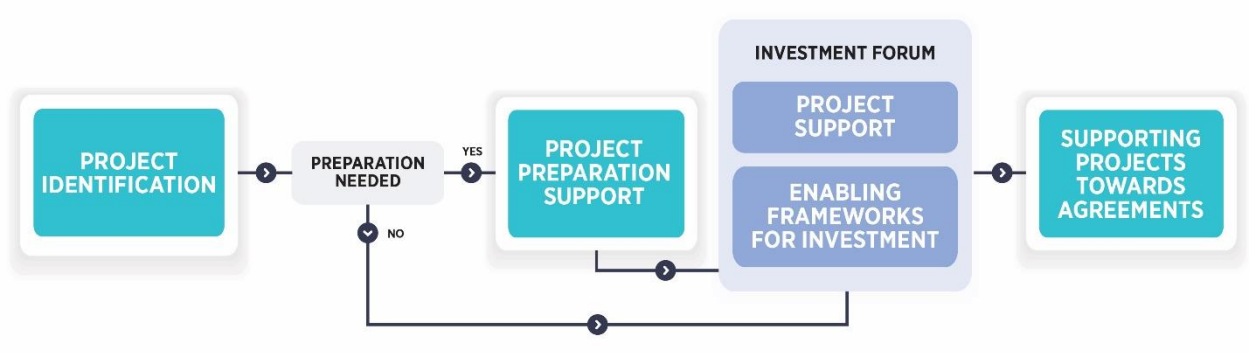
Building on the success of the "Energy Solutions for Cities of the Future" programme, IRENA has been supporting the **Mission Innovation** by organising nine virtual sessions to facilitate knowledge exchange among its member cities under the Urban Transition Mission. The meetings focus on renewable energy technologies and their applications in cities and will take place from 14 February to 19 June 2024. The programme has been providing a platform for urban energy planners/officials and experts from local energy authorities and utilities to not only learn systematically about renewable energy options in distributed power generation systems, buildings, urban transportation, but also share their experiences and success stories, and discuss the challenges encountered.

Investments for a sustainable future

IRENA supports the acceleration of renewable energy deployment through the **Climate Investment Platform (CIP)** and the **Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAF)**, with a unique service offering available to Members. In addition, IRENA provides technical assistance, support, and capacity building to facilitate project development, which feeds into the creation of pipelines for investment-ready projects to benefit from the platforms.

The CIP acts as a bridge between renewable energy projects and actors seeking to contribute to renewable energy project development primarily through finance and, in some cases, technical assistance, amongst others. Once projects qualify for support under the CIP, IRENA provides technical assistance to develop comprehensive Project Information Documents (PIDs) that verify and summarise all the relevant information necessary to attract financing. Projects are then introduced to financial partners by presenting relevant PIDs. A project and a financier are considered matched once IRENA's introduction leads both parties to agree to explore the option of funding a project (Figure 6).

Figure 6: CIP project support cycle.



Now in its third year, 423 projects have been sourced on the CIP, with 209 projects eligible for support. Of these, 90 projects are actively supported; 39 have benefitted from technical assistance support, 14 were matched with interested financing partners, and four projects achieved financial close. The regional distribution of projects is as follows: 155 are from sub-Saharan Africa, 52 are from South America, 28 are from MENA, 35 are from Southeast Asia, 42 are from South Asia, 16 are from Southeast Europe, nine are from Central Asia, and 30 are from SIDS (Table 3 and Table 4).

Table 3: Number of CIP projects supported by region.

Region	# of Total projects	# of Projects supported
Central Asia	9	0
MENA	28	2
South America	52	22
South Asia	42	8
Southeast Asia	35	13
Southeast Europe	16	2
SIDS	30	22
Sub-Saharan Africa	155	21
Other	56	-

Total	**423**	**90**

Table 4: Climate Investment Platform

Cumulative capacity of projects supported (90 projects)	2 282 MW
Cumulative capacity projects that have gained interest from financiers (14 projects)	416 MW
Cumulative value of projects that have gained interest from financiers	USD 804.04 million
Cumulative capacity of projects that reached financial close (5 projects)	64.8 MW
Region with most projects	Sub-Saharan Africa
Total cost of projects that have reached financial close	USD 84.9 million

The **Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform**, an initiative led by IRENA[28], was established to mobilise capital from global financial institutions such as Multilateral Development Banks, Development Financial Institutions and the corporate sector. The primary objective is to expedite the implementation of renewable energy projects and accelerate the energy transition in developing countries. The platform aims to mobilise an initial USD 1 billion in soft pledges for project investment by 2023 and expand to USD 5 billion by 2030. It also aims to facilitate investments supporting a minimum of 1.5 GW of renewable energy technologies by 2024, increasing to at least 5 GW by 2030. This will be achieved through backing renewable-supportive infrastructure, including electricity transmission services and storage.

Through the assessment process, ETAF has identified the following critical barriers in their recommendations to partners: i) insufficient project readiness or completeness; ii) inadequate financial structure; iii) project size considerations; iii) insufficient alignment with SDGs; and iv) limited track record. When proposals meet the ETAF eligibility criteria but are deemed incomplete for assessment, proponents are given the chance to resubmit.

By the end of 2023, ETAF had mobilised USD 4.05 billion in soft commitments from the following ten partners: the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Masdar – the three founding financing partners who joined ETAF at COP27 in 2022 with a total pledge of USD 900 million; and the OPEC Fund, the Inter-America Development Bank (IDB), the Emirates Development Bank (EDB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), HSBC and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), who joined by - or at - COP28, bringing more than USD 3 billion in pledges. ETAF also offers project developers guarantees and de-risking products through its partners, Swiss Re, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

ETAF is accepting eligible renewable energy project submissions through its online platform, following an official Call for Projects launched at COP27. Over 60 project proposals have been submitted to the ETAF Platform, representing over 5.3 GW in capacity. Close to half (26 out of 60) of the received proposals are located in countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the leading region in the number of received proposals (Table 5).

[28] Within the ETAF structure, IRENA acts as the Secretariat and manages the ETAF platform from project sourcing to financial close.

To date, the Platform partners have recommended 16 proposals that fulfil the requirements in four assessed dimensions: energy transition potential; implementation readiness; developer track record; and commercial viability. These projects require a total investment of close to USD 3.5 billion and have a 2 634 MW power generation potential (Table 6).

Table 5: Number of ETAF projects proposed and recommended.

Region	Total project proposals	Projects recommended to ETAF partners
Sub-Saharan Africa	26	4
Central Asia	6	4
North Africa	5	0
Middle East	4	2
South America	4	0
South Asia	4	2
Europe	4	1
Central America	3	3
North America	2	0
Caribbean	1	0
Pacific	1	0
Total	**60**	**16**

Table 6: ETAF Platform

Number of project proposals supported	16
Cumulative capacity of projects supported	2 634 MW
Number of project proposals received that have gained interest from financiers	13
Cumulative capacity of projects that have gained interest from financiers	897 MW
Cumulative value of projects that have gained interest from financiers	USD 3.3 Billion
Total cost of projects that have reached financial close	USD 1 Billion
Location of projects that have gained interest from partners	Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia

About 81% of the projects recommended to ETAF Partners have received provisional interest from at least one ETAF Partner. As the ETAF secretariat, IRENA facilitates discussions between developers and ETAF Partners. So far, three solar PV projects in Uzbekistan, with a total expected installed capacity of 897 MW, have achieved financial close with support from ETAF partners. These projects generate electricity to power more than 1 million homes, or for 5 million inhabitants, while reducing emissions by more than 1 million tons of CO_2 equivalent (tCO_2e) annually.

A solar plant in Uzbekistan installed by one of the ETAF partners.

IRENA is working together with the founding partners to create and implement the ETAF Charter. This document will outline the governance framework for partner collaboration, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of all partners. Five partner meetings were conducted in 2023 covering various aspects, including governance, project eligibility, mobilising new partners with additional financial, de-risking and technical assistance products, and improvements to ETAF's operational procedures, among others. Together with ETAF founding partners, IRENA signed the ETAF Joint Declaration in October 2023. This document outlines the governance framework for partner collaboration, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of all partners, including IRENA as ETAF Secretariat. In addition, the operational manual was drafted to guide the day-to-day activities carried out by the Secretariat while also highlighting procedures that are expected to be completed by partners to deliver on ETAF's mandate. The draft manual is under review and is expected to come into effect in 2024.

A forum for partners was held in January 2024 to formally introduce the seven partners, who joined at COP28. Among the topics of discussion were the new partnership onboarding strategy for 2024, prioritising the project pipeline, upcoming activities for 2024, and a debriefing from the last project review meeting. The next Forum of Partners is anticipated to take place in June 2024. Africa50[29] received approval from all thirteen partners to join the Platform this year and is anticipated to collaborate with the Secretariat on building a pipeline of bankable projects in Africa.

IRENA is committed to supporting its members in developing and enhancing their institutional capacity for structuring energy project financing deals, as well as in creating a conducive policy environment attracting project investments in renewables. To this end, IRENA held a four-day long ***Project Finance Capacity***

[29] Established by African governments and the African Development Bank, Africa50 helps bridge Africa's infrastructure funding gap by facilitating project development, mobilising public and private sector finance, and investing in infrastructure on the continent.

Building Workshop for Pacific SIDS[30] on 16-19 January 2024, targeting government officials as well as private sector stakeholders engaged in renewable energy projects. The workshop brought together 17 participants from diverse backgrounds, encompassing project developers, financial institutions, and government representatives from seven SIDS including the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It featured both theoretical and practical modules on project finance and included a day dedicated to project pitching, during which participants had the opportunity to present their projects. The participants were also urged to submit projects via CIP and ETAF once they had completed the requisite studies and documentation.

Through the **Global Atlas for Renewable Energy Initiative**[31], IRENA continues to support its members in assessing their renewable potential, to assist in planning and deploying renewable projects at different scales In 2024, IRENA published **The Global Atlas for Renewable Energy Initiative: 10+ years in the making**[32], which presents the knowledge platforms and country-level technical analyses developed throughout the years to increase access to capital and spur renewable energy investments. Furthermore, IRENA published **The Global Atlas for Renewable Energy: A decade in the making**[33], which describes all the relevant datasets hosted on the Global Atlas platform – a ground-breaking free web GIS renewable resource tool developed to keep the global community updated on the plethora of relevant datasets for supporting renewable projects development. To date, the platform comprises more than 1 000 renewable resource datasets, as well as ancillary information, at different scales – global, regional and country-specific – from 50 leading international technical institutes and private companies. Using these datasets, IRENA supported the Republic of Iraq with the Iraq Solar and Wind Atlases and assessed the techno-economic potential for developing solar and wind projects for SIDS. It has also been used to support Montserrat via its pre-feasibility site assessment service covering five onshore wind sites earmarked for potential utility-scale project development. The assessed sites for Montserrat have a cumulative prospective installed capacity of 20 MW, which will support the country in progressing with feasibility studies and subsequent project development.

At the city scale, the Agency has also up-scaled the **SolarCity Simulator**[34] – an innovative web-based application that enables users to assess the technical and financial potential of rooftop PV systems – by covering three cities in Belize (Belize City, San Pedro, and San Ignacio) and one in Guyana (Georgetown). These simulators were released at the Caribbean regional consultative workshop in Jamaica (see below). In addition, capacity-building workshops on rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) potential assessments were conducted online for Belize, Burkina Faso and Mauritius, while the workshop for the Solomon Islands was conducted during IRENA's workshop[35] on the Launch of the Solomon Islands Renewable Readiness Assessment Report.

[30] More information available here.
[31] More information available here.
[32] Available here.
[33] Available here.
[34] More information available here.
[35] More information available here.

