

6 December 2018

9th Session of the IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings 10-13 January 2019 – St. Regis Hotel Saadiyat Island – Abu Dhabi

Executive Overview

Foreword by the Director-General of IRENA

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 9th IRENA Assembly which will take place from 10th to 13th January in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

As the supreme decision-making organ of IRENA, the Assembly has become one of the leading global platforms for international energy cooperation. The 9th Assembly is expected to attract Heads of State/Government, Ministers, and participants from 159 Members as well as other countries, in addition to high-level representatives from numerous international and regional organisations.

Once again, leaders and decision-makers from government, the private sector and civil society, as well as parliamentarians, are coming to Abu Dhabi in January to chart the path of the global energy transformation driven by renewables for the next years. International cooperation can help foster a common understanding around key priorities and actions to accelerate this transformation through the exchange of experiences and best practices with a view to scaling-up solutions.

This Executive Overview has been prepared to assist you in navigating the four days of the Assembly and its related meetings, and in identifying high-level opportunities to directly engage with peers on topics critical to achieving a sustainable energy future.

I look forward to welcoming you in Abu Dhabi.

Adnan Z. Amin

The Assembly

President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for the 9th Session

At its 8th session the Assembly designated the President and four Vice-Presidents for the 9th session.

President: Administrator of the National Energy Administration of China

Vice-President: Minister for Mines and Energy of Colombia

Vice-President: Minister for Natural Resources and Energy of Eswatini

Vice-President: Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy of the European Union

Vice-President: Minister of Electricity and Energy of Yemen

IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings – A Brief Overview

The meetings of the IRENA Assembly and thematic discussions are structured around the following:

Regional Ministerial-High-level Meetings (10 January 2019): Three regional ministerial-high-level meetings will take place with the aim of tackling key issues and sharing national experiences in Africa, Small Island Developing States and Latin America.

Opening Plenary Session and Member Interventions (11 January 2019): The Official Opening of the 9th Session of the IRENA Assembly will take place on January 11th at 9.30am. There will be high-level statements, by the Presidency of the Assembly and the Host Country, as well as reports from the previous day's events. The Director-General will present the Annual Report after which delegations may **deliver official statements from their delegation tables within an allotted time of three-minutes.**

** Delegations wishing to make such interventions are invited to **register in the speakers list** by sending a request to Assembly@irena.org, noting the name and title of the speaker, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Speakers List". Delegations are also invited to submit written statements to the Secretariat in advance of delivery. Full official written statements will be available on the IRENA website.*

Ministerial Roundtables and Special Evening Event (11 and 12 January 2019): Two ministerial roundtables will take place, featuring Ministers and high-level participants. These will discuss the role of renewables in achieving universal energy access and the transformative impact innovation is having in the renewable energy sector.

A special evening event on "Gender in the Energy Transformation" will mark the launch of a new IRENA publication on the topic and feature an interactive discussion on the gender dimension of the energy transformation.

** In order to participate at the Ministerial Roundtables, you are requested to pre-register your Ministers and other Heads of Delegation by sending an email to Assembly@irena.org expressing their wish to attend one or both roundtables, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Roundtables".*

Plenary Discussions on Strategic-Programmatic Topics and Activities (12 January 2019): A number of Plenary discussions will feature presentations and provide opportunities for contributions from Member delegations, stakeholder groups and the private sector. Plenaries will focus on aspects of the Agency's work and actions by countries in the development and deployment of renewables.

Plenary Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters (12 January 2019): The Assembly will consider the conclusions of 16th Council and will provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

Plenary High-level Segment: "Taking Stock of Progress" (13 January 2019): Heads of State, Ministers and High-level participants will share their views and vision on the progress made by the Agency since its First Assembly.

Appointment of the Next Director-General (13 January 2019): IRENA Members will decide on the appointment of the next Director-General of the Agency.

Thematic Meetings and Stakeholder Engagements (10 - 12 January 2019): Thematic meetings, organised by IRENA, and in collaboration with stakeholders, will be held over the course of the 9th Session of the IRENA Assembly. The main objectives are to raise awareness of the importance of renewable energy and its impact on sustainable development, connect policy makers, experts and

innovators from many countries to learn from each other, share good practices and inform decision makers by identifying shared needs and finding common ground on shared priorities.

Dinner Reception (11 January 2019): Delegations are cordially invited to a dinner reception on the occasion of the 9th Session of the IRENA Assembly.

IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings – A Detailed Overview

I. Regional Ministerial – High-level Meetings

A) SIDS Ministerial: SIDS Lighthouses Initiative 2.0

Thursday, 10 January 09:30-12:00 (Room A1)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change where energy is a major constraint to sustainable economic growth and development. The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI), launched at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit to support SIDS in their energy transformation to renewables, today brings together 36 SIDS and 22 other partners. It focuses on a range of areas spanning from policy and market frameworks to technology options, project development, financing and capacity building.

At this Ministerial Meeting Ministers and High-level participants will share their vision and experiences in the adoption of renewables. Participants will identify new actions and commitments for the implementation of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative 2.0, following its successful launch in September 2018 during the UN General Assembly high-level meetings.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Friday, 11th January.

B) African Ministerial: Scaling up Renewable Energy Deployment in Africa

Thursday, 10 January 13:00-16:00 (Room A1)

Africa has a vast renewable energy potential and IRENA has been actively supporting the efforts of African countries to harness this potential since the Agency's very beginnings. In July 2011, IRENA convened a high-level forum with the active participation of African, countries, development partners and regional institutions, which marked the starting point of IRENA's engagement in Africa. The Ministerial Communiqué adopted by the meeting underlined the importance of strengthening IRENA's strategic presence in Africa and formalizing cooperation arrangements with African regional bodies and strategic partners.

