

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**DRAFT REPORT**

**OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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## Draft Report of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. The twenty-sixth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in-person in Abu Dhabi on 19-20 October 2023. The meeting was attended by 21 Council members: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Spain, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Zimbabwe, as well as 10 Council alternates: Bangladesh, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Saint Lucia, Uganda and Uruguay. Also, in attendance were delegations of 66 other IRENA Members and five other States in Accession and other United Nations Member States.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council of IRENA, Antigua and Barbuda, represented by Mr Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, opened the meeting. In his opening remarks he firstly conveyed his respects on the loss of life being witnessed due to recent developments in the region. He then reflected the observations of strong engagement and participation at the twenty-fifth Council meeting and expressed gratitude to the United States of America for supporting the deliberations as Vice-Chair and to Council members, alternates, as well as the wider IRENA Membership.

3. Mr Blair summarised the work progress of the Council, including providing feedback and inputs on Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, which lays out the programmatic and institutional direction of the Agency over the next biennium. He noted that through an open and constructive discussions and rich exchanges, the Council outlined a forward-facing vision for IRENA and the work undertaken by the Agency.

4. Mr Blair acknowledged that unified commitment and respective Member contributions continues to strengthen the role and work of the Agency to take the leading role in accelerating the renewables-based energy transition within and across the world. He highlighted the effectiveness of the unique perspectives brought by each Member regarding the realities and opportunities on the ground, which collectively steered the global discourse and actions toward a just and inclusive energy transition. He underscored the existential threat that the climate crisis presents to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and vulnerable communities and economies, for which a profound shift towards a renewables-based energy transition and urgent, adequate financing of the mission is critical and further called for immediate efforts and action to secure tangible outcomes.

5. Mr Blair reported that Antigua and Barbuda has surpassed its previous renewable energy penetration target and has recently updated a national energy policy to support the development and implementation of energy projects, programmes and policies across diverse energy sectors. He noted that although the price of renewable energy has declined, the rate of adoption in Antigua and Barbuda has decelerated due to external shocks and climate disasters. He underscored the need for partners to provide technical support, transfer to renewable technology and concessional financing, including grant funding, that will enable Antigua and Barbuda to accelerate its transition efforts and play a part in tackling global emissions.

6. Mr Blair announced that Antigua and Barbuda will host the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on SIDS in May 2024, during which the first centre of excellence for SIDS will be launched. He elaborated that this centre would feature a SIDS global data hub, a technology and innovation

mechanism and a Davos-style SIDS investment forum and further explained that this decennial conference is the last opportunity before the expiration of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (the 2030 Agenda). He reiterated the need for the assistance of IRENA and its SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI) to facilitate SIDS in meeting their renewable targets.

7. Mr Blair stressed the importance of the months leading up to the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in the context of the preparations for the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake. He expressed his vision and confidence that a holistic approach will be achieved to advance to a just and inclusive transition with renewables at the heart, and shared prosperity that includes energy access, lives, and livelihoods. He declared that through collective efforts, the shared vision of a future powered by renewables will be realised.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work**

### **a. Election of officials**

**8. The Council elected by acclamation the United States of America, represented by Mr Chris Davy, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Transformation at the Department of State, and Panama, represented by H.E. Ms Rebeca Pérez, Ambassador of Panama to the United Arab Emirates, as Vice-Chair of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.**

**9. As proposed by the Chair, Rwanda, represented by H.E. Mr John Mirenge, Ambassador of Rwanda to the United Arab Emirates, was appointed as Rapporteur of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council.**

10. The Chair, Mr Chris Davy, expressed, on behalf of the United States of America (USA), his gratitude to Members for the privilege of presiding as Chair of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council. He appreciated Members for the dedication to the work of IRENA and congratulated the outgoing Chair, Mr Tumasie Blair, for his stewardship of the productive twenty-fifth meeting of the Council. He also expressed his gratitude to Panama for serving as Vice-Chair.

11. The Chair outlined the two main objectives of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council: to assess IRENA's work over the last biennium and to consider proposed Work Programme for the next biennium, amongst others. He highlighted the common recognition that no country is immune from the consequences of climate change and stressed the critical time of the work. He invited delegates to ensure the common goal remains at the forefront of the work of the Council, with a focus on tangible outcomes such as increasing financing and investments in renewable energy, especially in the most vulnerable countries. He also asked Members to bear in mind the approaching COP28, whereat progress to date will be assessed and commitments on efforts for the future affirmed.

12. Before concluding, the Chair expressed his gratitude to IRENA and the Permanent Mission of the UAE to IRENA in co-hosting the COP28 UAE Changemakers Majlis event on 18 October 2023, which focused on the importance of mangroves to climate and underscored the importance of the diversity, particularly the role of women in achieving renewable energy targets. Referring to IRENA's analysis that the solar photovoltaic industry has the highest share of full-time women employees, reaching 40% in 2021 wherein only 13% held senior management posts, he emphasised that such events and continued outreach would contribute to breaking 'glass ceilings' and thus contributing to a just and inclusive energy transition.

13. The Director-General, Mr Francesco La Camera, welcomed participants to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council and expressed his gratitude to Antigua and Barbuda for the leadership as Chair of the previous Council meeting, as well as to USA and Panama as Chair and Vice-Chair of the twenty-sixth Council respectively. He also conveyed his respects for the loss of life being witnessed due to the unprecedented situation in the region.

14. The Director-General emphasised the importance of both sharing knowledge and learning from countries as the pressure to accelerate implementation heightens. He highlighted that IRENA's *World Energy Transition Outlook 2023* (WETO) depicts a solid direction for the transition but recognises its insufficient speed and scale for realisation within the required timeframe. He advised that a change to this trajectory demands clarity on how to scale it up whilst also understanding each country's own priorities, contexts, and abilities. With COP28 commencing in about 40 days, he shared his view that the Global Stocktake will clearly reflect that the diminishing possibility of remaining on a 1.5°C pathway, and that there is only a small chance available to correct the course, which hinges on the collective ability to rapidly accelerate the deployment of key technologies in a just and inclusive manner. He noted acute awareness that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the entire 2030 Agenda is lagging behind and pointed out that energy serves the backbone of both global commitments.

15. The Director-General mentioned that IRENA's WETO displays that electrification and efficiency, fuelled by renewables, clean hydrogen, and sustainable biomass, is the most realistic pathway to remain on the 1.5°C pathway, which is in alignment with most of the credible scenarios present, while being considered ambitious previously. He confirmed that WETO clearly identifies the need to triple renewable energy and double efficiency by 2030 to stay on the 1.5°C pathway, a goal now widely recognised and firmly embraced by the COP28 Presidency. He stated that IRENA's underlining strategy and recommendations were integrated into the outcomes of the work of G7 and G20. He announced that in September 2023, the G20 leaders endorsed IRENA's recommendations in the statement to call for 11 TW of renewable power capacity by 2030, backed by USD four trillion in annual investments. Additionally, he reported that IRENA engaged closely with the G7, and at its Summit in April 2023, the G7 leaders agreed on a collective increase of 150 GW of offshore wind and one TW of solar PV by 2030, aligning with IRENA's 1.5°C pathway.

16. The Director-General stressed the need to change both in the volume and type of investments to facilitate a significant reduction in the share of fossil fuel by 2050 and highlighted that a major concern on the decade-long trend is that deployment is concentrated in only a few countries and limited to a couple of technologies, largely in the power sector. He advised that the trend must change by building the infrastructure required by renewables-based system, and by including those who have been left behind. He stressed the need for significant investment in grids and routes on land and sea, as well as proactive consideration on new production locations, different trade patterns and demand centres. He referred to the Nairobi Declaration, adopted at the first Africa Climate Summit in September 2023, which clearly captured an aspiration for a different energy future where renewables drive green industrialisation, social inclusion and "climate-positive growth". He elaborated that the investment in infrastructure need to be accompanied by an evolved policy and regulatory architecture that considers changed dynamics and moves investment in the right direction. He also highlighted the need for a strategic shift in institutional capacities, ensuring skills, capabilities and structures align with the system being created.

17. The Director-General reiterated the need to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind and ensure a prosperous and climate-safe life on the planet, and further highlighted that although the tools and means exist, the political will is essential to provide clarity of direction and the commitment to deliver on this promise. He referred to the recently circulated information note outlining IRENA's initiatives for COP28, which are designed to work in tandem to address

solutions towards the tripling of renewables by 2030. He added that the initiatives cover climate financing, private sector engagement, as well as youth and education, echoing IRENA's holistic approach to the energy transition, extending beyond COP28. He relayed that IRENA would continue to leverage long-standing partnerships whilst seeking new collaborations to ensure the ability to implement the goal within remaining short time frame. He concluded by expressing the hope that new insights and ideas will emanate from the ensuing discussions on how IRENA, as the global platform for international co-operation, can deliver on its important mandate.

18. The Vice-Chair, H.E. Ms Rebeca Pérez, reminded Members of the shared responsibility to accelerate the energy transition through international cooperation. She referred to IRENA's reports call for an international level of action, particularly on finding sustainable technological solutions. She urged for faster and decisive actions as emissions continue to grow and wished fruitful outcomes from the Council meeting that benefit Members to move forward in their national objectives.

**b. Adoption of the agenda (C/26/L.1)**

19. The Chair introduced the Provisional Agenda (C/26/L.1).

**20. The Council considered and adopted the Agenda (C/26/1).**

**c. Adoption of the report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council (C/25/SR/L.1)**

21. The Chair introduced the Draft Report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council, contained in document C/25/SR/L.1.

**22. The Council adopted the draft Report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council, contained in document C/25/SR/1.**

**Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (C/26/2; C/26/INF/2) (including Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2022-2023)**

23. The Director-General reflected on the contents of the Annual Report, stressing that flagship products empower the Agency to speak and advise with authority and credibility on a wide range of issues. He underlined that IRENA's analytical and empirical work is a public good that charts the path for the new energy system, promotes learning and builds confidence in the collective ability to deliver on the energy transition. This knowledge and evidence show where we are and fills the gaps so IRENA can move faster.

24. The Director-General continued that IRENA's annual data on capacity clearly shows the trajectory of renewable energy growth and that over the years, the dominance of renewables has become evident. He stated that in 2022, 83% of new capacity additions was renewable, with only 17% accounting for fossil fuel and nuclear power combined. He then emphasised that while the annual growth needs to triple to meet the global climate and development goals, trends are clear and reflect the direction in which the markets are moving.

25. The Director-General underscored that one of the main drivers is the strong business case of renewables. For example, IRENA's flagship work on costs released in August 2023 showed that, owing to soaring fossil fuel prices, the 2021-2022 period saw one of the largest improvements in the competitiveness of renewable power in the last two decades, despite rising material and

equipment costs. He added that the fossil fuel price crisis was also a reminder of the powerful economic benefits that renewable power can provide in terms of energy security. He also highlighted that IRENA estimates that the renewable power deployed globally since 2000 saved an estimated USD 521 billion in fuel costs in the electricity sector in 2022.

26. The Director-General further stressed that renewable energy deployment not only changes the mix of energy sources, powering the world's economies, but also creates jobs, builds economic value, and enhances human wellbeing. He highlighted that for the past 10 years, IRENA quantified employment in the sector, examining different renewable energy technologies worldwide, and the latest edition - developed in cooperation with the International Labour Organization - shows that one million jobs were added in 2022, totalling in 13.7 million jobs worldwide.

27. The Director-General then clarified that while all these numbers reflect positive developments at the global level, there are nonetheless vast differences between countries and regions with many countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in particular, lagging behind. Guided by this knowledge, he stressed that IRENA has worked to change this reality by engaging directly with Members to provide advice, technical assistance, and capacity building across our areas of expertise.

28. Acknowledging the importance of cooperation, the Director-General explained that to realise impact on the ground IRENA must work with other actors and stakeholders who can complement, amplify, and implement action on the ground. To achieve this, he emphasised that IRENA has placed partnerships at the heart of the work and used the example of Collaborative Frameworks as one of the innovations that have made significant progress in the way this work is shaping. He continued that this collaborative spirit is also exemplified in the initiatives IRENA is leading, where the Agency works with likeminded partners across topical, sectoral, and geographical areas.

29. The Director-General highlighted two initiatives that attracted significant attention in the past couple of months. First, he elaborated on the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), launched at the Africa Climate Summit 2023 in Nairobi Kenya by President William Ruto, and led by a cohort of African countries (Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe) with an ambitious renewable agenda to drive sustainable development and green industrialisation. He added that Denmark, Germany, and the UAE are founding partners currently supporting this work with IRENA coordinating and facilitating this initiative. He also shared that country level workshops are already conducted to shape the priorities and national plans which will guide implementation and stressed his strong belief that this Partnership can be instrumental in shaping international cooperation and delivering at a different speed and scale.

30. The Director-General then referred to another example of an effective partnership - the Global Offshore Wind Alliance founded by Denmark, IRENA and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), aimed to deploy 380 GW of offshore wind by 2030. He explained that many countries, from developed economies to SIDS, are actively engaged and IRENA has already facilitated the integration of offshore wind strategies into some ten national policies.

31. Turning into the topic of finance, the Director-General emphasised that all this work has the underlining purpose of channelling investments toward renewables. To this end, IRENA continues to strengthen project facilitation activities across technical assistance, capacity building and pipeline development. The Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) is IRENA's flagship platform for project facilitation, which now comprises six partners with USD 1.25 billion in commitments. He added that there is also significant interest in joining ETAF across different financial institutions, so it is anticipated that this platform will considerably grow in scope and size, especially since there are several agreements in preparation, some of which will be launched at COP28.

32. The Director-General then stated that as the Agency's work is extensive, it is not possible to fully present the breadth of the activities delivered. However, the biennial self-assessment reflected on what was achieved over the past two years and captured some of the impacts such as the fact that 96% of the outputs planned are completed or will be by end year. He also noted that the Results-based Framework – to start being implemented from 2024 – will allow IRENA to systematically trace and assess the impact of the work, beyond looking at outcomes and short-term achievements.

33. Turning to the staff working tirelessly to deliver on the mandate, the Director-General informed Members that there are 183 posts filled, close to evenly split between core and project posts. He underscored the great importance he places to geographical diversity and gender balance, and the fact that at present people with 77 nationalities are working at IRENA and the fact that the senior team is gender balanced.

34. Moreover, the Director-General shared some information on the resource base and expressed appreciation to all Members who provided their assessed contributions to date, accounting for 94% of the core budget in 2023. He also expressed his gratitude to Members who provided voluntary contributions, enabling the Agency to significantly expand its programmatic work. Since the submission of the report, he added, that new voluntary contributions agreements with Denmark, and Germany and the Flanders region of Belgium, have been concluded and more information on them will be included in the report for the Assembly. He also underscored that IRENA immensely values these resources not only for the impact they have on its reach, but also as a signal of the commitment to and confidence in the Agency.

35. In concluding, the Director-General extended thanks to Members for all the support provided in the implementation of the Work Programme – from engaging in activities and work, through partnering with IRENA in collaborative efforts, to ensuring the means to deliver on the mission.

36. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), El Salvador, represented by H.E. Ms Vanessa Interiano, Permanent representative of El Salvador to IRENA and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, presented the outcome of the Committee meeting held on 18 October 2023, as contained in document C/26/CRP/1/Rev.1.

37. The PSC Chair reported that participants expressed appreciation for work completed to date and congratulated IRENA for its broader engagement, including in G7, G20 and COP settings, and also underlined the importance of the upcoming COP28.

38. The PSC Chair further reported that participants expressed appreciation for the Continental Master Plan (CMP), underlining its usefulness for the development of national energy resource plans, as well as planning tools including Flextool and SPLAT. A participant welcomed IRENA's 2023 Innovation Week and the Collaborative Framework on High Share of Renewables and Project Facilitation, and another participant commended IRENA's project facilitation work and the opportunities it brought for the advancement of renewable project implementation.

39. The PSC Chair also informed that a participant noted the importance of country Outlooks in assisting countries in their energy planning and expressed appreciation for this work and another participant highlighted the APRA initiative, noting interest in learning more about the partnership and how this links with other IRENA initiatives.

40. With regard to the Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2022-2023, the PSC Chair relayed that participants expressed appreciation for the presentation of the self-assessment report and a participant called for more information on where improvements may be made. She also reported that some participants underlined the importance of the Result-based Framework and one



participant proposed that IRENA share more information on the results of its activities online, including more frameworks and training courses.

41. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Tonga, represented by H.E. Mr Honourable 'Akau'ola, Ambassador of Tonga to the UAE, presented the outcome of the Committee meeting held on 18 October 2023, as contained in document C/26/CRP/2.

42. The AFC Chair informed that one intervention was made on the clarification regarding the contributions from United Nations (UN) organisations, and that the AFC took note of the report and the presentations, as well as reflections and comments made by Members during the discussion.

43. Delegations welcomed the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023.

44. Some delegations welcomed the *Geopolitics of the Energy Transition: Critical Materials* report and underlined the importance of the analysis provided for the success of the energy transition. One delegation congratulated IRENA for producing several excellent reports, notably the first volume of the WETO 2023, and the *Renewable Energy Jobs: Annual review* reports.

45. One delegation underlined IRENA's role in convincing the international community that renewable energy and energy efficiency are fundamental components of the energy transition, and another delegation elaborated on the national renewable energy strategy, including the establishment of regulatory frameworks and legislation.

46. One delegation underscored that the energy sector is facing dual challenges of supply security and climate change, requiring pragmatic solutions to address these challenges.

47. Some delegations thanked IRENA for providing inputs to the work of the G7 and G20. One delegation welcomed the offshore wind report on innovation and sustainability, prepared on the request of G7, while another congratulated IRENA for contributing to the setting of renewable energy targets by the G20 and underlined the Agency's role in assisting countries in implementing them.

48. One delegation congratulated IRENA for organising the Innovation Week in September 2023, to stress the importance of clean technological innovation across the entire energy ecosystem and elaborated on national strategies promoting the use of advanced technologies domestically and internationally.

49. Some delegations underlined IRENA's role as one of the most influential multilateral platforms in the global renewable energy field and as a centre for collaboration and coordination. One delegation noted IRENA's unique advantage among international energy organisations to collaborate effectively with developing countries due to its broad Membership and expressed appreciation for IRENA's work with vulnerable groups of countries such as African, SIDS and conflict-affected countries.

50. Some delegations welcomed the new Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa initiative and its potential to address this imbalance in terms of access to finance faced by African countries.

51. Some delegations highlighted the critical role of IRENA's Collaborative Frameworks in bringing together private and public actors to accelerate the energy transition as well as promote dialogue and coordinated action on crucial issues such as critical materials and hydrogen.

52. One delegation emphasised the importance of financing tools to help promote the deployment of renewable energy in countries having difficulty attracting investments.

53. One delegation underlined the importance of empowering the private sector to drive clean technology development and generate economic growth and congratulated IRENA for engaging the private sector through the Coalition for Action and the Alliance for Industry Decarbonization.

54. One delegation expressed appreciation for IRENA's work in partnership with the World Economic Forum and TAQA to launch the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance at COP28 and encouraged IRENA to identify synergy with other Agency initiatives.

55. One delegation expressed support for the Teaching for Net-Zero Campaign and the NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator, underlining the vital role of educators and youth in communicating effectively about climate change and advancing the energy transition. One delegation welcomed the I ACT initiative – Italy and IRENA Action for Climate Toolkit.

56. One delegation highlighted the difficulty faced by Governments in tracking all initiatives and efforts towards meeting energy and climate goals and called on IRENA to assist them in tracking them to avoid overlaps and ensure complementarity.

57. One delegation extended thanks to IRENA for the work undertaken for COP27 and several delegations noted they looked forward to a successful COP28. One delegation underlined that meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement requires accelerated progress in decarbonisation, and therefore, international collaboration will be critical to succeed.

58. Some delegations underlined the key role IRENA could play at COP28 and called on the Secretariat to keep Members abreast of preparations on the run up to the meeting.

59. One delegation discussed the work of the COP28 Presidency together with IRENA and the international community to rally parties behind the pledge to commit to the target of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 and doubling energy efficiency. Another delegation looked forward to the upcoming joint IRENA, COP28 Presidency and Global Renewables Alliance report that will feed into COP28.

60. One delegation reflected on the establishment of the International Day of Clean Energy at the UN General Assembly, to be celebrated on 26 January henceforth, and called on IRENA to lead the celebration with a global campaign, to amplify the reach and significance of this day.

61. One delegation requested information on the delay in organising the second edition of the Global High-level Summit on Energy Transition and some delegations welcomed the self-assessment report, highlighting the successful implementation of the Work Programme and Budget, with one delegation calling on IRENA to reflect on the skills required to improve performance and goals to work towards.

**62. The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee contained in document C/26/CRP/1/Rev.1.**

**63. The Council also took note of the Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 contained in document C/26/2, and the information in the Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2022-2023 contained in document C/26/INF/2, as well as the Reports on Collaborative Frameworks.**

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**Agenda Item 4: Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (C/26/3)**

64. The Director-General, in presenting the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, expressed appreciation to Members for their active participation and contribution to shaping the document, pointing out that the process started with the development of the Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027 (MTS) which was adopted earlier this year, and built upon it with inputs received from Members, including in the spring Council.

65. This is the first Work Programme within the new strategic cycle and responds to the strategic direction and alignment of the MTS. The Director-General underlined that the Agency is acutely aware that its global Membership is its greatest asset, and in this regard, he further noted that the proposed Work Programme addresses and balances their priorities and aim to ensure that IRENA remains relevant to all Members, by addressing their needs and tapping into their immense knowledge and experience.

66. The Director-General added that the current MTS introduced a new mission that reaffirms IRENA's leadership in a renewables-based energy transition as a key avenue for enhancing universal access, energy security and helping deliver economic prosperity and human welfare. While this mission is ambitious, it is also reflective of IRENA's capability, global reach and thought leadership over the years and the Proposed Work Programme translates this mission into operational focus areas taking this important mission forward.

67. The Director-General underlined that there are five substantive priorities for this cycle, which also tackle the barriers identified in WETO. As such, the focus in the coming years will be placed on physical infrastructure, investment, skills, access, and energy security based on renewable systems. He stated that these substantive priorities will be underpinned by policy and regional work to make the work context-relevant and influential in real world decision making. He clarified that this will be immensely important post-COP28, with the outcome of the Global Stocktake and the preparation of the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025. The Director-General underlined how critical it is for the upcoming NDCs to be strong and ambitious, so IRENA will build on its extensive work with countries undertaken in the last round of NDCs to provide the necessary support. He stated that since the development agenda is also reaching a critical point with seven years left to realise the 2030 Agenda, IRENA will continue to place special attention to these aspects, especially in the context of LDCs and SIDS.

68. The Director-General highlighted that as outlined in the MTS, the Agency is reshaping the way it organises work to promote a 360-degree approach for a greater connection between analytical, country, and regional work. He pointed out that this will also strengthen IRENA's ability to advise countries and regions, and better reflect realities on the ground in its analytical work. To achieve this, IRENA is consolidating cross-divisional work, for greater alignment, clarity, and synergies to ensure coherence across programmatic work. He also emphasised the importance of the Results-based Framework, which will allow IRENA to track its impact systematically, apply learnings, and course correct as necessary within the strategic cycle. He noted that this framework will be operationalised in the course of 2024, and invited Members to continue to provide inputs.

69. To deliver on this Work Programme, the Director-General proposed a total increase of USD 5.7 million of assessed contributions over two years, from the current biennium budget for assessed contribution of USD 44.8 million to USD 50.5 million. He noted that IRENA's budget for assessed contribution has remained relatively unchanged since the 2016-2017 biennium. Recognising that many of Members face difficulties with additional burdens and demands on national budgets, he stressed that the Agency is increasingly facing difficulties caused by inflation,

UN established changes to the salary scale, and growing demand placed, which cannot be met by core funds alone, so IRENA is actively seeking to diversify its resource base. In this regard, he expressed his gratitude to Members, who will provide voluntary contribution for the next biennium to enable the Agency to expand its programmatic scope.

70. Ms Elizabeth Press, Director of Planning and Programme Support (PPS) explained that the last Medium-term Strategy had four pillars, but the new one has a five-pillar structure, and how the activities from the previous years of work are linked with the new programmatic structure and mainstreamed into the Results-based Framework.

71. Ms Press stated that the first pillar is Center of Excellence for energy transformation, which remains the same as in the past, focusing on flagship products such as WETO and different empirical annual updates provided around cross-jobs and others. IRENA will continue to work on the issues like geopolitics of energy transition, biannual reviews of global finance, and innovation landscape. She added that collaborations with partners, including the UN Statistics Department, the World Bank, the International Energy Agency, and the World Health Organization on their annual update and tracking as the G7, will continue.

72. Ms Press highlighted the new pillar that consolidates International Cooperation and Network Hub, which will make a stronger link between Governing Body Meetings and an array of initiatives and collaborative efforts. Focus will also be placed on Collaborative Frameworks to move them further and enhance their effectiveness and impact, together with the range of long-standing initiatives such as the SIDS LHI, which will reach ten years next year, coinciding with the global conference on SIDS.

73. Turning to the Global Voice of Renewables pillar, Ms Press stressed that it would help focus on IRENA's core business - renewable energy. She stressed that IRENA started working on renewables in 2011, before it was popular and widespread, and before it moved into the mainstream. Therefore, IRENA is a decade ahead of other organisations and will continue to be a thought leader across technology, policy, finance issues, but also move into cross sectoral areas. She also noted that IRENA has already done significant work across agri-food chain, health, water, and other developmental issues. She added that IRENA has also undertaken more prominently work in energy sectors, which will significantly change going forward, when shifting sectoral boundaries with electrification in certain sectors but also greater direct use of renewable sources.

74. Ms Press underlined that the Support for Regions and Countries is the refined pillar, where IRENA will focus on how best to apply IRENA's extensive knowledge to really make impact on the ground, while the work with regions and countries will continue across the priority areas as identified for this biennium. She expanded that IRENA has established workstreams around this that will be strengthened, adapted, and refined to increase their relevance and recognise the dynamics of the energy transition at the country and regional level - this is one IRENA's value add in the global transition.

75. Ms Press then discussed the very important area of asserting new projects and mobilising capital, elaborating on IRENA's flagship initiatives – ETAF and the Climate Investment Platform, in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). She emphasised that the initiatives would continue to evolve and grow, while also adapt long-standing practical tools to be more relevant to project facilitation. She brought the example of the Global Atlas, where a new version was launched that will help support change on the ground, together with more technology focused tools.

76. Ms Press highlighted that IRENA will be translating the Theory of Change into the Work Programme and Results-based Framework. The Work Programme provides an overview of how the strategy will be translated into more granular ways to be able to effectively trace and track how IRENA's work complements and impacts the energy transition. She noted that the process is challenging but the Agency is deeply committed to making sure that the information and systems are in place to effectively demonstrate how IRENA's role in the global energy transition is evolving and how it is contributing to the objectives set in the Medium-Term Strategy for this biennium.

77. The PSC Chair shared a summary of the Committee's deliberations on the Preliminary Framework. She noted that participants welcomed the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and in particular the Results-based Framework. She stated that a participant noted the need for designated resources to capture learnings, and another suggested that outputs could show a stronger link between the activities across the pillars and the output level.

78. The PSC Chair added that the Committee welcomed the alignment of the Work Programme with the Medium-Term Strategy and affirmed the priorities for the upcoming period. Participants also welcomed IRENA international collaboration efforts, underlining the importance for all to come together to support initiatives and achieve common outcomes.

79. The PSC Chair added that a participant highlighted the importance of IRENA engagement for assisting in regional cooperation and setting the long-term vision of such MED9 initiative, and that participants specifically underlined programs on livelihoods and Beyond Food as of importance in the coming period.

80. The PSC Chair noted that a participant expressed support for IRENA's work with parliamentarians and youth. Another participant called for greater in-person regional engagement and country support, citing the limitations of virtual meetings when dealing with global time zones, and proposed to shift the location of regional coordinator in the Pacific to the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Tonga.

81. The PSC Chair continued that participants welcomed the increased focus on facilitating projects and monetising capital through IRENA platforms such as ETAF that support increased deployment of renewable energy projects in developing countries. Participants also welcomed the work on training and education and offered support in advancing this work. Some participants welcomed regional work and offered support for advancement of the clean energy corridor of Central America.

82. The PSC Chair explained that the Committee also discussed how to make the Committee more dynamic and made proposals to this effect. The Committee welcomed the meeting organised by the PSC Chair to induct new Members to ensure active participation in the work of the Committee; called for more detailed information in presentations and documents to encourage wider inputs; proposed virtual meetings to allow Members to engage with the Secretariat at the technical level, including after the sessional documents are shared, as well as organise preparatory discussions prior to initiatives being launched, and encourage formal meetings to ensure suggestions are incorporated into work.

83. The AFC Chair reported on the discussions of the AFC regarding the budgetary aspects of the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and mentioned that several participants noted areas of concern regarding the proposed increase in budget for the 2024-2025 biennium. He relayed that participants highlighted the concern on the increase in global travel expenses and suggested that the Secretariat consider reducing the size of IRENA's delegation to external engagements, as well as reducing the number of such engagements by providing virtual support instead.

84. On conversion of Service Contracts to General Service category, the AFC Chair mentioned that further details were requested of such movements that might have been made in the past, along with the modalities for such a shift in contract and whether this would entail a change in policies or regulations. He further mentioned that a participant, based on the reports reviewed to date, noted that IRENA's vacancy announcements generate sufficient interest, and with respect to the proposed increase in this regard, the participant requested a further review and assessment on internal efficiencies, as well as the spent status of funding received from Members, along with potential avenues for those funds to be reallocated, noting that not all contributions are always fully utilised.

85. The AFC Chair reported that Members are currently facing budget constraints and suggested that the Secretariat focus on taking steps to economise whilst ensuring that current and future reductions in expenditures are in line with the output produced. He also reported that participants suggested that the shortfall in staffing be viewed together with resource shortfall in other programmatic areas, and further information was requested on the other areas of shortfall, beyond staffing.