Latin America possesses significant untapped potential for biomass production, owing to its advantageous climate, abundant land resources and robust agricultural sector. However, the region's bioenergy potential has been only partially developed, with some countries boasting significant production bases and well-established markets, while others are only beginning exploration. To explore the potential of the region, IRENA organised a workshop in São Paulo on 17 March 2023, featuring public and private sector representatives, focusing on Argentina, Brazil and Colombia. IRENA's **Sustainable bioenergy pathways in Latin America: Promoting bioenergy investment and sustainability**[36] report presents key findings that emanated from the discussion.

Along similar lines, IRENA developed the **Sustainable bioenergy potential in Caribbean small island developing states**[37] report, which provides a preliminary assessment of the bioenergy potential of six small SIDS, namely Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. These countries comprise about 94% of the group's area and 93% of its population. The report evaluates the feasibility of utilising different sources like sugarcane, oil palm and municipal solid waste for bioenergy production, while considering the essential equilibrium between environmental well-being and socio-economic advantages within these regions. The report has been translated into Spanish as well.[38]

IRENA's **Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs)** is a comprehensive, country-led, collaborative instrument developed by IRENA in 2012 and already deployed in over 50 counties. RRAs bring together a wide range of stakeholders, to assess a country's national energy policy and strategy; institutions and markets; and resources and technologies. They explore the potential establishment of business models and determine the capacity needed to scale-up renewables.

IRENA developed the **Renewables Readiness Assessment: Solomon Islands**[39], in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative. The report was followed by a capacity building workshop on the Honiara SolarCity Simulator held on 7-8 February 2024 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The RRA identifies several drivers to accelerate the deployment of renewables and ramp up energy transition efforts in the country. The event served to launch the RRA report as well as conduct a workshop on rooftop solar simulator analysis, discuss the implementation of the report's recommendations, and elaborate on the nexus of renewables with education, tourism, ICT and fisheries sectorsIRENA is currently developing RRAs for Chad, Georgia and Somalia. Under the RRA Chad process, stakeholder consultations were held on 4-5 March in N'Djamena, to discuss the current renewable energy landscape and gather inputs on issues to be considered by the expert workshop.

Following that, IRENA, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy of Chad, organised an expert meeting on 6-7 March 2024 to identify challenges, capacity-building needs and potential actions for improving renewable energy deployment across multiple sectors (electricity, bioenergy, transport, etc.).

[36] Available here.
[37] Available here.
[38] Available here.
[39] Available here.

Under the RRA Georgia process, IRENA organised a workshop on 20-21 March in Tbilisi, to review the energy sector challenges identified in a relevant Issue Paper and appraise the key conditions for the development and deployment of renewable energy.

Lastly, on 27-28 February, IRENA organised a workshop in Nairobi, to discuss and consolidate recommendations from the RRA process. These inputs contributed significantly to the final draft of the report.

In supporting its Members to improve electricity access, IRENA has assessed the potential for battery storage to provide affordable access through solar PV mini grids in West Africa – mainly in Burkina-Faso, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. The insights from this assessment are available at the **West-Africa Electrification platform**,[40] to inform planning. This platform explores several pathways to universal access, identifying potential markets and showcasing the role of battery storage in mini grids. A summary report is also being drafted.

[40] More information available here.

International cooperation and partnerships

IRENA remains committed to in-person engagement with Members, to exchange views and enhance strategic collaboration through the organisation of over 40 high-level Members' visits by Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Energy, Special Envoys for Climate Change, etc. and bilateral meetings at IRENA headquarters. IRENA is also engaging and expanding outreach with States in Accession and non-Members to reiterate the benefits of joining IRENA, as well as to expedite the ratification and accession processes. In addition, in recognition of the value of collaborating with intergovernmental organisations, academia and private sector representatives, IRENA, to benefit from the knowledge exchange and their expertise as well as to identify and engage in strategic collaboration to advance the energy transition.

This year, the 14th session of the **IRENA Assembly** took place in two parts under the theme 'Outcome of COP28: Infrastructure, Policies and Skills for Tripling Renewables and Accelerating the Energy Transition'. During **Part I**[41], which took place in a virtual setting on 15 January 2024, Members had the opportunity to consider and discuss a number of programmatic and institutional matters relevant to the Agency's future work and direction. They also considered several administrative and institutional matters are crucial to IRENA's functioning.

14 Assembly Part I

Marking the 4th World Energy Transition Day, **Part II**[42] of the 14th session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings was convened in-person from 17 to 18 April 2024. The Assembly served to bring together global leaders and energy decision-makers to take stock of operational plans and policies and highlight the concerted action undertaken to implement the energy transition across countries, regions, and the world. There were over 1400 registered participants to Part II of the fourteenth session of the Assembly from 137 Members and the European Union, eight States-in-Accession and other United Nations Member States, including 68 represented at ministerial level, together with representatives from 178 organisations.

14 Assembly Part II

[41] More information available here.
[42] More information available here.

The Opening featured a **High-level Plenary Session on Tripling of Renewables,** aligned with the Assembly theme. The session set the scene for the Assembly's deliberations and served to identify concrete and immediate actions to drive the implementation of the COP 28 outcomes. The COP28 targets, adopted from IRENA's flagship World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO), set a direction for the future of the global energy system in line with the Paris Agreement. The sessions also explored how to harness international cooperation as a catalyst of change, effective monitoring of the progress and action on course correction. Participants also discussed how IRENA can best leverage its comparative advantages to accelerate the implementation of the tripling pledge and what targeted support it can provide for the next round of NDCs.

On the Pre-Assembly Day on 16 April 2024 and during the Assembly, IRENA organised several Ministerial and High-level Meetings, focusing on critical and pertinent issues for the energy transition.

The **High-Level Dialogue on Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Regional Pathway** provided a platform for an exchange on scaling up renewables-based energy transition in the region, while discussing how the COP28 Pledge can be put into action in the region, with a view to supporting its ambitions to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth and transition away from fossil fuels. Immediate opportunities to achieve the energy sector transformation as well as enabling technology, finance and policy choices were identified.

The SIDS Ministerial on Charting a Resilient and Sustainable Energy Future for SIDS succeeded in setting the direction for the upcoming 4th International Conference for SIDS. At the Ministerial, participants had the opportunity to discuss sustainable development and climate priorities as well as ways to ensure the continued effectiveness of initiatives (*e.g.* the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative) in mobilising the necessary finance and boosting decarbonisation. The importance of maintaining inclusive and strong partnerships was reiterated.

The **High-level Plenary session on Accelerated Renewable Deployment in Africa (APRA)** explored strategies for boosting renewable energy in Africa through international collaboration and ways to overcome challenges, leverage partnerships for greater renewable energy investment and build a resilient local private

sector in Africa's renewable landscape. During the moderated discussions, panellists pointed to the importance of contextualised support, reiterating the fact that each African country is unique in its needs and priorities.[43] The **High-level Plenary session on Accelerating the Development of Bankable Renewable Energy Projects – Leveraging IRENA's Facilitation Platforms for Global Transition** focused on country and regional challenges impeding project development and deployment, and possible solutions to overcome them. Participants addressed the importance of integrating national efforts with IRENA's initiatives to foster renewable energy projects, as well as how each individual country could enhance their renewable energy initiatives, focusing on overcoming barriers and fostering international collaboration.

The dedicated event on the **Integration of CMP as an enabler to support project preparation and mobilizing financing for renewable energy projects** served to present key outcomes from the CMP initiative, encouraged collaboration among members to overcome financing challenges, while advocating for favourable financial frameworks, investment policies.

The event on **Regional Energy Transition Outlooks for Africa – Pathways to 2050** introduced the African Regional Energy Transition Outlook (RETO) as a basis to foster discussion with key stakeholders concerning different views on the energy transition in Africa and how investments in renewables can leverage socio-economic development in the continent. The key outcomes of this discussion will serve as inputs to the RETO scenarios.

Back-to-back with the Assembly, on 19th April, IRENA organized a full-day workshop on **Development of Regional Energy Transition Outlooks for Africa - Operational Workshop on Regional Scenarios**. The event brought together 20 country representatives from Africa to deepen the discussions on particular aspects of RETO scenarios. Participants delved into the unique regional and country-specific factors and objectives that should inform the RETO development process, emphasising policies and targets identified by stakeholders as key priorities.

The **Roundtable on the Role of Public Finance and Policy in Achieving Universal Energy Access under SDG7**[44] brought together government leaders, development bodies, donors, the private sector and energy practitioners, to explore public finance and policy roles in improving energy access as well as cooperation needs and strategies to leverage public funds for extending essential energy services, supporting sustainable development goals, and enhancing local capacities within the energy sector. IRENA's brief, **Public finance for universal energy access** (see section above), was also presented.

The **GOWA Ministerial Dialogue on Scaling Finance for Offshore Wind as Key to Reach the Tripling Renewables Goal** focused on how best to utilise de-risking tools, blended finance and partnerships to overcome market challenges in emerging regions.

The **Ministerial Roundtable on Geopolitics of Energy Security**[45] served to share insights and lessons learned, while also looking at future energy security challenges as the world moves towards renewable energy. Discussions also focused on the major geopolitical shifts set to profoundly influence energy trade dynamics, alter international dependencies and reshape the geopolitical landscape. IRENA's report, **Geopolitics of the energy transitions: Energy security** (see section above), was launched at the meeting. The report calls for new perspectives on energy security in the renewables-based era.

Policies and strategies to speed up the energy transition, ensure inclusivity and enhance local benefits were explored at the **Policies and Skills for an Accelerated Energy Transition** meeting. Participants discussed deployment methods, as well as auctions and renewable energy targets, as means to signal long-term commitment, and ways to bolster supply chains and workforce skills. With a particular emphasis on overcoming skills shortages,

[43] More information available here.
[44] More information available here.
[45] More information available here.

the discussion also focused on scaling education and training, including upskilling and preparing youth for renewable energy jobs.

The **Accelerating ASEAN's Growth and Resilience: Grid Interconnections Power the Tripling of Renewables** event brough together various stakeholders to create a united vision on how connecting power grids can help solve energy, climate, and development issues in the states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The event on **Enablers for trade in green hydrogen and derivatives** focused on the catalysts for international trade in green hydrogen and its derivates, with aims to identify key drivers, policy frameworks, and technological advancements that can facilitate the global exchange of green hydrogen, fostering a sustainable energy transition.

The **Scaling-up Sustainable Bio-based Energy and Fuels in Emerging Markets** event was an opportunity to identify methods to utilise sustainable biomass in emerging markets to foster sustainable circular bio-economies. It also served to showcase advancements in bio-based cooking technologies and sustainable aviation fuels, highlighting their impact on sustainable bio-economies as well as successful risk mitigation strategies and the importance of supportive policies.

The **Harvesting Synergies: The Water-Food-Energy Nexus for Enhanced NDCs** meeting focused on the crucial connections between water, food and energy systems, emphasising the need for a transformative approach to sustainability and climate commitments. The discussion sought to motivate stakeholders across different sectors to exchange strategies and innovations in sustainable agriculture, emphasising the use of renewable energy.

The event on **Electrification of Road Transport Enabling Policies and Systemic Innovation** explored policies and innovations supporting the electrification of road transport, bringing together policymakers, experts, and industry leaders to discuss the transition to renewables-based electrification for various vehicle types. Policy insights and successful practices were shared from different markets, and IRENA provided inputs on its work to promote road transport electrification.

The session on **Participatory Strategies for Developing Just and Renewable-Based Energy Pathways** emphasised the importance of inclusive and cooperative energy planning processes. It highlighted the critical role of inclusivity in developing long-term energy scenarios and shaping policies to enhance social inclusion and cross-governmental cooperation for strategic national planning. Successful country examples were showcased to illustrate these aspects. The discussion also presented key findings from the work of IRENA's Global LTES network, offering practical insights to enhance stakeholder involvement and foster effective dialogue in energy planning.

