

Renewables and Islands Global Summit,
St. Julian's, Malta,
6-7 September 2012

MALTA COMMUNIQUÉ ON ACCELERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY UPTAKE FOR ISLANDS

We, ministers and representatives of island countries and territories, gathered in St. Julian's, Malta, on 6 and 7 September 2012 to discuss upscaling of renewable energy deployment as an essential element of a safer and more prosperous future, and to build on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, which recognised the critical role that energy plays in the sustainable development process.

We acknowledge that islands environments create specific challenges, which require tailored technical solutions.

We also recognise that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges and peculiar vulnerabilities, and note the special case of SIDS in the context of sustainable development.

We considered the modalities for upscaling renewable technologies deployment in islands as an important element of energy security, employment generation, and economic and social wellbeing.

We affirm that renewable sources can provide sustainable energy solutions for many islands and can contribute to energy security, economic prosperity and sustainable development.

We recognise that islands are increasingly defining targets and developing energy plans to realise their renewable energy potential and stimulate economic growth. We encourage all island states to develop actionable roadmaps to a sustainable energy future.

In this context, we recognise IRENA's role and unique mandate in promoting and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy globally, in cooperation with other international organisations and initiatives, as well as the private sector and civil society.

We welcome the initiatives already undertaken by SIDS to address the challenges and opportunities for the introduction of renewable energy in their countries and, in this regard, welcome their SIDS-DOCK initiative.

We affirm our willingness to share information and experiences, in a resolve to strengthen peer-to-peer cooperation.

We call on IRENA to assist islands by:

- Providing a platform for pooling knowledge and exchange of ideas among relevant institutions and authorities in islands, sharing best practice, challenges and lessons learnt, and seeking innovative solutions through the establishment of a Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN);
- Assisting the formulation of business cases for renewables deployment, with the involvement of the private sector and civil society;
- Identifying available financing mechanisms, and supporting the development of innovative financing models;
- Assessing relevant technologies, established and emerging, to identify those suitable for different island environments, and providing advice on technology choices;
- Assessing renewable energy potential including through the Global Atlas, as well as undertaking Renewables Readiness Assessments, and assisting in the creation of an enabling framework for investment in renewable energy;
- Facilitating capacity building initiatives;
- Developing project guidelines to address island-specific topics, based on evolving island experiences, while recognising the urgent need for new, smart and flexible infrastructure and fully integrated network planning; and
- Developing methodologies for integrating renewables in sustainable tourism, sustainable water management, transport, and other industries and services in islands.

In St. Julian's, Malta, 7 September 2012