86. The AFC Chair reported that concern was expressed regarding financial stability in view of the proposed increase in the budget and participants pointed out that the timing of the proposed budget falls in the middle of the fiscal year for some Members, therefore there is no guarantee that any increase in contribution would be approved. He mentioned that a request was made for the Secretariat to review the proposed budget and ensure a zero nominal increase and that resources are used in the best possible way. He added that in this regard, a request was made for more reporting of cost saving efforts that the Agency has been making as well as the impact on and plans for future savings. He also relayed that the participant mentioned the interest to better understand the costing and rationale behind the increase in some components of the budget.

87. The AFC Chair stated that the Director-General acknowledged the financial concerns of Members with respect to recommending the proposed budget increase and proposed that the budget be considered without the proposed increase. He added that the Director-General further proposed the establishment of an Open-Ended Group for further discussions on the budgetary aspects for a supplementary budget to be presented at the appropriate time.

88. Delegations thanked the Director-General and the IRENA Secretariat for preparing the proposed Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2024-2025, and some delegations welcomed the five strategic pillars.

89. One delegation underlined the importance of the three WETO priorities, namely physical infrastructure, policy and regulatory enablers, and skills and capacities that require significant investment and a redesign of international cooperation.

90. Some delegations acknowledged that IRENA is a thought leader in renewable energy and transition issues, and that while other entities are also moving into this space it does not detract from IRENA's importance and value but calls for increased coordination.

91. One delegation encouraged IRENA to work with countries on speeding up the deployment of storage, grid flexibility, and energy efficiency initiatives to manage the increase in the share of renewables in the global electricity mixed trends.

92. Some delegations underlined the Agency's unique advantages in facilitating collaboration and coordination, and in developing and facilitating projects.

93. Some delegations highlighted the critical role of international collaboration and Members' role in encouraging it in the context of IRENA and beyond. One delegation called on IRENA to help coordinate and streamline collective work, by mapping global and regional energy transition efforts, identifying overlaps, gaps between initiatives and organisational mandates at the global and regional level.

94. One delegation encouraged IRENA to focus its work on its core mission of promoting the widespread and sustainable use of all types of renewables and avoid introducing non-energy related climate issues to its work.

95. One delegation welcomed the reconvening of the Geopolitics of Energy Transition Commission as five years have passed since publishing the report, and it is of interest to take stock of progress.

96. One delegation highlighted that regional level work is one of IRENA's strongest comparative advantage and called for reactivating work in Central America. Another delegation commended the concrete and explicit links made between the regional and country support strategic objectives and project facilitation strategic objective as they will ensure programmatic engagements lead to enabling environments supporting significant investment.

97. One delegation welcomed the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa, while another delegation commended the work of the Global Geothermal Alliance.

98. One delegation expressed appreciation for IRENA's continued cooperation and technical support on powering the agri-food value chain and health sector with decentralised renewable energy solutions.

99. One delegation welcomed the focus on education and supporting the development of a well skilled workforce as it is an area, where IRENA can make a difference.

100. One delegation reiterated the importance of investment and project facilitation and commended the work undertaken under ETAF. Another delegation welcomed the upcoming Africa Regional Investment Forum to be hosted in Zimbabwe for 2024-2025.

101. Delegations underlined the economic difficulties faced by countries, and the importance of enhancing efficiencies to maximise use of existing resources without increasing Members' contributions. Some delegations recognised the difficulties caused by inflation and increased cost of living which affect the UN Salary Scale and expressed willingness to have further discussions to seek solutions.

102. Some delegations requested additional information on budget items on the proposed budget per division and line item based on the actuals, to understand what the carryover from the budgets of the last two biennium is and of unspent core funds that get adjusted with Members' contribution for the coming years.

103. Some delegations called for a clarification of the budget performance and the Secretariat to advise on efforts and initiatives that the Agency took internally to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

104. One delegation called for the proposed budget increases to focus on continued support to LDCs, SIDS, and vulnerable countries, as well as to strengthen IRENA's role in the energy landscape.

105. Some delegations encouraged IRENA to consider efficiencies to bridge the resource constraints, such as in travel and one delegation noted that costs related to COP should be supported by voluntary contributions.

106. Delegations welcomed the suggestion to establish an Open-Ended Group for further discussions on the budgetary needs and strategies including the potential of the newly created Renewables Acceleration Fund.

107. Delegations welcomed the shift to the Results-based Framework, highlighting the need for IRENA to keep outcomes and impact to the forefront of the Agency's planning and activities, and recognising the technical challenges in measuring attribution.

108. One delegation requested further information on the setup of the Results-based Framework, the parameters used, and how the impact will be measured.

109. One delegation requested clarification of the institutional indicators and proposed adding indicators on vacancies, turnover rates, and training hours for staff with regard to human resources as well as the number of high-level participations regarding Governing Body meetings.

110. One delegation stressed that on selection of new employees, secondment personal and project personals, the representation of countries with larger scale and rapid development of renewables should be increased, to better track the latest practices on the ground and take stock of the new development and experience.

111. One delegation did not support the suggestion to change the contract of service consultants to general service staff as it would have budgetary implications and requested clarification if this practise has been common in the past or is new.

112. Based on the above, Members informed the Council that due to constrains in national budgets as well as to the limited time to consider the budgetary increase, the Budget for 2024-2025 should be maintained at the same level of the current Biennium. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a Conference Room Paper (CRP) presenting a budget summary and a proposed indicative scale of contributions for 2024, maintaining the same budget level as the 2022-2023 biennium, without inclusion of the proposed increase, contained in document C/26/3, amounting to USD 5.714 million and to be considered by the Council on Friday, 20 October 2024.

**113. Based on a proposal by the Council, the Secretariat issued a budget summary and a proposed indicative scale of contributions for 2024 maintaining the same budget level for 2022-2023, contained in document C/26/CRP/3.**

**114. The Council resumed consideration of this item and considered the document C/26/CRP/3.**

115. Delegations requested to make sure that all proposals and recommendations made by Members with regard to the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 to be included in the terms of reference of the Open-Ended Group for further discussions on the budgetary aspects. One delegation encouraged Members to actively participate in this Open-Ended Group to ensure the diversity of perspectives from Members are represented and to facilitate substantive conversation. One delegation requested clarification on the functioning of this Open-Ended Group as well as on the process going forward.



116. The Director-General noted that all proposals and recommendations provided by Members will be considered in the work of the Open-Ended Group for further discussions on the budgetary aspects and proposed that it will be facilitated by the AFC Chair. The Director-General also noted that the Secretariat will provide support to the Chair of this Open-Ended Group and that Members will be notified in advance on the date of the first meeting of this Group to allow broad participation. He also stated that several options to convene this Open-Ended Group will be considered by its Chair, including virtual meetings as well as in-person meeting prior to the next Council meeting.

**117. The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee contained in document C/26/CRP/1/Rev.1.**

**118. The Council also took note of the of the Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 contained in document C/26/3 and a budget summary and a proposed indicative scale of contributions for 2024 maintaining the same budget level for 2022-2023, contained in document C/26/CRP/3.**

**119. The Chair informed that with regard to information on the Open-Ended Group to discuss budgetary aspects, the Secretariat will work with the AFC Chair, Tonga, to inform the Membership on the terms of reference of the Group and next steps.**

#### **Agenda Item 5: General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

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

121. Delegations reiterated their commitment to the energy transition and a more sustainable future. They shared their ambitions, national goals and strategies, the progress made in implementation and deployment of renewable energy, as well as the adoption of regulatory and legal frameworks that align their energy transition agenda with domestic policies. Several delegations mentioned the critical risks posed by extreme weather effects resulting from climate change, emphasising the necessity to strengthen the energy transition.

122. Delegations noted several critical enablers required for their energy transition and exchanged their experience in each area, including capacity building, technical solutions, energy information and statistical data, green innovation and research and development, actions promoting investment and provide financial incentives, as well as the existing barriers. Additionally, delegations renewed their commitments to non-fossil fuel-based energy resources, attributing the global climate crisis primarily to dependency on fossil fuels. Delegations also exchanged experiences on various sources of renewable energy including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, and critical minerals. Furthermore, some delegations presented their hydrogen technology and supply chain pursuits and shared their plans to develop and implement national strategies for clean and green hydrogen.

123. Delegations also put forward requests for further assistance and collaboration from IRENA, including developing a national renewable energy assessment with a credibility analysis, with one delegation proposing IRENA's work programme be coordinated to strengthen the resources of IRENA in Pacific SIDS. One delegation called for advancing the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative into

a more impactful framework, taking the opportunity of the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on SIDS, to deliver a SIDS renewable energy package.

124. Delegations emphasised the importance of international and regional cooperation in achieving a just, equitable and inclusive energy transition, and highlighted IRENA's role in providing a platform for collaboration and knowledge products. Delegations also reaffirmed their full commitment and support to the UAE for COP28.

125. **The Council took note of the experiences shared by Members.**

### **Agenda Item 6: Programmatic discussion on Reinforcing Climate Action in the Agriculture and Health Sectors with Renewables (C/26/BN/1)**

126. The Director-General stated that climate change has a pressing impact on the world, particularly low-income countries, and that lack of access to modern energy services disproportionately impacts the lives and livelihoods of low-income communities. He added that the projections indicate that 660 million people will lack access to electricity by 2030 at the current electrification rates, and advised that, to revert this trend, investments are necessary to expand energy access in the critical sectors of agriculture and healthcare. He elaborated that 30% of the world's energy is consumed within agri-food value chains, primarily relying on fossil fuels; meanwhile, an estimated 58% of health facilities in low-income countries lack electricity, affecting the quality of health services. He underscored that the critical opportunities presented by renewable energy in transforming the health and agriculture value chains must not be overlooked.

127. The Director-General conveyed that IRENA continues to build analysis around the nexus between agrifood and health and introduced that the Empowering Lives and Livelihoods – Renewable for Climate Action initiative will be officially launched at COP28. He further outlined that this initiative would support livelihoods, announce climate resilience, and force a sustainable green growth for local community and businesses.

128. The Director-General stressed that whilst policies and capacity building are affected by various factors, the cornerstone of the initiative aims to facilitate access to finance, which he underlined as essential to drive research, innovation, and implementation of renewable energy solutions. He noted that easing financial barriers, particularly in developing countries, can unlock the potential of innovators and enable them to develop and deploy solutions that contribute to agriculture productivity, curb post-harvest losses, empower health facilities, and fortify vulnerable communities' resilience.

129. The Director-General added that IRENA is actively forging partnerships with governments, private sectors, and nonprofit organisations to initiate strong actions on the ground, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise, as well as fostering an environment conducive to innovation and progress. He further explained that the initiative focuses on less-developed countries and SIDS, and at the same time emphasises on empowering women through integration and entrepreneurship across the agrifoods, health, and energy system value chain. In concluding, the Director-General underscored the support of renewable energy solutions in the health and agriculture sectors is an investment in the resilience of the planet and prosperity of people, aside from being an investment in infrastructure. With COP28 approaching, he invited Members to join this transformative initiative to empower lives and livelihoods.

130. Mr Gurbuz Gonul, Director of Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP), in his [presentation](#), introduced the work on renewable energy for productive use and provision of essential public services in connection with agriculture and health sectors, with a specific focus on

the new COP28 initiative entitled ‘Empowering Lives and Livelihoods: Renewables for Climate Action’, in partnership with the UAE.

131. Mr Gonul noted that urgent intervention is needed to the agriculture and health sectors due to their strong impact on lives and livelihoods and emphasised that decentralised renewable energy interventions across different points of the agri-food and health value-chains can enhance incomes and improve services, attract innovation, remove inefficiencies and drudgery, and enhance yield and service output, whilst promoting climate resilience. He then outlined the progress of IRENA’s work in renewables for agrifood and health, including promoting renewable energy solutions for households’ energy, stimulating productive use and economic activity, and energising social infrastructure such as healthcare facilities. He also introduced robust partnerships with key organisations in their respective areas of technical expertise, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the SELCO Foundation, to generate dedicated analysis and a wide range of knowledge products whilst also unveiling opportunities for on-the-ground collaboration for a coordinated, impactful action at country level.

132. Moving to the initiative ‘Empowering Lives and Livelihoods: Renewables for Climate Action’, Mr Gonul introduced that it puts people at the centre of action, fostering climate resilience of communities, with climate mitigation co-benefits. He highlighted the high ambitions of this initiative, which aim to catalyse a systematic energy transformation of agrifood and health sectors by bringing scale and banking on partnerships, and to enable self-sustaining markets. He added that women are central to this initiative as they constitute a large part of the agriculture workforce in developing countries with often vulnerable health services.

133. Mr Gonul then elaborated that the initiative relies on tailored country programmes with three major components: the development of sustainable and efficient technical solutions through identifying segments of the value chain that can integrate renewable energy; the development of corresponding affordable finance solutions; and capacity building and knowledge exchange. He added that the adaptation metrics, an integral component of the programme implementation, can measure the impact of actions on the ground. He also presented primary outcomes from ongoing country engagements, where a comprehensive analysis in value chains need to be conducted and full ecosystem around the sector need to be examined for financial and technical partners, to develop a comprehensive solution.

134. Mr Gonul reported that since the curtain raiser of this initiative in January 2023, work has been advanced in two tracks including with country engagement and preparation for country programmes, and the outreach with potential donors countries, financial institutions, philanthropies, funds, and foundations as well as the technical and knowledge partners. He announced that the initiative will be officially launched at COP28, and several sessions on the initiative with all partnerships will be organised. In concluding, he invited all Members and partners to attend the sessions and support this initiative.

135. Delegations expressed their support of the initiative to reinforce climate action in agrifood and health value chains with renewable energy, and attached great importance of the influence of investing in renewable energy will have on the social-economic development and on lives and livelihoods. Delegations portrayed their public policy efforts and ongoing national programmes using various technologies in both sectors. On health sector, some delegations introduced ongoing projects such as solar for health which proved to be critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, with one delegation mentioning the current IRENA assessment for the country’s use of renewable energy in health sector. On agriculture sector, some delegations shared programmes and practices for a transformative agricultural food value chain and support for inclusive growth and empowerment of local populations. Examples also included using thermic energy or solar energy

in food sector and for heating greenhouses, using geothermal energy that combines efficiency and sustainability, combining solar and agriculture and funding agri-voltaic technologies, using solar powered boreholes, water pumping, irrigation system and food processing, and using renewable hydrogen to produce fertilizers, amongst others. One delegation mentioned their micro-generation support programme to offset the cost of installing of renewable energy facilities.

136. Delegations also mentioned the international efforts including Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security issued at the G7 Summit, and the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action to establish sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. Another delegation emphasised the under-representation needs a solution in the sectors and referred to the G7 Energy Progress Report 2023 wherein it states 2.3 billion people have no access to clean cooking.

137. Delegations underscored the need for a coordinated packaged approach for both finance and government entities, as well as the need to distinguish the two sectors, as the applicable approaches and solutions will be different. In acknowledging the important influence of investment on future social economic development, one delegation underscored the double return of their investment in their potential energy transition. One delegation relayed that the adverse climate effects, particularly on women, in their country for which the role of renewables would ensure a smooth supply of clean energy for the use of technology production storage, linkage to the market, and identify value chains.

138. Delegations proposed contributory actions including the need to define commitments, goals, and actions to effectively deploy renewable energy in the agrifood and health value chains. One delegation invited IRENA and other stakeholders for technical support to enhance the development and technological transfer in all these sectors. One delegation announced that agriculture, food, water, and health would play an important role in the upcoming COP28 with thematic days set on health, relief, recovery and peace on the 3 December 2023, and food, agriculture, and water on the 10 December 2023, as well as that energy as cross-cutting theme would contribute to both themes, with a more focused theme day on 5 December 2023.

139. The Director-General acknowledged the value of the interventions made. He reiterated his invitation to Members to join the initiative and highlighted the specific event to be held at COP28. He referred to the disproportionate balance of finance and its impacts and stressed the importance to provide support to those most need it, which is the essence of this initiative.

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

### **Agenda Item 7: Programmatic discussion on Socio-economics of the Energy Transition: The Road Ahead (C/26/BN/2)**

141. The Director-General introduced the topic by highlighting the renewable-based energy system carries significant social-economic implication that demand attention. He stressed that the understanding of this impact is essential for effective policy formulation, to maximise benefit, and minimise burdens, as well as essential for the effective management of transition, which requires buy-in and participation by a wide range of stakeholders, especially citizens and communities. He announced that the timely launch of volume two of WETO fits with the COP process and serves to emphasize the relevance a speedy transition has in term of the socio-economic aspects. He reported that IRENA's decade-long analysis has shaped regional and national energy transition outlooks and has also lodged the consideration of the socio-economic footprint of the energy transition at the forefront of the global energy discourse.

142. The Director-General noted the work conducted under the leadership of Ms Rabia Ferroukhi, Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center (KPFC) of IRENA since 2012. In appreciation of Ms Ferroukhi's work at IRENA, he acknowledged the efforts to push the boundaries of discourse and to venture into the area of fairness, equity, and justice on the workstream to measure the socio-economic footprint of the energy transition.

143. In her [presentation](#), Ms Rabia Ferroukhi recalled IRENA's efforts to think beyond technologies to understand the impact the development of renewable-based systems has on economies and societies. She referred to the three directions of consideration used to understand the impact of the development of renewable systems: impacts on those presently reliant on fossil fuels; new possibilities for economic development and energy access priorities; and the systemic and structural issues that can aid the energy transition as a means for a fairer, more inclusive, and resilient economies and societies. She mentioned that the upcoming volume two of the WETO 2023 consolidates these aspects to support proactive thinking on ways to correct the course to the 1.5°C trajectory and move toward greater equity. She acknowledged that the global trend is positive while pointing out that the decision-making needs to be guided by a more nuanced understanding of the energy transition outcomes at a more granular level as the energy transition holds different meanings for different countries and regions depending on their existing economic structures, energy systems, resource endowments, and means of implementation.

144. Ms Ferroukhi highlighted that the renewable energy deployment is accelerating but with big disparity across regions. She added that same trend is mirrored in the job market, which reflects investments and policy choices, and highlighted the concern on the increased disparity in investment flows since 2015 across regions despite IRENA's analysis that investments reached a record high of USD 1.3 trillion in 2022. She referred to the three pillars around infrastructure, policy, skills, and institutional capacity in the Global South where change requires purposeful and proactive redesign of international cooperation and underlying structures. She announced that IRENA is evolving its socio-economic analysis for further insights and policy recommendations, starting with quantifying jobs, GDP impact of the energy transition and an energy transition welfare index which is an integral part of WETO, and will be included in the volume two of the WETO to be released in late November 2023.

145. Ms Ferroukhi underscored the need for a holistic approach as the interlinkages of the energy system with the social and economic structure are close. She explained the redesigning the energy system is a leverage point for systemic change that can bring greater outcomes. On the need for structural changes, she mentioned that such changes should go beyond technologies at the national, regional, and international level, and should include well-designed industrial policies, skills assessment, education and training strategies, labour market measures as well as community investment and revitalisation. She advised that attention should be given to transforming systems beyond a mere switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy as serious questions should be asked on the prevalent economic model that promotes ceaseless economic growth on a planet with finite resources and increasingly stressed ecosystems.

146. On the need for international financial architecture and resourcing the transition, Ms Ferroukhi advised that the demand for reassessing the current paradigm of development finance architecture, calibrating risks, and bridging the huge infrastructure funding gaps in emerging economies. She added bilateral and multilateral Development finance institutions (DFIs) combined provided less than 3% of global investment in 2020, most in the form of debt, with grants and concessional loans amounting to only 1% of the total renewable energy finance and acknowledged that although the scale of the challenge as massive, it is achievable with sufficient good will. On the idea of a green deal suggested by the IRENA post-COVID report, she mentioned that such an ambitious proposal was called for by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), along with a suggestion for a Green Marshall Plan concept

during the recent Global Stocktake discussion. She concluded by informing that IRENA will provide leadership on the use of the energy transition as an avenue towards greater equity.

147. Delegations welcomed the presentation and presented their national perspectives on collaborations, capacity-building, jobs for all genders, and pre-workforce training schemes to enhance their socio-economic growth, as well as international cooperation efforts. A delegation highlighted the need for governments to address the energy crisis through a green energy approach whilst simultaneously ensuring energy security, tackling climate change, and maintaining economic growth. Delegations underscored the disparities between regions that inhibits a just transition. One delegation stressed the energy security concern for the Pacific region and another delegation noted the dependence on international technology transfer owing to limited local research and developing capacity. Some delegations stressed their limited access to finance and investment in renewable energy and another delegation mentioned their support of the aims of the Bridgetown Agenda and strive to unlock more finance from international financial institutions. One delegation mentioned their desire for domestic employment across the full value chain.

148. Delegations underscored the issues to be addressed must include the need to change the financial architecture, the need for a clear international policy that addresses the issue of the value chain from critical minerals. One delegation added that this would create the capacity for Africa to be able to fund its own renewable energy pathway and another delegation stressed the need for proactive policy formulation to create an enabling and a catalytic environment that would maximise the benefits and minimise the burdens of the energy transition. One delegation underlined the importance to ensure that due consideration is applied to cultural aspects, regional norms, geographical peculiarities and politics, competitive advantages, and corresponding resources so that no one is left behind. A delegation mentioned the necessity to raise awareness on the benefits that projects have on the local communities. A delegation noted the approach of renewables has boosted direct interest in employment in the construction and running of plants, as well as in the development of technologies. One delegation conveyed the transitioning of the labour market to sustainable jobs presents an opportunity to improve diversity and inclusion and address barriers to marginalised and under-represented groups and the sectors affected by production, transportation, and energy use. Delegations welcomed IRENA's effective role in supporting government and industry collaboration in the wider skills transition.

149. The Director-General thanked delegations for their contribution to the discussion and for their commendation of IRENA's continuing work on socio-economics. He reiterated his commitment during his election for the second term to support IRENA's contributing role to reduce the existing inequalities around the world, and referred to the APRA initiative, amongst others, being a big step forward. He acclaimed that the discussion enabled countries to present their own domestic experiences and encouraged countries to continue to exchange experiences to enhance the work.

**150. The Council considered and took note of the presentation and the subsequent discussion.**

### **Agenda Item 8: Programmatic discussion on Status of Work on Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) and Climate Investment Platform (CIP) (C/26/BN/3)**

151. The Director-General introduced that the facilitation of investment in renewable energy-based projects and programmes across developing countries is one of the core pillars of the Agency's mandate. He recalled that the Project Facilitation and Support (PFS) division was established in 2020 with approval by the IRENA Assembly, to address challenges and disparities in investment. He mentioned that the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and IRENA

collaborated on the IRENA/ADFD project facility from 2013 to 2020, and building on the success of this facility, IRENA spearheaded two initiatives to continue its project facilitation efforts - the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAF).

152. The Director-General summarised that the CIP, established in 2019, is a demand-driven platform with a mandate to increase capital mobilisation and renewable energy impact investment in developing countries. He noted that the CIP boasts more than 80 registered funding partners from multilateral development banks, private equity providers, development agencies, grant providers, and other non-financial service partners, and that the focus of CIP revolves around projects with low readiness levels but high potential for sustainable development impacts, and an acceptable level of commercial feasibility. He announced that four projects have reached financial closure to date - in Benin, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Nigeria, amounting to over USD 40 million in mobilised capital and 45 MW in installed capacity.

153. The Director-General then recalled that Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAF) was launched at COP27 as an inclusive multi-stakeholder climate finance platform similar to CIP, which aims to address investment disparities, and to advance the development of project pipelines, mobilise capital and facilitate access to finance. He added that unlike the CIP, ETAF is composed of a fixed number of financially committed partners who have a target to implement 5 GW in installed capacity by 2030. He noted that the ETAF presently has six partners including the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Masdar, Swiss Re, OPEC Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, with a combined financial commitment of USD 1.25 billion. He further noted that several other agreements are under way and IRENA intends to add more partners at COP28 and beyond.

154. Mr Ahmed Badr, Director of Project Facilitation and Support (PFS) Division in his [presentation](#), introduced IRENA's work in providing support to Members on energy transition through project facilitation. He outlined the core objective of the PFS is to bolster the deployment of renewable energy projects by assisting project developers secure finance efficiently and to support investors and lenders build robust project portfolios. He referred to the WETO 2023 which stated that to achieve the 1.5°C pathway by 2050, a cumulative USD 150 trillion, amounting to an annual average of over USD 5 trillion is needed. He pointed out that compared with the Planned Energy Scenario which calls for a cumulative investment of USD 103 trillion, the 1.5°C scenario requires an additional USD 47 trillion in cumulative investment, or an extra USD 1.7 trillion per year by 2050.

155. In pursuit of this goal, Mr Badr underscored that a project-based intervention revolving around knowledge base and data analysis, is the key to close the gap. He stated that IRENA has prepared and provided a comprehensive suite of project facilitation and support tools and services to Members. Mr Badr also reported that during the current biennium 2022-2023, numerous regional project development workshops and webinars were conducted, and in addition, Investment Forums were also held where renewable energy projects within each region were collected then discussed with banks, financial partners, and project developers. He added that the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation was also launched to adapt the available tools to meet individual country's needs. He added that these initiatives are closely aligned with the two key platforms, the CIP and the ETAF, that serve as catalysts for innovation, drawing in ideas and solutions from around the world.

156. Mr Badr further introduced that 74 projects have received support through the CIP with 32 presently in matchmaking phase, and ETAF has reached a total of 42 projects in its pipeline with 11 under matchmaking, and three projects, totalling almost 1 GW of capacity, have already achieved financial closure. He emphasised that 469 project submissions from across the world

were received, with the highest in number from Africa and most bankable from Asia and underlined the importance of projects being bankable for project lenders and corporates. He explained that as the ETAF and CIP continue to grow in prominence, IRENA is addressing the time-consuming intricacies of project financing by streamlining the processes and platforms to enhance the efficiency of the matchmaking process. He added that the focus on the selection of projects that align with IRENA's criteria is by tailoring suitable pathways and matching them with suitable partners depending on their scale and project type.

157. Mr Badr recapped the goals of listed the objectives PFS had established for 2023 and announced that the progress includes 932.2 MW of financially closed projects; one Investment Forum for Caribbean SIDS, two meetings of Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation, and one capacity building session for Ukraine, as well as two ETAF webinars held; and 4.8 GW projects in pipeline under ETAF. He added that a joint declaration on ETAF was also signed. On future plans, Mr Badr outlined the scheduled events include a regional Investment Forum for Latin America in November 2023, another for West Africa in the first quarter of 2024, a Project Finance Capacity Building workshop in Moldova in November 2023, and in the Pacific SIDS in January 2024. Additionally, he noted that five more financial institutions anticipated joining ETAF. In concluding, he reiterated that funding partners are the key to the success of CIP and ETAF, and to the energy transition.

158. Delegations supported the work of project facilitation and affirmed that the initiatives can be used in priority areas where banking and financing is more difficult and noted their potential niches outside the traditional development areas of work. Delegations encouraged the Agency to ensure that technical assistance, capacity building work, investment forums and collaborative frameworks and goals are aligned to show a measurable outcome and impact that is linked to everything being worked on. A delegation highlighted the strong support by the private sector in the framework of ETAF and stressed the role of private sector as an important player in the energy transition.

159. A delegation pledged an annual contribution of EUR 1.4 billion from 2022 to 2026, in which EUR 840 million per annum will come from a new national climate fund, a national tool to contribute to the global commitment on climate finance. This delegation further announced that a significant portion of resources will be prioritised for the needs of the African countries and will be evenly divided between mitigation and adaptation initiatives. This delegation also speculated on the prospect of a partnership between their climate fund and both the CIP and ETAF platforms. One delegation mentioned their intention to host the first West African Investment Forum and noted the preliminary calculations for their energy transition plan estimates USD 10 billion annually is required to drive it forward. Another delegation recognised the pledge as being critically important for countries with similar aspirations to their own.

160. A delegation suggested IRENA create more forums in the Latin America region where activities could be developed in collaboration with other organisations such as the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), with whom IRENA already cooperates through the Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) initiatives. This was supported by another delegation who referred to the value of the Central American Integration. One delegation noted that the number of projects from SIDS reflects the importance of ETAF to SIDS, while also expressed concern on the financial challenges facing SIDS and LDCs so that the scheme and magnitude of projects being put forward are not as scalable as other countries, and further queried on the possibility for a special allocation dedicated to SIDS and LDCs under ETAF. The delegation further emphasised the need for IRENA to move in a direction that is more fit-for-purpose, particularly where the SIDS Lighthouse is concerned.



161. Delegations also supported the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation and called for more interactive cooperation and participation by Members to overcome the challenges that face mobilisation of funding, and to prepare requests that would convince companies to be on board and finance projects, as well as requested the support by IRENA in facilitating financing. A delegation pointed out that geographic locations of some countries do not allow them to benefit from the existing platforms and stressed the need to open dialogue about the barriers and challenges and to classify them in accordance with magnitude and size of projects or alternatively, to consider the institutional barriers in order to facilitate dealing with them in the future. In the capacity as Co-Facilitator of the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation, a delegation encouraged Members to participate in the framework's discussions around CIP and ETAF.

162. The Director-General mentioned that the ETAF's importance reflects the utility and usefulness of IRENA's knowledge-based work. He reflected on IRENA's support to 84 countries in presenting their NDCs as well as the collaboration with countries on assessing readiness. On IRENA's work on the identification of the right policies to attract investment, he specified two reasons this work is more useful: the first, he referred to as a 'bottoms-up approach' where investments are going to countries based on their ownership of their own projects; the second is IRENA can collaborate with countries to assess the bankability of a project which would ensure both coherence with the domestic planning as well as the reduction of transition costs on all the entities to secure funding. He appreciated the support of the initiative, as it is through the ETAF that all IRENA's knowledge and capacity is put to work with countries. He concluded by inviting interested Members to be part of the ETAF.

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

## **Agenda Item 9: Administrative and Institutional matters**

### **a. Human Resources**

#### **i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (including the Independent – KPMG – Human Resources Audit report) (C/26/4/Rev.1; C/26/INF/3)**

164. The Director-General presented the Report on Human Resources Management and Trends (C/26/4/Rev.1) and informed that based on feedback by Members, the document was revised to include a list of consultants with contract duration of less than six months as well as a listing of consultancy contracts with cumulative duration longer than one year. He conveyed that additional data points on human resources (HR) areas of risk and the separation of data per division have also been added to the report, in addition to an update on various ongoing HR initiatives, including the ongoing recruitment of three critical Director positions in partnership with Oxford HR recruiting. He added that succession planning remains a priority as an increasing number of staff will reach their tenure limits in the coming years. Other ongoing initiatives include the post classification exercise to ensure that correct grades are assigned to posts and that job functions are up to date; HR policy updates, with the completion of two revised policies for performance management and recruitment; as well as modifications made to the Staff Provident Fund to offer more cost-effective options with an enhanced potential for increased returns. He also mentioned that the KPMG Current State Assessment Report and Recommendations further includes many additional HR reporting indicators for Members' consideration to add to the periodic reporting.