The ninth edition of the **IRENA 2024 Legislators Forum** was held under the theme Building Blocks for a Renewable Future: Accelerating Progress Towards the COP28 Pledge. At the meeting, participants discussed the crucial role of a holistic policy approach, focusing on not deployment and enabling policies, structural changes for a just transition, and the modernisation of energy infrastructure to support a renewables-based system. Discussions also focused on ways to advance renewable energy within Legislators' regions, considering the urgent climate action needed and the ambitious COP28 pledge to triple global renewable energy by 2030. In addition, the **IRENA Legislators Dialogue on Power Up the Future** event– aimed specifically at young people – was held to spark a vital conversation between present and future leaders and explore ways to engage young leaders in renewable energy policymaking and forge a shared commitment to building a sustainable future 100% powered by renewable energy.

This year's **High-Level Public-Private Dialogue** was convened under the theme Building momentum towards a 100% Renewable energy system. Building on the achievements of COP28, the Dialogue called for global strides towards the achievement of ambitious renewable energy goals and enhanced policy innovation. Discussions also focused on the importance of enhancing cross-sector collaboration, maintaining COP28's

momentum for ambitious climate and energy efficiency targets, and exploring innovative strategies for electrification and sustainable energy use.

The pivotal role of women and girls in advancing the transition to a sustainable economy and renewable energy cannot be overstated. The fifth edition of the **Women in Diplomacy** event presented a unique opportunity to strengthen the network of female diplomats engaged in renewable energy and climate change to amplify their pivotal roles in shaping a sustainable future and foster collaboration toward achieving shared goals. The theme of the meeting was Synergies for Change: Women – Diplomats Driving Joint Efforts in Renewable Energy and Climate Action.

IRENA's Youth Forum closing event[46] was convened under the Youth at the Core of a Just Energy Transition: Skills, Empowerment and Innovation event on 16 April. The 2024 edition of the Forum – which took place from 14 to 18 April – aimed to not only foster discussions but also equip young participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to shape a more sustainable and inclusive energy future. During the session, participants had the opportunity to explore and promote actions in three main areas: a) skills for a just energy transition; b) empowering youth voices in energy agendas; and c) fostering youth-led innovation in sustainability.

The dialogue also aimed to bridge knowledge gaps, enhance global education and training, and provide practical skills for renewable energy careers, seeking to ensure young people's perspectives are integrated into energy agendas and to support their innovative solutions. In a dedicated effort to foster stronger connections with youth, IRENA introduced the IRENA Youth Social Media Ambassadors for the IRENA Youth Forum by involving four youth delegates to take photographs and provide coverage of the event.

IRENA organised a youth event on **Exploring Youth Entrepreneurial Solutions in the Sustainable Energy & Green Sector**, held at the IRENA Pavilion during the World Future Energy Summit convened in April 2024 in Abu Dhabi. Discussions highlighted the important role of youth in being at the forefront of creating disruptive innovations and entrepreneurial solutions in the sustainable energy and green sector. It also showcased successful entrepreneurs supported by IRENA through various programmes, including the IRENA NewGen Accelerator Programme for Youth, and shed light on the opportunities and challenges faced by young green entrepreneurs.

On 18 March, IRENA launched for the second year, the **IRENA NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator (NewGen)**[47]**,** aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs and innovators in driving the renewable energy transition. NewGen provides capacity building, mentorship and other resources to youth-led projects and start-ups that are developing innovative solutions to advance the adoption of renewable energy at the global level. NewGen is open to youth-led projects and start-ups with a focus on innovative solutions in areas such as energy storage, grid integration and energy efficiency. Selected participants will receive training, mentorship and other resources to help them develop and scale their solutions. They can also compete for the IRENA Youth Award, and other engagement opportunities throughout the Acceleration programme.

[46] More information available here.
[47] More information available here.

IRENA's **Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA)**[48], established at COP28, provides a meaningful international platform for cooperation among power utilities entities to address and overcome common barriers to the realisation of net-zero ambitions and more near-term emissions reduction targets. At the 14th IRENA Assembly **Ministerial Roundtable on Infrastructure for the Energy Transition: Utilities for Net Zero Alliance**, participants addressed the crucial role of infrastructure in the energy transition and in achieving the goal of tripling renewables by 2030. Crucially, UNEZA members adopted the UNEZA Roadmap to 2030 that addresses key challenges and expanding impact beyond the Alliance and includes the joint target to raise total renewable energy capacity to 749 GW by 2030, an increase of 2.5 times relative to 2023.

The Roadmap is accompanied by the UNEZA Plan of action[49] that addresses the pressing need to scale and modernise global grid infrastructure to support clean power development and the tripling of renewables by 2030. Framing the priorities of the UNEZA members, the 'Global Infrastructure Program' strategy was developed, focusing on key priorities around infrastructure upgrades and UNEZA's actions in the coming years. Members have committed to significant investment programmes to reinforce, digitalise and modernise grid infrastructure in line with the global benchmark of a doubling by 2030, subject to regulatory frameworks and consenting regimes being aligned to this ambition. To accelerate the energy transition, six focus areas have been defined where actions along four pillars can alleviate challenges in the ecosystem.

UNEZA members serve more than 300 million customers worldwide. IRENA hosts the Alliance's Secretariat, supported by partners including the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, International Electrotechnical Commission, Global Renewables Alliance, Coordinador Eléctrico Nacional, and Green Grids Initiative. Membership is open to utilities, developers, power system technology companies and knowledge partners determined to expedite the transition towards a net zero future by 2050.

The annual **Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) Annual Meeting** convened Alliance member governments and partner institutions to explore challenges and prospects in the sector, share knowledge and experiences and provide feedback and guidance on the priority areas of focus for the Alliance to better support faster deployment of geothermal power and heat globally. During the **Roundtable Dialogue on Translating Tripling Renewables Pledge into Action**, country representatives discussed the expected contribution of geothermal energy to the tripling renewable energy capacity as being indicated by the UAE Consensus at COP28 and the ways geothermal energy could contribute significantly to the goal's achievement. Furthermore, members and partners emphasised to need accelerate the utilisation of geothermal energy across in agri-food value chains and the significance of geothermal energy in sustainable development.

The **Alliance for Industry Decarbonization (AFID)**[50] continues to facilitate dialogue among industry and foster increasing cooperation to help companies develop solid decarbonisation strategies and implement plans, aligned with their countries' net-zero and decarbonisation commitments. AFID Members have individual reduction plans that combined, aim to reduce 51% of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions and grow installed renewable capacity from 84 GW today to 187 GW in 2030. Moreover, Alliance's members committed to almost double installed green hydrogen, drive green energy solutions, increase workforce re-skilling from 15% today to 91% and significantly boost investments in energy transition projects to more than USD 50 billion by the end of this decade.

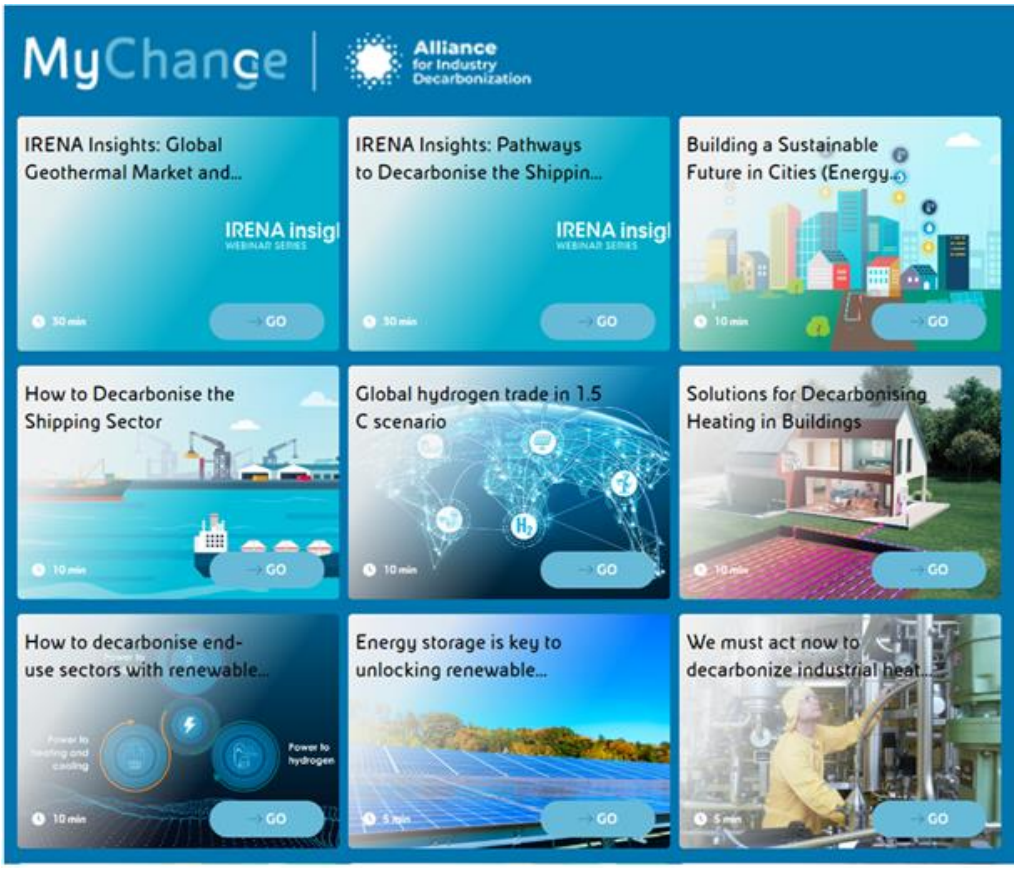
[48] More information available here.
[49] More information available here.
[50] More information available here.

In implementing its Decarbonization Commitment, six working groups of the Alliance conducted monthly meetings on advancing joint activities, initiatives and realized projects on the ground to advance they key decarbonization pillars related to technologies, industrial processes and enablers.

AFID has launched the digital platform – MyChange - for its members to raise awareness on the challenges connected to the SDG's and the Agenda 2030. It offers a variety of contents in different formats such as videos, e-learning pills, articles and podcasts, made available by the Alliance members and IRENA (Table 7).

The **Alliance for Industry Decarbonization (AFID) event** during the Assembly, served to present a set of actions and joint initiatives for short and long-term plans as well as solicit feedback on the Alliance's ambitions and programme.

Table 7: MyChange



Finally, IRENA, in cooperation with the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) organised a meeting on **Progress & options for wider collaboration** to discuss the ongoing partnership with IRENA and CEM initiatives, highlighting progress and exploring cooperation opportunities. It also sought insights on enhancing international collaboration, integrating IRENA's contributions into CEM workstreams, finding common ground for greater impact, fostering collaboration to benefit Global South countries.

IRENA has been actively engaged with G20 Presidencies in advancing the global energy transition. Requested by Brazil as G20 Presidency 2024, IRENA has provided valuable insights, technical advice and inputs to the Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) on the priority areas that the Presidency has set in the agenda for discussions throughout G20 in 2024. In this regard, IRENA has been working with Brazil on a joint report with the aim to facilitate the discussion around delivering a just and inclusive energy transition for EMDEs among G20 countries and other relevant stakeholders.

Efforts at the regional level

Under the umbrella of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA),[51] IRENA facilitated the **4th APRA country consultation**[52] in Harare, Zimbabwe on 24-26 January. Coordinated by the Ministry of Energy and Power Development of Zimbabwe, the consultation served to identify the country's national priorities and energy transition ecosystem. It also provided a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions not only on renewables-based energy transition but also on broader cross-cutting issues such as economic growth and industrial development, job creation, improving lives and livelihoods, and other development ambitions. The meeting was attended by H.E. Dr Jenfan Muswere, Minister of Ministry of Energy and Power Development as well as over 100 local and international participants from a broad range of stakeholder institutions.

