

IRENA Policy Talks 2020

Renewable Energy Finance: Status, Trends and Recommendations

Bios of speakers



Mr. Francesco La Camera
Director-General, IRENA

Mr. Francesco La Camera is the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He has more than thirty years of experience in the fields of climate, sustainability, and international cooperation. He formerly served as Director-General of Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, EU and International Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea. In this capacity, he developed cooperation and partnerships agreements with a wide range of countries, particularly developing countries. Mr. La Camera is widely credited with having spearheaded international cooperation on issues related to climate change and the environment. He played a key role in bringing together multilateral organisations to develop joint initiatives designed to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. He has also coordinated a number of national strategies including on sustainable development, green finance and fossil fuel subsidies among other things.



Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi
Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA

At IRENA since 2011, Rabia Ferroukhi is currently the Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center. She is an international economic development and energy expert focused on the renewables-based energy transitions, its long-term socio-economic impacts and financing needs. She leads a multi-disciplinary team to provide valuable evidence-based policy and investment to advice countries and contribute to the global discourse on the energy transitions. Ms. Ferroukhi worked with the public and private sectors, including with governments globally, energy companies, international institutions, and academia and research centers. Ms. Ferroukhi holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.



Dr. Barbara Buchner
Global Managing Director, Climate Policy Initiative

Dr. Barbara Buchner is Global Managing Director of Climate Policy Initiative, and also the Executive Director of its widely renowned Climate Finance program. Named one of the 20 most influential women in climate change, Barbara advises leaders on climate, energy, and land-use investments around the world. Barbara directs the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, (the Lab). The Lab's public-private approach solicits, shapes, and tests cutting edge climate finance instruments that resolve financing barriers hindering alternative energy, adaptation, and land use projects. Instruments from the Lab have mobilized over 2 billion US dollars for sustainable development in five years. She is also the lead author on CPI's Global Landscape of Climate Finance, which set the benchmark for climate finance tracking.



Mr. Ben Backwell

CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council and co-chair of the Coalition for Action Business and Investors Group

Ben Backwell is a leading commentator and strategist in the renewable energy sector. Prior to joining GWEC, he was a Managing Director at FTI Consulting, advising companies in the clean energy sector on strategy, communications, and government affairs, including work on a number of major M&A transactions. Previously, Ben worked as a journalist and analyst for 20 years, covering energy policy and markets around the world. He helped design the SolutionWind campaign for the European Wind Energy Association (now WindEurope) ahead of COP21 in 2015, before joining FTI Consulting. He has taken part in the work of a number of industry organizations, including the board of GWEC, the IRENA Business and Investor Group, the IEA's Renewable Energy Industry Advisory Board, Solar Power Europe, and others. Ben is the author of two books on the wind industry as well as a number of reports and white papers on power markets and policy frameworks.



Dr. Henning Wuester

Director, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Since September 2019, Dr. Henning Wuester is the Director of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). Dr. Wuester has a rich and longstanding experience in climate change and sustainable development. Prior to joining ICAT, he worked in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) overseeing the Agency's work on knowledge, policy, and finance. Previously, Dr. Wuester served the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as Senior Manager at the Interim Secretariat. He also worked in several positions within the United Nations system, as Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in several roles in the secretariat of the Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution. Dr. Wuester holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Munich, where he started his career as assistant professor.



Ms. Christine Eibs Singer

Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy for All

Christine Eibs Singer is a champion of accelerated energy access, serving as Senior Advisor to SEforALL, Technical Advisor to the Kenyan Ministry of Energy for the Kenyan Off-Grid Solar Access Program (KOSAP) and a Senior Associate with Catalyst Off-Grid Advisors. A co-founder of E+Co, a pioneer in energy enterprise development and blended capital investment, she is a Director of SELCO India and on the Board of REEEP. Ms. Singer spent 10 years at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, concentrating on the development of public-private partnerships. Ms. Singer's recognitions include the 2007 Woman of Inspiration Award from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from New Jersey City University. Ms. Singer is a Trustee of Park United Methodist Church, an Ambassador Emeritus of the C3E Women in Energy Initiative, an Ashden Award International Judge and an Independent Member of GOGLA.