165. On the follow up of a review of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) option, the Director-General reported that a Q&A session with interested staff is expected to be

held before the end of 2023. He highlighted that the majority of staff presently favour the Staff Provident Fund. He affirmed that the recruitment of required HR staff remains a high priority as there is presently a 50% vacancy rate of Professional level HR staff. He affirmed that attracting and retaining the best qualified professionals, ensuring diversity of personnel to reflect IRENA's global Membership, and improving gender balance, including at the senior levels, remain the highest priority of the Agency.

166. Mr Bruce Neese, Director of Administration and Management Services (AMS) presented additional information included in C/26/4/Rev.1, including the headcount by gender and employee category, number of separated staff per Division for 2022 and 2023, evolution of HR risk areas, as well as an IRENA Overall Organization Chart containing detailed information by division (core and non-core posts), and a detailed listing of consultants engaged by the Agency.

167. Outlining the current Human Resources initiatives underway, Mr Neese informed that following two job classification reviews conducted in 2019 and 2021, work has commenced to review 13 posts for which the reviews had arrived on divergent results with respect to proper grading. He noted that the HR policy framework continues to be updated and policies on performance management and recruitment were updated and issued.

168. Mr Neese further informed that the Agency continues to work on succession planning and advertises upcoming vacancies due to tenure at least 9 to 12 months in advance. He stated that IRENA is partnering with recruitment agencies to enhance and speed up the recruitment process for key positions, including for three D-1 posts presently under recruitment, as well as for several P-5 positions reaching tenure limits in 2025 which will require advertisement commencing in mid-2024.

169. On the UNJSPF, Mr Neese reported that an in-house survey was conducted on 7 September 2023 and that 53% of staff favoured continued participation in the IRENA Staff Provident Fund. He mentioned that, in order to ensure that Staff Provident Fund members have access to the details associated with the UNJSPF, it was informed that further information would be provided in the coming months. Then the issue of participation in the UNJSPF will either be closed or pursued further.

170. Mr Neese added that the Agency continues to conduct staff exit surveys and noted that some of the major reasons for separation include family reasons, prolonged separation from family and career development, amongst others. He also announced that a staff satisfaction survey is planned. He highlighted that the General Service (GS) staff salary survey is under preparation by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) since early 2023 with results expected in the fourth quarter of this year. He added that IRENA has been informed that any changes resulting from the survey will be retroactive to April 2023, taking into account that the scale has not been updated since 2013. He relayed that IRENA is pursuing access to the United Nations HR network as a non-common system Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO), as this will enable the Agency to participate in consultations pertaining to revisions of the GS salary scale on an observer basis, thereby being informed of developments in salary scales as well as all emerging United Nations HR issues.

171. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Tonga, represented by H.E. Mr Honourable 'Akau'ola, Ambassador of Tonga to the UAE, presented the outcome of the Committee meeting held on 18 October 2023 (C/26/CRP/2), regarding the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends, as well as the presentation of the report by KPMG.

172. The AFC Chair announced that during the AFC meeting, the KPMG representative, Ms Simkova Marketa, Partner, Head of People and Change, made a presentation on the Human Resources assessment of IRENA, which included a detailed outline of the findings, recommendations and initiatives on staff retention and turnover (C/26/INF/3). The AFC Chair reported that KPMG was requested to provide further information and clarification on a number of issues, such as how decisions by IRENA Governing Bodies guided the KPMG assessment, including with respect to KPMG's findings on the need for a review of the tenure policy; how IRENA's HR practices compare to that of other organisations; how the KPMG analysis differentiated between core versus non-core staff; and the definition of a "career path", as mentioned in the KPMG report, noting that IRENA is not a career Agency.

173. The AFC Chair further reported that in the associated responses by the KPMG representative, it was clarified that after meetings with some Member representatives, additional workshops and meetings were held by KPMG with IRENA staff and a number of challenges were mentioned. These included the quality and speed of HR services, individual circumstances such as a sense of belonging and recognition, and the prevailing tenure policy. The AFC Chair relayed that KPMG recognised IRENA as a niche organisation with highly specialised skill requirements, and that the ability to put in place sound knowledge retention approaches will help stimulate staff motivation.

174. The AFC Chair informed that, using the KPMG Human Capital Maturity Model, IRENA was given an overall score of 'two', which denotes a basic level of maturity. He relayed that the KPMG representative viewed this score as quite natural, given that IRENA is a 'young' Agency. He further conveyed that the main focus of KPMG's analysis was placed on the retention and development of core staff. With respect to KPMG's use of the term "career path", the AFC Chair informed that this was in relation to KPMG's recommendation to clearly define senior-level positions in terms of specific skill requirements needed to successfully perform the job. This "career path", as clarified by the KPMG representative, would allow staff to build career and niche skills that are difficult to retain or attract, which is consistent with best practices in other tenured organisations. He reported that the AFC took note of the presentation by KPMG as well as the questions and clarifications during the discussion, which are detailed in C/26/CRP/2.

175. On the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends, the AFC Chair informed the Council that one participant offered to work with the Agency to ensure a supply of talent, as well as to support the process of Human Resources transformation. He stated that the AFC took note of the report as well as the reflections and comments made during the discussions and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.

176. Delegations thanked the Secretariat and the AFC Chair for their reports. A delegation reflected on the substantial growth and weight of expectations on IRENA, as well as the international scope, scale and influence of the Agency, which come with specific requirements to follow the guidance of relevant United Nations bodies, other international organisations as well as inputs from IRENA's Governing Bodies. Highlighting the need to keep these considerations in mind when addressing the KPMG report, the delegation assessed that more details will be needed to understand some issues, such as the statement that there is no reward system in place at the Agency. Reflecting on its previous query on promotions of internal staff and noting that such promotions constitute a reward system in itself, as well as a recognition of work performance and excellence, this delegation stated that the HR Trends report should include a list of such promotions of internal staff. Noting that there are other aspects of the KPMG report that require more time to assess and gain a deeper understanding, the delegation proposed that the KPMG report serves as a reference document for HR matters.

177. This delegation also noted that several of the recommendations such as improvement of institutional culture and support systems are easily implemented and suggested that IRENA develops an action plan to improve employee satisfaction and engagement. In this regard, the delegation reiterated its commitment to utilise the savings from its contributions in such initiatives and offer further support, if needed. The delegation also welcomed the inclusion of the overall organisational chart with a differentiation of core and non-core staff members and positions as well as the detailed information and listing on the engagement of consultants and stated that this should remain a standard part of reporting to the Council on HR Trends in the future. In this regard, the delegation pointed out that there are consultants who have been working with the Agency for a greater length of time than the average staff member at IRENA and requested that a rationale for this be provided in future reporting. This delegation further emphasised that HR reports need to also respond to requests from previous meetings of the Council and sessions of the Assembly to present actions addressing specific HR matters. Noting that the Council has previously requested the Agency to provide a succession plan, the delegation reflected that while the current document provides information on staff departures, future reports need to be accompanied by the plans that are in place to address the departure of staff, beyond vacancy announcements. Two other delegations concurred with the points made in this intervention.

178. A delegation underlined the usefulness of presenting information on promotion rates in future reports. Stipulating that consultants are an important human resource for all modern organisations including IRENA, this delegation also requested more information on the length of time that consultants are serving with IRENA and the rationale behind this. The delegation further expressed concern on the length of time taken to recruit and bring on-board new staff, particularly given the imminent departures of tenured staff in the next twenty-four months. Echoing the sentiments voiced on the extensive list of consultants engaged by the Agency, another delegation requested more information in future reporting on the factors driving the process and procedures for the engagement of consultants at the Agency, including the distinction between work done by regular staff versus the work done by consultants, including to ensure that consultants do not perform line functions. With regard to the KPMG report, this delegation welcomed the preparation of an action plan by IRENA's Human Resources Office that also contains quick, easy steps that have the potential to generate speedy improvements in HR policy, noting that this would provide a sense of change and improvement in HR practices. Expressing appreciation for the increased transparency in reporting on HR Trends and detailed information, specifically in terms of the additional elements in the organisational chart, this delegation requested that this organisational chart be updated and distributed regularly to Members in the future. One delegation reiterated the content of the KPMG report regarding the requalification, training, retention, and measurement of staff satisfaction.

179. In response to the issues raised by Council members, the Director-General informed that the Secretariat has already commenced work on some of the suggestions from the KPMG report relating to 'quick wins', and that some of these have also been captured in the proposal presented to the Council. He stressed that in some cases, the KPMG recommendations require additional resources for their completion or a change in the rules of the Agency. On the rewarding of staff, he explained the need for an understanding of how such practices could be managed beyond highlighting good work, as there is no instrument to provide premiums in the regulations of the Agency. The Director-General expressed appreciation for the offer from one of the delegations to utilise the savings from its contributions in such initiatives and stated that the proposed Open-Ended Group on budgetary aspects could seek to understand how resources could be provided to certain activities, where needed.

180. On recruitment and succession planning, the Director-General reiterated that the Agency advertises positions well in advance of planned departures, which indicates that a succession plan

is in place. He added that the recruitment process contains some variables that are beyond the Agency's control, such as timing, which does not depend only on the internal processes of the Agency. He informed that efforts to speed up the recruitment and selection process include contracting headhunting companies, especially for positions at a high level. He conveyed that the Secretariat remains ready to follow the Council's guidance and stressed that some of the proposed recommendations by KPMG may require additional resources to implement, taking into account the staffing and resources that are currently at the Agency's disposal.

181. In response to the interventions made on the engagement of consultants, the Director-General affirmed that the work of consultants is distinct from that of staff as consultants do not hold the same rights and duties of staff, and do not perform line functions nor have supervisory power. He added that IRENA's presence is sometimes needed in the geographic location where assistance is being provided, and that engaging a local consultant presents the most economic option in such cases. He also explained that in some cases, the engagement involves years of collaboration due to essential knowledge and expertise, such as the Agency's work with Cambridge Econometrics. He affirmed that the information provided on the engagement of consultants will continue to be regularly updated, and highlighted that, in the continued spirit of transparency, the Agency is always open to any requests for clarification.

182. On the matter of promotions, the Director-General clarified that all staff members are recruited through an open competition process, with 37% of vacancies being filled internally. He reiterated that the Secretariat stands ready to provide all information that Members require and requested that careful consideration be given to the resources at the Agency's disposal for performing such tasks.

**183. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends contained in document C/26/4/Rev.1, as well as the interventions made.**

**184. The Council took note of the Report by KPMG: Current State Assessment Report: Findings, Recommendations and Initiatives on Staff Retention & Turnover, contained in document C/26/INF/3, as well as the interventions made, and agreed that the Report would serve as a reference document for HR matters as well as for the preparation of an action plan by IRENA's Human Resources Office that also contains steps that have the potential to generate speedy improvements in HR policy.**

- ii. **Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (break in service, including the re-hiring of staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure) (C/26/5; C/26/6)**

**Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (C/26/5)**

185. The Director-General, supplemented by information from the Director of AMS, recalled that the Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3: Types of Appointment was presented to the Council at its twenty-fifth meeting, with the objective of aligning IRENA with other tenured organisations in not counting time served as General Service (GS) staff for the purposes of tenure calculations for Professional staff members. He added that this amendment would also facilitate the opportunity for qualified GS staff to advance to Professional level posts. He relayed that the amendment also directly supports the KPMG recommendations to improve and enhance career development, employee engagement, recognition mechanisms to reward outstanding

performance, and retention. He informed that several points of clarification were subsequently requested at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council, and that the requested clarifications and explanations are contained in C/26/5. The Director-General invited the Council to give due consideration to the proposed amendment, which would enable IRENA to avail the same flexibility provided to other tenured organisations on this matter.

186. The AFC Chair, in his report on the outcome of the Committee meeting (C/26/CRP/2), noted that two questions were raised on the Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3: Types of Appointment and that the Secretariat provided clarifications and explanations to these questions. He recounted the query on the budget implications of appointing GS staff to the Professional category and noted that the Secretariat clarified that of the five such cases, four staff had been appointed several years ago, with one recently filled post being charged against voluntary contributions. He conveyed the Secretariat's explanation that this is therefore cost-neutral for the budget based on assessed contributions. He stated that the second query on competitive methods of selection with external candidates was explained by the Secretariat that, based on the normal competitive selection process, GS staff should have five years of service with the Agency before applying to Professional posts. He advised that the AFC took note of the report as well as the interventions made and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

187. The AFC Chair concluded by expressing his gratitude to the UAE for its strong support as Vice-Chair of the AFC, the Committee members, as well as the IRENA Members who participated in the discussions of the AFC. Reflecting on the comments made by the Director-General on the Open-Ended Group on budgetary aspects, the AFC Chair expressed his hope for strong participation by Members to allow for better preparation for either the twenty-seventh Council meeting or the forthcoming AFC meeting.

188. One delegation thanked the Director-General and the Secretariat for the clarification on the matter regarding the Proposed Amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 and shared its understanding that over the last ten years, five cases were recorded of GS staff being appointed to the Professional level, and as relayed by the AFC Chair, one such case is currently under evaluation. Noting that the proposal seems to be aligned with the best practices of other international organisations and would motivate GS staff to become an integral part of the Agency, this delegation expressed support for the proposed amendment. This delegation added, however, that in such cases, the length of tenure needs to be calculated from the date the concerned staff member joins the Agency, as this would be in line with the definition of tenure as time spent in an organisation. Another delegation stated that the length of tenure should be calculated from the start of appointment at the Professional level, as this would be in line with practices at other tenured organisations and would prevent the Agency from being biased against or in favour of GS staff that are appointed to the Professional level. A delegation suggested that discussions on the matter could continue, and expressed the view that a decision need not be made at this Council meeting.

189. One delegation expressed the understanding that if a GS staff member is appointed to the Professional level, it would be logical for tenure calculations to commence from the date of this appointment, given that GS staff do not have tenure limitations. This delegation pointed out that if a GS staff member first needed a number of years of experience with the Agency, they would then potentially need to leave service quite quickly upon appointment to the Professional level as the seven-year length of tenure would already be nearly exhausted at the time of such movement. A delegation agreed with this view and stated that if an individual has spent more than six or seven years as a GS staff member, they would then have no years of service remaining upon appointment to a Professional level post. The delegation further highlighted that GS staff members who

improve their skills during their time served in the GS category should be given the full tenure for a new position as a Professional staff member.

190. Following this exchange of views, several delegations supported the proposal that in situations where GS staff are appointed to the Professional level, tenure calculations would commence from the date of such appointment to the Professional level.

**191. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment contained in document C/26/5, as well as the interventions made, and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at its fourteenth session.**

#### **Report of the Director-General – Break-in-service and Consultants (C/26/6)**

192. The Director-General, supplemented by information from the Director of AMS, informed that the Report on Break-in-service and Consultants (C/26/6) provides draft proposals to address the issues of break-in-service after reaching maximum tenure and re-hiring former staff as consultants. He explained that the policies of tenured organisations on these issues vary widely - at tenured organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the re-hiring practice for staff having reached maximum tenure on a fixed term appointment ranges from six months, while at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), there is no possibility to re-hiring former staff on a fixed-term appointment. With regard to the re-hiring of former staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure, he explained that the length of time ranges from immediate rehire at three tenured organisations, to one year at International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He referred to the four options presented in document C/26/6 that address the break-in-service requirements before staff may be re-hired on a fixed-term contract or as a consultant, after having reached maximum tenure limits.

193. Delegations expressed various views on the Report of the Director-General - Break-in-service and Consultants. One delegation referred to the discussion at the nineteenth meeting of the Council, where the Secretariat had proposed a four-year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts who have reached maximum tenure and highlighted that this was supported by numerous Members and subsequently recorded in the Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Council. Against this background, the delegation suggested a mix of options, with a four-year break-in-service for re-hiring former staff on a fixed-term post and a one-year break-in-service for re-hiring former staff on a temporary appointment or consultancy, stressing that a break-in-service in such instances refers to the complete cessation of services to IRENA. The delegation also referred to the 'Proposed Directive concerning engagement of Former Staff Members as Consultants', as contained in Annex 3 to C/26/6, and agreed with the proposal stated in paragraph 3.1(b), which stipulates that "the former staff member is not re-engaged to perform the same functions of the post from which he or she separated". The delegation expressed the view that re-hiring of Professional staff, even in a consultancy role immediately after end of service, can be disruptive to operations by creating friction within teams and posing challenges for the integration of the successor, and for this reason, necessitating a minimum of one year break-in-service before re-entering the Agency as a consultant.

194. One delegation favoured Option 3, as presented in C/26/6, with one year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts who have reached maximum tenure, and no break-in-service requirement for the re-hiring of staff on a temporary appointment or consultancy. The delegation noted that the existing tenure regime at IRENA is designed to ensure a regular introduction of new ideas, familiarity with best technologies, and introduction of new processes into the Agency on a regular basis. In this context, the delegation stated its inclination to be

relatively conservative about the amount of time before re-hiring on a fixed term contract can be introduced. Recalling that they have previously noted many questions on the length of time that some consultants have been engaged at IRENA, this delegation expressed concern about the length of time taken to recruit and hire new staff into IRENA, especially given the fact that many senior staff are going to be departing in the next 24 months. In this context, the delegation highlighted the need to ensure that there is an option that the Secretariat could employ to maintain a level of continuity between the departure of one senior staff member and the hiring of a second staff member.

195. One delegation was in favour of Option 1, with at least six months of break-in-service before the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts who have reached maximum tenure, and three months break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on temporary appointment or consultancy. The delegation added that such re-hiring should only be done once. The delegation added that these options presented in C/26/6 should ensure a balanced turnover of staff.

196. Given the varying views expressed and to ensure clarity, some delegations restated their positions. One delegation reiterated its recommendation to stick to the agreement at the nineteenth meeting of the Council, as recorded, for a four-year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts who have reached maximum tenure. The delegation further restated its suggestion for a one-year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on a temporary appointment or consultancy. Another delegation noted its preference for Option 1, with a six-month break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts, and a three-month break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on temporary appointment or consultancy.

197. Adding their perspective to the discussion, one delegation stated its support for a one-year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on fixed term contracts who have reached maximum tenure, with the understanding that this would be for a different post and the vacated post would be filled by a new staff member via the normal competitive procedure. This delegation further proposed a three-month break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on a temporary appointment or consultancy, contingent on a clarification of roles and types of engagements that consultants are hired for, as well as ensuring that there is no risk of longer-term engagement that becomes too similar to the work being done by staff members. The delegation clarified that this would be in line with Option 4, as it presents a combination of options that do not fully coincide with Options 1, 2 and 3.

198. Another delegation expressed the view that IRENA is dependent on qualified staff in a niche position, and that maintaining staff is critical to remain a global thought leader. The delegation added that the length of the break-in-service is therefore less important than the proper evaluation of staff when they are re-hired, and stated its support for Option 1, which presents the shortest break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff on a fixed term contract.

199. A delegation, in summarising the interventions on the matter, noted that two delegations had stated a clear preference for Option 1, and expressed a great deal of respect for this position as well as the explanation provided. Expressing the view that IRENA is a tenured organisation to prevent a petrified bureaucracy and to ensure that new ideas are routinely introduced into the Agency, this delegation recognised that there are many qualified people within the Agency, but at the same time, expressed the concern regarding the challenge of replacing staff based on information provided by the Secretariat. The delegation added that six months would still be too short a time to allow for the re-hire of a staff member on another term that would potentially last seven years. The delegation further expressed appreciation for the point made on re-hiring staff into a new position and stated that they are very interested in exploring this further. The delegation added that while they would be open for a longer break-in-service, they would need to consult



internally on a length of four years, as highlighted by another delegation. This delegation further stressed that they continue to be very concerned about the challenge between the time in which a senior staff member may end their tenure and the length of time taken to replace them, given the current standard of nine to twelve months for recruitment, and hiring at IRENA. The delegation queried the potential for the issue on break-in-service to be added to the work of the proposed Open-Ended Group on budgetary aspects, or for a different Open-Ended Group to be created.

200. Noting the presence of many new Permanent Representatives and participants who might not have been present at the nineteenth meeting of the Council, a delegation recalled the discussions and provided a background of the suggested four-year break-in-service. The delegation highlighted that during the nineteenth meeting of the Council, Members had suggested a break-in-service period of one or two years, while the Secretariat had suggested a period of four years, in the understanding that this would be the requisite amount of time for an individual to attain new skills, gather a fresh perspective and better experience through time spent in another organisation. In this context, the delegation expressed concern over the re-opening of topics that were closed and decided on at previous meetings of the Council, stressing the difficulties of accepting such a practice from the perspective of the Governing Bodies. The delegation further highlighted that following this agreement at the nineteenth Council meeting on the break-in-service of four years, it should have been stipulated and transmitted to the Assembly for decision and noted that this did not happen. In this regard, the delegation reiterated its concern that the Governing Bodies are not receiving the requisite information to allow for an informed exchange of views in taking decisions. The delegation questioned the value of continuing the exchange on this matter, given the lengthy discussions that already took place at the nineteenth meeting of the Council.

201. The AFC Chair shared this concern and noted the dangers of re-looking or re-evaluating a decision made by the Council. The AFC Chair expressed that unless there are grounds for new technology or geopolitical issues, such practices would make the Council's decision-making process very inefficient. The AFC Chair expressed his willingness to accept the task of guiding further discussions on this matter, should it be decided by the Council.

202. Noting the importance of this exchange as it would constitute whether or not the Council would continue discussions on the matter going forward, the Chair of the Council requested the Director-General and the Secretariat to clarify whether such a decision was made at the nineteenth meeting of the Council, or any other Council meeting, regarding the four-year break-in-service for the re-hiring of staff who have reached maximum tenure.

203. The Director-General clarified that the issue of break-in-service was brought to the attention of the Council at its nineteenth meeting for a specific reason, as no rules existed on re-hiring personnel and the recruitment process for the Deputy Director-General, who was a former staff member, was ongoing. He added that the Council discussed the proposal at its nineteenth meeting, and no decision was made. Noting that there were different opinions on the matter, the Director-General suggested that the Council could bring this matter to the Assembly without taking a decision, and that the AFC Chair could inform the Assembly that a common proposal could be presented following bilateral and other informal discussions. The AFC Chair expressed his willingness to accept the work.

**204. The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee contained in document C/26/CRP/2.**

**205. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General – Break-in-Service and Consultants contained in document C/26/6, as well as the interventions**

made. The Council agreed that the AFC Chair and the AFC will conduct further consultations and consideration for a decision to be made at the Assembly.

**b. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (C/26/7)**

206. The Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (C/26/7) and on the Disclosure of Interest procedure for the period from 1 October 2022 to 15 September 2023 was presented by Ms Jelena Barnes.

207. Ms Barnes reported that on return to office post-COVID, an assessment of the work of the Ethics Office function was undertaken, which covers providing advice and guidance, protection from retaliation, developing and delivering education and outreach, as well as advising on ethics standards, policies, and procedures, along with administering the annual Disclosure of Interest exercise. She pointed out this assessment resulted in advancements towards a fully operational Ethics Office function. Examples of work accomplished were provided, such as issuing a revised Disclosure of Interest form which was more focused on identifying conflicts of interest and respecting the privacy of Covered Individuals. She reported that all 35 Covered Individuals complied with the disclosure requirement, with over half of these individuals completing the forms in time. She added that three forms required some follow up by the Ethics Officer, and that upon assessment, no actual or apparent conflicts of interest were identified.

208. Ms Barnes informed that confidential guidance and advice was provided to staff of every contract modality, with a total of 20 advisories provided on conflicts of interest and other ethical matters, and that seven official requests for authorisation to engage in outside activities were also reviewed and addressed. She reported that no requests were lodged for protection from retaliation due to reporting on misconduct or for cooperating with an authorised investigation or audit.

209. Ms Barnes noted that as of the end of the reporting period, the mandatory online ethics course for all newly appointed staff members entitled “Ethics and Integrity at IRENA” had a 96% completion rate, which is consistent with previous years. She reported that the in-person ethics training was inaugurated and delivered in Abu Dhabi and in Bonn over six separate sessions and was attended by a total of 168 or 92% of staff, including representation by the Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Directors, and Deputy Directors. She mentioned that the foundational topic “What it means to be an international civil servant” was well received by participants, and that additional ethics training programmes are envisaged during the next reporting period.

210. Regarding standards of conduct, related policies and implementing processes, Ms Barnes reported that in addition to the revisions to the annual Disclosure of Interest Form, revisions to existing policies and drafting of new policies, directives and processes is well under way. She highlighted that the revision of the Code of Conduct is at the advanced stage and the revised Code of Conduct will be presented to the Council for consideration. She informed the Council that IRENA has joined the Ethics Network of Multilateral Organizations (ENMO) which serves as a platform for senior ethics officers in United Nations and other multilateral and intergovernmental organisations as well as international financial institutions, to enhance professional capacity through the exchange of information, best practices, trainings on ethics policies, innovative practices, and opportunities to share experience on key topics. She noted that work will continue to ensure that staff are appraised of obligations in line with the ethics policy in IRENA.

211. The Chair of the Ethics Advisory Board, the UAE, recalled the agreement at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council to undertake a review of the [Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA](#) and proposed that an agenda item on this matter be included for the next Council meeting.

She stated that the Ethics Advisory Board will prepare a proposal for this review and revision of the Policy with the support of the Secretariat.

**212. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest contained in document C/26/7 and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at the fourteenth session. The Council agreed to add the review of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA to the agenda for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council.**

**c. Report of the Director-General - Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken (C/26/8)**

213. The Director-General presented the Report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken (C/26/8), and advised that during the period 20 April to 18 September 2023, the Internal Audit Office (IAO) implemented the following actions:

- Performed an advisory review pertaining to the Service Contracts employment modality at the Agency.
- Initiated, in accordance with the IAO Work Plan for the Work Programme and Budget 2022-2023, the audit of Procurement Processes, to ensure that IRENA manages its procurement activities in an effective and efficient manner to obtain best value for money from procurement activities. The recommendations and agreed actions to be taken will be reported to the Council upon report finalisation.
- Followed up on the status of implementation of the external audit recommendations (C/26/9).
- Followed up on the status of implementation of internal audit recommendations related to the previous audits of the HR policy manual, Consultancy Services, and Administration of Justice.

214. On the advisory review pertaining to the Service Contracts employment modality at the Agency, the Director-General explained that service contracts at IRENA are intended primarily for hiring personnel for activities that are not integral to the work of the Agency. However, over the years, more likely due to operational exigencies, IRENA has extended the usage of service contract modality much beyond the definition and scope of what had been provided for under HR rules. In this regard, he informed that the IAO recommended IRENA management to re-assess the appropriateness of the Service Contracts employment modality, considering legal, contractual, reputational, and budgetary implications, and to undertake an analysis regarding this situation that developed over the years. He relayed that other recommendations were also noted in the report for improving processes pertaining to the engagement of Service Contract holders at the Agency.

215. The Director-General added that the IAO also followed up on the status of implementation of internal audit recommendations related to the previous audits of the HR policy manual, Consultancy Services, and Administration of Justice. With regard to the audit of the HR policy manual, he relayed that the IAO made recommendations on changes to be made to several HR directives and that these recommendations were also reflected in the revised directives on the Performance Management and Appraisal System as well as on Recruitment and Selection. With regard to the audit on Consultancy Services, he mentioned that the IAO made recommendations to put in place policies and procedures for regulating the engagement of consultants at the Agency and bridging the gaps that exist between policy development and practice in this regard. He reported that the IAO noted that progress has been made towards developing an HR directive for

Consultancy Services and that the IAO will continue to follow up to ensure that the risks noted in the audit report are addressed in the directive, once finalised.

216. With regard to the audit on Administration of Justice, the Director-General reported that the IAO advocated approaching misconduct holistically by developing a consolidated policy document on misconduct, bringing together relevant policy elements into one comprehensive document. He further reported that the IAO noted the engagement of an independent consultant to revise IRENA's Code of Conduct which, once finalised would serve as a roadmap to help draft and promulgate the directive on misconduct as well as to draft or revise other directives, as appropriate.

**217. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General – Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken, contained in document C/26/8.**

**d. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations (C/26/9)**

218. Mr Neese presented the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations contained C/26/9, wherein the External Auditor expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the 2022 Financial Statements of IRENA. He informed the Council that one new management letter recommendation was issued for 2022. He added that as a follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations arising from prior audits, one recommendation was implemented, namely the signing of all appointment letters on or before the effective start date. He reported the status of implementation of the recommendations is presented in the annex to the report C/26/9.

**219. The Council considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations, contained in document C/26/9, and agreed to transmit it to the Assembly at its fourteenth session.**

**e. Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (C/26/INF/4)**

220. Mr Neese presented the Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital fund as of 7 September 2023, contained in C/26/INF/4, which provides a full status of contributions from Members, Members who joined the Agency in 2023, and Members whose arrears have reached or exceeded the amount of its contributions for the two preceding years.

**221. The Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund, contained in document C/26/INF/4.**

**Agenda Item 10: Report of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA**

222. The Chair of the Council introduced the item and informed that the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA held its second meeting on 11 September 2023. The Chair invited Mr Ahmed Monib, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Egypt to the UAE to report on the outcome of the second meeting of the Open-Ended Group (OEG), on behalf of Dr

Mohamed El Khayat, Executive Chairman of the New and Renewable Energy Authority of Egypt and Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group (OEG).

223. At the outset, Mr Monib recalled that the twenty-fifth Council meeting, in May 2023, took note of the report of the first meeting of the OEG and agreed to continue the discussion on this matter under the same umbrella with a view to report on the deliberations at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council. He reported that the second meeting was attended by 38 participants representing 27 IRENA Members. He thanked Members for their feedback and insights during the second meeting of the OEG.