Along the same lines, the **5th APRA country consultation**[53] was organized by the Ministry of Infrastructure of Rwanda, in partnership with IRENA, on 15 February in Kigali, Rwanda. At the consultation, participants had the opportunity to elaborate on the country's national priorities across economic growth and industrial development, job creation, improving lives and livelihoods and other development ambitions. The results derived from the workshop were utilized in the development of the national workplan intervention areas relevant to accelerate the clean energy transition.

On 14-15 March 2024, the **Pacific Small Islands Developing States Decarbonisation Forum**[54] was hosted by Japan, IRENA through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the Green Climate Fund. The Forum included a series of workshops dedicated to strengthening renewable energy deployment in SIDS, strengthening local and regional capacity to access climate finance and sharing best practices, lessons learned and innovative energy transition solutions. Expanding on these efforts, this virtual forum shone a light on climate actions in small islands, showcasing various tailored solutions and technology options to address the distinctive challenges and opportunities of SIDS.

[51] Founded at the African Climate Summit in September 2023 by Kenya, Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, with support from Denmark, Germany, the UAE and IRENA, the Partnership aims to accelerate the energy transition in respective countries.
[52] More information available here.
[53] More information available here.
[54] More information available here.

Since its inception in 2014, IRENA's SIDS Lighthouse Initiative (LHI) has been promoting the deployment of renewables to transform energy systems in island countries. As the Initiative progresses, the need to measure the impact of its efforts has emerged. In the context of developing a set of indicators to track progress at national, regional, and global levels, the first **Caribbean region consultation workshop**[55] was convened on 26 February-6 March in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop brought together representatives from the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos, Trinidad and Tobago, regional organisations and relevant partners such as CCREEE, CCCCC, CDB, the World Bank, IDB, Green Solutions International SKN, Clean Energy Regulatory Reform Advisory and NDC Partnership. The meeting presented draft progress indicators and impact measures, and sought feedback on relevance, appropriateness and potential improvements.

The inaugural regional consultation workshop in the **Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) region**[56], held on 11-13 March 2024 in Victoria, Seychelles, brought together government ministries representatives from Cabo Verde, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Mauritius and the Maldives, the public sector, development partners including the Common Wealth's Climate Finance Access Hub and ECREEE, financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders involved in energy transition and monitoring progress within international frameworks. The structure and methodology of the consultation emphasised a participatory approach, leveraging mechanisms of discovery to encourage engagement and ownership among stakeholders.

[55] More information available here.
[56] More information available here.

Collaborative Frameworks

IRENA's **Collaborative Frameworks**[57] (Table 8) reflect the Agency's commitment to enhancing Member engagement and ownership of the programmatic output, while enabling peer-to-peer collaboration and exchange of national experiences, challenges and respective solutions.

Table 8: List of Collaborative Frameworks and their respective Co-facilitators

Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition	 
Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems	 
Collaborative Framework on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation	 
Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen	 
Collaborative Framework on Hydropower	 
Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transition	 
Collaborative Framework on Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables	 
Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground Energy Transition	 

[57] More information available here.

The **Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition** met for the third time on 4 April[58] to explore the potential for innovation to efficiently address and alleviate potential shortages in the supply of critical materials. Industry, academia and public sector experts focused their presentations on diverse energy transition technologies geared towards decreasing the demand for critical materials through innovations.

The **Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems** will organise a meeting on 14 May. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share experiences and discuss how the six workstreams of the Framework could support the realization of the global pledge of tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, with key perspectives of developing enabling infrastructure, policy and regulation, skills and institutional capacity, mobilizing finance, and international collaboration.

The third flagship publication under the umbrella of the **Collaborative Framework on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation** on the ***Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security*** was released at a dedicated Ministerial Roundtable during the 14 IRENA Assembly (see section above).

On 22 March[59], the ninth meeting of the **Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen (CFGH**) focussed on green hydrogen derivatives. The meeting explored various aspects of derivatives trade, such as the certification of hydrogen derivatives and specific regulations addressing them.

The **Collaborative Framework on Hydropower** will convene a meeting after mid-June, focusing on sustainable and resilient hydropower development. The meeting will bring together experts to share insights and best practices on reducing hydropower's ecological footprint.

The **Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transition** is continuing to enable peer-to-peer dialogue and multistakeholder action on approaches to develop policies and mobilize resources that help pave the way of the equity and justice elements of the energy transition. Building on the work to date on jobs, youth and gender, skills and education, supply chain value, citizen and community engagement, amongst other, the framework remains a relevant platform for IRENA Members to share their insights under the theme.

On 26 March, the eight meeting of the **Collaborative Framework on Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables** took place. Insights and forecasts on supply chain stress and bottlenecks in the offshore wind sector were examined. Additionally, discussions elaborated on how ports/harbours help facilitate the acceleration of offshore wind deployment, with a focus on polices and best practices in serving as potential energy hubs. Participants also discussed the requirements for optimal grid infrastructure planning and harmonisation to match the anticipated growth in offshore wind capacity.

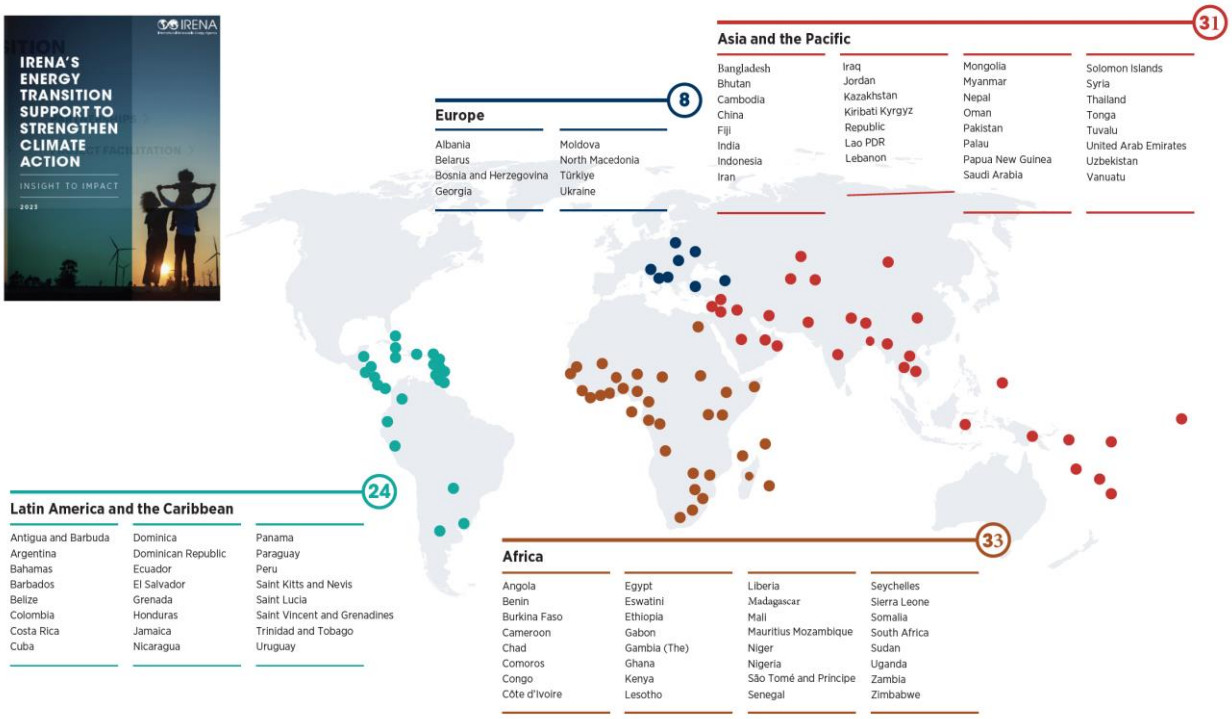
The **Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground Energy Transition** is scheduled to meet on 12 June, coinciding with the 27th meeting of the IRENA Council. In the context of the Framework and in coordination with the co-facilitators – Austria and Egypt – IRENA has been holding bilateral meetings with several IRENA Members. As such, Members were encouraged to connect with IRENA the member's technical representatives looking into the renewable project landscape and submit new projects to IRENA platforms, especially in light of the fact that ETAF has already secured more than USD 4 billion in soft pledges. Additionally, a strong emphasis has been placed on the importance of close coordination between IRENA Members and the IRENA Secretariat to develop a pipeline of projects and unlock the full potential of IRENA project facilitation work.

[58] More information available here.
[59] More information available here.

Targeted climate action

IRENA's Members are increasingly reaching out to the Agency with requests to receive targeted support for climate action to enhance their NDCs and support implementation. In response to this, IRENA is currently engaging and supporting 96 countries with NDC enhancement and implementation across all continents. This is equivalent to 5.4 billion people and covers total energy-related greenhouse gas emissions of 30 450 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$). Currently, IRENA's NDC enhancement and implementation support includes 190 activities to support the needs of IRENA Members, who are the Parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement, in enhancing and implementing their energy transition plans while reflecting these climate action commitments in NDC submissions (Figure 7). IRENA's contribution to long-term strategies includes six work packages, of which four exist within the NDC Support umbrella.

Figure 7: IRENA's climate action engagement.



Communications, outreach and engagement

IRENA continues to amplify its impact through its outreach and communication activities. Since the beginning of 2024, IRENA has been referenced in over 13,700 media articles in 49 languages across 141 countries.

Global media outreach accompanied the launch of flagship reports, including the World Energy Transitions Outlook brief - Tracking COP28 outcomes: Tripling renewable power capacity by 2030 - as well as other reports such as Renewable capacity statistics 2024 and Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security. In the first three days from launch, the Tracking COP28 outcomes brief was mentioned in 10 languages across 36 countries.

The number of visitors to the IRENA website reached almost 880 000 between 1 January and 1 May 2024, representing a significant (40%) increase compared to the same period last year. Overall, www.irena.org generated more than 2.6 million pageviews, 35% more than in the same period last year. The continuity of new formats such as interactive visual stories has encouraged user interaction and helped to establish the website as a reliable hub of knowledge on the energy transition.

The peak days this year were marked by major events, such as the 14th session of the IRENA Assembly, IRENA Youth engagement events and campaigns, as well as flagship publication launches, such as the Geopolitics of the energy transition: Energy security report. For example, all content related to Youth, including on the Youth Forum and New generation of decision-makers accumulated over 340,000 pageviews, engaging global youth, increasing reach of IRENA knowledge products, and amplifying impact. To date, the Youth Forum page, which hosts the programme application links, has registered over 290 000 visits.

New interactive versions of IRENA reports are an ongoing source of success and generate high engagement, with the 2022 and 2023 World Energy Transitions Outlook reports attracting a further 21 000 views since January 2024. These products substantially increase engagement. The Annual Report on the Implementation of IRENA's Work Programme and Budget has also been produced in a digital format, accompanied by an interactive infographic, and attracted significant attention. In addition, visual stories were cumulatively viewed more than 21 000 times since January 2024, providing an overview of IRENA's activities, enhancing access to the reports and strengthening IRENA's overall outreach.

Since 1 January 2024, IRENA has also produced and promoted 20 videos, including webinar recordings, human impact stories, and pieces on key events such as the first International Day of Clean Energy/IRENA's 15th Anniversary; as well as in-house-produced videos (Lumen5) on critical reports and major IRENA initiatives. Additionally, during the 14th IRENA Assembly, the Agency published recordings and selected clips from the sessions, amounting to 25 posted videos on the Agency's YouTube channel.

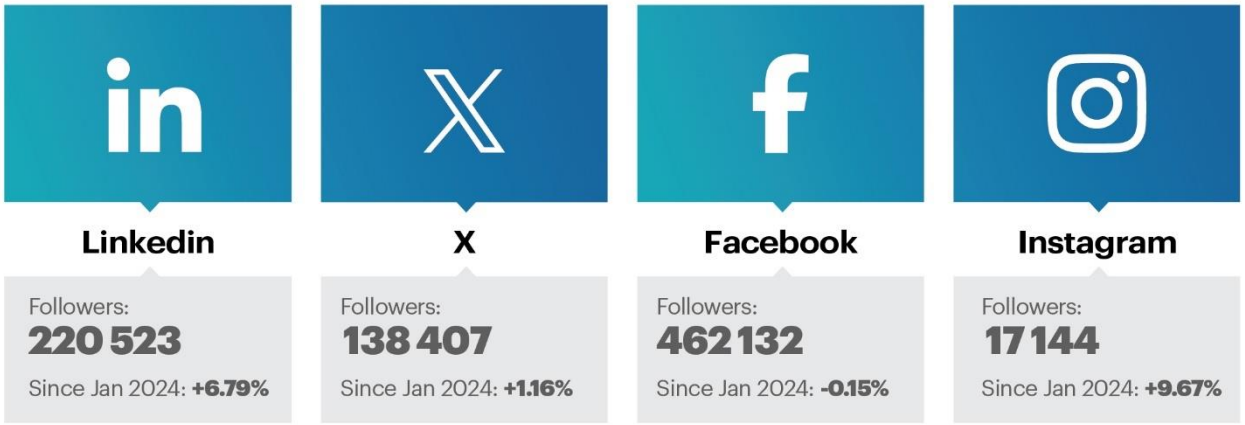
Between 1 January and 2 May 2024, IRENA published a total of 18 newsroom articles. The majority (13) of which covered recent IRENA reports or events. Four IRENA blog posts (Expert Insights) and one human impact story were also published.

In the same period, a dedicated mailing campaign provided targeted information on IRENA press releases, and events to a pool of 145 184 stakeholders, including Member focal points. IRENA sent a total of 32 mailers, including four dedicated to the 14th IRENA Assembly; six press releases; eight job alerts; and nine invitations. The Agency also launched a series of monthly newsletters, with the first edition in March followed by the second on 1 May (April edition). The remaining three mailers were 'special occasion' announcements on IRENA's 15th Anniversary/Clean Energy Day; response to submitted applications of the IRENA Youth Forum 2024; and a Call for Applications to 2024 IRENA NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator Programme for Youth.

The highest open rate during this period was generated by the response to **Youth Forum 2024 applications at 71.25%, followed by the Call for Applications to NewGen 2024 at 56.6%**. The **highest clicks** were generated by both the **press release of the G7 communiqué (May)**, and one job alert in April, each at the same rate of 5.4%.

In terms of social media presence, IRENA has reached 220 523 LinkedIn followers, up from 206 503 followers in January 2024, an increase of 6.79%. Furthermore, IRENA's X account now has 138 407 followers, up from 136 824 followers in January 2024 – an increase of 1.16%. Instagram saw a 9.67% increase in followers, reaching 17 144 as of the reporting date. Instagram and LinkedIn are the fastest growing social media platforms, given that both support long video formats, leading to greater visibility. The interaction and engagement rate remains the highest on LinkedIn (Figure 8).

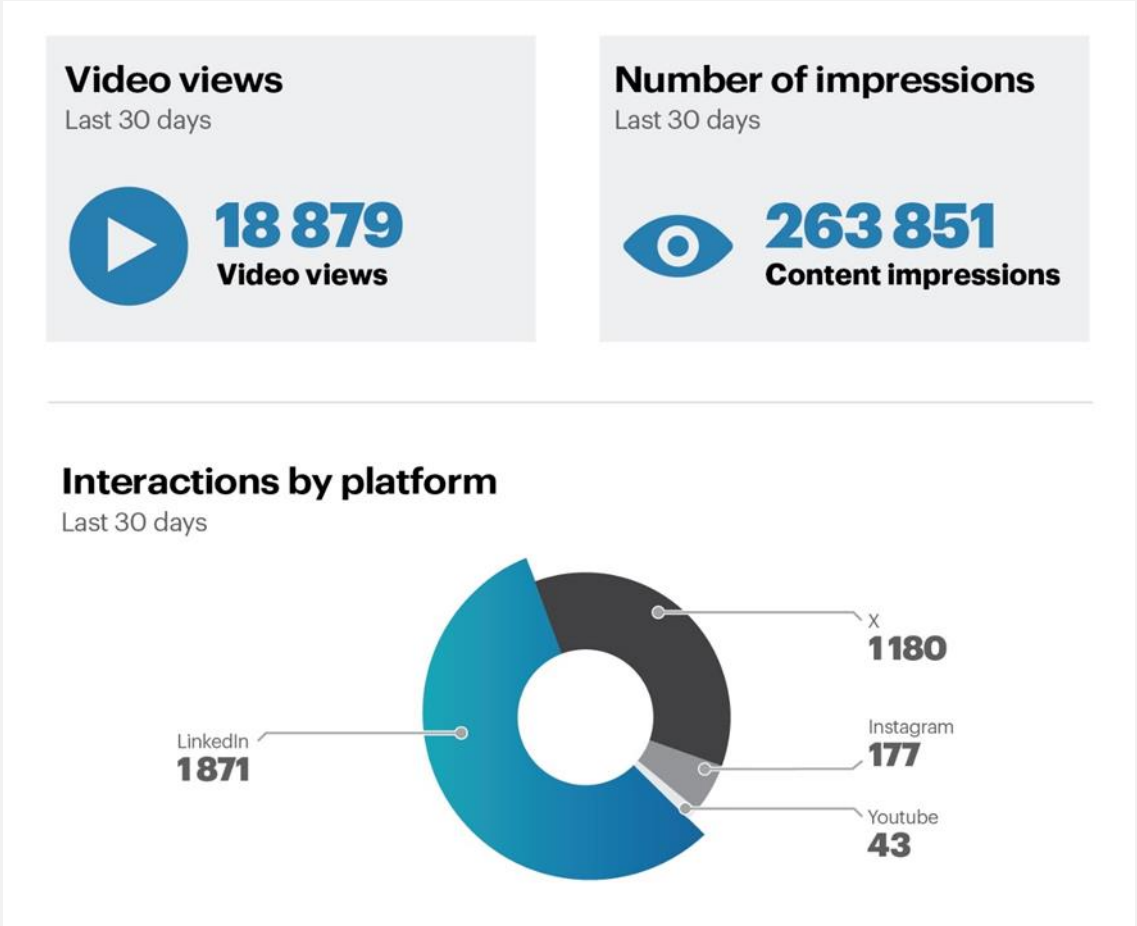
Figure 8: IRENA social media statistics



IRENA continues to implement and explore innovative formats on social media. For example, interactive GIFs, multiple photos, and popular hashtags have been used to promote all IRENA publications. During Ministerial meetings at the IRENA Assembly, live posting on X and tagging relevant organisations in pictures, helped to increase the number of retweets and global visibility. An increase in the number of story mentions was observed on Instagram during Assembly. This year an increase in social media mentions from youth was also observed, during Assembly. IRENA's social media accounts also built strong messaging around the tripling of renewables through the use of the #3xRenewables hashtag.

In focus: 14th IRENA Assembly

The 14th session of IRENA's Assembly attracted significant attention on X, LinkedIn and Instagram. The hashtag #IRENA14A generated over 200 000 impressions in the period 10-20 April 2024. Assembly-related content pieces spanned the three aforementioned platforms and all of the views, impressions and reposts were organic. A total of 130 content pieces were delivered via IRENA's social media and 3 271 content pieces were shared by external users including: stakeholders/media houses/youth delegates etc. Organic video views were more than 18 000 on X alone. The highest number of interactions were observed on LinkedIn, followed by X.



IRENA also continues to engage with stakeholders, youth and energy organisations. To strengthen its youth engagement this year, **IRENA selected five global youth ambassadors to promote messaging from the IRENA Youth Forum 2024 on all social media platforms**. The ambassadors created multi-media content around tripling messaging, the role of youth in the global energy transition and how IRENA supports young people to take the lead in sustainable development. An interactive video format called 'Reels' was used to engage young people and encourage them to amplify IRENA's messaging. **As a result of this activity, IRENA's Instagram gained over 1 000 followers during Assembly and IRENA's reels were watched by over 40 000 people**. **The Agency's presence increased significantly on Instagram, a platform widely used by today's youth.**

IRENA's **Policy Talks** – an innovative method of engaging and extending the reach of IRENA's analytical work – dedicated the first session on 25 January 2024 to presenting the key insights of IRENA's **NDCs and renewable energy targets in 2023: Tripling renewable power by 2030**[60] report. The webinar served to discuss renewable energy targets in countries' NDCs, and their level of ambition in relation to IRENA's 1.5°C scenario and the goal of tripling renewables in the power sector by 2030, highlighting the financial gap and required policies. The next Policy Talk on 15 February 2024 focused on **Post-COP28: Translating pledges into action in the GCC.**[61] Drawing on IRENA's report, Renewable energy markets: GCC 2023, the discussion highlighted the significant progress in renewables achieved by countries in the region, the need to increase the share of renewables in total installed generation capacity and the opportunities for GCC countries to advance the energy transition. The next Policy Talk focused on **Water for Hydrogen Production**,[62] presenting the key findings of the report of the same title and underscoring the importance of integrating water sustainability into energy planning. **Green hydrogen for sustainable industrial development: A policy toolkit for developing countries**[63] was the topic of the Policy Talk on March 2024. The webinar served to share insights into the potential of green hydrogen in advancing sustainable development and just transition through policy coordination.

The fortnightly **IRENA Insights**[64] programme of short, focused **webinars** showcases key insights from teams across the Agency continue to be held apace. On 6 February, IRENA held a webinar on the insights from the **Offshore Wind Energy Patent Insights** on innovation trends in the offshore wind supply chain, jointly prepared by the European Patent Office and IRENA, assessing patent statistics to reveal technological trends in the offshore wind industry. At the 20 February webinar, IRENA discussed the findings of the **International trade and green hydrogen** report, highlighting the potential of international trade in balancing supply and demand for green hydrogen and the role of trade policies in fostering the development of green hydrogen supply chains, acknowledging the significance of global collaboration. The focus of the webinar on 18 March was the **Scenarios for the Energy Transition: Experiences and good practices in Africa**[65] report that presented key findings and recommendations broadly relevant to African countries and stakeholders, attempting to improve their planning processes across the world.

[60] More information available here.
[61] More information available here.
[62] More information available here; report available here.
[63] More information available here; report available here.
[64] More information available here.
[65] Report available here.

Events

Under the office of the Director General, the Events and Missions Unit oversees and maintains IRENA's events and missions database through an in-house developed data collection and analysis process system, accounting for IRENA's both past and future missions and events, ensuring consistency and accuracy across relevant reporting. The Unit also manages internal and external communication on planning and implementation of events. Since the beginning of the year, the Unit has managed the delivery of 64 events, 29 of which were virtual and 35 physical ones.

To ensure the broadest possible participation and engagement of IRENA Members in the Agency's decision-making processes, the Fund for Developing Country Representatives (FDCR), also managed by the Unit, supported the participation of 64 eligible Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS country representatives at the 14th IRENA Assembly and related meetings.