224. Mr Monib relayed that the focus of the second meeting of the OEG was to identify the course of action and steps needed to advance and further study the possibility of establishing regional offices of IRENA. He also mentioned that the second meeting of the OEG had set out to establish a framework on the methodology for future work and related timelines moving forward, as well as to define a plan of action based on feedback received, for consideration by this Council.

225. Mr Monib reported that one participant reiterated its previous intervention on the difficulties for countries in the Pacific region to attend virtual meetings due to time zone constraints and connectivity limitations and highlighted the need for strengthened communication and engagement through the Pacific focal point of IRENA currently based in Suva, Fiji at the Pacific Community. Mr Monib further reported that the participant also stressed that the special circumstance of SIDS in the Pacific region should be taken into consideration should there be no further development on discussions regarding the establishment of regional offices of IRENA.

226. Mr Monib informed the Council that another participant expressed the widespread understanding that IRENA plays a crucial role in the global energy transition with its diverse and global Membership and noted IRENA's specific importance regarding SDG7 including in the context of regions such as Southeast Asia and the Pacific. He conveyed that the participant observed significant interest, with Members providing views on various aspects of the potential establishment of regional offices and underscored the need for the Secretariat to continue its work on the vision and strategy of regional offices, as well as their contribution to the overall work of IRENA, build on discussions and prepare supporting documents prepared to date. Mr Monib recounted that the participant also mentioned their support for plans to move forward on the basis of a roadmap. The Participant also suggested the possibility of conducting a pilot project and mentioned that as detailed steps and processes require consensus, there will be a need to complement the strategic direction of any such regional offices with the overall work of IRENA, including targeted programmes based on specific needs of each region, areas of capacity building and green financing, amongst others.

227. Mr Monib concluded his remarks by inviting the Council to consider the issues raised during second meeting of the OEG and looked forward including on the future meetings of the OEG.

228. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report by the Facilitator and the work of the Open-Ended Group and highlighted that questions still need to be resolved around the clear rationale, purpose, viability, function and necessity, and cost efficiency of establishing regional offices. Several issues needing further clarity identified by Members included the selection process of host countries for regional offices, details on the set-up and operation, updates on the strategic imperative and vision, analysis of requirements, as well as administrative, budgetary, procedural, and bureaucratic characteristics of these regional offices including funding as well as human resources. Impacts on the Agency's budget and on Members' assessed contribution was also highlighted an important issue for further discussion. A delegation supported the development of roadmap in order to guide discussions in structured manner. The delegation further outlined this

roadmap may include the process and timelines with a focus on the global consequences and strategic requirements for establishing any regional offices.

229. One delegation noted with interest the proposal for a pilot project and requested further details of the proposal. Another one delegation, noted that while a pilot project may be a first step to get more clarity on open questions, underlined the framework for such pilot project needs be defined including its success criteria. The delegation also noted that pilot projects may not provide, at this stage of the discussion, sufficient insights into the questions around establishing regional office. This delegation also requested clarification on the scope of work of IRENA's regional focal points and invited the Secretariat to explore regional Focal Points instead of pilot projects. The delegation also suggested the partnerships and cooperations agreements signed by IRENA can cover the functions envisaged for regional offices.

230. One delegation noted that IRENA's Headquarters is considered to be geographically appropriate to conduct outreach functions to countries in Africa and Asia. This delegation further expressed concerns that if a regional office is established in Singapore, the functions of the Abu Dhabi Headquarters will be reduced or duplicated and, in this regard, suggested that the work between the Abu Dhabi office and the proposal by Singapore be clarified when considering a pilot approach that does not affect IRENA's budget. In supporting the interventions made by other Members, one delegation called for the need to understand the creation of synergies rather than expanding geographical presence. In this regard, two questions were posed: if a regional office is to be established, what would be the overlap of responsibilities between the regional office and existing IRENA activities such as country engagement and partnerships? And will the interface and synergies be optimised? The delegation also requested further discussion on input and output ratio and the cost efficiency of establishing regional offices and an assessment on whether the benefits to IRENA and its Members of having such an office will be of valuable.

231. A delegation recounted the requests from delegates for a comprehensive assessment of the implications of establishing regional offices and suggested that the assessment should include regional offices' proposed activities, added value, the potential overlaps with current activities of the Agency, the legal implications, and the possible impacts on the budget. This delegation also suggested this assessment could be the basis for any further action, including the launch of a pilot project. One delegation requested further discussion on this matter and emphasised that the Agency's budget should not be increased as a result of these discussions. One delegation expressed its support for the proposed plan of action of the Facilitator for further discussion and noted the importance placed by Members to strengthen IRENA's outreach with different regions.

232. The Director-General expressed his appreciation to Egypt in their capacity as Facilitator of the OEG. He suggested that practical inputs with real examples could support the discussion in the OEG progress. He also suggested the Secretariat could work with Egypt as Facilitator of the OEG and Singapore as proponent and to submit a proposal to the next Council, taking into account the work, observations and comments in the OEG to date. The Director-General added that the experience gained during the pilot project may be helpful in defining whether IRENA regional offices are needed. While reiterating that it will not have any implications on the Agency's budget, the Director-General suggested that a proposed work plan, including for a pilot project may be brought the Council's consideration at its twenty-seventh meeting.

**233. The Council took note of the Report by the Facilitator of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA. The Council also agreed to continue the discussion on this matter under the umbrella of the Open-Ended Group, on the basis of the approach presented by the Facilitator in its report and the interventions made.**

**Agenda Item 11: Arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Assembly (C/26/10)**

234. The Council Chair introduced the item and invited the Director-General to present the arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Assembly. The Director-General recalled the decision made by the Assembly at its the thirteenth session to convene the fourteenth session of the Assembly on 13-14 January 2024 in Abu Dhabi and informed that the COP28 will take place in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December 2023, just a few weeks prior to the proposed dates for the fourteenth session of the IRENA Assembly. Due to this arrangement and in light of this exceptional situation, the Director-General informed the Council that the Secretariat, in consultations with the Bureau of the Assembly, proposed a scenario for the fourteenth session of the Assembly to be convened in two parts.

235. The Director-General explained that this proposed two-part scenario contained in document C/26/10 ensures adherence to the established procedures throughout the deliberations of the Assembly and envisions that part one would take place in a virtual format on 15 January 2024 wherein Members would discuss the programmatic activities undertaken by IRENA in 2023, and consider the Work Programme and Budget for the upcoming biennium, which will commence immediately after its adoption by the Assembly. The Director-General further added that part one of the Assembly will also consider Administrative and Institutional matters, so as to ensure continued functioning of the Agency, including in the areas of finance, audit, ethics, human resources management and assessed contributions, amongst others.

236. The Director-General elaborated that part two of Assembly would be held with in-person participation in Abu Dhabi on 16-18 April 2024, parallel to the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) and will present an opportunity, for the Membership, partners, and stakeholders to engage in inclusive and diverse discussions on actions implemented and progress made in accelerating the energy transition. He mentioned that the discussions would include the context of the first Global Stocktake and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and how IRENA may support Members in their ambition to create enabling frameworks, attract investments, and accelerate the energy transition at the speed required by climate, energy, and development imperatives, amongst others. He conveyed the plan to convene several Ministerial and high-level sessions that would facilitate interaction amongst decision-makers and guide the future programmatic work of the Agency. He also announced the plan for a Ministerial event on Small Island Developing States. He mentioned the Legislators Forum, the Public-Private Dialogue and the Youth Forum would also provide opportunities for further insights and discussions amongst actors with the collective ambition to accelerate adaptation and achieve a just inclusive future on renewables.

237. Delegations were generally supportive of the scenario presented by the Director-General. At the same time, a few delegations expressed their views on the date and timing proposed for the fourteenth session of the Assembly. With regard to the arrangements for the fourteenth Assembly part one, one delegation requested the need to ensure timely consideration of IRENA's governance requirements and avoid any delays in IRENA's operational framework. With regard to the arrangements for the fourteenth Assembly part two, one delegation noted that some countries may face challenges for their participation due to other various other international engagements and holidays and suggested to hold the Assembly part two in parallel to the World Future Energy Summit instead. Some delegations noted the proximity of the Assembly and the ensuing twenty-seventh meeting of the Council, leaving a timeframe of only six weeks between the two Governing Body meetings and enquired whether the twenty-seventh would take place in its usual format.

238. The Chair clarified that the proposed dates for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council are 30-31 May 2024 with 29 May for meetings of the subsidiary organs, noting that in the next agenda

item on the arrangements for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council, the discussion on the date can be elaborated. The Chair invited the Secretariat to work with the incoming Assembly Presidency, Rwanda, and inform the Membership on the arrangements for the fourteenth session. He also informed the Council that in response to the call for expressions of interest for the Bureau of the fifteenth session of the Assembly, several expressions of interest were received from each regional group. He reported these will be shared with the Vice-Presidencies of the respective groups whereupon they will propose nominations from each group to be part of the bureau of the fifteenth session of the Assembly. He advised that once these nominations are received, the Membership will be informed accordingly.

**239. The Council took note and approved the proposed scenario for the fourteenth session of the Assembly to be convened in two parts, contained in document C/26/10, taking into account all the interventions made, as well as a list of issues for the proposed part one and part two of the Assembly to be included in the provisional agenda of the Assembly.**

240. The Chair requested the Secretariat to provide the IRENA Membership with further details<sup>1</sup> on the arrangements and modalities for convening the fourteenth session of the Assembly in two parts, in January and April 2024, respectively.

### **Agenda Item 12: Arrangements for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council**

241. The Chair outlined, as contained in document C/26/INF/1, the proposal to hold the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council on 30-31 May 2024 in-person in Abu Dhabi, with the meetings of the subsidiary organs scheduled to take place on 29 May 2024, in-person to allow for dynamic exchanges of views. The Chair further noted the proposal to hold the twenty-eighth meeting of the Council on 24-25 October 2024, with the meetings of the subsidiary organs on 23 October 2024, subject to final determination by the Council at its twenty-seventh meeting.

242. Delegations shared concerns regarding the Council meeting taking place shortly following the Assembly, which may place a financial burden on Members and impact their travel. One delegation suggested allowing virtual participation, while a few delegations stressed the importance to hold the Council meeting in-person. Another delegation suggested to hold Council meeting back-to-back with the Assembly part two in April 2024 on an exceptional basis. A delegation requested the Secretariat to consider alternative dates for twenty-seventh Council meeting to allow for IRENA's participation at the decennial 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on SIDS scheduled for 27-30 May 2023. The delegation further highlighted that this Conference would be proposing a renewable energy framework for SIDS.

243. The Director-General confirmed the attendance of IRENA to the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on SIDS.

244. In noting the conflicting dates and concerns from delegations, the Chair recommended that the Council take note of all interventions and that invited the Secretariat to inform the Council of the new for the twenty-seventh Council taking into account intervention and comments made.

**245. The Council took note of the interventions on the proposed dates for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council and the meetings of the subsidiary organs and requested**

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<sup>1</sup> On 3 November 2023, the Secretariat informed the IRENA Membership of the arrangements and modalities for convening the fourteenth session of the Assembly in two parts, in January and April 2024, respectively. The Communication to the IRENA Membership included a Note ([link](#)), containing the arrangements and modalities for convening the fourteenth session of the Assembly.



the Secretariat to inform Council members of the new proposed dates<sup>2</sup> for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council based on the interventions made.

246. The Chair informed the Council that expressions of interest were received from Zimbabwe to serve as Chair and Bangladesh as Vice-Chair respectively, of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council.

**247. The Council designated the Zimbabwe as Chair, and Bangladesh as Vice-Chair of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council.**

#### **Agenda Item 13: Any other business**

248. The Chair received no requests from Members on any other business.

#### **Agenda Item 14: Closing of the meeting**

249. In his closing remarks, the Director-General reflected on the harmony amongst the discussions of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council. He highlighted IRENA's unique environment where ways are found through agreement to move forward. He expressed his appreciation to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council for their leadership, and thanked Council members and all participants, interpreters, and Secretariat staff for their contributions to the effective meeting.

250. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed his appreciation to delegations for their constructive exchanges and valuable contributions throughout the deliberations. He conveyed his gratitude to the UAE as Host Country and to the Vice-Chair of Panama for her support. He noted that discussions will continue with the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA and pointed out that much more work need to be done to accelerate the deployment of clean energy, secure energy security, create jobs, and achieve sustainability across all sectors. He proclaimed his pleasure as Chair to guide the deliberations and facilitate feedback on the Agency's current and future programmatic work, as well as the open and constructive exchange of experiences. He applauded the work of the interpreters and the staff of the Secretariat.

**251. The Chair declared the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council closed.**

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<sup>2</sup> On 10 November 2023, the Secretariat informed members of the Council of the proposed dates to conduct the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council. The proposed dates for the twenty-seventh Council meeting are from 13-14 June 2024, with the in-person meetings of the subsidiary organs (the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programme and Strategy Committee), scheduled for 12 June 2024, in Abu Dhabi.

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

## Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Organisation of work**
  - a. Election of officials
  - b. Adoption of the agenda
  - c. Adoption of the report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council
3. **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (including Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2022-2023)**
4. **Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025**
5. **General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition**
6. **Programmatic discussion on Reinforcing Climate Action in the Agriculture and Health Sectors with Renewables**
7. **Programmatic discussion on Socio-economics of the Energy Transition: The Road Ahead**
8. **Programmatic discussion on Status of Work on Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) and Climate Investment Platform (CIP)**
9. **Administrative and Institutional matters**
  - a. Human Resources Management
    - i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (including the Independent – KPMG – Human Resources Audit report)
    - ii. Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (break in service, including the re-hiring of staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure)
  - b. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest
  - c. Report of the Director-General - Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken
  - d. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations
  - e. Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund

10. Report of the Open-Ended Group on the Establishment of Regional Offices of IRENA
11. Arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Assembly
12. Arrangements for the twenty-seventh meeting of the Council
13. Any other business
14. Closing of the meeting

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Twenty-sixth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (hereafter “PSC” or “Committee”) met on 18 October 2023. All Committee members attended the meeting, including United States of America (Vice-Chair of the PSC). The Committee reflected on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, including the Work Programme Self-Assessment 2022-2023 and updates on Collaborative Frameworks, and focused discussions on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025.

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in her summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 19 October 2023.

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

#### **1. Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (C/26/2), including updates on Collaborative Frameworks**

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

- The PSC welcomed the report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and expressed appreciation for work completed to date.
- The PSC congratulated IRENA for its broader engagement, including in G7, G20 and COP settings, welcoming the inclusion of IRENA’s messages and underlining the importance of the upcoming COP28.
- Participants expressed appreciation for the Continental Master Plan (CMP), underlining its usefulness for the development of national energy resource plans, as well as planning tools including Flextool and SPLAT.
- A participant welcomed IRENA’s 2023 Innovation Week and the Collaborative Framework on High Share of Renewables and Project Facilitation and thanked IRENA for these events.
- A participant commended IRENA’s project facilitation work and the opportunities it brought for the advancement of renewable project implementation.
- A participant noted the importance of country Outlooks in assisting countries in their energy planning and expressed appreciation for this work.

- A participant highlighted the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) initiative, noting interest in learning more about the partnership and how this links with other IRENA initiatives.

### 2. Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2022-2023 (C\_26\_INF\_2)

- Participants expressed appreciation for the presentation of the self-assessment report. A participant called for more information on where improvements may be made.
- Some participants underlined the importance of the Result-Based Framework. A participant proposed that IRENA share more information on the results of its activities online, including more frameworks and training courses.

### 3. Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (C/26/3).

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

Participants offered the following views and comments:

- The PSC welcomed the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and in particular the Results-Based Framework. A participant noted the need for designated resources to capture learnings and another suggested that outputs could show a stronger link between the activities across the pillars and the output level.
- The PSC welcomed the alignment of the Work Programme with the Medium-term Strategy and affirmed the priorities for the upcoming period.
- Participants welcomed IRENA international collaboration underlining the importance for all to come together to support initiatives and achieve common outcomes. A participant highlighted the importance of IRENA engagement for assisting regional cooperation and setting the long term vision of such MED9 initiative. Participants specifically underlined programmes on livelihoods and *Beyond Food* as of importance in the coming period.
- A participant expressed support for IRENA's work with parliamentarians and youth.
- A participant called for greater in-person regional engagement and country support, citing the limitations of virtual meetings when dealing with global timezones. The participant proposed to shift the location of regional coordinator in the Pacific to Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Tonga.
- Participants welcomed the increased focus on facilitating projects and monetising capital through IRENA platforms such as ETAF that support increased deployment of renewable energy projects in developing countries.

- Participants welcomed the work on training and education and offered support in advancing this work.
- Some participants welcomed regional work and offered support for advancement of the Clean Energy Corridor for Central America.

### **Any Other Business**

The PSC discussed how to make PSC more dynamic and proposed the following:

- Welcomed the meeting organised by the PSC Chair to induct new members to ensure active participation in the work of the Committee;
- Called for more detailed information in presentations and documents to encourage wider input from Members;
- Proposed virtual meetings to allow Members to engage with the Secretariat at the technical level, including after the sessional documents are shared;
- Organise preparatory discussions prior to initiatives being launched; and
- Encourage informal meetings of PSC to ensure suggestions are incorporated into work.

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Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee (hereafter “AFC” or “Committee”) met on 18 October 2023. It reviewed matters related to the budgetary aspects of the Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, Human Resources management, Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken, Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations, as well as the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund.

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting on 19 and 20 October 2023.

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

The following comments and recommendations were made:

#### **1. Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023**

- The Director-General introduced the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, contained in document C/26/2.
- The Secretariat provided a presentation containing a detailed overview of the report, which is available [at this link](#). As a point of clarification, the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Project Services (UNOPS) were highlighted.
- The AFC took note of the report and the presentations of the Director-General and the Secretariat, as well as reflections and comments made by Members during the discussion and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.

#### **2. Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025**

- The Director-General introduced the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, contained in document C/26/3.
- The Secretariat provided a presentation containing a detailed overview of the report, which is available [at this link](#).
- One participant noted areas of concern regarding the proposed increase in budget for the 2024-2025 Biennium. More specifically, the participant highlighted the inclusion of the increase in global travel expenses as one of the elements impacting the proposed budget, and suggested that the Secretariat consider reducing the size of IRENA’s delegation to

such external engagements, as well as reducing the number of such engagements by providing virtual support instead.

- With regard to the conversion of Service Contracts to General Service, the participant further requested details of such movements that might have been made in the past, along with the modalities for such a shift in contract and whether this would entail a change in policies or regulations. The participant emphasised that IRENA should consider a fresh perspective on such policies, rather than only considering those established by United Nations Agencies.
- The participant also indicated that, based on the reports reviewed to date, IRENA's vacancy announcements generate sufficient interest, and suggested that IRENA's challenges lie with retention of staff and not in attracting talent to the Agency. With respect to the proposed budget increase in this regard, the participant requested further review and assessment of internal efficiencies as well as the spent status of funding received from Members, along with potential avenues for those funds to be reallocated, noting that not all contributions are always fully utilised.
- Another participant mentioned that many Members are currently facing budget constraints and suggested that the Secretariat focus on taking steps to economise whilst ensuring that current and future reductions in expenditures are in line with the output produced. The participant also mentioned that the shortfall in staffing should be viewed together with resource shortfall in other programmatic areas, and requested further information on the other areas of shortfall, beyond staffing.
- One participant expressed concern regarding financial stability in view of the proposed increase in the budget. The participant further pointed out that the timing of the proposed budget falls in the middle of their fiscal year and therefore there is no guarantee that any increase in contribution would be approved. The participant requested the Secretariat to review the proposed budget and ensure a zero nominal increase.
- One participant acknowledged that the budget of the Agency has been unchanged for the last few years despite the increase in costs. The participant emphasised the need to ensure that resources are used in the best possible way. The participant further mentioned that it would welcome more visibility of cost saving efforts that the Agency has been making as well as the impact on and plans for future savings. The participant mentioned that while any increase in the budget requires approval by its government, it welcomes further discussions in order to view cost items in greater detail as well as better understand the rationale behind the increase in some components of the budget.
- One participant acknowledged the cost pressures faced by the Agency and highlighted that these same pressures are also experienced by most Members. The participant expressed readiness to continue the discussions on the proposed budget, reiterating the need to decrease IRENA's global travel costs as well as further explore cost efficiencies and savings. The participant added that in view of the prevailing global situation, it would be difficult to increase the budget for the 2024-2025 biennium.
- The Director-General thanked participants for their inputs and acknowledged the financial concerns of Members with respect to recommending the proposed budget increase, and expressed appreciation for the willingness of Members to engage in further discussions.



- The Director-General proposed that the budget be considered without a proposed increase.
- The Director-General further proposed to have an Open-Ended Group to discuss budgetary aspects for a supplementary budget to be presented at the appropriate time.
- The AFC took note of the report as well as the reflections and comments made by Members and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.

### 3. Human Resources Management

#### **Presentation of the Report by KPMG – Current State Assessment Report: Findings, Recommendations & Initiatives on Staff Retention & Turnover (C/26/INF/3)**

- The Chair informed the AFC that, based on consultation with the Director-General, the AFC deliberations included the Human Resources matters: KPMG Report, that was initially scheduled to take place following the AFC meeting.
- The Chair introduced the Information Note on the KPMG Current State Assessment Report: Findings, Recommendations & Initiatives on Staff Retention & Turnover (C/26/INF/3). The KPMG Consultant made a presentation on the Human Resources assessment of IRENA and provided a detailed outline of the findings, recommendations and initiatives on staff retention and turnover. The presentation is available [at this link](#).
- Participants welcomed the assessment of Human Resources Management presented by KPMG and requested further details from the KPMG Consultant. A summary of questions and answers is provided below:
- Question: What organisations were used for comparison of leading practices? Answer: the comparison involved leading practices from both international organisations as well as the private sector, given that IRENA attracts talent from both types of organisations.
- Question: How did the decisions by IRENA Governing Bodies guide the KPMG assessment, including with respect to the findings on the need for a review of the tenure policy? Answer: Following meetings with some Governing Body representatives, KPMG held additional workshops and meetings with staff, during which limitations surrounding the tenure policy were mentioned.
- Question: In meetings with one Member, a KPMG consultant mentioned that in some focus group meetings, some unethical practices were brought up by the participants. However, there is no mention of such practices in the KPMG report. Answer: Such practices reflect the views of individual staff and cannot be generalised as a finding in a report without due validation process.
- Question: What is the connection between the tenure policy and innovation in the KPMG report? Answer: This connection is not entirely straightforward and primarily involves the impact of tenure policy on staff retention and thus knowledge retention in the Agency. The staff attrition projections show that 141 staff members are set to leave service in the next 10 years due to the current tenure policy. IRENA is a ‘niche’ organisation with highly specialised skill requirements and its ability to put in place sound knowledge retention approaches will help in stimulating staff motivation to stay and innovate.
- Question: How does IRENA compare to other organisations in terms of Human Resources practices? Answer: Using the KPMG Human Capital maturity model, the overall score in IRENA is ‘2’ which stands for basic level of maturity. Given that IRENA is a ‘young’ Agency, this is quite natural.

- Question: How does the KPMG analysis differentiate between core vs non-core staff? Answer: The main focus of KPMG's analysis was placed on the retention and development of core staff.
- Question: How does the Agency compare with other organisations in terms of benefits and entitlements? Answer: Using the maturity dimension for rewards, overall, the Agency scores 2 (basic maturity level) in relation to staff benefits and entitlements.
- Question: Why is the employee engagement programme considered 'difficult' to carry out in the report while it is believed that internal communication/internal culture change initiatives may be relatively easy to implement? Answer: Cross-office communication and related programmes do not seem a costly fix. However, one has to consider these initiatives in conjunction with other Human Resources initiatives. Therefore, given interdependencies with other projects, this may take longer to achieve. Also, another factor worth highlighting is the limited resources in the Human Resources office. Until such time as the Human Resources team is fully staffed, it is not feasible to embark on the proposed initiatives.
- Question: How did the feedback in focus groups differ between management and staff representatives during the review? Answer: Senior level staff mainly focused on the quality and speed of Human Resources services, while employees referred to their individual circumstances such as sense of belonging and recognition.
- Question: Please clarify the definition of a 'career path' in the KPMG report given that the Agency is not a career organisation. Answer: KPMG recommends that senior level positions be clearly defined in terms of specific skill requirements that staff need to demonstrate to successfully perform the job. If a 'career path' is not clear, staff do not know what to do to get promoted. Even in tenured organisations, employees should have a career path due to the need to build career and niche skills that are difficult to retain or attract. This is also consistent with best practices in other tenured organisations.
- The AFC took note of the presentation by KPMG as well as the reflections and comments made by Members during the discussion, and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

### **i. Report of the Director-General on Human Resources Management and Trends (C/26/4/Rev.1)**

- The Director-General introduced the 'Report of the Director-General – Human Resources Management and Trends' contained in C/26/4/Rev.1, which included a summary of the recent initiatives on talent management and enabling work environment in IRENA.
- One participant thanked the Director-General and the Secretariat for the presentation, highlighted the importance of Human Resources and expressed their willingness to work with the Agency to ensure supply of talent as well as support for the process of Human Resources transformation.
- The Director-General welcomed the comments.
- The AFC took note of the report as well as reflections and comments made by Members during the discussion and decided to submit the report to the Council for its consideration.

### **ii. Report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (break in service, including the re-hiring of staff as consultants after reaching maximum tenure) (C/26/5; C/26/6)**

- The Director-General introduced the report of the Director-General - Proposed amendment to Staff Rule 105.3 Types of Appointment (C/26/5) as well as the Report of the Director-General – Break-in Service and Consultants (C/26/6).
- One participant inquired about the budget implications of appointing General Service (GS) Staff to the Professional Staff category. The Secretariat clarified that of the five such cases,

four staff had been appointed from General Services to Professional Staff category several years ago and only one such post (Associate Programme Officer-Coalition for Action, P1), recently filled through the appointment of a GS staff member, is charged to voluntary contributions, thus being cost-neutral for the budget based on assessed contributions.

- Another participant asked if the appointment of General Services staff to the Professional Staff category involves competitive methods of selection with external candidates. The Secretariat explained that the Agency follows the normal competitive selection process and General Service Staff should have five years of service with the Agency before applying to Professional posts.
- The AFC took note of the report as well as the interventions made and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

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

- The Director-General introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’, contained in document C/26/8.
- The AFC considered the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

**4. Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations**

- The Secretariat introduced the report on the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations, contained in document C/26/9.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.

**5. Report of the Director-General – Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund**

- The Secretariat introduced the report on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund, contained in document C/26/INF/4.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.

**6. Any other business**

- No other comments were raised by participants.

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### Agenda item 4: Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025

Based on a proposal by the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a budget summary and a proposed indicative scale of contributions for 2024, maintaining the same budget level as the 2022-2023 biennium, without inclusion of the proposed increase, contained in document C/26/3, amounting to USD 5.714 million.

This document contains Table I and Table II **2024-2025 Biennium core assessed and core non-assessed resource requirement and Proposed Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2024** for consideration by the Council at its twenty-sixth meeting. Revised Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 reflecting this adjustment will be submitted for Assembly consideration at its 14<sup>th</sup> session.

### 2024-2025 Work Programme and Budget

**Table I: 2024-2025 Biennium core assessed and core non-assessed resource requirements (in USD thousands)**

	2022-2023 Biennium Approved Budget	2024-2025 Biennium Proposed Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
<b>Assessed Contributions (Core Budget)</b>				
Assessed Contributions (Core Budget)	44,778	44,778	22,389	22,389
<b>Total Assessed Contributions (Core Budget)</b>	<b>44,778</b>	<b>44,778</b>	<b>22,389</b>	<b>22,389</b>
<b>Core Non-Assessed UAE Contributions:</b>				
UAE Support	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500
Governing Body Meetings	3,200	3,200	1,600	1,600
IT Infrastructure support	920	920	460	460
<b>Subtotal UAE Contributions</b>	<b>9,120</b>	<b>9,120</b>	<b>4,560</b>	<b>4,560</b>
<b>Core Non-Assessed Germany Contributions:</b>				
Innovation and Technology Center	10,890	10,890	5,445	5,445
<b>Subtotal Germany Contributions</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>5,445</b>
<b>Total Core Non-Assessed</b>	<b>20,010</b>	<b>20,010</b>	<b>10,005</b>	<b>10,005</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64,788</b>	<b>64,788</b>	<b>32,394</b>	<b>32,394</b>

Table II: Proposed Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2024

Members	UN Factor <sup>1</sup> 2022 to 2024	Indicative IRENA Adjusted Scale of Assessments 2024 (%)	Indicative Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2024 (USD)	Approved Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2023 (USD)	Variance 2024-2023 (USD)
Afghanistan	0.006	0.006%	1,310	1,300	10
Albania	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Algeria	0.109	0.113%	24,667	24,926	(259)
Angola*	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Argentina	0.719	0.746%	162,849	163,427	(578)
Armenia	0.007	0.007%	1,528	1,517	11
Australia	2.111	2.191%	478,286	479,660	(1,374)
Austria	0.679	0.705%	153,898	153,233	665
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.031%	6,767	6,719	48
Bahamas	0.019	0.020%	4,366	4,335	31
Bahrain	0.054	0.056%	12,225	12,355	(130)
Bangladesh*	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Barbados	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Belarus	0.041	0.043%	9,387	9,320	67
Belgium	0.828	0.860%	187,734	188,136	(402)
Belize	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Benin	0.005	0.005%	1,091	1,084	7
Bhutan	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.012%	2,620	2,818	(198)
Botswana	0.015	0.016%	3,493	3,468	25
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.022%	4,803	4,768	35
Bulgaria	0.056	0.058%	12,661	12,788	(127)
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Cameroon	0.013	0.013%	2,838	3,034	(196)
Canada	2.628	2.728%	595,511	597,137	(1,626)
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001%	218	226	(8)
Chad	0.003	0.003%	655	650	5
China	15.254	15.831%	3,455,839	3,465,562	(9,723)
Colombia	0.246	0.255%	55,665	55,921	(256)
Comoros	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Costa Rica	0.069	0.072%	15,717	15,606	111
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.023%	5,021	4,985	36
Croatia	0.091	0.094%	20,520	20,591	(71)
Cuba	0.095	0.099%	21,611	21,675	(64)
Cyprus	0.036	0.037%	8,077	8,236	(159)
Czech Republic	0.340	0.353%	77,058	77,162	(104)
Denmark	0.553	0.574%	125,302	125,713	(411)
Djibouti	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1

<sup>1</sup>UN scale of assessment is established for a 3-year period with covering the period 2022-2024 as per A/RES/76/238 dated 4 January 2022

\* Least Developed Countries (LDC) that have reached a maximum assessment rate established at 0.01 percent.

Members	UN Factor <sup>1</sup> 2022 to 2024	Indicative IRENA Adjusted Scale of Assessments 2024 (%)	Indicative Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2024 (USD)	Approved Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2023 (USD)	Variance 2024-2023 (USD)
Dominica	0.001	0.001%	218	226	(8)
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.070%	15,281	15,172	109
Ecuador	0.077	0.080%	17,464	17,556	(92)
Egypt	0.139	0.144%	31,435	31,645	(210)
El Salvador	0.013	0.013%	2,838	3,034	(196)
Eritrea	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Estonia	0.044	0.046%	10,042	9,970	72
Eswatini	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Ethiopia*	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Fiji	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Finland	0.417	0.433%	94,522	94,935	(413)
France	4.318	4.482%	978,401	980,995	(2,594)
Gabon	0.013	0.013%	2,838	3,034	(196)
Gambia	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Georgia	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Germany	6.111	6.342%	1,384,432	1,388,479	(4,047)
Ghana	0.024	0.025%	5,457	5,419	38
Greece	0.325	0.337%	73,566	73,911	(345)
Grenada	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Guatemala	0.041	0.043%	9,387	-	9,387
Guinea	0.003	0.003%	655	650	5
Guyana	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Honduras	0.009	0.009%	1,965	2,031	(66)
Hungary	0.228	0.237%	51,736	51,802	(66)
Iceland	0.036	0.037%	8,077	8,236	(159)
India	1.044	1.084%	236,632	237,121	(489)
Indonesia	0.549	0.570%	124,429	124,846	(417)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.385%	84,044	84,314	(270)
Iraq	0.128	0.133%	29,033	29,044	(11)
Ireland	0.439	0.456%	99,543	99,703	(160)
Israel	0.561	0.582%	127,048	127,447	(399)
Italy	3.189	3.310%	722,559	724,584	(2,025)
Jamaica	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Japan	8.033	8.337%	1,819,932	1,825,008	(5,076)
Jordan	0.022	0.023%	5,021	4,985	36
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.138%	30,125	30,128	(3)
Kenya	0.030	0.031%	6,767	6,719	48
Kiribati	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Kuwait	0.234	0.243%	53,046	53,320	(274)
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.002%	437	451	(14)
Latvia	0.050	0.052%	11,351	11,271	80
Lebanon	0.036	0.037%	8,077	8,236	(159)
Lesotho	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Lithuania	0.077	0.080%	17,464	17,556	(92)
Luxembourg	0.068	0.071%	15,499	15,389	110

\* Least Developed Countries (LDC) that have reached a maximum assessment rate established at 0.01 percent.

Members	UN Factor <sup>1</sup> 2022 to 2024	Indicative IRENA Adjusted Scale of Assessments 2024 (%)	Indicative Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2024 (USD)	Approved Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2023 (USD)	Variance 2024-2023 (USD)
Malaysia	0.348	0.361%	78,805	79,113	(308)
Maldives	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Mali	0.005	0.005%	1,091	1,084	7
Malta	0.019	0.020%	4,366	4,335	31
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Mauritania	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Mauritius	0.019	0.020%	4,366	4,335	31
Mexico	1.221	1.268%	276,799	277,436	(637)
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Monaco	0.011	0.011%	2,401	2,601	(200)
Mongolia	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Montenegro	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Morocco	0.055	0.057%	12,443	12,571	(128)
Mozambique	0.004	0.004%	873	867	6
Namibia	0.009	0.009%	1,965	1,951	14
Nauru	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Nepal	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.377	1.430%	312,163	312,982	(819)
New Zealand	0.309	0.321%	70,073	70,226	(153)
Nicaragua	0.005	0.005%	1,091	1,084	7
Niger	0.003	0.003%	655	650	5
Nigeria	0.182	0.189%	41,258	41,399	(141)
North Macedonia	0.007	0.007%	1,528	1,517	11
Norway	0.679	0.705%	153,898	154,324	(426)
Oman	0.111	0.115%	25,104	25,143	(39)
Pakistan	0.114	0.118%	25,759	25,793	(34)
Palau	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Panama	0.090	0.093%	20,301	20,374	(73)
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,256	(73)
Paraguay	0.026	0.027%	5,894	5,852	42
Peru	0.163	0.169%	36,892	37,064	(172)
Philippines	0.212	0.220%	48,025	48,118	(93)
Poland	0.837	0.869%	189,699	190,087	(388)
Portugal	0.353	0.366%	79,896	80,413	(517)
Qatar	0.269	0.279%	60,904	61,123	(219)
Republic of Korea	2.574	2.672%	583,286	584,782	(1,496)
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.005%	1,091	1,084	7
Romania	0.312	0.324%	70,728	70,876	(148)
Russian Federation	1.866	1.937%	422,839	423,956	(1,117)
Rwanda	0.003	0.003%	655	650	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1

\* Least Developed Countries (LDC) that have reached a maximum assessment rate established at 0.01 percent.

Members	UN Factor <sup>1</sup> 2022 to 2024	Indicative IRENA Adjusted Scale of Assessments 2024 (%)	Indicative Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2024 (USD)	Approved Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2023 (USD)	Variance 2024-2023 (USD)
Samoa	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
San Marino	0.002	0.002%	437	451	(14)
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.229%	268,285	269,199	(914)
Senegal	0.007	0.007%	1,528	1,517	11
Serbia	0.032	0.033%	7,204	7,369	(165)
Seychelles	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Singapore	0.504	0.523%	114,169	114,442	(273)
Slovakia	0.155	0.161%	35,146	35,113	33
Slovenia	0.079	0.082%	17,900	17,990	(90)
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Somalia	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
South Africa	0.244	0.253%	55,229	55,487	(258)
Spain	2.134	2.215%	483,525	484,862	(1,337)
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.047%	10,260	10,187	73
Sudan*	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Sweden	0.871	0.904%	197,339	197,890	(551)
Switzerland	1.134	1.177%	256,934	257,712	(778)
Tajikistan	0.003	0.003%	655	650	5
Thailand	0.368	0.382%	83,389	83,664	(275)
Togo	0.002	0.002%	437	433	4
Tonga	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.038%	8,295	8,453	(158)
Tunisia	0.019	0.020%	4,366	4,335	31
Türkiye	0.845	0.877%	191,445	192,039	(594)
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.035%	7,640	7,803	(163)
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Uganda	0.010	0.010%	2,183	2,167	16
Ukraine	0.056	0.058%	12,661	12,788	(127)
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.659%	143,857	144,353	(496)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	4.541%	991,282	994,000	(2,718)
United States of America <sup>2</sup>	22.000	22.000%	4,802,504	4,768,426	34,078
Uruguay	0.092	0.095%	20,738	20,808	(70)
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.028%	6,112	6,069	43
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001%	218	217	1
Yemen*	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Zambia	0.008	0.008%	1,746	1,734	12
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.007%	1,528	1,517	11
<b>Sub-Total Core Budget Assessment</b>			<b>21,829,565</b>	<b>21,833,536</b>	<b>(3,971)</b>
European Union <sup>3</sup>		2.500%	559,732	555,761	3,971

<sup>2</sup> A maximum assessment rate is established at 22 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> Since 2012, the European Union has committed to paying an annual contribution fixed at 2.5 p cent of the overall core assessed budget

\* Least Developed Countries (LDC) that have reached a maximum assessment rate established at 0.01 percent.



<b>Members</b>	<b>UN Factor<sup>1</sup> 2022 to 2024</b>	<b>Indicative IRENA Adjusted Scale of Assessments 2024 (%)</b>	<b>Indicative Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2024 (USD)</b>	<b>Approved Assessed Contribution to IRENA 2023 (USD)</b>	<b>Variance 2024- 2023 (USD)</b>
<b>Grand-Total Core Budget Assessment</b>			<b>22,389,297</b>	<b>22,389,297</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Least Developed Countries (LDC) that have reached a maximum assessment rate established at 0.01 percent.

Abu Dhabi, 14 October 2023

## Twenty-sixth IRENA Council and related meetings

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### Reports on Collaborative Frameworks

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

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

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

The following reports on the Collaborative Frameworks, presented to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Council, provide an update on the latest developments and activities of the Collaborative Frameworks. Members may wish to provide their feedback on these activities during their interventions at the twenty-sixth Council and related meetings on 18-20 October 2023.

## Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems

Six technical meetings of the Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems have taken place to date, facilitating peer-to-peer dialogue on different aspects of the respective subject matters under the overall workplan.

In 2023, the technical meeting of the Collaborative Framework dedicated to *Cross-Sectoral Strategies* was conducted in a hybrid format on 22 May 2023. The workstream on cross-sectoral strategies addressed alignment of renewable energy development in support of sustainable development goals related to water, food and health. The expert panel discussion concluded that in order to improve future cross-strategies and country programme designs, it is crucial to analyse more closely how renewables could effectively support productive use activities and whether these activities translate into positive development effects. The meeting delved into specific success stories in the agri-food value chain, bringing together different ecosystem stakeholders to discuss challenges and demonstrate technology options, policy and regulations, delivery and business models, financing schemes and other critical aspects for productive use of energy. China and Zimbabwe shared their experiences, which show that government programmes and development projects increasingly aim to develop strong linkages between renewable energy and productive activities that are expected to contribute to social and economic development.

The technical meeting dedicated to *Energy system innovation - introducing technology and business solutions for cost-effective integration of renewable energy* was also conducted in a hybrid format on the sidelines of the IRENA Innovation Week 2023 on 27 September in Bonn. The expert speakers shared experiences on energy system innovation, with a specific focus on innovative technology and business solutions for cost-effective integration of high shares renewables in energy systems.

The session examined different aspects of innovation trends, changing roles in future energy systems, enabling technologies, business models, market design, and system operation. Japan presented innovation technology on solar cells development and Panama informed about its first Energy Transition Law that will, amongst others, accelerate technological innovation in the electricity market.

Members and public and private practitioners have actively participated in the meetings held by the Collaborative Framework on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems. Representatives displayed keen interest to actively participate across the different workstreams of the Collaborative Framework, commended IRENA for the inclusive nature of this Framework and offered to contribute to its successful implementation through information sharing, knowledge dissemination and capacity building activities.

El Salvador and Japan, the Co-facilitators of the Collaborative Framework, provided full support and advanced the progress of work under this Framework.

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

The third meeting of the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation was held on 5 October 2023, and was Co-facilitated by Austria and Egypt. Mr Ali Ahmed Ali, Director of International Cooperation and Agreements at the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Egypt, opened and moderated the meeting, and Ms Jasmin Haider, representing the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology of Austria, delivered the closing remarks.

During the meeting, Mr Erick Ruiz Araya, Deputy Director of IRENA's Project Facilitation and Support (PFS) division, offered a comprehensive overview of IRENA's project facilitation efforts. He presented IRENA's two project facilitation tools: the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform, as well as the Technical Advisory Services offered by PFS in order to guide project developers in their proposals.

Mr Amin Elkarib and Mr Hugo Savoini further elaborated on the progress of these initiatives, delving into more details. Regarding ETAF, an expansion of the funding partner base is ongoing, with other multilateral development banks expected to join the platform by COP28.

The primary objective of the meeting was to establish a technical-level platform for collaboration between IRENA and government offices and institutions responsible for implementing renewable energy projects within their respective countries. The aim was to enhance Members' understanding of and engagement with IRENA's project facilitation tools. Building upon discussions at the second Collaborative Framework meeting held in May 2023, it was emphasised that technical-level collaboration between IRENA and its Members would be pivotal in fully untapping the potential of the CIP and ETAF. This collaborative effort is envisioned to maximise the impact of the Platforms by providing Members the opportunity to contribute to their effectiveness and submit project support requests to IRENA.

The need to expand technical-level collaboration and further engage IRENA focal points as well as country and technical representatives in the project facilitation work of the Agency was highlighted by the low level of interaction during this Collaborative Framework meeting.

The IRENA Project Facilitation and Support division, in coordination with the Co-Facilitators of the Collaborative Framework, Austria and Egypt, will develop and implement a strategy to ensure avenues for strengthened engagement among IRENA Members ahead of the next Collaborative Framework meeting, which is expected to be organised before the twenty-seventh IRENA Council in 2024. Members are invited to provide their feedback and suggestions in this regard.

## Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition

The Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition convened its second meeting on 12 October 2023.

Building upon the foundation laid during the first meeting and the subsequent three working group meetings, the meeting provided the Membership with updates and insights into the Agency's work on critical materials to date, while also presenting an opportunity for Members' input on CF's work plan and priority areas.

The meeting featured a presentation summarising the key takeaways from IRENA's recent publication, *Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation: Critical Materials*. IRENA Secretariat stressed that the rapid increase in demand for materials will require swift action to increase production and avoid bottlenecks, in addition to close monitoring of market developments, as innovation is showing great potential to reduce the need for some of these critical materials.

During the meeting, several members shared their progress in developing strategies and implementing policy frameworks to address critical material challenges. Members also placed a strong emphasis on the need for robust policies and a commitment to address environmental and social sustainability concerns related to mineral extraction and processing. Members highlighted the importance of international cooperation to navigate the complex landscape of critical minerals.

Members appointed Italy and Mexico as the new Co-Facilitators of the Collaborative Framework for a two-year term, taking over the responsibility from Peru and the United Kingdom.

The next meeting of the Collaborative Framework will take place in the first half of 2024. Members are kindly encouraged to nominate Focal Points to attend future meetings.

## **General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

As agreed by the Council, statements made by Members under Agenda Item 5: General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition have been collected and listed in alphabetical order by category in this annex. These statements have been shared by Members in written form in original language of delivery, with the inclusion of courtesy translation into English as provided by respective Members.

### **Council members:**

Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Spain, Tonga, United Arab Emirates and United States of America

### **Council alternates:**

Denmark, India, Malaysia, Mauritius and Uruguay

### **IRENA Members:**

Australia, Dominica, El Salvador, Eswatini, European Union, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, Nepal, New Zealand, Poland, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.



26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

## **Agenda Item 5 General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

### **Statement by CANADA Delivered by Bradley Little Deputy Director, Natural Resources Canada**

I would like to open my remarks with a congratulatory note to the delegates from the United States of America and the Republic of Panama for assuming their respective roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the IRENA Council. I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General and IRENA Secretariat for providing materials to inform our deliberations. Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to our gracious host, the United Arab Emirates.

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Canada is pleased to present an update on recent actions and near- to mid-term efforts to enable our energy transition. I would like to provide an update on Canada's three broad objectives: decarbonizing the power system, electrifying the broader economy by 2050 and implementing Canada's reconciliation agenda.

To decarbonize Canada's power system, in 2018, Canada introduced updated regulations to limit energy production from unabated coal-fired power plants by 2030. I am pleased to share that Canada is ahead of schedule with the majority of unabated coal-fired generation plants ending operations next year, almost 6 years ahead of schedule.

In line with our previous G7 commitment to achieve a net-zero power system by 2035, Canada has recently released draft Clean Electricity Regulations. These regulations, currently under country-wide consultations, will set a GHG emissions performance standard for electricity generators, while maintaining reliability and respecting least cost pathways to net-zero.

Canada recognizes that regulations alone will be insufficient to achieve our goal of a net-zero electricity system. Over the last two years, Canada has introduced a suite of incentive measures to support the wide-scale deployment of renewable and enabling energy technologies and other clean energy resources. These recent measures total more than \$80 billion CAD in support, through investment tax credits, low-cost strategic financing, and targeted investments and programming.

Canada is committed to reducing emissions by electrifying more parts of the economy that currently rely on fossil fuels, such as transportation, home and water heating, and industrial activities. To achieve this goal, Canada has introduced a suite of measures, starting with the foundational measure of putting a price on carbon emissions. Currently, Canada has priced carbon emissions at CA\$65 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> with an upward trajectory to CA\$170 per tonne by 2030.

In the area of electric mobility, Canada will introduce Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) sales targets with an aim to achieve 100% ZEV sales by 2035. In the building sector, Canada will soon release its Canada Green Building Strategy, and is pursuing targeted emissions goals and incentive programs to boost the production of green hydrogen, green steel, and to decarbonize the production and liquefaction of natural gas.

Underpinning Canada's effort to decarbonize the power sector and broader economy is Canada's reconciliation agenda with Indigenous peoples. Canada is focussed on ensuring Indigenous people gain maximum benefits from the energy transition through equity positions and capacity building efforts.

Within this context, Canada is pleased with the new IRENA work programme as it reflects our domestic efforts to enable an inclusive energy transition. At this time, Canada would like to emphasize continuing work under the Global Platform for Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy. We look forward to working with IRENA Secretariat and members to advance work in this area.

In closing, we welcome the Director-General's report on the Implementation of the work programme, we note the steady progress achieved on all strategic directions and would like to commend IRENA for the release of a number of timely reports analyzing various dimensions linked to the progress of the global energy transformation.



**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by China**

**【成员国能源转型经验分享】**

中国高度重视能源转型,在碳达峰碳中和目标的指引下,加快建设大型风电、光伏基地等重大项目,积极推进主要流域水风光一体化开发和抽水蓄能高质量发展,大力构建新型电力系统,加快推动新兴能源技术研发应用,能源绿色低碳发展取得显著成效。

**一是非化石能源产业实现跨越式发展。**过去三年中,中国风电、光伏发电每年新增装机连续超过 1 亿千瓦,截至今年 4 月底,中国风电、光伏发电累计装机达 8.2 亿千瓦,约占全国发电装机的 30.9%。2022 年风光发电量达到 1.19 万亿千瓦时,与全国城乡居民生活用电量相当;可再生能源发电量达到 2.7 万亿千瓦时,与欧盟全年发电量相当。**二是能源绿色发展创新动能不断增强。**技术方面,中国的百万千瓦水轮机组和大容量全系列风电机组已进入大规模应用的阶段,量产单晶硅电池的平均转换效率已达到 23.1%。新型储能技术发展多元化,产业进入规模化发展阶段,截至 2022 年底,累计装机规模达到 870 万千瓦;可再生能源制氢项目快速推进,截至 2022 年底,已规划和建设超过 300 个项目,72 个在建、建成项目总产能超过 20 万吨/年。成本方面,中国在十年间推动陆上风电和光伏发电造价分别下降 50%和 75%,实现平价上网。

为深入推进能源革命,加快规划建设新型能源体系,下一阶段,中国将进一步发展壮大清洁能源产业,实施可再生能源替代行动,科学有序推进实现碳达峰、碳中和目标。**一是加大非化石能源供给。**统筹推进风电、太阳能发电、水电、核

电规模化、科学有序开发，因地制宜发展生物质能、地热能等其他可再生能源。**二是**大力推动终端能源消费转型升级。深入推进工业、建筑、交通等领域电能替代，力争 2025 年电能占终端用能比重达到 30%左右。**三是**持续支持新兴技术发展。重点提升风电、太阳能发电、生物质能、地热能等开发利用技术水平和经济性，加强储能、氢能等前沿技术攻关。

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

مداخلات وفد جمهورية مصر العربية

خلال

الدورة السادسة والعشرين لاجتماعات مجلس

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة المتجددة

خلال الفترة 18 – 20 أكتوبر 2023

**اليوم الأول اجتماع اللجان النوعية للوكالة بتاريخ 2023/10/18****أ- اجتماع لجنة الاستراتيجية والبرامج**

كلمة مصر تعقيباً علي تقرير السيد مدير عام الوكالة حول تقريره بشأن برنامج العمل للعامين 2022-2023: تضمنت توجيه الشكر للوكالة علي التزامها بمنهجية العمل وتركيزها علي الأولويات البرمجية المتعلقة بتحسين البني التحتية لتحول نظم الطاقة وتمكين التشريعات والسياسات المعززة لنشر الطاقة المتجددة وبناء القدرات والمهارات في الدول الأعضاء كما تمت الإشارة إلي المشاركة الدائمة والنشطة التي تقوم بها مصر في أنشطة الوكالة والتي تتضمن المشاركة في اللجنة الخاصة بالتخطيط طويل الأجل للطاقة ورئاسة اللجنة مفتوحة العضوية لمناقشة مقترح إنشاء مكاتب إقليمية للوكالة وكذا مشاركتنا في رئاسة الاطار التعاوني الخاص بتسهيل تمويل المشروعات بالتعاون مع النمسا، كذلك تمت الإشارة إلي التعاون متعدد الأطراف مع الوكالة والدول الأفريقية وشركاء التنمية من خلال استضافة مصر للاجتماع الثاني لأسبوع الخطة القارية الشاملة للطاقة المتجددة CMP في أغسطس 2022 ومشاركة الخبراء من قطاع الكهرباء والطاقة المتجددة في مصر في ورش العمل والبرامج التي تقدمها الوكالة في مجالات التخطيط طويل الأجل للطاقة وغيرها من الموضوعات البرمجية للوكالة فضلاً عن التعاون المثمر بين مصر والوكالة في الإعداد لاستضافة مصر لمؤتمر الأطراف COP27 الذي تم تنظيمه في شرم الشيخ.

كلمة مصر تعقيباً علي تقرير السيد مدير عام الوكالة حول تقريره بشأن برنامج العمل للعامين 2024-2025: تضمنت الإشادة بما تم اقتراحه من تطوير لمحاو برنامج عمل الوكالة كما تمت التوصية بإدراج الموضوعات التالية علي برنامج العمل:

- تنظيم اجتماعات الأطر التعاونية للوكالة بشكل حضوري إلي جانب الاجتماعات التي يتم تنظيمها بشكل افتراضي ليتسني تفعيل مشاركة ممثلي الدول الاعضاء .
- اقتراح إنشاء مجموعة عمل أو رابطة تضم شباب البرلمانين في إطار الشبكة القائمة للبرلمانين والتي تعقد اجتماعاتها علي هامش اجتماعات الجمعية العامة للوكالة وذلك في إطار محور عمل الوكالة الخاص بتمكين السياسات والتشريعات المعززة لنشر تطبيقات الطاقة المتجددة .
- قيام الوكالة بتسهيل تقديم المزيد من برامج بناء القدرات ولا سيما في مجالات التخطيط طويل الأجل للطاقة والهيدروجين الأخضر .

## اليوم الثاني اجتماع مجلس الوكالة بتاريخ 2023/10/19

كلمة مصر تعقيباً علي برنامج العمل والميزانية 2022-2023:

تضمنت توجيه الشكر للوكالة والدول الاعضاء وتثمين دور الوكالة في تعزيز تحول نظم الطاقة ومواجهة تحديات التغيرات المناخية كما تم توجيه الشكر للوكالة لدورها الداعم لمصر منذ بدء الإعداد لاستضافة مؤتمر المناخ COP27 في شرم الشيخ، كما تم الإشارة إلي الدور المرتقب للمؤتمر في نسخته الثامنة والعشرين لتقييم التزام الدول بتطوير قدراتها من الطاقة المتجددة.

هذا وقد تم التأكيد علي استمرار مصر في التعاون مع الوكالة لتحقيق أهدافها البرمجية وطلب المزيد من المعلومات حول المبادرة التي سيتم إطلاقها خلال مؤتمر المناخ المقبل في دبي حتى يتسني لنا المشاركة فيها بفاعلية. كذلك تضمنت الكلمة التأكيد علي التزام مصر بزيادة تبني مشروعات الطاقة المتجددة لتحقيق أهداف توليد الطاقة وإنتاج الهيدروجين الأخضر والعمل الحثيث علي تعزيز مشاركة القطاع الخاص في هذه المشروعات.

## اليوم الثالث لاجتماع مجلس الوكالة بتاريخ 2023/10/20

### • تعزيز دور العمل المناخي في قطاعي الزراعة والصحة:

كلمة مصر خلال الجلسة تم الإشارة فيها إلي اضطلاع مصر منذ ستينيات القرن الماضي باستخدام مصادر الطاقة المتجددة في إنتاج الأمونيا والأسمدة والإشارة إلي قيام مصر بتطوير العناصر الصناعية ذات الصلة لخدمة القطاعات الزراعية والصناعية المعتمدة علي الأمونيا الخضراء كذلك تمت الإشارة إلي قيام مصر بالتعاون مع شركاء التنمية لاستخدام الطاقة الكهربائية المولدة من مشروعات الطاقة الكهروضوئية لاستخدامها في النظم الزراعية في المناطق النائية المعتمدة علي المياه الجوفية وفق سياسة شاملة لاستدامة هذا المورد الهام من المياه في مصر، وفي سياق متصل تم الإشادة والتأكيد علي دعم مصر للمبادرة التي أطلقتها الوكالة والتي تسعى لتحقيق الترابط المتكامل بين قطاعي الغذاء والصحة والطاقة.

### • تطور منصات الوكالة لتسهيل تمويل المشروعات:

كلمة مصر تعقيباً علي جلسة تطور منصات تسهيل تسريع الاستثمارات: تضمنت الشاء علي الجهد المبذول من الوكالة في تسهيل تمويل المشروعات والتأكيد علي أهمية تطوير سياق التعامل مع تحول نظم الطاقة من منظور التمويل من خلال تشجيع الاعتماد علي القواعد المعرفية التي تتيحها الوكالة والأدوات التمويلية من خلال منصاتها ETAF و CIP.

كذلك تم التأكيد علي أن الإطار التعاوني الذي تشارك في رئاسته كل من مصر والنمسا هو منصة تملكها الدول الأعضاء وتمت دعوة الدول الأعضاء للمشاركة في أنشطة الإطار التعاوني لتسهيل التمويلات بفاعلية حتي يتسني الوقوف علي الأولويات الوطنية ومعالجة التحديات التي تواجه حشد الاستثمارات وإعداد مستندات مقبولة لدي جهات التمويل قادرة علي إقناع الشركاء لتقديم المساندة والنهوض بهذه المشروعات حيث أن المشاركة الفعالة هي السبيل للمضي قدماً في تحقيق أهداف تحول نظم الطاقة والعمل المناخي.

كذلك تمت الإشارة إلي أن ضعف مشاركة بعض المناطق الجغرافية في الاستفادة من المنصات القائمة يدعو للمزيد من النقاش حول التحديات التي تحول دون الاستفادة منها والوقوف علي سبل تخطي هذه التحديات وتصنيفها

حسب حجم المشروعات أو باعتبارها تحديات مؤسسية أو مرتبطة بشروط التمويل أو غيرها من سبل التصنيف لتسهيل معالجتها في المستقبل من خلال الإطار التعاوني لتسهيل تمويل المشروعات.

• **تقرير مدير عام الوكالة والاستشاري KPMG بشأن إدارة الموارد البشرية بالوكالة**

تعقيباً على تقرير الاستشاري KPMG تمت الإشادة بالنقرير والتوصية بأهمية الأخذ في الاعتبار بتنفيذ برامج توجيهية للموظفين وبرامج لتأهيل الكوادر والتدريب في محل العمل إلى جانب توفير أدوات قياس الرضا الوظيفي وتنفيذ إجراءات ربط التحفيز بالأداء.

• **تقرير المدير العام بشأن قواعد التوظيف والتعيين:**

تمت التوصية خلال الجلسة بضرورة مراعاة المحاور التالية عند ترجيح أحد البدائل المطروحة للمدد البيئية للانقطاع:

- حاجة الوكالة في الاحتفاظ بالكوادر المؤهلة من فئة الخدمات العامة والمستوفين للحد الأقصى لمدة التعيين والتي تصل إلى 7 سنوات يمكن للمدير العام مدها لفترتين تاليتين كل منها سنتين.
  - حق العاملين في الحصول على التقدير اللازم ورغبتهم في الاستمرار بالعمل في الوكالة.
  - يجب أن يسهم ترجيح أحد البدائل في تحقيق معدل دوران متوازن للموظفين بالوكالة.
- وعلي ما تقدم تم اقتراح ترجيح الخيار الأول الذي ينص علي أن تكون مدة الانقطاع الإلزامية مدة ستة أشهر علي الأقل بالنسبة للعاملين المستوفين للحد الأقصى وثلاثة أشهر بالنسبة للموظفين من فئة الخدمات العامة والاستشاريين حيث أن حاجة الوكالة لخبراتهم تقضي بتقليص فترة الانقطاع مع مراعاة أن لا يتم احتساب مدة الخدمة السابقة ضمن تعاقدهم بالنسبة للمنتقلين من فئة الخدمات العامة وأن يتم التعاقد مع المستوفين للحد الأقصى لمدة تعادل الحد الأقصى للتعاقد المحددة بسبع سنوات لمرة واحدة فقط.

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Germany**

**Redeentwurf Botschafter Schönfelder zu TOP 5: General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition (16:00-18:00) (max. 3 Minuten)**

- Director-General La Camera,  
Distinguished Chairs of the Council meeting,  
Excellences, Colleagues,
- First of all, I would like to thank you, Director-General and the Secretariat, for your work, this meeting and the information provided.
- Let me start by saying that it is a pleasure to attend and to address this Council session today and to share with you some of Germany's experiences, as a global leader and forerunner in the energy transition.
- First, the energy crisis caused by the Russian war of aggression has demonstrated to us all how quickly dependence on fossil energy can become a security risk. At the same time, fossil energies are fueling the global climate crisis. We have long seen the catastrophic consequences for people, the environment and also the economy, all over the world.
- That is why resolute joint action is needed. The answer to the energy and climate crises is an accelerated energy transition, in Germany and worldwide.
- Technical solutions are available. They are economically reasonable and can be implemented quickly. We in Germany, experienced first-hand what is possible with joint efforts:

- Last year, gas consumption was reduced by almost a fifth [18%] compared to 2021.
  - Renewables now account for more than half of our electricity supply. [RE share of gross electricity consumption 1st half 2023: 52%; full year 2022: about 46%].
  - Already by mid-July 2023, about as many photovoltaic plants had been built as in the whole of last year. [Expansion of solar energy 1st half of 2023: +6,500 MW]
- Second, on the international stage, we are witnessing the rapid expansion of renewables worldwide. More than 80% of the electricity capacity added globally last year was renewable and we expect to see new records in the next years. It is the current record growth of renewable energies - above all photovoltaics - that is still keeping the 1.5°C path open!
- However, the global energy transition is still not a foregone conclusion:
    - The expansion of renewables is still unevenly distributed and potentials remain untapped.
    - In the case of onshore wind, there is a threat of a decline in global additions in the coming year if no reforms are made.
    - Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the energy sector reached a record high in 2022.
    - And more improvements in energy efficiency are needed given the rising energy demand.
- With a view to these developments and to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C, global renewable energy capacity must more than triple to at least 11.2 TW by 2030, and the annual rate of increase in energy efficiency must double.
- These two measures are fundamental to reducing fossil fuel consumption globally. The German government is working at the international level to agree on targets for the expansion of renewables and energy efficiency, with initial important successes in the G7 and G20 frame.