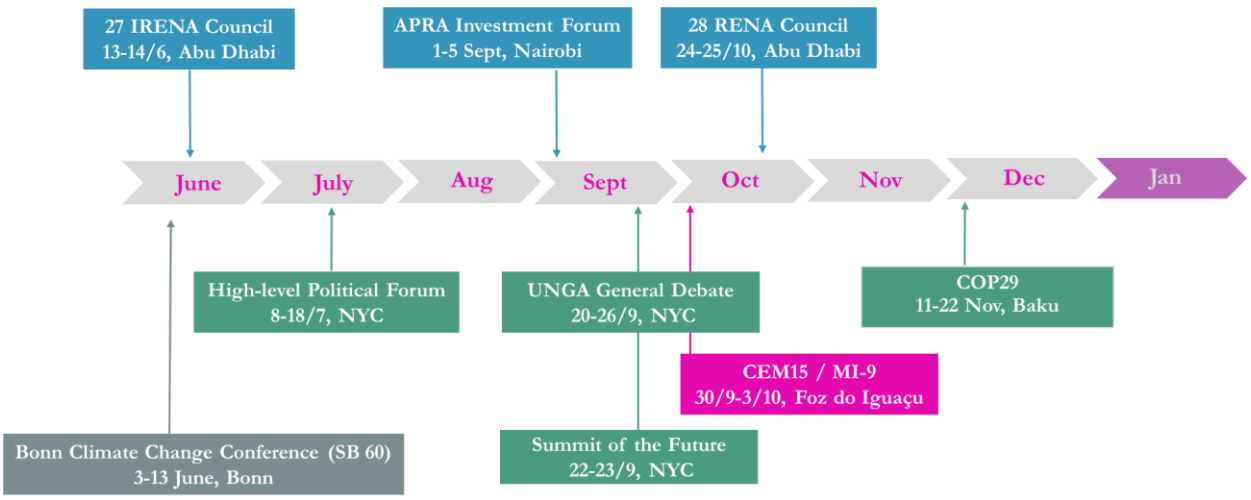
Driving regional outreach activities with a focus on IRENA's host country, the Unit has also assisted the programmatic divisions to achieve their deliverables by linking them with potential partners such as The World Future Energy Summit (WFES), Abu Dhabi Global Markets (ADGM), Abu Dhabi Creative Hub, Dubai Cares, Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) Innovation Centre and Youth Arab Centre, Emirates Development Bank (EDB) and the UAE Humanitarian Council.

Finally, under the umbrella of the Student Leaders Programme, which is part of the Growth@IRENA programme, the Unit received applications from 500 students, out of which 70 students were engaged during IRENA's virtual courses.

Looking ahead

This section provides a snapshot of some of IRENA's upcoming key events as well as selected upcoming events and publications.

Upcoming key events



Selected upcoming IRENA events and publications

Table 9: Tentative list of IRENA Events, 2024

Date	Event name
14-May	Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems: Tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030
12-June	Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground Energy Transition
Mid-June	Collaborative Framework on Hydropower
13-14-June	27 IRENA Council
26-28-June	International Energy Workshop (IEW) 2024
1-5-Sept	Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) Investment Forum, Kenya
9-September	5th International Forum on LTES
24-25 -Oct	28 IRENA Council
11-22 Nov-2024	COP29, Azerbaijan

Table 10: Selected upcoming publications, 2024

Quarter	Provisional report title
Q2	Tracking SDG7: The energy progress report
Q3	Renewable energy statistics 2024
Q3	Renewable power generation costs in 2024
Q4	Renewable energy and jobs: Annual review 2024
Q4	World Energy Transitions Outlook 2024: 1.5oC Pathway
Q4	Innovation landscape for growth powered by renewable energy
Q4	Off-grid renewable energy statistics 2024

Effective functioning of the organisation

To deliver on the Agency's mandate, IRENA relies on the contributions and support of its Members, cooperation with a wide range of experts and institutions, and the commitment of its talented staff. This chapter summarises IRENA's key institutional and strategic activities to date. The Administration and Management Services (AMS) Division supports efficient implementation of the Work Programme and facilitates effective use of the Agency's resources. IRENA continues to innovate in its processes and practices to remain responsive to the dynamic nature of its programmatic work.

Budget

The Budget Section provides strategic advice to the senior leadership team and programme managers on planning, administration and management of IRENA's financial resources. The support to the Agency also includes preparation of IRENA's budget, in cooperation with Planning and Programme Support Unit, reporting processes, and administration of core and voluntary contributions through budgeting and control services, forecast information and preparation of financial reports for management, governing bodies and donors.

Finance

The Finance Section continues to perform a critical role in the overall functioning of the Agency and is responsible for managing the financial resources and preparation of Annual Financial Statements, ensuring full compliance with IRENA's Rules and Regulation and International Accounting standards.

The Section also manages the day-to-day financial operations, including payment processing, payroll, investments and contributions. In addition, it ensures accuracy, timeliness and compliance in financial transactions. Finance endeavours to continue to seek improvements and increase efficiencies in its processes whilst maintaining internal controls and mitigating potential risks.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT continues to serve as a strategic enabler and tool for the Agency in the implementation of its Work Programme by providing state-of-the-art IT services and solutions to IRENA units. ICT is regularly maintaining and consolidating its IT capabilities through initiatives for digital transformation (process automation, paperless, remote work etc.), infrastructure modernisation (in HQ as well as in Bonn and New York Offices, cloud and on premise), operational excellence (IT governance, cost optimisation, proactive maintenance, regular monitoring etc.) and internal capacity building (trainings, technology workshops etc.).

As per the IT strategy, which is closely aligned with the IRENA Medium-term Strategy, ICT is strengthening its role as a:

- Driver of digital transformation towards higher institutional effectiveness and efficiency through the maintenance and enhancement of the Executive dashboard, ERP and other online tools for collaboration and knowledge sharing. In particular, some initiatives related to Artificial Intelligence and a framework for its use in the Agency are ongoing.
- Enabler of the development of value-added business capabilities on renewable energy through the maintenance and enhancement of the IRENA website and web platforms on renewable energy. Continuous enhancements to the IRENA website related to new and major events are implemented.
- Pillar of the organisational resilience and compliance through the implementation of the cybersecurity management framework and the business resilience plan. For example, several enhancements to the network performance and security are implemented.

Human Resources

Since the beginning of the 2024-2025 biennium, the work of Human Resources has spanned administrative, operational and strategic activities. Significant effort has been placed on aligning human resource policies and processes more closely with the Agency's strategic and programmatic objectives, including additional personnel sourcing and building organisational capabilities that are needed to achieve the Agency's operational objectives with the right combination of skills, knowledge, competencies and expertise, while promoting geographical, cultural and gender diversity. Human resources practices, rules and procedures have continued to be refined and updated to ensure effective and efficient responsiveness to the emerging and evolving needs and challenges of the Agency, while safeguarding its core values and principles. Attracting, developing and retaining highly qualified staff is key to the Agency's success. In this respect, IRENA has continued its outreach efforts to attract talent from all over the world, including by tapping into Members' expertise, and through the mechanisms provided by the decision of the Assembly at its second session (A/2/DC/5) such as loan and secondment arrangements.

During the period from 1 January 2024, 11 vacancies (core and project, including Interns and Associate Professionals) were announced and over 4 253 applications were received. Out of 93 core posts, 82 are filled or under recruitment (76 filled and 6 under active recruitment) and 11 are vacant (Figure 9). The 76 staff in core posts are from 47 nationalities out of which 43% are women and 57% are men. There are also 121 project posts that are currently filled or under recruitment (109 filled and 12 under active recruitment). Combined core and project posts amount to a total of 185 staff, who come from 79 nationalities (Figure 9 and 10), with 44% women and 56% men.

Figure 9: Staff Status as of 30 April 2024

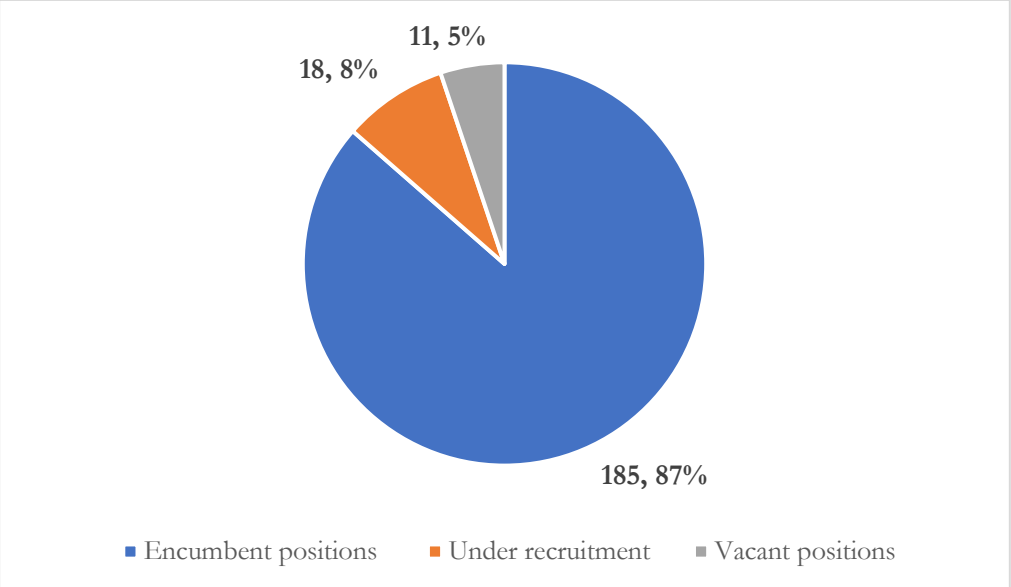


Figure 10: Employee profile statistics

Figure 11: Geographical Distribution (core and project posts), as of 30 April 2024

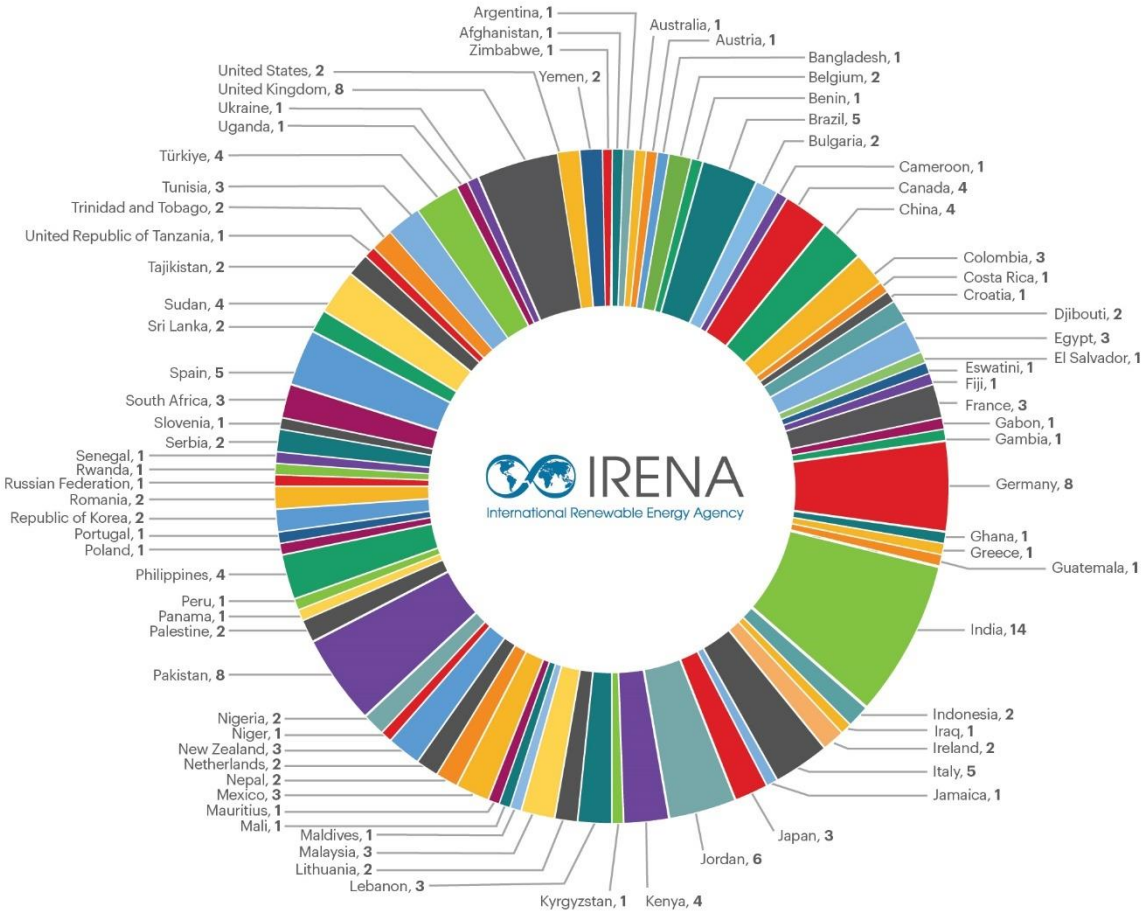


Table 11: Filled/under recruitment: Core and Project posts by level as of 30 April 2024