- Only recently, at the G20 summit in early September, the heads of state and government agreed to pursue and encourage efforts to triple global RE capacity by 2030. With this agreement, the G20 demonstrated its will to accelerate the global energy transition in line with the recommendations of IRENA and IEA. This is an important milestone for agreeing on global renewable energy and energy efficiency targets at COP28.
- Speaking of this, I would like to use this opportunity to thank IRENA for its important support for this year's G20 energy and climate workstreams. It is also thanks to you that the G20 were able to reach consensus on supporting a quantitative goal for renewable energy capacity additions, despite different starting points. IRENA's analyses and its commitment have significantly contributed to making this possible.
- I hope that we can not only keep the current momentum in the energy sector up but also to further increase it significantly.
- Thank you and back to you Chair.





## كلمة العراق في اجتماع مجلس ايرينا السادس والعشرين

يشكل التحول التدريجي الى الطاقة المتجددة محوراَ مهماً من محارو برنامج عمل الحكومة العراقية، وعزمها على بناء العديد من محطات توليد الكهرباء الجديدة، والصديقة للبيئة، وذلك لمواكبة الطلب المتزايد على الطاقة نتيجة زيادة عدد السكان، حيث سيتم في نهاية العام الجاري الشروع في بناء ثلاثة محطات طاقة شمسية بقدرة 450 ميغاواط من قبل شركة مصدر الاماراتية ، وكذلك شرعت الجهات العراقية في وضع مخطط لبناء اول محطة لطاقة الرياح بقدرة 380 ميغاواط وبالتعاون ايضا مع شركة مصدر الاماراتية، بالاضافة الى التخطيط لبناء ستة محطات لمعالجة وادارة النفايات وتحويلها الى طاقة مستدامة .

كما ان العراق يعمل على تطوير المنظومة التشريعية والقانونية الضامنة لتأمين التحول الطاقوي العادل والشامل، حيث يعمل المشرعين في مجلس النواب العراقي على اعداد وقرار قانون الطاقة المتجددة وبالتعاون مع آيرينا، حيث تستضيف في مقرها في شهر تشرين الثاني القادم اعضاء لجنة الطاقة والكهرباء في البرلمان العراقي لتقديم ورشة عمل بشأن تشريعات الطاقات المتجددة، وبهذه المناسبة أود الاعراب عن شكرنا وتقديرنا لمدير عام آيرينا السيد فرانشسيكو لاكميرا على دعمه المتواصل للعراق.



سفارة جمهورية العراق  
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

ابوظبي  
ABU DHABI



كما ويسعدني اعلامكم ان العراق سيكون له تمثيل رئاسي رفيع المستوى لتحقيق مشاركة نشطة في مؤتمر الاطراف كوب 28، وسيكون لدينا وفد تفاوضي كبير يشارك في جميع المناقشات المطروحة في جدول اعمال المؤتمر، وكما سيشارك في معظم منصات وفعاليات المؤتمر، وسيكون للعراق ولاول مرة جناح في هذا المؤتمر، وسيقدم 20 فعالية في مجالات العمل المناخي والطاقة المستدامة.

وفي الختام، أود الاعراب عن ثقتنا أن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، ومن خلال نظرة قيادتها التي تستشرف المستقبل، ستحقق نقلة نوعية في الدورة الثامنة والعشرين لمؤتمر الاطراف، وستعمل على تعزيز التعاون الدولي لايجاد حلول عملية وقرارات فاعلة للحد من تداعيات تغيرات المناخ التي تواجه كوكبنا.



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## The Republic of Iraq statement in the 26th Council Meeting of IRENA

The gradual transition to renewable energy represents an important priority of the Iraqi government's agenda, with its determination to build several new environmentally friendly power plants to keep up with the increasing energy demand resulting from population growth. By the end of this year, the construction of three solar power plants with a capacity of 450 MW will commence by Masdar Company. Additionally, Iraqi authorities have started planning for the construction of the first wind power plant with a capacity of 380 MW in collaboration with Masdar. Furthermore, there are plans to build six waste management plants to convert waste into sustainable energy.

Iraq is also working on developing a legislative and legal framework to ensure a just and comprehensive energy transition. Members of the Iraqi Parliament are preparing and approving a renewable energy law in cooperation with IRENA. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Francesco La Camera, the Director-General of IRENA, for his continuous support to Iraq.





I am also pleased to inform you that Iraq will have high-level representation in the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28). We will have a large negotiating delegation participating in all discussions on the conference agenda and engaging in most platforms and events. For the first time, Iraq will have its own pavilion at this conference, presenting 20 activities in the fields of climate action and sustainable energy.

I would like to express our confidence that the United Arab Emirates, with its visionary leadership, will achieve a qualitative leap in the 28th COP and work towards enhancing international cooperation to find practical solutions and effective decisions to mitigate the impacts of climate change facing our planet.



**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Italy**

**Speaking points**

Your Excellences, Dear Colleagues,

- This Council comes at a time of new turmoil in the international scenario impacting also on the energy sector, but this cannot distract us from our challenges and goals.
- Italy remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving its net-zero goals while ensuring security and competitiveness of energy supplies.
- We have confirmed our commitment to phase out coal power generation by 2025 and we are speeding up the deployment of renewables and the decarbonization of the entire economy, with a flexible and technologically neutral approach.
- We have recently taken important steps to accelerate its timeline to net-zero, especially with regard to renewables: over the last 2 years we have accelerated the renewable power generation development by more than 5 times, with 1 Gigawatt of new installed capacity in 2021, 3 in 2022, 6 expected by end of 2023. We doubled investments in this sector to €3.8 billion.
- Our photovoltaic sector bloomed with an addition of 2.5 Gigawatts in capacity, spread across about 210,000 installations. Also, our wind energy sector boasted a growth of almost 700 Megawatts in capacity; a two-digits increase compared with the previous year. Taking the grid connection requests as a benchmark, we experienced an astounding total request of over 300 GW for new solar and wind capacity.

- A higher level of ambition has been set for the next future: the recently drafted National Energy and Climate Plan is setting a goal of 9+ GW/year of new renewable capacity by end of the decade, achieving more than two third of power generation by renewable energy by 2030.
- Moreover, as per energy efficiency, Italy is one of the top performing countries worldwide. Italy acknowledges the importance of seamless grid connection and simplified permitting procedures, that we already started streamlining.
- Investments are pouring into strengthening our national grids and developing interconnections with neighboring nations, reinforcing Italy's position of energy hub for Europe and the Mediterranean. An example is the ELMED interconnection Project between Italy and Tunisia, a testament to our belief in cross-border mutually beneficial cooperation and in optimizing energy resources.
- In order to reach decarbonisation targets in the upcoming decades, a crucial role is played by innovative technologies using renewables and low-carbon hydrogen. Renewable and low-carbon hydrogen have the potential to decarbonise hard to abate sectors, such as in the steel or chemical sectors, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and further strengthening global competitiveness for those industries. The key role of renewable hydrogen has been further confirmed by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan allocating around 3 Billion euros to the development of hydrogen projects in particular in hard-to-abate sectors; hydrogen valleys promotion, reconversion of decommissioned industrial areas; filling stations for heavy-duty transport.
- To conclude, while we take pride in our advancements, we are aware that the journey towards a fully sustainable and energy-secure future is long and challenging.
- A lot has been accomplished, but a lot more remains to be done and the road ahead requires our collective effort, innovation, and commitment.

## Agenda Item 5

### General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition

#### Statement by Japan

##### 5. General Member Statement

- I would like to share 4 major updates of renewable energy promotion efforts in Japan.
- On first point, we established new legislations to promote Green Transformation in wide range of sectors this May, in order to address ensuring energy security, tackling climate change issues and maintaining economic growth simultaneously. The new acts allow Japanese government to issue national bonds to facilitate green transformation. And we provide finance support to utilities for grid strengthen at the early stage of projects which are construction stage, in order to introduce renewables.
- Second, Japan revised hydrogen strategic plan this June which published in 2017 as the first national hydrogen strategy in the world. The revision sets new midterm hydrogen target in 2040 which is 12 million ton hydrogen introduction in Japan, in addition to existing targets of 3 million in 2030 and 20 million ton in 2050. We have accelerated support scheme to use hydrogen technologies through legislation development, financial support focusing on price gap between existing commercial fuels and new hydrogen, and development of mass-production technology of electrolier and key components.

- Third, since we revised the Fukushima plan for a New Energy Society in 2021, we have developed renewable and hydrogen economy through collaboration with wide array of stakeholders in Japan. To enhance this work, we developed the acceleration plan this July. We have considered strengthening transmission lines to accommodate large scale of renewable energy, promoting commercialization of advanced solar cell, called Perovskite solar cell through the trial efforts in the region. We also have facilitated public and private sectors' collaboration to develop hydrogen supply chain in order to make the efforts advanced models.
- Finally, we organized Small Island Developing States workshops to strength access of climate funding in collaboration with Green Climate Fund and IRENA since 2014. Recently, the workshop got about 70 participants from 21 countries in February and March 2023, we would like to keep working together with IRENA on this work.



**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Nigeria**

**Nigeria intervention at the 26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

1. **The Electricity Act 2023:** the new Act repealed the Electric Power Sector Reform Act, 2005. Considering the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nationally Determined Contributions pledged by Nigeria in line with the Paris agreement and the Energy Transition Plan announced in 2021 at COP26 in Glasgow; the Electricity Act 2023 gives adequate focus to both the renewable energy and energy efficiency to drive energy access and net-zero programmes in Nigeria.

The Act also gives the sub-nationals that is the state governments the power to regulate electricity market within their jurisdiction if they so choose. It is expected that if properly implemented, the new approach will accelerate clean energy access within the state for all categories of consumers. It should also enhance, rapid deployment of mini-grids and other forms of distributed energy resources.

2. **West African Investment Forum:** it could be recalled that last year, the IRENA and the Nigerian Government agreed and worked assiduously to host the First West African Investment Forum in Nigeria in October–November, 2022. However, the programme was called off for unforeseen circumstance despite advanced stage of preparation. This morning the Nigerian delegates met with the IRENA Team from the Country Engagement Partnership Division (CEP) and exchanged views on the way forward. Hopefully, we will continue the discussion after the 26<sup>th</sup> Council.
3. **Green Hydrogen Development in Nigeria:** Nigeria recognizes the importance and the role of Green Hydrogen in decarbonization especially in the hard to abate sectors and that is why Green Hydrogen features prominently in the Nigerian Energy Transition Plan (ETP) under the transport, electricity, and industry pillars. Nigeria is catching up in this space and hopefully our membership of African Green Hydrogen Alliance will be announced at COP28UAE.

With the adoption of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and its Strategy and Action Plans for region, it is expected that work will start in earnest to develop the national policy on Green or Low-Carbon Hydrogen. It is importance to state that Nigeria is passionately following development in the hydrogen space. We are regular at the IRENA Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen (CFGH) and we will solicit further supports of IRENA navigating this terrain.

- 4. Clean Mobility:** E-mobility and other forms of clean-mobilities are integral parts of the Nigeria ETP and it is good to note that some private sectors actors are already leading the way. Mid this year, Oando Clean Energy, the renewable energy subsidiary of Oando Energy Resources (part of Oando PLC with significant portfolios in Oil and Gas business) partners the government of Lagos state to establish and operate the first electric mass transit buses in Lagos with plan to replicate the experience in other parts of the state and country.

Just at the eve of this Council, the FuelCell Energy and the same Oando Clean Energy Limited (OCEL), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate to develop a 5 to 15 MW power plant to help strengthen electricity access in Nigeria through low-carbon renewable energy sources. The MoU will allow the companies to utilize FuelCell Energy's fuel cell, electrolyzer, and carbon capture and sequestration technologies.

Other private sector actors are following suit; we believe this is the way to go. And for this purpose, there is the need to breakdown the targets and milestones of the ETP into small targets and milestones in the form of investment packages that can attract financing without mindboggling requirements.

- 5. Rare minerals:** Nigeria has sizeable deposits of energy transition minerals such as lithium and to facilitate the exploitation of these minerals a stand-alone ministry on solid minerals was recently created detaching it from steel development. This and other initiatives in this space will enable Nigeria to take the maximum advantages of the mineral resources to drive the nation's transition to e-mobility.

**26va Reunión del Consejo de IRENA**  
**Declaraciones Generales de Miembros**  
**Experiencias nacionales en la transición energética**  
**Experiencia de Panamá**  
S.E. Rebeca Perez, Embajadora de Panamá

Estimado Dr. La Camera y miembros del Consejo, Panamá es uno de los siete países carbono negativo del mundo, y estamos trabajando para mantener esta distinción. Por esta razón, el 24 de noviembre de 2020, el Consejo de Gabinete aprobó la Agenda de Transición Energética de Panamá, que incluye 8 estrategias nacionales y 3 hojas de ruta transversales con 242 líneas de acción, 30 metas y 61 objetivos medibles que se implementarán al 2030. Con la transición energética buscamos fomentar la energía renovable no convencional, la movilidad eléctrica, la generación distribuida, la eficiencia energética, el hidrógeno verde y sus derivados, y cerrar la brecha de acceso universal a la energía, considerando la equidad de género, la educación, juventud e innovación y la comunicación estratégica.

Actualmente, Panamá tiene una matriz eléctrica del 80% basada en energías renovables, principalmente hidroeléctrica (69%). De 2019 a 2022, la generación de energía solar y eólica creció del 8,62% al 11% de la matriz eléctrica. Sin embargo, es importante mencionar que en 2023 estamos experimentando el fenómeno de El Niño y hemos estado tomando medidas para reducir el consumo energético. Por ejemplo, Panamá está desarrollando varios programas gubernamentales y privados para aumentar rápidamente la generación distribuida, incluyendo al sector bancario, con la finalidad de que al 2030 el 14% del total de la generación de electricidad provenga de los techos solares. Además, estamos desarrollando el Plan de Adaptación de Panamá con la asistencia de IRENA, y estamos agradecidos por su apoyo.

La implementación de la transición energética es la parte fundamental de la actualización del NDC de Panamá presentado en diciembre de 2020, esperando reducir las emisiones de CO2 equivalentes del sector energético en un 14% al 2030 y 27% al 2050, en comparación con el escenario base. Un aspecto importante para lograr esto es migrar el sector de transporte a la movilidad eléctrica, y aunque en los últimos cuatro años hemos estado duplicando la cantidad de ventas de vehículos eléctricos, esto no es suficiente para lograr nuestros objetivos. Por lo tanto, hemos desarrollado políticas públicas para facilitar a los inversionistas que se ubiquen en Panamá considerando nuestra posición geográfica, reconociendo la necesidad de que los fabricantes y distribuidores amplíen sus producciones y perciban a Panamá y América Central como un nicho de mercado creciente para tecnología sostenible.

El desarrollo del HUB de energía sostenible de Panamá con tecnologías limpias basadas en el hidrógeno verde y sus derivados está avanzando, y esperamos brindar servicio al transporte marítimo, aviación y terrestre, alimentado por energía renovable, como un "supermercado" de energía sostenible para la región Latinoamericana, el Caribe y el mundo.

Finalmente, nos gustaría extender nuestro agradecimiento a todos los países que apoyaron la propuesta de la ONU de Panamá y Emiratos Árabes Unidos de presentar el 26 de enero, la fecha de fundación de IRENA, como Día Internacional de la Energía Limpia, ya que, desde el 26 de agosto de 2023, es una realidad. Esperamos este día sirva como una fecha para reflexionar y celebrar las acciones que hemos tomado como sociedad hacia una transición energética.

Gracias.

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## 26.<sup>a</sup> Reunião do Conselho da IRENA

Abu Dhabi, 19 e 20 de outubro de 2023

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### ***General Member Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition***

Proposta de Intervenção

19 de outubro de 2023, 16:00-18:00

It is a great pleasure to share the Portuguese Government's experiences on energy transition.

Portugal has made a clear commitment to the energy transition and has been at the forefront of decarbonization by reducing demand for fossil fuels, diversifying energy sources, accelerating the implementation of renewable energies, promoting energy efficiency, reinforcing energy interconnections, ensuring market stability, and encouraging investment. Our 2030 targets are ambitious but achievable, reflecting the determination to accelerate the decarbonization of the economy within this decade, according with the recent revision of the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030.

Portugal has new targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with the provisions of the European and national Climate Law. Portugal is committed to the European effort to boost renewables, setting new targets by 2030 and implementing policies and promoting electrification and diversification of energy sources, including, production and consumption of renewable gases such as, green hydrogen and biomethane.

Thus, Portugal reinforced the focus on solar photovoltaic and wind energy, both onshore and offshore. On solar energy, the installed capacity is expected to reach

20.4GW by 2030. On offshore wind production, we reaffirmed our commitment to launch auctions for a capacity of 10 GW by 2030. The first auction will take place this year, allowing at least 2 GW. The installed capacity of onshore wind will be reinforced, promoting the retrofitting of current wind farms with advanced technology. PT anticipated its target to reach 85% of renewable energy in electricity production by 2026, guaranteeing green and reliable electricity at competitive prices. We also plan to double the planned capacity of electrolyzers by 2030, allowing the decarbonization of national industry and attracting new industries.

Portugal is strongly promoting energy efficiency in transport, industry, and buildings. Recently, the government launched an Energy Efficiency Program, reimbursing up to 85% of energy efficiency Investments in Buildings.

Our national energy transition strategy will mobilize 75 billion euros of investment in green energy projects, security of supply, competitiveness in energy prices, and social and territorial cohesion.

Finally, tackling climate change and ensuring a fair and inclusive energy transition is a challenge that no single country will be able to solve on its own. Portugal is committed to work dynamically with IRENA in leading the transition to a cleaner and more sustainable future.

26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the Republic of Korea**

**Thank you Chair.**

**The Republic of Korea announced the 10<sup>th</sup> Basic Plan for Long-term Electricity Supply and Demand on January 12 this year. According to this plan, Korea will continue to increase the share of renewable power generation to 21.6% by 2030 and 30.6% by 2036, to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.**

**In March, my government also announced the 1st national plan for carbon neutrality and green growth. We are planning to create an ecosystem focused on clean hydrogen while establishing infrastructure, such as hydrogen liquefaction plants and hydrogen pipelines. At the same time, my government will diversify hydrogen mobility covering vehicles, ships, and drones, and expand the scope of hydrogen utilization by building hydrogen clusters and cities.**

**Since 2019, three hydrogen pilot cities including Ulsan, and one hydrogen R&D city have been selected and gone into operation. Busan, one of the candidates for the World Expo 2030, is actively expanding its hydrogen-related transportation infrastructure. If Busan hosts the World Expo 2030, we expect visitors will be able to fully experience the current status of hydrogen cities.**

**My government, in line with the Indo-Pacific Strategy announced last December, will strengthen partnerships with the Indo-Pacific region to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the areas of climate change, energy transition,**

**and energy security. In particular, we will deepen cooperation on clean energy deployment including hydrogen and nuclear energy.**

**In September, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosted the 2023 Trans-Pacific Sustainability Dialogue with the Ban Ki-moon Foundation and Stanford University, in order to lead the global discussion on the common good from clean energy transition.**

**Furthermore, my government has been expanding bilateral and multilateral discussions to stabilize the global supply chain of critical minerals essential to the clean energy transition. To this end, we will organize the Global Conference on Battery Recycling & Critical Minerals in Seoul next month, regarding the recycling and reuse of industrial waste, including waste batteries.**

**Going forward, we will continue to establish more partnerships with various countries to support the global renewables-based energy transition and strengthen the capacity of developing countries to achieve net-zero. We look forward to cooperate with IRENA member states through collaborative frameworks and climate investment platforms.**

**Thank you.**



## **REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in UAE

### **STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHN MIRENGE 26<sup>th</sup> IRENA COUNCIL MEETING Abu Dhabi – 19 October 2023**

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**Your Excellency, Director-General Francesco Lacamera,**

**Respected Chair of the Council,**

**Honored Guests and Dignitaries,**

I am deeply honored to convey my heartfelt appreciation for IRENA's relentless commitment to advancing countries on their path to a sustainable energy future.

It is a privilege for me to address this esteemed council, as this marks my inaugural engagement following my recent accreditation as Rwanda's Permanent Representative to IRENA. I have already observed the sense of urgency and unwavering dedication with which you lead the global charge in championing the vital cause of energy transition.



**Ladies and gentlemen,**

We find ourselves at a pivotal crossroads. The unprecedented global heat observed between January and September this year, with a 1.4-degree Celsius increase, serves as a stark reminder of the pressing need to expedite our collective efforts in aligning with the worldwide commitment to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C.

The acceleration of renewable energy deployment is of paramount importance in our united fight against climate change and the challenges posed by global warming. To make substantial headway, it is imperative that we respond decisively to the compelling necessity of mobilizing and allocating financial resources where they are most needed, sharing expertise, and nurturing capacity-building. It is worth noting that despite the demand and potential in the renewable energy sector in Africa, the continent has received a mere two percent of global investments in renewable energy.

**Distinguished representatives,**

Rwanda's commitment to clean energy is unwavering. Our Vision 2050 envisions Rwanda as a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economy by mid-century, with renewables playing a pivotal role in achieving this vision. Rwanda has made significant strides in its quest for universal access to electricity, with a current

electricity access rate of 70.78%, bolstered by 18.03% from off-grid solutions, particularly in remote areas, which include solar home systems and mini-grids. These solutions not only extend access but also promote the use of renewable energy sources.

Presently, renewable energy accounts for 50.7% of our energy generation mix, and our goal is to maintain a 60% share of renewable energy in our overall energy mix by 2030. We extend an open invitation to potential partners to collaborate with us on enticing opportunities and projects aimed at enhancing energy generation from hydro, solar, and other innovative renewable energy technologies. Rwanda is proud to be the second easiest country to do business in Africa, offering competitive fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

In the spirit of nurturing dialogue and cooperation among energy stakeholders, Rwanda is set to host the Africa Energy Expo and Conference from February 20 to 22 next year. I extend a warm invitation to all of you to partake in this significant forum, where we can engage in crucial discussions, foster collaboration, and further the cause of achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7.

**Distinguished Council Members,**

As the incoming 14th President of the IRENA General Assembly and a current council member, Rwanda is wholeheartedly committed to engaging with partners in all endeavors that seek to efficiently and effectively address the global demand for renewable energy.

Allow me to reiterate my appreciation for IRENA's leadership in championing various renewable energy initiatives, including the mobilization of financial resources. An exemplary initiative in this context is the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), launched last September by IRENA and its partners.

In conclusion, as we prepare for COP28, I commend the United Arab Emirates for its commendable efforts in uniting the world for a COP that produces tangible outcomes. Please be assured of Rwanda's unwavering support.

Thank you.

26° CONSEJO DE IRENA  
DECLARACIONES GENERALES DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS  
ESPAÑA

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

- España es un **país que apuesta firmemente por el desarrollo renovable**. Hemos visto como, en los últimos años, se ha producido un aumento muy relevante en la instalación de energías renovables eléctricas en nuestro país, permitiendo que este mismo año estemos en disposición de alcanzar un **50%** de presencia de energías renovables en nuestro mix de generación eléctrico.
- Asimismo, España es el **quinto país** en el mundo en potencia eólica instalada y el **décimo** en energía solar. Sin embargo, somos el **primer país del mundo en porcentaje de demanda de energía eléctrica cubierta mediante energía solar**. Somos un país muy atractivo, también, para la instalación de autoconsumo fotovoltaico, tanto para empresas como para particulares.
- Tenemos intención de seguir desempeñando un papel principal en este sector por la importancia que representa para nuestro país, **tanto desde un punto de vista estratégico, como desde un punto de vista de generación de valor e impactos locales positivos**.
- En la **cuenta atrás** hacia la **próxima COP-28**, sobre la que trasladamos nuestros mejores deseos a la presidencia de EAU, y ostentando España la presidencia rotatoria del Consejo de la Unión Europea, nos gustaría hacer especial hincapié en las siguientes cuestiones:
- Es prioritario focalizar en la **descarbonización de nuestros sectores energéticos** antes del año **2050**, logrando una **descarbonización** muy relevante en el año **2030** de nuestros sectores eléctricos.
- Los beneficios de la reducción del consumo de combustibles fósiles y el aumento de consumo de energía procedente de fuentes renovables tienen un **impacto positivo** ya no sólo en la lucha contra el cambio climático, sino, también, en la **mejora de la calidad del aire**, así como la **salud de la población**. Este desarrollo incluye también la creación de empleo y el incremento de la seguridad energética para los países que incrementen más sus cuotas renovables.
- De este modo, **España anima a los países miembros de IRENA a aunar esfuerzos para lograr los objetivos para el año 2030 en la implementación de**

**energías renovables**, así como en eficiencia energética, permitiendo que la evolución del clima sea compatible con el aumento de temperatura de 1,5°C.

- Para ello, **resulta vital triplicar la capacidad renovable instalada y duplicar las mejoras de eficiencia energética para el año 2030, junto con una retirada progresiva de los combustibles fósiles.**
- España, en la **actualización de su planificación a 2030**, plantea superar el 80% de presencia de energías renovables en el sector eléctrico, desde el entorno del 50% que previsiblemente tendremos a final de este año 2023, reducir las emisiones un 32% respecto al año 1990 y alcanzar un 42% de energía renovable sobre el conjunto del consumo energético nacional. Objetivos que sitúan a nuestro país en la **senda** del cumplimiento del calentamiento máximo de **1,5 °C**.
- Todo lo anterior deberemos realizarlo cumpliendo el principio de **no dañar significativamente el medio ambiente al objeto de preservar lo máximo posible nuestros ecosistemas.**
- Asimismo, consideramos fundamental la cooperación con los países en desarrollo, a los que deseamos presentar la **disponibilidad de España, ofreciendo explorar un marco de colaboración con IRENA, para realizar el asesoramiento técnico necesario para que la financiación de los proyectos renovables en dichos países sea una realidad.**
- Permítanme, en último lugar, destacar un último aspecto fundamental para España como es el **impacto socioeconómico** de las energías renovables en el que también es prioritario trabajar para conseguir cumplir los ambiciosos objetivos que nos hemos planteado, y que permitirá que las comunidades locales que más sufren el impacto directo de la implantación de tecnologías renovables, se beneficien también.
- Quiero acabar mi intervención ratificando el **apoyo de España a IRENA** y agradeciendo al **Director General, Francesco La Camera, su labor en la Agencia.**
- Asimismo, quisiera trasladar **nuestros agradecimientos a Estados Unidos** por su labor de presidencia, así como a **Panamá** por el ejercicio de la vicepresidencia del presente Consejo.
- Muchas gracias por su atención.

Energy Transitions in Tonga – 26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council Meeting October 2023

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**MALO E LELEI and Warm Greetings from the Friendly Islands.**

Tonga like other SIDS are at the receiving end of a global climate change phenomenon to which we had very little contributing to..... So, in order to improve the drastic effects of the volatility of the global market for petroleum on our people, and to help reduce the devastating effects of climate change, Tonga has introduced measures and also enacted the Energy Act 2022 early this year with the effort to help transform not only the economic landscape but also our fragile physical environment and ecosystem. The primary purpose for the Energy Act 2022 is to establish a legal framework which provides a coherent institutional, regulatory and policy framework for the Tonga energy sector. At the heart of this policy and regulatory regime is a directive that by the year 2035, Tonga achieves the target of having 75% of its electricity supply generated from renewable energy sources.

The current actions and objectives that Government is taking to meet its ambitious renewable energy target is collectively called the Tonga Energy Road Map Plus 2021-2035, or TERM Plus 2021-2035, a policy instrument that guides us as to the most effective way that Government intervenes and disrupts the status quo and the no longer acceptable "business as usual" mode of operation. Energy is not just another problem the Government has to grapple with but dare I say is the fundamental sector that if not "fixed will prove to be a challenging barrier to our core policies of poverty alleviation and developmental sustainability.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Locally I believe we have done a few right things; through the electricity utility-TPL recently, we commissioned a 10MW BESS for load shifting and grid stabilization under GCF, Australian Gov't, EU and ADB financing. A 6MW IPP Project have also brought online. Our renewable generation mix on average now stands at around 24% of the grid demand, of course on good days. The TPL aims to have 75% of its generation from renewable sources by 2025 – a target the government is fully supportive of. A number of other projects such as distribution network upgrading and 33kV network strengthening are also being undertaken to ensure the continued growth in the renewable sector is supported. The largest wind farm ever is expected to be commissioned in mid-2024 which was donated by the People's Republic of China in addition to existing farms gifted by the people of Japan. A 24MW more solar farm IPP is also expected to be signed shortly between electricity utility and IPP, in addition to the existing solar farms being donated by Governments of New Zealand, the UAE and the GCF - on an attempt to achieve RE target by end of 2025

We are on the verge of providing 100% access to electricity to our people, as rate of electrification just increased from 93% to 99% as of September this year after commissioning of a solar/diesel hybrid power station at the remotest islands in the Kingdom. We are working on improving quality of electricity for our rural population through our 100% RE mini-grid projects, and are also shifting from limited service SHS unit to a 24/7 full-service mains electricity supply. 100% RE solar powered community freezer, solar street lighting and solar water pumping continued to offer benefits of clean, friendly and cost-effective electricity and, interestingly, have huge impacts on the livelihoods of rural/remote communities.

We are moving with respect to introducing e-mobility into our transport sector with demonstration projects followed by policy formulation with TA of US DoE. We have elevated energy efficiency and conservation in the various sectors of the economy and linked it to productivity. Entities have embraced this important concept and implemented these initiatives on their own desires. We are carrying out the relevant research on our renewable energy resources available locally and we also in the process of formulating our new Energy Policy as stipulated in the Energy Act 2022.