Level	Filled or Under Recruitment	Total
ASG	**1**	**1**
D-2	**1**	**1**
D-1	**7**	**7**
P-5	**23**	**24**
P-3/4	**73**	**79**
P-2/1	**60**	**60**
Sub-total Professional and above	**165**	**172**
General Services	**38**	**42**
Total	**203**	**214**

Table 12: Loaned personnel as of 30 April 2024

Division	Title	Loaned from
CEP	Programme Officer	United Arab Emirates
ODG	Liaison and Protocol Officer	United Arab Emirates
ODG	Communications Officer	United Arab Emirates
PFS	Programme Officer, ENI	Italy
PFS	Loaned Officer - EGP	Italy

Table 13: Seconded Officers (Voluntary Contributions) as of 30 April 2024

Division	Title	Seconded from
CEP	Programme Officer	Republic of Korea
ODG	Senior Advisor to the Director-General	Italy
IITC	(JPO) Associate Programme Officer	Germany

Procurement

The Agency has continued to implement its administration of cost-effective procurement process for goods, services and other related requests. To ensure the transparency, fairness, openness and competitiveness of the procurement process bidding opportunities, the Request for Proposals (RFP) or Invitation to Bid (ITB) are mostly posted on IRENA's website and disseminated to the vendors registered with IRENA's vendors' database. In addition, high value and complex procurement opportunities are also uploaded and advertised on the United Nations Global Market (UNGM) portal, to maximise competition and include international vendors.

From January 2024 and as of 30 April 2024, more than 124 procurement contracts and agreements for goods and services have been awarded totalling USD 2.176 million. Furthermore, in the same period, the number of vendors registered in Procurement Section database has increased within the last three years also to reach almost 399 vendors from various countries worldwide.

General Services and Travel

Travel support and services were provided to staff, delegates and participants in conferences and workshops. From 1 January to 30 April 2024, the Agency facilitated travel of delegates and staff, and processed 391 travel requests and 32 workshops. The section continues to provide facility management services for IRENA Headquarters and staff. This is an important function, which contributes to a healthy and productive work environment, while delivering continuous day-to-day services for staff. As part of these ongoing services, General Services continues to explore further enhancement measures for Health and Safety to provide an even better work environment for staff.

Legal Office

The Legal Office provides legal advice and guidance in relation to all areas of activity of the Agency, including among others, institutional and governance matters; preparation of and advise on internal issuances, guidelines and directives; administrative matters and others related to human resources (HR); commercial contracts; collaborative arrangements, agreements and strategic partnerships; communications and publications matters, as further described below.

Institutional and governance matters: The Legal Office provides legal support for the preparation and conduct of the meetings of IRENA's governing bodies. In sum, the Legal Office advises Members on the submission of credentials and reviews from a legal perspective the relevant documentation submitted to IRENA's governing bodies. The Legal Office has been involved in matters concerning the interpretation and application of the Statute of IRENA and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the Council. Furthermore, the Legal Office has provided legal support as needed in connection to proposals and queries submitted by Members and in relation to the credentials for their Permanent Representatives.

Administrative and HR matters: The Legal Office has been closely involved in advising on several HR matters, including on appeals of staff members and the preparation of Directives such as the Directive on the Establishment of the IRENA Disciplinary Board and the Directive on the Disciplinary Process. It has also been involved in establishing an internal approval process for the representation of IRENA in organs of outside entities.

Cooperation arrangements and commercial contracts: The Legal Office has been involved in the conclusion of MoUs, partnership agreements, cooperation agreements, voluntary contributions, etc. It has also provided advice to the Contract Review Committee and supported the Procurement office when required. The

Legal Office has advised various teams in the negotiation of complex agreements and contracts, including those relevant for IRENA's platforms such as ETAF. Specifically, the Legal Office supported the negotiation and finalisation of the ETAF Joint Declaration with partner institutions and continuously supports the conclusion of collaborative agreements with new partners.

Communications and ICT: The Legal Office has provided legal support on matters relating to the fraudulent use of IRENA's name and logo. It has also been involved in the preparation of terms of use for IRENA's website and for the website of IRENA's specific platforms.

Publications: The Legal Office has provided advice on matters related to the use of IRENA's intellectual property, disclaimers, etc. It has also advised on the conclusion of data sharing agreements with third parties for the use of their data in IRENA's publications, and on the conclusion of agreements with other organisations for the preparation of joint publications.

New York Office

In accordance with its mission which consists, inter alia, in an enhanced IRENA's participation in UN meetings and contribution to the work of key UN bodies as well as a strengthened collaboration with UN Secretariat and UN entities, the New York Office (NYO) systematically engaged with the UN System and other partners through a number of activities, among which the first celebration of the International Day on Clean Energy at the United Nations with the organization of a Panel Discussion on the theme Building a Sustainable Future: Renewables for Climate Action and Sustainable Development.

NYO has also participated in various other activities, including the negotiations on the Pact of the Future to be adopted at Summit of the Future, scheduled for 22-23 September 2024; the negotiations on the outcome of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held on 27-30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the facilitation of IRENA's engagement in the Summit; the facilitation of the involvement of UN high-level stakeholders in the Fourteenth session of the IRENA Assembly; the active participation in the Global stocktaking marking the completion of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to further accelerate the implementation of SDG 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held on 19 April.

Implementation progress overview

There are a total of 40 Work Programme activities for the 2024-2025 biennium, spreading across the five strategic objectives or pillars identified in the current Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027: a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation; a network hub for all stakeholders; a global voice of renewable energy; a source of advice and support for countries and regions; and project facilitation and capital mobilisation (Table 14).

The assessment on progress is undertaken based on the average progress on delivering the activities. Based on the overview of progress today, the implementation of outputs continues as envisioned.

Table 14: IRENA's Strategic Objectives

Centre of Excellence for Energy Transformation	•Provide thought leadership and authoritative knowledge, data and analyses on all aspects of the energy transition and its impacts at global, regional, national and sectoral levels.
International Collaboration and Network Hub	•Galvanise international collaboration and provide an inclusive platform for all stakeholders to foster targeted action, alignment of activities and knowledge sharing for impact on the ground.
Global Voice of Renewables	•Pursue excellence in renewables innovation, development and deployment and promote practical application of knowledge for systemic change.
Support for Regions and Countries	•Assist regional and country-level decision-making and support implementation strategies to reduce global emissions, adapt to climate change, and improve energy access, security and affordability for sustainable development
Facilitating Projects and Mobilising Capital	•Facilitate the development of project pipelines and channel investment toward renewables-based energy systems in developing countries.

Resource overview

This section presents details of the core budget and voluntary contributions applicable to the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025.

Biennial budget overview

Table 15: 2024-2025 Biennium Budget utilisation by funding source (in USD Thousands)

Funding Source	2024-2025 Biennium Budget	Utilisation as of 30 Apr 2024	
		Commitment and Expenses	Proportion of 2024-2025 Biennium Budget
Assessed Contributions (Core Budget)	**44,778**	**16,291**	**36%**
Core Non-Assessed UAE			
UAE Support	5,000	1,008	20%
Governing Body Meetings	3,200	1,319	41%
IT Infrastructure Support	920	460	50%
Subtotal	**9,120**	**2,787**	**31%**
Core Non-Assessed Germany			
Innovation and Technology Centre	10,890	2,681	25%
Subtotal	**10,890**	**2,681**	**25%**
Total Core Non-Assessed	**20,010**	**5,468**	**27%**
Grand Total	**64,788**	**21,759**	**34%**

In addition to Core Non-assessed contributions, UAE and Germany provide annual in-kind contributions of approximately USD 5 million and USD 1.8 million respectively.

Table 16: 2024-2025 Biennium Budget Utilisation by division (in USD Thousands)

Division	2024-2025 Biennium Budget	Utilisation as of 30 Apr 2024	
		Commitment and Expenses	Proportion of 2024-2025 Biennium Budget
Project Facilitation and Support	3,421	1,227	36%
Office of the Director-General	18,288	6,080	33%
Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre	10,500	3,841	37%
IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre	10,890	2,681	25%
Country Engagement and Partnerships	8,426	3,051	36%
Administration and Management Services	13,263	4,879	37%
Grand Total	**64,788**	**21,759**	**34%**

Table 17: Core Non-Assessed Contributions (in USD Thousands)

Core Non-Assessed Contributions
as of 30 April 2024, in USD

Budgeted Voluntary Contributions

	2024	
	Committed	**Received**
GERMANY		
IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre	5,445,000	-
United Arab Emirates (UAE)		
UAE Support	2,500,000	2,500,000
Governing Body Meetings	1,600,000	1,600,000
IT Infrastructure Support	460,000	460,000
Subtotal UAE Contributions	**4,560,000**	**4,560,000**

Total Budgeted Voluntary Contributions	**10,005,000**	**4,560,000**

Other Voluntary Contributions

	2024	
Donor/Project	**Committed**	**Received**
Germany	533,031	212,175
Iceland	493,126	415,000
Japan	609,835	609,835
Republic of Korea	306,977	306,977
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	57,174	57,174
Total	**2,000,143**	**1,601,161**

Other Voluntary Contributions - Non-Members

	2024	
Donor/Project	**Committed**	**Received**
OPEC fund for International Development	400,000	-
Total	**400,000**	-

Multi-Year Voluntary Contributions

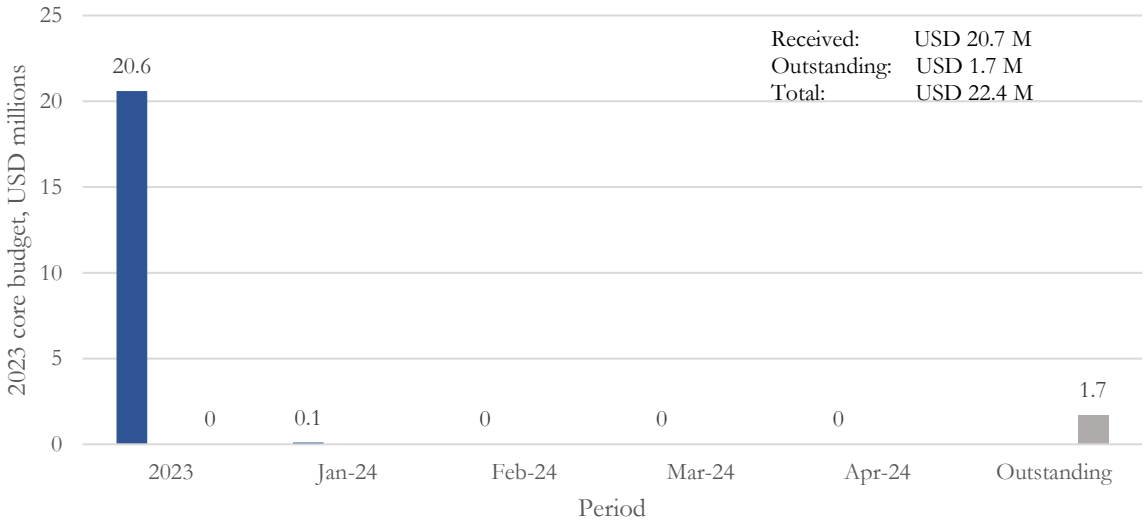
Donor/Project	Multi-Year Commitments	Received prior to 2024	Received during 2024
Denmark	21,936,645	5,224,278	-
European Commission	9,229,315	3,294,752	-
Germany - Programme for Sustainable Energies (GIZ)	397,598	231,982	-
Germany (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)/BMZ)	564,667	280,899	-
Government of the Walloon Region, Belgium	3,110,491	2,104,331	-
Kingdom of the Netherlands	800,320	400,160	-
Total	**36,039,036**	**11,536,402**	**-**