Energy information and data, as identified in the past decade under TERM 2010-2020, is critically important. I thank the IRENA colleagues for the funding opportunity which enable us to continue update and validate our energy balances, even up to the residential level of energy end-use segment. A follow-up of energy survey has just signed between IRENA and my CEO.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In wrap-up..... It is with great interest of the Government of Tonga to increase effective engagement of the Agency in the PIDS. As raised by our Head of Delegation during the PSC Meeting yesterday, we can now confirm what was stated in the IRENA Policy Brief Publication - PIDS share the same sustainable development challenges, of geographical locations, internet and differences in time zones which frequently affected the effort to effectively disseminations information and updates, across to the island nations from the Agency. We also take note the need to strengthen resources of IRENA in PIDS for an effective transition as percentage of RE intake has increased significantly over the past years. New business models and new regulations are indeed needed at this stage for all Energy programs. Therefore, a more coordinated and more specific approach for the Agency's resources is needed in the region.

As a founding Member, the Government of Tonga has already expressed to the SPC its keen interest to also host IRENA PIDS Work Program in the Tongan-based PCREEE alongside the International Solar Alliance's (ISA) Solar Technology and Application Resource Centers (STAR-C) for the Pacific Islands. The Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (the OPERA) also, has been established through great effort of PCREEE, UNIDO and ADB. The same collaborative effort made to empower the private sector to invest more and play a more active role in the region's energy transition. We believe that IRENA's existence at PCREEE will definitely strengthen regional vehicle for accelerating the Pacific Islands' transition to renewable and energy efficient economies, under PCREEE.

The SPC is currently housing IRENA Pacific Coordinator and the current SPC-IRENA MoU states that "both parties agreed to support the PCREEE in developing a sustainable renewable energy market in the Pacific through coordinated capacity development, knowledge management and awareness and investment promotion activities. We propose to have IRENA's work program in PIDS be coordinated all at PCREEE.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This proposal aligns the Agency's mission statement and also addressing 4 and 5 strategic pillars.

I would like to congratulate His Excellency Director-General Camera and the staff of IRENA for the continuing work for the Lighthouse Initiative for the SIDS; and I would like to convey Tongan Delegations best wishes for all its future plans and endeavors.

**MALO 'AUPITO MOE FAKA'APA'APA ATU.**



26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

**Agenda Item 5:                    General Member Statements**

Thank you, Chair.

Francesco, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

As you can imagine, the UAE is counting down to the opening of the UNFCCC negotiations at COP28.

We are ready to welcome the world to Dubai for this crucial conference.

We are ready to provide a platform that can drive the kind of transformative change we need to get our planet back onto a 1.5C pathway.

And we are ready to engage meaningfully with the international community to deliver ambitious but practical climate outcomes.

In short, we are ready for this historic date with destiny.

As a national pretext for COP28, the UAE shared with the UNFCCC its third update of our second NDC in July earlier this year.

This iteration increased our ambitions and our absolute emission numbers and targets, including a 40% emissions reduction by 2030 compared with a business-as-usual scenario.

Our NDCs are not the only part of our energy transition plans to be recently updated.

Following its launch in 2017, the UAE's first unified supply and demand-based Energy Strategy was updated earlier this year in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Following its first review, the updated Energy Strategy 2050 factors in key developments in the energy sector to ensure access to reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy.

In line with our updated NDCs, the updated Energy Strategy 2050 aims to make the UAE climate neutral by midcentury – by increasing the share of clean energy in our total energy mix.

The strategy also recognises that we must strike the balance between meeting rising energy demands and sustaining natural resources for generations to come.

When it comes to renewable energy capacity building, the UAE is a first mover.

In the last decade alone, the UAE has increased its renewable energy capacity more than any other country in the world.

And by 2030 we aim to more than triple our current capacity to reach a total of 14.2 gigawatts.

The majority of this additional capacity will come from our vast, low-cost solar power plants. But, as well as nuclear capabilities, we are adding to this mix.

Just two weeks ago, the UAE launched its first wind farm programme adding another 103 megawatts of installed capacity – with a further 14 megawatts under construction.

Another cornerstone of our energy transition will be hydrogen.

Not only do we understand the importance of building world-class hydrogen capabilities for domestic use, but we also recognise the need to become a leading global exporter in the hydrogen market.

In this vein, the UAE aims to produce 1.4 million metric tonnes of hydrogen annually by 2031.

And by 2050, we are aiming to produce 15 million metric tonnes a year.

We are also aligning our commitments to our actions domestically and internationally, in collaboration with key partners.

For instance, during the African Climate Summit in September, the UAE announced a 4.5 Billion Dollar finance initiative to speed up clean energy deployment in Africa.

This initiative falls under the UAE's Etihad 7 programme – which aims to raise public and private sector funds to invest in Africa's developing renewable energy sector.

The programme aims to achieve 20 gigawatts of capacity to supply 100 million people with clean electricity by 2035.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, the UAE is never content to rest on its laurels.

We are constantly seeking ways to drive innovation in renewable solutions, through cutting-edge R&D projects, and by promoting the country's renewable energy sector to local and global investors.

And yet, we must recognise that efforts at the national level, no matter how progressive or innovative, are just one part of a much bigger puzzle.

Globally, we are way off the energy transition track.

As IRENA has made clear in the most recent World Energy Transition Outlook report, the world must triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 to keep 1.5 within reach.

Our ability to do this will depend on having the right infrastructure, policy and investment frameworks in place.

This is where IRENA must step-up and play a key role in ensuring the world is ready to transition to the energy system of tomorrow without leaving anyone behind.

And together, we must leverage the clean and renewable energy boom to ensure a practical energy transition, provide energy security for all, and enable sustainable, long-term economic growth.

Thank you.

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the United States of America**

**USA STATEMENT**

**BEGIN STATEMENT**

**United States Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

- **Excellencies, in the course of our recent meetings, you've heard representatives of the United States describe many times the significance of two pieces of U.S. legislation: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL, which the U.S Congress passed in 2021, and the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA, that passed in 2022.**
- **My colleagues and I return to the BIL and the IRA so often because these two major pieces of legislation are game-changers – spurring a race to the top. Certainly for the United States, but also for the world.**
- **The BIL and the IRA have put the United States—the world's largest economy—on a steady trajectory to cut U.S. emissions by 50 percent or more below 2005 levels by 2030. Beyond 2030, they are intended to put us on course for a net-zero economy.**
- **Such a significant reduction in emissions has global importance. But beyond their impacts on U.S. emissions, the investments of the BIL and the IRA promise to dramatically accelerate the world's energy transition by catalyzing technological investment, lowering costs, attracting and generating new capital to clean energy sectors, and creating a surge in demand for inputs.**
- **The United States is testing and deploying the technologies and policies that can lead to vastly increased renewables investment, create jobs, and lead to energy security and energy access globally.**

- **Moreover, as we implement the IRA and BIL domestically, the United States is committed to increasing global clean energy cooperation, including here at IRENA.**
  
- **As my colleagues and I have described before at this forum, the BIL and IRA are in the process of standing up dozens of new renewable energy programs**
  - **For instance, the United States is investing \$1 billion for system-level energy improvements in rural and remote areas.**
  - **We're investing \$750 million to dramatically reduce the cost of electrolyzers and other clean-hydrogen technologies.**
  - **And we've put \$505 million into innovative long-duration energy storage.**
  - **These programs will promote the cost-efficient and effective use of renewable energy technologies.**
  - **The innovations and insights they generate will have a positive impact on the United States, and around the world.**
  
- **In the 12 months since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law, the private sector announced more than \$110 billion in new clean energy manufacturing investments, including more than \$70 billion in the electric vehicle (EV) supply chain and more than \$10 billion in solar manufacturing.**
  
- **I'm particularly excited to tell you that just last week, President Biden and U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced the investment of \$7 billion to create seven regional clean hydrogen hubs in the United States. Up to an additional \$1 billion will be available for demand-side support for the hubs, thereby driving innovative end-uses of clean hydrogen. These investments by the U.S. government are designed to unlock over \$40 billion more in private investment.**
  - **The nearly \$50 billion investment is historically one of the largest investments in clean manufacturing and jobs.**
  - **These seven hubs will serve the entire continental United States, from our Pacific coast to the Atlantic Seaboard.**

- Collectively, the hubs aim to produce more than three million metric tons of clean hydrogen per year, thereby achieving nearly one third of the 2030 U.S. clean hydrogen production goal.
  - Together, the seven Hubs will eliminate 25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from end uses each year—an amount roughly equivalent to combined annual emissions of over 5.5 million gasoline-powered cars.
- The United States’ new Hydrogen Hubs are only the most recent example of the \$65 billion in clean energy investments from the Department of Energy.
- The U.S. is investing unprecedented sums to unlock major technical advances in renewable technologies that will improve performance, reduce costs, and ultimately make renewable technologies more attractive to people.
- As we continue to research, develop, demonstrate, and deploy these technologies, we look forward to sharing—with IRENA and its member states who are also seeking rapid renewable energy adoption—our lessons learned and best practices to overcoming these challenges.

**END STATEMENT**



## **Denmark National Statement, IRENA COUNCIL – 19 October 2023**

### **Excellencies,**

- Several heat records have been broken this year. Climate change and its impacts are felt across the world. The rapidly warming climate underlines the importance of IRENA's mandate with energy being the core sector to focus on in order to combat climate change and stay on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- It's positive that global deployment of renewable energy is accelerating. In Denmark we want to lead by example. In May this year, Denmark announced the framework for the biggest offshore wind build-out in our history – up to 14 GW offshore wind. And last week, the Government of Denmark proposed a plan to quadruple energy from solar power and onshore wind.
- However, at international level, the majority of renewable energy investment are today made in the Europe, USA and China. We cannot leave developing countries behind. IRENA should play a key role to support all countries to benefit from a renewable energy transition.
- And turning to IRENA, we are pleased to see the first draft of the results framework in the proposed work programme for the coming two years. This is an important tool for IRENA to demonstrate impact and learn from its activities.
- Going forward, Denmark sees great potential to strengthen and align the outputs closer to the activities outlined under each of the five pillars of the work programme.



- Denmark is pleased to support IRENA with a new voluntary contribution of approx. USD 21,5 million USD (153 million Danish kroner) which will run from 2023 to 2027. The Danish contribution is specifically earmarked for IRENA's work with developing countries. The development of a robust result framework is key for Denmark to demonstrate results and fulfill the monitoring requirements expected by the Danish Parliament.
- The Danish contribution will support, among other things, initiatives such as GOWA, the Global Offshore Wind Alliance, and APRA, the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa, born out of a partnership among Kenya, Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Germany, the UAE, Denmark and IRENA.
- Let me conclude by mentioning that Denmark is also working to share its experiences with other countries bilaterally in order to push for the energy transition globally.
- We are doing so through government-to-government cooperation on topics such as long-term energy modelling, integration of renewable energy, wind power, energy efficiency and district heating. Currently, we engage on a peer-to-peer level with 24 countries, representing 70 per cent of global emissions.
- We look forward to continuing working with IRENA to push for higher ambitions on renewable energy in the crucial weeks to come ahead of COP28 and beyond.

Thank you.



## **NATIONAL STATEMENT**

**India**

**19 Oct 2023**

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

India continues to make strides in energy transition through dedicated policies for promoting development of renewable energy in India. There is a clear commitment at all levels to achieve India's NDCs and this is reflected in our achievements vis-a-vis our renewed commitments non-fossil fuel based energy resources contribution to the installed capacity and on reduction of emissions intensity of GDP. We are home to 17% of world population yet our historic contribution in cumulative emissions has been less than 5%. Yet, we continue to march to diversify our energy mix that can support our ambitions for a high rate of growth and development to meet our people's aspirations. We are implementing many programmes for green fuel, green energy, green farming, green mobility, green buildings, and green equipment, and policies for efficient use of energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India remains focused on a 'Just, affordable and inclusive Energy Transition' . In our Energy Transition agenda in India, we are ensuring that energy security, energy access, and energy affordability are advanced simultaneously in the spirit of leaving no one behind. And as a comity of nations, we must ensure it for the world. We need to acknowledge that transition has to be viewed differently in different countries. We need to view the Global South in light of their low per capita energy use and significant need

to enhance energy access to ensure development of their societies.

At the risk of repeating what many of our friends have already echoed, we reiterate the need for enabling conditions for achieving Energy Transition Goals are Technology Transfer and Financial assistance from developed countries to developing countries. Without this, we will continue to lag behind in our goals. India is pursuing low-carbon growth and development strategies and we continue to invest significantly through both public and private sector. Our policies incentivize private investments for development of renewable capacity and infrastructure. However, our financial needs to support energy transition in line with our development aspirations remain high.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We made significant progress during G20 meetings. The G20 Energy Transitions Ministers' Meeting reflects our collective aspirations. The G20 High Level Voluntary Principles on Hydrogen can serve as a foundation for rapid development of the new green energy source that can help accelerate energy transition across the world. But like any technology, this will need concerted and collaborative efforts to promote innovation, R&D, infrastructure and supply chain development, free and fair trade and capacity building. Yet, the progress will mean nothing, if the access to this technology remains limited in access and affordability.



**TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE IRENA COUNCIL  
19-20 OCTOBER 2023  
SHERATON HOTEL, ABU DHABI**

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

First and foremost, Malaysia would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the United States of America and Panama for their respective appointments as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the 26th IRENA Council. We commend your leadership and pledge our unwavering commitment to supporting the IRENA council's crucial work.

We would also like to thank the Director General and his dedicated team for the comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the work program and budget for 2024-25, as well as the Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee for the work program and the status update. The agency's initiatives at both regional and

national levels, including its technical publications, have been invaluable to Malaysia, providing essential insights for advancing our energy transition agenda. We eagerly anticipate IRENA's continued dedication to this vital mission.

Malaysia, like many nations worldwide, aspires to achieve a net-zero climate future. We have set an ambitious climate target, aiming to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. One of our primary strategies in this pursuit of carbon neutrality is the systematic decarbonization of our energy sector.

At our last Council meeting in May, we shared Malaysia's enhanced commitment to decarbonize our power sector, with a fivefold increase in renewable energy installed capacity, from the existing 10GW to 55GW, ultimately resulting in a 70% renewable energy mix by 2050. This achievement was made possible thanks to the insights provided by the IRENA-led Malaysia Energy Transition Outlook Report, which provided a valuable reference for our policymakers, outlining the possible pathways and required investments toward a lower carbon energy system.

Further to that, Malaysia has recently unveiled its National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) to comprehensively outline our energy trajectory toward a reliable, sustainable, and resilient future. Our goal is to systematically increase the share of renewable energy in our Total Primary Energy Supply from the current 4% to 23% by 2050. The NETR underscores Malaysia's commitment as a responsible nation, working toward achieving our climate aspiration while fundamentally transforming our economy and livelihoods for a resilient, sustainable future. The successful implementation of NETR is projected to boost Malaysia's GDP value from RM25 billion in 2023 to RM220 billion and generate 310,000 jobs by 2050.

Distinguished delegates,

Malaysia firmly believes that the development of sustainable energy must be closely intertwined with the broader adoption of electrification across various economic activities and processes. Our commitment to significantly increasing the share of renewable energy is designed to establish a low-carbon energy system with a clean electricity grid as the future energy carrier in our country, thereby supporting our climate and energy transition agenda. As we intend to focus primarily

on solar energy expansion, we recognize the need for a robust and flexible grid.

We estimate that new investments of approximately USD 142 billion are required up until 2050. This encompasses investments in renewable energy generation sources, enhancement of grid infrastructure, including transmission lines, integration of energy storage systems, and augmentation of grid system networks. We look forward to collaborating closely with IRENA and external partners in this endeavor, ensuring a just and systematic transition while considering the essential elements of the energy trilemma: affordability, security, and sustainability.

In closing, Malaysia would like to express its sincere appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for their gracious hosting of this Council meeting as the nation prepares for the forthcoming UNFCCC COP-28 meeting in Dubai.

With that I Thank You.



**19 October 2023**

**26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council Meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023**

## **National Experiences on Energy Transition**

### **Statement of the Republic of Mauritius**

**Delivered by H.E. Showkutally Soodhun G.C.S.K.,  
Ambassador of Mauritius to the UAE and GCC countries  
and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to IRENA**

**Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to congratulate the United States and Panama for their appointment as Chair and Vice Chair.

I would like to extend my thanks to IRENA and the Director General for allowing me to share the experience of Mauritius in the renewable energy sector.

**Mauritius aims to achieve 60% of renewable energy by 2030.** As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius has limited land resources for the deployment of onshore renewable technologies such as solar and wind, being the most mature and economically affordable technologies. As such, ocean renewables would be the game changer for Mauritius and SIDS in general. The **Government of Mauritius** has decided to focus on the next most mature and viable ocean technology, namely **offshore wind**.

In that context, a first feasibility study will soon be commissioned by the Government of Mauritius. It is focussed on finding the most appropriate location for the deployment of offshore wind. The country would need to embark on a



detailed feasibility study for data collection and undertake the environment, social impact assessment prior to the implementation.

Mauritius has also recently **adopted the National Biomass Framework** after extensive consultations. The main renewable energy source for electricity generation of the island has been provided through bagasse, a by-product of the sugarcane, for many years.

It is estimated that **around 22% of our country's energy needs could be produced from locally grown sugar cane and woody biomass by 2030**. In the meantime, imported wood pellets and chips would be used to complement our local biomass sources until the local production of biomass is able to cater for its demand.

As regards **base load power**, Mauritius is proceeding with the setting up of RE hybrid facilities of 130 MW capacity coupled with battery energy storage system. The use of biomass resources and RE Hybrid facilities would cater for the displacement of coal by 2030, **as pledged in our updated NDCs**.

As highlighted in our previous statements, the **electrical grid stability** is another challenging part in our energy transition. Given that the electrical grid is insular and not interconnected, other solutions are required to make the grid

resilient. As such investment in **Battery Energy Storage System** has been made to absorb intermittent Renewable energy and regulate the network frequency. The obsolete **Air Insulated Switchgear** Substations are being replaced by the modern **Gas Insulated Switchgear** Substations, which will allow for the interconnection of utility scale RE projects. As a solution to address the excess energy produced from the PV system during the day while avoiding curtailment, various studies are being undertaken namely on hydrogen and the pumped storage system.

### **Excellencies,**

To conclude, I wish to stress that in order to promote the implementation of the RE projects, the engagement of the private sector is required. We therefore make an appeal to the multi-stakeholders for their investment in RE projects being implemented in SIDS.

**Thank you.**



**Embajada de la República Oriental del Uruguay**

**Representación Permanente ante IRENA**

*Abu Dhabi, Emiratos Árabes Unidos*

## **Intervención Uruguay**

### **26° Consejo de IRENA**

**19 y 20 de octubre de 2023**

Sr. Director General de IRENA

Distinguidos representantes, delegados y colegas.

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

**Señor Presidente,**

**Uruguay continúa su activa colaboración con IRENA durante el presente año, reafirmando el compromiso de nuestro país con las energías renovables y con el trabajo de IRENA.**

En el marco de esta activa colaboración, se destaca especialmente la realización del **Primer Foro de Inversiones para Latinoamérica de IRENA**, que se **desarrollará a comienzos de noviembre del corriente en Uruguay** con el objetivo de facilitar la financiación y acelerar el crecimiento de la energía renovable en la región. Uruguay fue elegido para ser su sede, entre otros motivos

porque nuestro país “quiere ser protagonista” en el dinámico mundo de la energía. Así lo explicó el Ministro de Energía, Omar Paganini.

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

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

**Señor Presidente,**

En línea con los compromisos nacionales e internacionales adoptados por nuestro país, **Uruguay continúa su camino para disminuir a la mínima expresión el uso de los combustibles fósiles en la matriz eléctrica**. En el año 2022 la matriz de generación eléctrica del país **fue 91% de fuentes de origen renovable**.

No obstante, **las energías renovables no son un fin en sí mismo, sino que son un medio para lograr soberanía energética, impactar positivamente en el desarrollo local y descarbonizar la economía**.

En este sentido, a partir de la matriz eléctrica consolidada en los últimos años, el país avanza en la **segunda etapa de la transformación energética** la cual incluye **la descarbonización del resto del sector energético, esto es, la industria y el transporte, así como el desarrollo de una economía del hidrógeno verde, que será funcional a tales propósitos**.

El hidrógeno verde se presenta como una oportunidad para Uruguay, tanto para la descarbonización de su economía como en lo referente a las posibilidades de exportación. La matriz eléctrica del país es altamente renovable, cuenta con un alto potencial de generación con energías renovables no convencionales aún sin

utilizar, y la **disponibilidad del recurso eólico y solar permiten que estas energías sean altamente complementarias**. Asimismo, el país tiene atributos de interés para el desarrollo de inversiones, ha tenido grandes avances en digitalización y cuenta con una buena ubicación geográfica con acceso a puertos y rutas que interconectan el país.

Luego de un proceso de análisis e intercambio con actores relevantes a nivel nacional e internacional, se ha concluido que Uruguay tiene muy buenas condiciones para el desarrollo del hidrógeno verde y derivados, y es a partir de esa conclusión que Uruguay elaboró una hoja de ruta al 2040. La misma estuvo en consulta con todos los actores concernidos hasta el 15 de agosto de 2023 y su versión final será publicada **durante el Foro de Inversiones para Latinoamérica de IRENA y Semana de la Energía de OLADE**, que se desarrollará a comienzos de noviembre del corriente en Uruguay.

En **materia de movilidad eléctrica**, Uruguay ha venido transformando su matriz de transporte al eléctrico. Aunque aún es incipiente, se puede evidenciar un **crecimiento significativo en la cantidad de vehículos eléctricos que circulan** y esto es producto de las políticas públicas que se vienen desarrollando para incentivar esa transición. Políticas que van desde los incentivos fiscales hasta los promocionales económicos para diversos sectores.

Se destaca especialmente la realización del **III Foro Internacional de Movilidad Eléctrica en Montevideo**, el pasado 28 de septiembre. Dicho Foro contribuyó a **visibilizar el camino recorrido hacia una movilidad sustentable y la relevancia de las políticas públicas aplicadas**. El Ministro de Energía del Uruguay, subrayó el compromiso del Gobierno a través de diversos incentivos, y aseguró que Uruguay sigue firme en este camino hacia los objetivos diseñados.

En este sentido, el Ministro de Energía compartió las medidas concretas que el gobierno lleva a cabo para acompañar la conversión a la movilidad eléctrica, señalando que *“El cambio se potencia desde el gobierno con proyectos como el que se presentó en la actual ley de Rendición de Cuentas para **apoyar a la flota**”*

*pública, así como la exoneración de impuestos para la obtención de los vehículos eléctricos de uso personal.”*

**Señor Presidente,**

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

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

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

Para finalizar, Uruguay ratifica su compromiso con IRENA, con las energías renovables, con el cuidado del medio ambiente y su disposición para contribuir a una fructífera reunión, así como a avanzar en la agenda de la transformación energética mundial; aprovechando esta oportunidad para desearle a los Emiratos Árabes Unidos y a toda la comunidad internacional una excelente COP28, donde haya verdaderos avances en favor del cuidado del ambiente y en beneficio de toda la humanidad.

Muchas gracias por su amable atención.

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Australia**

**Talking Points** [approx. 3 mins]

- Thank you Chair, I am pleased to speak to the Council on updates on Australia's climate and energy policy.
- Australia is moving swiftly to raise our ambition and do our part in the global clean energy transformation.
- We passed the *Climate Change Act 2022*, enshrining in legislation targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Australia's abundance of sun, wind and land means we are among the countries best positioned to lead this transformation. Our unique endowment of critical minerals means Australia will also play a key role in supply chains for net zero technologies like batteries.
- We're investing over \$A40 billion in decarbonising our economy. We are working with partners to scale up global action, including \$17 billion committed to capturing opportunities in hydrogen, critical minerals and upstream industries, and realising emissions industry growth opportunities in our regions.
- We're developing 6 sectoral decarbonisation plans, which will feed into both Australia's Net Zero 2050 plan and our strong emissions reduction targets.
  - These plans will cover all major components of the Australian economy for the electricity and energy, industry, resources, built environment, agriculture and land, and transport sectors.
- Renewable energy lies at the heart of Australia's decarbonisation journey as we move to become a renewable energy superpower.
- Australia is focused on establishing a decarbonised economy by transforming Australia's electricity supply to run mainly on renewables - our plan will see 82% renewables in our electricity grid by 2030.

- We are tripling grid-scale wind and solar generation to grow and modernise our transmission and distribution infrastructure – a considerable undertaking in a vast nation of large distances like Australia.
- With many remote First Nations communities powered by unreliable, expensive diesel generators, we have introduced programs that will improve energy affordability and reliability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- As Australia realises its aspirations to become a renewable superpower, we will increase energy security and contribute to decarbonisation efforts both domestically and globally.
- Supply chain diversification is a priority and opportunity for Australia to be a renewable energy hub, a manufacturing centre and play a bigger role in global supply chains security.
- Australia has been a reliable energy supplier and will continue to be. We have no shortage of sun in Australia, nor a shortage of wind or minerals.
- We have a \$300 billion pipeline of proposed hydrogen projects in Australia – the biggest pipeline in the world.
- We are working on a strategy to guide the development of a battery industry at home and have established a special Battery Manufacturing Precinct to kick-start the process.
- Australia is working closely with its research and innovation sectors, regional partners and like-minded countries to help the global energy transition.
- Australia will continue to work with our partners in our region to assist countries develop and execute their own decarbonisation pathways. We welcome further opportunities to work with IRENA to pursue these goals.
- Our focus will be on sharing relevant Australian expertise and experience learned from our own energy transition.
- Australia is dedicated to use existing regional mechanisms, supporting Pacific designed and Pacific led initiatives.
- This commitment to working with our neighbours is why we are bidding to host COP31 in 2026 in partnership with the Pacific. Our COP will seek to bring the world’s attention to the realities of climate change in the Pacific, and the existential imperative to act.
- Thank you.



Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congratulations to you and the Vice Chair on your new positions. I wish you all the success in these positions.

I also want to acknowledge the great work of the Director General, Mr. La Camera, and his talented team here at IRENA.

Mr. Chairman, I want to let you know that IRENA has the full support of the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica as you commit your efforts in making the world a better place to live in.

I also want to thank the United Arab Emirates for hosting Cop28. I have no doubt that this Cop will be different and result oriented.

Mr. Chairman Dominica is no stranger to climate change. In Dominica we experience and know that climate change is a real thing and an existential threat to life on this planet. Every year we in Dominica experience the full force of the negative impacts of climate change.

In 2017, we experienced a Category 5+ hurricane that totally devastated Dominica in the tune of 226% of the country's gross domestic product. These hurricanes are occurring earlier, more frequently and with more intensity causing even greater damage. We take climate change very seriously as a nation and I sincerely hope and believe that all nations around the world do the same.

As I speak, Dominica is currently under a tropical storm watch, to the extent that the Prime Minister has to cut short this trip to Canada and return to the island to take care of matters. Furthermore, two weeks ago, we were hit by tropical storm Philippe causing tens of millions of dollars in damages.

As a result of the continuing devastating impacts of climate change, the government has clearly stated through its policies and laws to make Dominica the first resilient nation in the world. Such bold and visionary goal is seen by the way we construct our buildings, in our agricultural production and in our infrastructure development and other areas of development.

Dominica has great potentials in renewable energy. The island has a solar resource of about 5.6 Kwh per square meter per day. With abundant of rain, 28% of Dominica's energy mix come from hydropower.

Our commitment to renewable energy was birthed since the 1970s, when our national geothermal strategy was first developed. Exploiting such potential is at the forefront of the government strategy to make Dominica 100% green energy by 2030.

Some of our country main objectives and plans are:

1. To foster a safe, efficient, affordable, and low-carbon nation electricity supply that meets international standards.
2. To have 100% of the country energy supply from geothermal. Achieving such goals will have a significant positive impact on all aspects of the economy such as lower energy costs, a significant reduction in the cost of doing business and improving the standard of living of the citizens.

Steps that are taken towards our green energy goals:

1. Currently, construction of a 10 Megawatts geothermal plan, which is expected to be fully commissioned by 2025, with the goal of being 100% renewable energy dependent by 2030.

2. The government of Dominica has also signed a Framework Agreement that will initiate the first large scale green hydrogen geothermal development in the Caribbean.

- a. The goal is to monetise our significant geothermal resources on a large scale through the generation of green hydrogen and green electricity both for export and local consumption.

In closing, I want to thank IRENA for assisting us in mobilizing technical and financial resources to help us achieve our renewable energy goals. Thanks also to the United States, Iceland, New Zealand and other partners in helping us achieve this goal.

Thank you.



DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ENERGÍA,  
HIDROCARBUROS Y MINAS

## **Intervención de la Representante Permanente de El Salvador**

**S.E.Vanessa Interiano Elfarnawany**

**26° periodo de Sesiones del Consejo de IRENA.**

**19 de octubre de 2023.**

### **Experiencias Nacionales**

Señor Presidente,

Distinguidos delegados,

En nombre del Gobierno de El Salvador me complace compartir nuestra experiencia nacional y destacar los múltiples avances que se están ejecutando para acelerar la transición energética en el país.

El Salvador, bajo el liderazgo del presidente Nayib Bukele, ha tenido grandes y extraordinarios progresos en el sector energético, gracias a la apuesta que ha realizado el Gobierno en el uso de las energías limpias, al buen manejo de los recursos, a una operación eficiente y a la implementación de políticas nacionales y programas que han tenido impacto real en el bienestar de la población salvadoreña.

Gracias a esa visión la matriz energética se ha logrado consolidar a un 80% de energías renovables. Para el Gobierno del Presidente Nayib Bukele el uso y desarrollo de energías limpias



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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ENERGÍA,  
HIDROCARBUROS Y MINAS

ha sido una prioridad, especialmente el desarrollo de la geotermia en el país, representando el 25% de consumo de energía.

Sin embargo, en los últimos años, las energías: solar, fotovoltaica y eólica, así como otro tipo de energía verde, está teniendo un gran auge en El Salvador, con miras a alejarnos de las formas tradicionales de producción energética y de alto impacto ambiental, las que, de no cambiar, comprometerían de manera negativa el futuro de nuestra población.

Señor Presidente,

En poco tiempo, hemos realizado cambios históricos en las leyes de nuestro país para ratificar que la energía eléctrica es un servicio público y comprometiéndonos a seguir impulsando proyectos de energía renovable tanto públicos como privados, con miras a innovar nuestros modelos productivos y proporcionar energía asequible, segura, eficiente y moderna.

Estamos, asimismo, en el proceso de construcción de la primera planta fotovoltaica del Estado salvadoreño, contribuyendo con 17 MW de capacidad instalada a diversificar la matriz energética del país, además de generar empleos para los habitantes de las comunidades cercanas, nuestra visión es llevar más energía limpia a todos los hogares.

Transformar la matriz energética nacional priorizando el uso de las fuentes renovables de energía, es una prioridad, para ello, El Salvador está avanzando en el estudio de alternativas energéticas futuras, tales como el hidrógeno verde, las energías del océano y la electromovilidad. Ello, para cumplir con el compromiso asumido por el país de reducir las emisiones en el sector eléctrico en un 46%, para el 2025.



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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ENERGÍA,  
HIDROCARBUROS Y MINAS

Otros proyectos de carácter estratégico que se buscan realizar para el desarrollo de El Salvador son los proyectos geotérmicos. Actualmente contamos con 2 plantas geotérmicas: La Central Geotérmica de Ahuachapán y la Central Geotérmica Berlín, que en conjunto generan 190 Megawatts a la matriz energética. Avanzar hacia una transición energética sostenible es una de las prioridades de nuestro Gobierno y motivados por los beneficios del uso de esta energía, proyectamos incrementar esta cifra con la construcción de 2 nuevas plantas geotérmicas.

Es así como, se adjudicó en marzo 2023 la licitación pública para la construcción de dos plantas geotérmicas, una en Chinameca, San Miguel, con una capacidad de 20 megavatios (MW), y otra en San Vicente de 10 MW, se espera la finalización de las obras para el año 2025.

De igual manera, estamos apostando por la inversión extranjera en proyectos de energía solar con el fin de generar más y mejores empleos y a que varias empresas inicien proyectos mediante los cuales su producción sea a base de energías renovables.

Señor Presidente,

Agradecemos a IRENA y a la Alianza Solar Internacional por el apoyo brindado para desarrollar el Solar City Simulator. Esta aplicación ayudara a los hogares, las empresas y las autoridades municipales a evaluar sus perspectivas de generación de electricidad utilizando sistemas solares fotovoltaicos instalados en los techos de los edificios.

Adicionalmente la Agencia, llevó a cabo en el país la primera capacitación para el desarrollo del hidrógeno verde, el cual según la recomendación emanada del estudio REMAP Centroamérica



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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ENERGÍA,  
HIDROCARBUROS Y MINAS

es una solución alternativa en la región para descarbonizar el transporte de carga pesada por carretera, así como una oportunidad para un suministro de energía más limpio en el transporte marítimo internacional.

Finalizo Sr. Presidente, reiterando nuestro compromiso a promover un enfoque sostenible y neutral en carbono durante los próximos 30 años, proporcionando así un impulso clave para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y los Objetivos Climáticos de París.

En ese sentido, alentamos a todos los actores y a las partes interesadas a trabajar juntos, robustecer sus acciones y estrategias, a fin de cumplir nuestros objetivos comunes y compartidos y a brindar apoyo a todas las iniciativas de IRENA que implican promover, ampliar y avanzar en el uso de las energías renovables con miras a lograr un desarrollo sostenible.

Muchas gracias.

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the Kingdom of Eswatini**  
**Delivered by Ms Dorcas Dlamini, Principal Secretary of Ministry of Natural**  
**resources & Energy**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION IN ESWATINI**

Eswatini's average electricity demand is at 245 MW. About 80% of this demand is met through imports from neighbouring countries as well as from the Southern African Power Pool through the Day Ahead Market.

Most of the country's local electricity generation is through renewable energy technologies which include hydropower plants owned by the national utility. The total installed capacity for the hydropower plants is 60.4 MW. A 10MW utility scale solar power plant has been commissioned and is operational.

There is also about 106 MW of installed capacity biomass co-generation plants from the sugar mills.

A number of companies which are mostly in the agriculture sector have installed solar PV for own consumption.

**PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE**

Some power generation projects in the pipeline include a 13.6 MW Lower Maguduza Hydro Power Project. The country is also in the process of procuring about 75 MW of solar PV, as well as 40 MW of biomass that will be developed by Independent Power Producers (IPPs).



Through funding from the Italian Government, there is a project that is aimed at installing a 1MW solar PV system at the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital.

The country is currently developing a mini-grid framework that will govern the implementation of mini-grid projects in the country.

Eswatini has reviewed its Energy Masterplan, 2034, to consider other technologies that can be procured and the possible additional 80MW Biomass is part of the projects over and above other emerging technologies that have been modelled in our revised Energy Masterplan, 2050 which has gone through stakeholder consultation and got approval by Cabinet.

In order for Eswatini to achieve energy independence and security, there is a need for innovative financial instruments and policies to attract the much-needed investment and foster public private partnership in the energy sector.

This is where our financial institutions also have a central role to play. We are beginning to see the private sector, in particular the banks taking interest in the financing of energy projects.

## **ENERGY ACCESS RATES AND TARGETS**

The national electricity access rate currently stands at **82%**. The country has targeted 100% access to modern sources of energy by 2030.

Eswatini has also committed to ensuring that at least 50% of the electricity that is consumed in the country is generated from renewable energy by 2030.

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the European Union**

**Member Statements**

- On 10 October, the EU adopted a **new, increased renewable energy target for 2030**. We aim to achieve a **42.5% share** of renewables in the European energy mix by 2030.
- This is very ambitious – it means almost doubling the EU’s renewable energy share (from 22% in 2021) in eight years. It therefore corresponds to roughly doubling the EU’s ambition for the current decade compared to the previous 32% target. But it is doable.
- Many EU Member States have already set a high deployment ambition, often backed by European funding.
- Renewables are increasingly present on the ground. **2022 was a record year:**
  - 16 GW of new wind capacity and 41 GW of new solar capacity were installed in the EU; an increase of 45% and 47% respectively compared to the previous year.
  - Wind and solar together generated 22% of EU’s electricity, overtaking natural gas for the first time, as well as coal.
  - The deployment of heat pumps is also accelerating in all EU countries.
- But this is still below what we would need in order to achieve the EU target.

- This is why the newly adopted regulatory framework will help **scale up and speed up renewables deployment** across Europe in all sectors of the economy.
  - It introduces new and strengthened targets for renewable energy use for heating and cooling, in buildings and the industry;
  - It offers EU Member States a set of tools to address the bottleneck of permitting for renewable energy projects;
  - It promotes cooperation between EU Member States to ensure the most cost-efficient deployment of renewables at the scale of the EU.
- Thank IRENA for its support to the EU's work and for its contribution to demonstrating that such ambition is feasible.

### **IRENA regional offices**

- Recall the request, made by several IRENA Members during previous discussions, for a thorough assessment of the implications of establishing regional offices.
- Such assessments should include the proposed activities, their added value, articulation and potential overlaps with current activities of IRENA, the legal implications of establishing new offices as well as the clear implications in terms of budget and human resources.
- Such an assessment should be a prerequisite to any further action, including the launch of a pilot activity whose scope is not yet fully clarified.

26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Ireland**

Mr Chairman, Distinguished delegates and honourable guests,

It is an honour to address this esteemed assembly and to discuss the pivotal role of renewable energy in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future for our planet.

In particular, I would like to mention our hosts, the UAE. Ireland looks forward to continuing our close cooperation with the UAE and all international partners towards achieving the most successful COP yet, later this year in Dubai.

Ireland, with its rich history and deep cultural ties to the land, is acutely aware of the need to protect our environment and reduce our carbon footprint. Today, IRENA has brought us together to reaffirm our commitment to the global transition towards renewable energy sources. This transition is not merely a choice; it is an imperative.

Ireland welcomes IRENA's latest publications covering employment levels in renewable energy, offshore wind permitting and the annual renewable power generation cost assessment. The data and insights of these reports directly informs policy-making in Ireland and are hugely valued by all IRENA members.

In the context of the unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting twin energy price and security of supply crises across Europe, Ireland is accelerating our energy transition to renewables. Our National Climate Action Plan sets out the actions required to remain within legally binding carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The plan is updated annually and currently sets out a roadmap to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050.

While Ireland is a small energy system we have renewable electricity generation potential far beyond our domestic needs. Our current renewable electricity level is about 40%, which is almost entirely made up of onshore wind and is the highest level of onshore wind in the world. With a growing population and increased electrification of heat and transport, to reach our 2030 target of 80% renewable electricity, we have committed to doubling our onshore wind capacity to 9GW, adding 8GW of solar and 5GW of offshore wind to our system.

There was almost no utility-scale, or grid-scale solar in Ireland at the start of this year, however like many other countries, the dramatically reduced cost of solar has resulted in rapid build-out, with about 1 GW expected to be online by year-end. Likewise, offshore wind has not significantly featured in the Irish electricity system to date, however with a successful auction held earlier this year, over 3GW has been procured for development in the coming years.

It is worth noting both in the challenging context for offshore wind globally, that this auction included several design features to enhance delivery. First, robust financial strength and technical capability assessments were conducted at the pre-qualification stage, to ensure that all auction participants met these minimum standards. Second, risks external to the control of auction participants such as inflation and curtailment were removed via indexation and curtailment compensation. Lastly, successful auction participants are required to post sizeable delivery bonds. In total, over a quarter of a billion euro in bonds have been posted from this single offshore auction alone.

Ireland will also soon publish an updated calendar of auctions, as required by the EU Renewable Energy Directive, but more importantly, is required to build confidence with industry and investors in the pipeline of renewable capacity deployment required this decade and into the next.

Notably, while renewable generation potential is abundant in Ireland, almost all variable renewable potential, with little to no dispatchable renewable power such as biomass or hydropower; increased energy storage and interconnection will be required.

This summer we also launched our first Hydrogen Strategy, which is intended to address part of the energy storage challenge by focusing on the production of green hydrogen, initially from surplus onshore wind, but growing to generation from our vast offshore wind potential. While

the peak daily demand in Ireland is about 6GW, on top of our onshore and solar targets, we are targeting 20GW of offshore wind by 2040 and 37GW by 2050, enough to meaningfully contribute to the decarbonisation of neighbouring markets.

Also earlier this summer, Ireland took one of our first steps towards this position of being a trusted exporter of renewable energy by signing a Declaration of Intent with Germany to cooperate in the development and export of green hydrogen. Ireland is keen to develop the potential of this relationship and with other countries that may be interested in similar partnerships.

Looking ahead to next year, Ireland will host our first plan-led offshore auctions. This has been a difficult transition from developer-led auctions of the past, but we have learned from the experiences of the North Seas Energy Cooperation and the transition is necessary to make optimal use of our renewable generation potential, while co-existing with other marine sectors including seafood, biodiversity and tourism. Ireland will also co-chair the biennial IEA Ministerial in February and will seek to drive forward the same critical themes of decarbonisation acceleration and energy transition financing.

To conclude, this is a challenging time for the global community, but we must persevere. Ireland has a comparative advantage in clean, secure offshore wind, and with it, we plan to both decarbonise our economy and assist the decarbonisation of others. Building consensus and sharing lessons learned are fundamental pillars of IRENA. Ireland, along with our partners here today, will continue to work tirelessly to advance the cause of renewable energy and once again I congratulate IRENA on today's meeting.

Let us build on our work here today in the build up to pre-COP and COP28 to create a cleaner and greener future for us all.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, and honourable guests,

Thank you, go raibh maith agait, shukran

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Kenya**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the United States of America as Chair of this 26<sup>TH</sup> IRENA Council meeting and Panama as vice chair.

Kenya appreciates and commends IRENA for its effort in disseminating information on energy transition through the Energy Transition outlook publication. The publication provides valuable reference information on energy transition pathways and associated investments.

We note with concern that the world is unlikely to achieve the SDG 7 objectives by 2030. This is particularly so in Africa, due to limited access to affordable, predictable and fit-for-purpose finance.

The energy transition must involve the transition to polluting cooking fuels and technologies to embrace cleaner options. There must be demonstrable high political priority in support of acceleration of access to clean cooking as a critical element of the energy transition.

**Kenya's Experience**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A number of decades ago, Kenya took a bold decision to prioritize renewable energy at a time when it was not fashionable to do so. The decision has paid off and as a result, 73 % of our installed electricity generation capacity is from renewable. Importantly, over 90 % of electricity generated and dispatched is from renewable.

Kenya has prepared an energy transition Investment and Growth plan. This plan provides specific details on the envisaged investments towards sustainable development and net zero targets in 2050. This investment plan is scheduled to be launched at the sidelines of COP28.

Kenya has embarked on an ambitious journey towards achievement of universal access to modern and clean energy including clean cooking. There exist substantial investment opportunities across the clean cooking and electricity value chains, including electric cooking and e-mobility.

Kenya has embraced and is vigorously pursuing the development of green hydrogen. Towards this end, it has formulated and launched a national green hydrogen roadmap and strategy. The strategy and roadmap highlight the country's shared Green Hydrogen Vision for developing and utilizing green hydrogen as a cross-cutting enabler for Kenya's development agenda and as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development. Moreover, the development of the Green Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap aligns closely with Kenya's national climate action plans and its commitment to the global targets outlined in the Paris Agreement. Kenya has the potential to produce green hydrogen for local consumption as well as for export.

In conclusion, Kenya urges the Agency, as a global voice of renewables, to continue to mobilize voluntary contributions towards shaping the global discourse on energy transformation by providing relevant, timely, high-quality information and access to data on renewable energy including clean cooking.



**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Malta**

**Speech by H.E. Maria Camilleri Calleja, Permanent Representative**  
**of Malta to IRENA – 19 October 2023**

Thank you IRENA and UAE Mission to IRENA and all collaborators for organising the 26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council, for the unique Majlis experience of yesterday, and for supporting Malta on a daily basis.

Allow me to start by highlighting the pressing challenges that a small island state like Malta faces when it comes to ensuring the security of our energy supply. We are well aware of the fact that we lack indigenous conventional energy resources. This makes us particularly vulnerable to various external factors. These challenges are not unique to us – such challenges echo the concerns shared by other small island states around the world.

Another critical issue is the risk posed by weather effects resulting from climate change. Extreme weather events impact energy demand and trigger the necessity for substantial investments in strengthening our energy generation and energy transition.

The current electrical energy mix in Malta consists of 70% local generation from gas-fired plants, 20% direct imports over the Malta-Italy

Interconnector, and 10% of local generation from renewable energy sources; mainly small-scale rooftop PV installations. We must therefore, continue to invest in research and development to explore new opportunities and technologies that can help us harness the full potential of the available renewable sources.

For these reasons, on 1 September 2023, Malta's Minister for Energy launched a Public Consultation on the National Policy for the Deployment of Offshore Renewable Energy with the first National Policy document. The Offshore Renewable Energy Policy seeks to enable the offshore potential of the Mediterranean in the country's best interest. The policy supports the implementation of offshore renewable projects, mainly wind and solar, in areas lying beyond the territorial waters and within Malta's potential Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Maltese Government's energy vision is to offer affordable and clean energy, improve the infrastructure, strengthen innovation, and continue delivering measures in favour of climate action.

Following the public consultation and subsequent updates to the policy document, an international expression of interest will be issued. In parallel, a Strategic Environment Assessment will be prepared.

The scope of this National Policy on Offshore Renewable Energy is to enable the Maltese Government to embrace the offshore potential in the country's best interest and to meet the following 10 objectives:

1. To support the implementation of offshore renewable projects, mainly wind and solar in areas lying beyond the territorial waters and within Malta's potential EEZ.

2. To promote investment in renewable energy infrastructure, reducing regulatory and financial risk.
3. To provide a comprehensive framework to promote investment in renewable energy.
4. To effectively incentivise investment promotion towards renewable energy resources in line with maritime spatial planning and management of maritime resources.
5. To direct potential investors towards efficient renewable technologies to increase the deployment of green energy technologies.
6. To promote research, development and innovation in the offshore renewable energy sector.
7. To ensure that offshore energy potential supports the country's energy security, by promoting the diversification of the energy mix.
8. To generate economic growth by creating the platform for new green employment opportunities and the creation of jobs.
9. To promote the development of coastal and port infrastructure, and supply chain facilities.
10. To complement the regulatory and implementation framework, reducing the time from concept to commissioning through effective governance and monitoring.

I wish to conclude by thanking IRENA along with the Global Renewables Alliance for their work and for believing in the potential of small island states like Malta and the future of renewables we wish to shape.

Thank you very much.

26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting

Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Nepal**  
**Delivered by Bishal Bhattarai, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Nepal, Abu Dhabi**

Remarks from the Embassy of Nepal to the United Arab Emirates  
26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Excellencies, Distinguished Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon and Namaste to you all!

It gives me immense pleasure to present Nepal's experiences, priority actions, and challenges for the generation and use of renewable energy and share our long-term vision on issues related to energy transitions.

At the very outset, I would like to appreciate IRENA for its commendable initiative in providing this platform for the general members and for its efforts in providing technical and financial assistance for renewable energy projects in developing countries.

Nepal is among the most vulnerable nations to climate change with the country's delicate topography, climate-sensitive livelihoods of the people, and limited adaptive capacity.

Nepal relies heavily on traditional energy resources and imported fossil fuels to meet its energy demand. The government of Nepal has a strong commitment to the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Nepal has made renewable energy a priority through its various policies, strategies, and plans, which include among others, National Climate Change Policy, Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Long Term Strategy for Net Zero Emissions by 2045, National Adaptation Plan, SDG Roadmap and Periodic Plans.

Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020 has set ambitious goals in the energy sector under three sub-sectors namely Clean Energy Generation, Adoption of electric vehicles, and deployment of clean cooking solutions, as well as energy transition in industrial and other sectors.

We have made significant progress in increasing access to electricity in the last decade attaining a 98% electrification coverage in Nepal. However, for fuel, 65% of demand is met through traditional energy, whereas grid electricity and renewables contribute just 4.6% and 3% respectively. Fuelwood and LPG dominate the cooking fuels in the households of Nepal.

We aim to achieve universal electricity access by 2025 and establish electric cooking as the main cooking solution with 25% penetration by 2030.

Nepal aims to effectively scale up investment in renewables for low-carbon and climate-resilient development for which the private sector needs to be incentivized. The targets set by the second NDC are mostly conditional and contingent upon the mobilization of external resources. Hence Nepal is in need of financial and technical assistance from its development partners for implementing innovative and cost-effective approaches for scaling up the renewable energy projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation for the sustainable socio-economic development of the nation.

In this regard, the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) has been collaborating with IRENA in a number of initiatives which include among others, the development of joint projects, such as 10 million USD soft loan projects, Solar City Simulator, and Renewable Energy for the Agricultural Value Chain.

There is immense possibility for future collaboration with IRENA such as in Renewable Energy Roadmap, Collaborative Frameworks on Hydropower, Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Green Hydrogen, and Energy Transition, Mobilizing Public and Private Sector Investment and Capacity Building.

With this, I wish great success for the 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and hope for further cooperation in the renewable energy sector development in Nepal. Thank you

**Agenda Item 5**

**General Members Statements – National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by NEW ZEALAND**

Thank you Chair, Director-General, our host the UAE, your Excellencies and colleagues.

While it is encouraging to see the growth in commitments to the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) initiative, New Zealand urgently calls upon partners to finalise the Charter. The gross commitment from partners is significant, but it appears that there may be limited additionality offered through the ETAF – the Uzbekistan solar PV project disproportionately dominating outcomes to date. It is important that the ETAF is fully utilised to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

In this regard, New Zealand expresses our full support for the UAE in their upcoming role as COP28 President next month. We look forward to the UAE delivering an ambitious, inclusive COP that puts us collectively back on track to limiting warming to 1.5C.

New Zealand has a long history of domestic geothermal development for both electricity and industrial energy. We know that geothermal development is a key area of interest for many Pacific and Caribbean Island nations, with whom New Zealand is sharing our expertise in this technology. Geothermal energy can provide an important contribution to renewables growth and decarbonisation – so is a very important part of the energy transition journey.

To better identify the opportunities for greater collaboration on geothermal energy, New Zealand strongly encourages the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) to work more closely with the International Geothermal Association (IGA). Collaborative development of geothermal resources, to complement intermittent solar and wind resources, could help address grid integration and commercial viability challenges. These are issues that continue to have hinder the use of these resources in many smaller member states.

New Zealand commends our Pacific Island Country partners for their ambitious renewable energy targets. New Zealand is providing NZ\$1.3 billion of International Climate Finance to developing countries between 2022 and 2025. The delivery of this funding is partner led, with at least half going to the Pacific where energy is a climate change priority for our Pacific partners. Many other development partners have also pledged to support renewable energy deployment in the Pacific.

However, actual disbursement is overall too slow. In addition, the costs of renewable energy systems are higher than globally reported, due to low economies of scale, supply chain constraints and high transaction costs. We encourage IRENA and its members to keep attending to the particular needs of Pacific Island Countries as they embark on their ambitious energy transitions.

Finally, while we are all encouraged by the falling costs of renewable technologies globally, we are conscious of the risk that this can bring through poor quality, substandard installation practices and equipment sourced from reputable manufacturing facilities. New Zealand considers that particular care must be taken to balance the growth in renewables to ensure it is not at the expense of any of these issues.

Thank you Chair. //

26<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council meeting,  
Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by Poland**

*Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Director-General,  
Dear delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great honour for me to participate in the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IRENA Council and share the Polish perspective on issues related to energy transition.

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Director-General of IRENA Mr. Francesco La Camera and his staff members for the efficient preparation of this meeting.

I would like to start with a few comments on IRENA's Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025. The report includes many important insights and observations about the current state of global decarbonization. The increase in the installed renewable energy sources capacity, investments in clean technologies and employment in this industry gives us a hope to achieve the goals of the United Nations scenario of 1.5°C. Furthermore, we do appreciate IRENA's increased emphasis on energy security and the role of renewables in improving energy independence. The development of renewables reduces dependence on constant import of fossil fuels – which seems even more important in the context of the current energy crisis, caused by the weaponization of the fossil fuels supplies by Russia.

Poland, as a Member of the European Union, has committed to achieving the climate targets resulting from the European Green Deal. It is worth emphasizing, that just a few days before our meeting, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament endorsed the text of the amended Renewable Energy Directive. The amendment includes an increased share of renewable energy in the gross final consumption of energy in the EU to 42.5% by 2030 – previously it was 32%.

Ambitions are growing, but we cannot forget about the social side of the decarbonization process. It is necessary to obtain social acceptance for the main assumptions of the energy transition. The transition cannot generate excessive burdens for our citizens – if this happens, the failure of such a project is inevitable. The social dimension should therefore gain priority in shaping future decisions on energy supply networks, energy policy and related climate change mitigation.

At this point, I would like to mention a few renewable energy figures, that show the scale of the efforts Poland has undertaken to achieve its energy transition goals. The total installed RES capacity at the end of August 2023 was 26.37 GW. The dominant technologies are solar

photovoltaics – almost 15 GW of installed capacity, and onshore wind – almost 9 GW. Furthermore, at the end of August 2023, Poland had 1.32 million self-consumers – owners of rooftop solar PV installations. The total installed capacity of self-consumer's installation was over 10 GW. The total amount of green energy injected into the power grid in this year has so far amounted to 27.4%, which is over 7% more than in 2022.

Such a significant increase was possible due to the implementation of appropriate support schemes and reduced administrative burdens. Poland has implemented two major amendments this year – to the Onshore Wind Energy Act and to the Renewable Energy Act. We have introduced more flexible spatial planning rules in the context of wind turbines construction, and we have shortened the required distance between wind energy infrastructure and households from approximately 2 km to 700 metres. We expect to secure over 4 GW of additional land-based turbines capacity to 2030 due to this amendment. By ensuring a stable and simplified legal framework, we expect to unleash the potential of Polish entrepreneurs and encourage foreign investors.

In addition, I am pleased to inform you that on August 12, 2023, the President of the Republic of Poland signed the amendment to the Renewable Sources Act. Hence, we have implemented into the national legal order a number of provisions, regarding guarantees of origin, accelerating the permit-granting process for heat pumps and solar PV, regulations on Power Purchase Agreements, and provisions which lays down a framework for the biomethane sector development.

It is worth emphasizing, that Poland has also implemented several support schemes, dedicated to both dispersed and large-scale renewable projects. Since the implementation of the “My electricity” Programme in 2019 dedicated to owners of rooftop solar PV installations, the number of self-consumers increased to around 1.1 million and over 9 GW of their installation's total capacity. On the other hand, the auction system based on contracts for difference and dedicated to the large-scale renewable energy projects, provided approximately 11.5 GW of additional RES capacity between 2016 and 2021, and it is supposed to secure another 9 GW to 2027.

In conclusion, I would like to thank IRENA for all the support in facing challenges of the demanding process of energy transition.

*Thank you for your attention.*



**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the Russian Federation**

Выражаю признательность за привлечение к участию в ежегодном заседании Совета IRENA, полагаю, что эта площадка была и остается одной из ведущих международных платформ для обмена опытом и выработке решений в области возобновляемой энергетики.

Российская Федерация ответственно относится к своим обязательствам в рамках Парижского соглашения по климату, и выполняет взятые на себя обязательства и обеспечению доступной и надежной энергией. Все поставки энергоресурсов обеспечиваются Россией в полном объеме в том числе через территорию Украины в Европейские страны.

Основные объемы ВИЭ-генерации построены в последние 10 лет благодаря программам поддержки ВИЭ и не создают нагрузки на потребителя и граждан. По нашей оценке к 2031 году стоимость ВИЭ позволит обходиться без субсидий.

Перспективные планы строятся Российской Федерацией с обязательным учетом климатического фактора на основе разумной диверсификации структуры энергобаланса.

До 2030 г. планируется увеличение уровня ВИЭ не считая крупных ГЭС до 12 ГВт, к 2050 году предполагаем еще более рост до 9 % в структуре или 67 ГВт.

Кроме того запланировано строительство крупных ГЭС суммарной мощностью 4,7 ГВт и ГАЭС суммарной установленной мощностью 6,5 ГВт.

Отмечу, что в наших схемах поддержки ВИЭ поэтапно все большую роль будут играть добровольные механизмы - «зеленые» долгосрочные договоры, сертификаты происхождения.

В заключение хотелось бы выразить благодарность секретариату и генеральному секретарю Франческо Ла Камера за то что **IRENA остается не политизированной площадкой по развитию ВИЭ** и служит дополнительным импульсом развития общего дела – сохранения благоприятного климата на всей планете.

Благодарю за внимание

I would like to express my gratitude for being invited to participate in the annual IRENA Council meeting. I believe that this platform has been and remains one of the leading international platforms for sharing experience and developing solutions in the field of renewable energy.

The Russian Federation is committed to its obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and fulfills its obligations to provide affordable and reliable energy. All energy supplies are provided by Russia in full, including through the territory of Ukraine to European countries.

The main volumes of RES generation have been built in the last 10 years due to RES support programmes and do not create a burden on consumers and citizens. We estimate that by 2031, the cost of RES will make it possible to do without subsidies.

The Russian Federation is making prospective plans with obligatory consideration of the climate factor on the basis of reasonable diversification of the energy balance structure.

By 2030 it is planned to increase the level of RES, excluding large HPPs up to 12 GW, by 2050 we assume even more growth up to 9 % in the structure or 67 GW.

Besides, construction of large HPPs with a total capacity of 4.7 GW and SHPPs with a total installed capacity of 6.5 GW is planned.

I emphasize that voluntary mechanisms such as green long-term contracts and certificates of origin will gradually play an increasing role in our RES support schemes.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Secretariat and Secretary General Francesco La Camera for ensuring that IRENA remains a non-politicized platform for renewable energy development and serves as an additional incentive for the common cause of maintaining a favorable climate on the whole planet.

Thank you for your attention!

**Agenda Item 5**  
**General Member Statements - National Experiences on the Energy Transition**

**Statement by the United Kingdom**

**UK General Member Statement – October 2023 IRENA Council**

- *Thank you for welcoming us to another IRENA Council meeting.*
  
- *We are continually grateful for IRENA’s leadership and analysis on the energy transition, as well as their support for key international initiatives such as the Breakthrough Agenda, which the UK launched at COP26.*
- *We remain hugely committed to IRENA, having co-led initiatives such as the collaborative framework for critical materials, and I am pleased to now be joining this IRENA Council as the **UK’s new Permanent Representative**, which is a huge honour.*
  
- *As you will know, the UK government is firmly committed to Net Zero by 2050 and our British Energy Security Strategy (as well as “Powering Up Britain” publications) outlines how we will accelerate the deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, which could see 95% of electricity by 2030 being low carbon.*
  
- *In the May 2023 council, we highlighted key challenges relating to the deployment of renewable energy for the UK, which included balancing the need for “dispatchable power” from renewables, ensuring public support for a pragmatic, proportionate energy transition, and overcoming challenges in grid flexibility in periods of energy uncertainty.*

- *These challenges remain, so the UK continues to advance the deployment of domestic renewable energy policies which will provide a regulated, supportive environment for the deployment of appropriate renewable energy technologies in the UK.*
- *Aside from our domestic renewable energy priorities, the UK remains committed to ensuring a Global Renewable Energy Transition. The upcoming COP28 will act as a pivotal moment to identify gaps and opportunities for the implementation of the Paris Agreement goals, limiting warming to 1.5 degrees or below.*
- *Solidifying the UK's commitment to the global transition and tackling climate change, the Prime Minister recently confirmed that the UK will provide \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund. The GCF is the largest global fund dedicated to supporting developing countries to reduce global emissions and helping communities adapt to the effects of climate change.*
- *We congratulate IRENA on their significant role in supporting the G7 and G20 and fully support the agency's call to triple renewable power capacity by 2030. IRENA has, and will continue to have, a significant role in shaping the successful outcomes of COP28, and we stand ready to support IRENA in this role.*
- *Thank you.*

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Council  
 Abu Dhabi, 19-20 October 2023

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<b>SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC</b>	H.E. Mr Ghassan Abbas	Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Syrian Arab Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi
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