Multi-Year Voluntary Contributions - Non-Members

Donor/Project	Multi-Year Commitments	Received prior to 2024	Received during 2024
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	6,265,000	1,984,714	-
Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet	2,544,130	1,204,666	-
Total	**8,809,130**	**3,189,380**	**-**

Fund for Developing Countries Representatives		
	2024	
Donor	**Committed**	**Received**
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	350,000	350,000
	350,000	**350,000**

Figure 12: Received and outstanding assessed contributions for 2023 core budget (in USD millions, as of 30 April 2024)



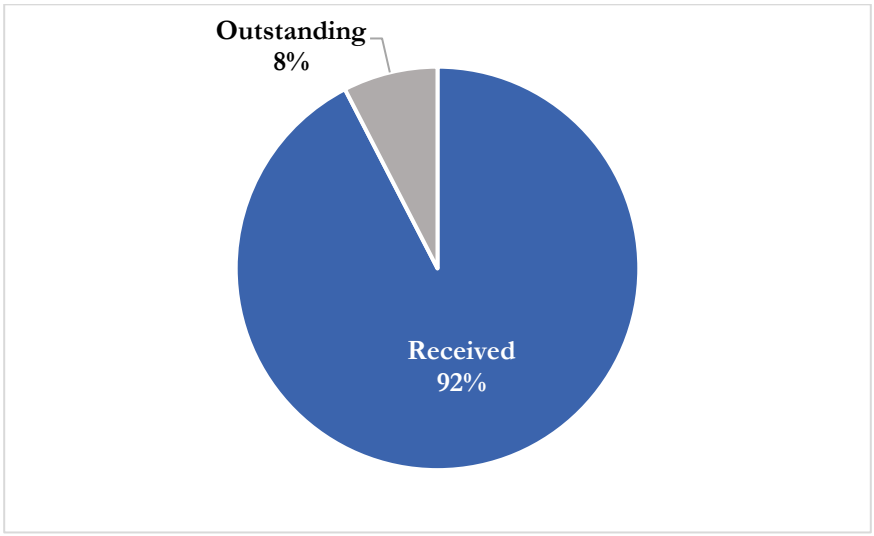
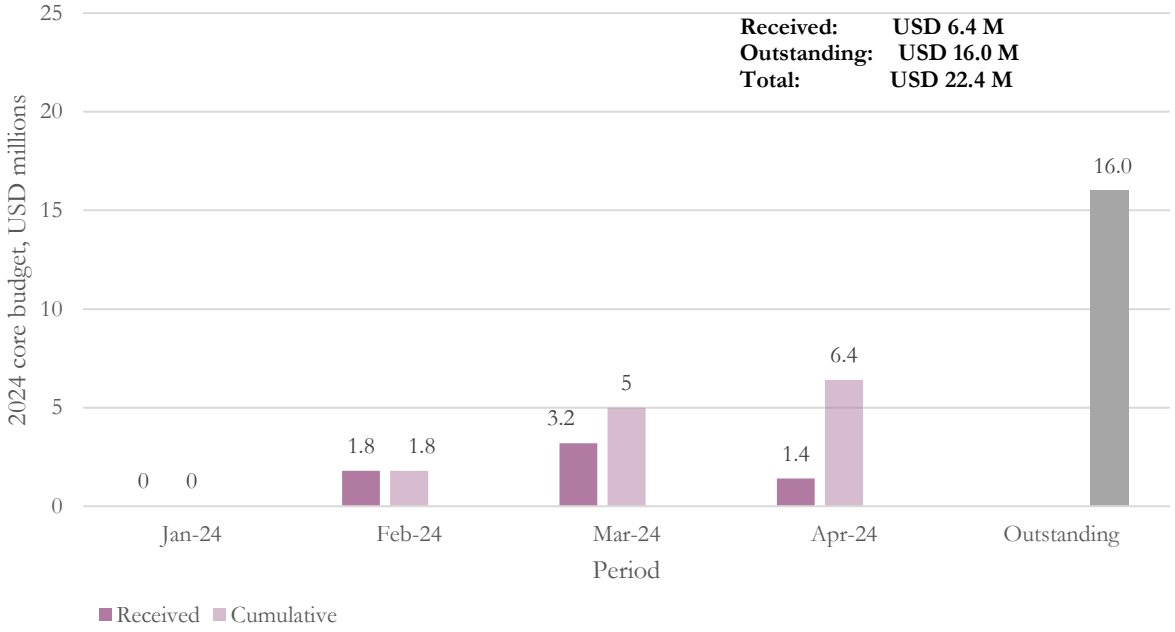


Figure 13: Received and outstanding assessed contributions for 2024 core budget (in USD millions, as of 30 April 2024)



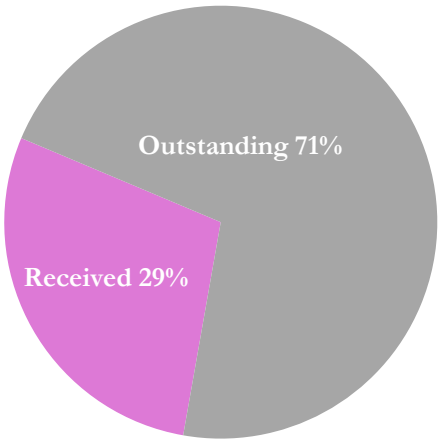


Figure 14: Number of Members with received and outstanding contributions to the 2023 core budget (30 April 2024)

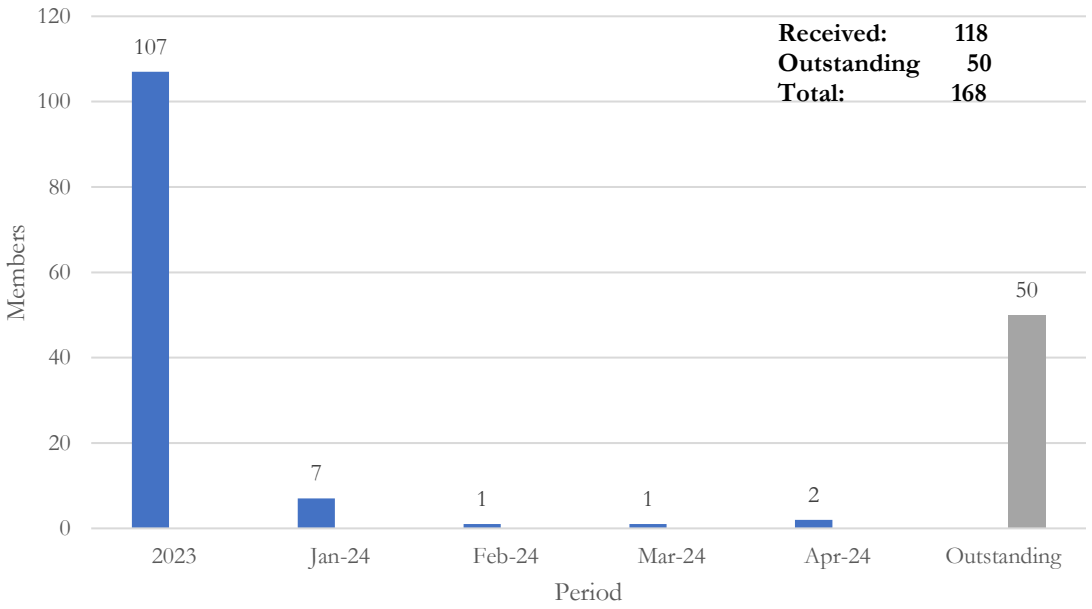
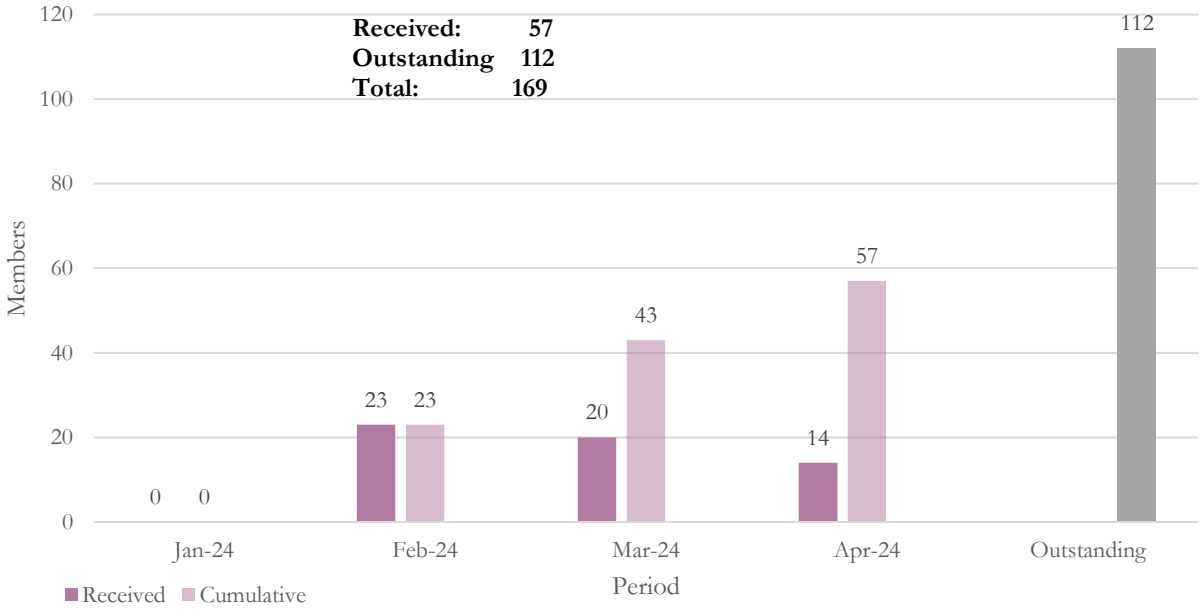


Figure 15: Number of Members with received and outstanding contributions to the 2024 core budget (30 April 2024)



IRENA Donors (2024-2025) (as of 30 April 2024)

	**Denmark** **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**	2023-2027 support
	**European Commission** **DG ENER**	EU Remap: In-depth analysis of renewable energy technology opportunities to support regional cooperation in national energy and climate plans. Innovation to foster the renewable energy transition.
	DG NEAR	Conditions and obstacles for the development and integration of renewable energy sources in the Eastern Partner countries.
	DG INTPA	Regional Energy Transition Outlooks in Africa and Latin America and Caribbean.
	**Germany** **Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action**	WETO
	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)	Quality Infrastructure for Green Hydrogen
	GIZ	Senegal's clean energy transition
	**Iceland**	Support for geothermal work
	**Japan** **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)** **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)**	Development of Circular Economy with Bioenergy and Co-products Biomass Strategy for Sustainable Bioenergy Production Various Projects
	**Kingdom of the Netherlands** **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**	Geopolitics of the Energy Transition

	Republic of Korea	Seconded official
	Government of the Walloon Region, Belgium	Deployment of renewable energy and decentralised renewable energy with a focus on Francophone Africa.
	United Arab Emirates	COP28, UAE FlexTool, Clean cooking, Education and FDCR
	OPEC Fund for International Development	ETAF Project Facilitation and Support Facility.
	Open Society Foundations	Empowering Lives and Livelihoods
	Rockefeller Brothers Fund	Acceleration Partnership for Renewables in Africa
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP Climate Promise & Market Transformation for Sustainable Rural Housing in Uzbekistan

As directed by its Membership, IRENA continues to diversify its resource base by seeking extra-budgetary support. In the 2024-25 biennium, IRENA received to date a total of USD 1,951,161 through voluntary contributions, with an additional USD 6,775,947[66] to be received before year end.

[66] Exchange rate dependent.