At the meeting, Ministers and high-level participants will discuss prospects for raising the continent's ambitions for accelerating renewables deployment so it can leapfrog to a sustainable energy future and achieve its economic, social, environmental and climate objectives. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to take stock of the progress made and concrete results achieved in the implementation of various regional, national and thematic initiatives facilitated by IRENA with a view to further maximizing their impact, as the Agency takes its engagement with the continent to the next phase.

A report on this Ministerial Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Friday, 11th January.

C) High-level Meeting on Renewable Energy in Latin America

Thursday, 10 January 16:00-18:00 (Room A2)

Latin America hosts some of the world's most dynamic renewable energy markets, with more than a quarter of primary energy coming from renewables, twice the global average. Across the region, hydropower plays a central role in the energy sector, while several countries have also become pioneers in the deployment of bioenergy. Despite these positive developments, energy demand is rising, energy security remains a concern and the impacts from climate change in the energy sector are becoming more pronounced.

The Abu Dhabi Communiqué on Accelerating Renewable Energy Uptake in Latin America, adopted by the countries of the region during IRENA's 5th Assembly in January 2015, identified several areas of cooperation to support renewable energy deployment in the region. IRENA's engagement in the region has focused on providing support for renewable energy policy, regulation, finance and grid integration, including, through the Agency's ongoing Clean Energy Corridor for Central America (CECCA) initiative.

The meeting will bring together policymakers and other key stakeholders to discuss strengthening cooperation between Latin America and the Agency under a new Regional Action Plan aimed at further accelerating the deployment of renewables in the region. The meeting will provide a platform for an exchange on the contribution the new Regional Action Plan can make in addressing the key challenges for advancing the energy transformation in the region.

A report on this High-Level Meeting will be presented to the Assembly on Friday, 11th January.

II. Official Opening Plenary Session

A) Opening of the 9th Assembly

Friday, 11 January 09:30-10:30 (Plenary Hall)

The opening will include several high-level statements from the Presidency of the Assembly, the Host Country as well as reports from the SIDS Ministerial, Africa Ministerial, Latin America High-Level Meeting, Legislators Forum and Public-Private Dialogue.

B) Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

Friday, 11 January 10:30-18:00 (Plenary Hall)

The Director-General will provide an update on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019. After the Director-General's remarks, Members will have the opportunity **to take the floor and make interventions within an allotted time of three-minutes**, commenting on the report, providing guidance for the Agency's future work and sharing their national experiences.

** Delegations wishing to make such interventions from their delegation table in plenary are invited to **register in the speakers list** by sending a request noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Speakers List".*

III. Ministerial Roundtables and Special Evening Event

A) Ministerial Roundtable: Catalysing Off-grid Renewable Energy Deployment Towards Universal Electricity Access and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Friday, 11 January 15:00-18:00 (Ministerial Hall)

Off-grid renewable energy solutions have emerged as a mainstream solution to expand access to modern energy services in a timely and environmentally sustainable manner. It is estimated that by 2030, renewable energy sources will power over 60% of new electricity access, and stand-alone and mini-grid systems will provide the means for almost half of new access, thus making valuable contributions to achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy access.

The Ministerial Roundtable will be an important opportunity to showcase through practical examples the transformative impact off-grid renewable energy solutions can have on improving modern energy access and contribute to a country's SDGs across multiple sectors. It will also serve as a platform for

Members to share their experiences in deploying off-grid solutions and specific measures taken to ensure that no one is left behind. Member States will also have the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance on the Agency's work.

** In order to participate at this meeting, you are requested to pre-register your Ministers and other Heads of Delegation by sending an email to Assembly@irena.org expressing their wish to attend at this roundtable, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Roundtables".*

A report on this Ministerial Roundtable will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 13th January.

B) Ministerial Roundtable: Transformative Innovation

Saturday, 12 January 15:00-18:00 (Ministerial Hall)

Innovation is the engine powering the energy transformation and the pace of innovation around the world is accelerating. A multitude of innovation solutions are being trialed and adopted in numerous countries for a wide range of applications across energy systems. The diversity of innovations emerging and the speed at which they are being adopted will have far reaching implication for the design and operation of energy systems and actors involved in them. Utilities are moving from selling electricity to providing additional services to customers. Consumers are becoming electricity producers. New entrants such as ICT and car fleet owners can also provide services to power systems.

This Ministerial Roundtable will comprise a mix of public and private sector decision makers who will share their insights into the types of innovations emerging and discuss how those innovations are changing energy systems and beginning to change roles of many existing actors. Discussions will explore the potential implications of that transformative change, the lessons learned to date from adapting to those changes and provide perspectives on what further changes will be needed to advance the energy transformation.

** In order to participate at this meeting, you are requested to pre-register your Ministers and other Heads of Delegation by sending an email to Assembly@irena.org expressing their wish to attend at this roundtable, indicating in the subject line "IRENA Assembly: Ministerial Roundtables".*

A report on this Ministerial Roundtable will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 13th January.

C) Special Evening Event: Gender in the Energy Transformation

Saturday, 12 January 19:30-21:30

The event will host an interactive discussion amongst leaders from government, international organisations, the private sector and civil society on practical examples on how gender aspects are integrated across the renewable energy sector and what best practices can be replicated to ensure an energy transformation that is rapid, inclusive and leaves no one behind.

A report on this special evening event will be presented to the Assembly on Sunday, 13th January.

IV. Plenary Discussions on Strategic-Programmatic Topics and Activities

A) The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation

Saturday, 12 January 09:30-10:30 (Plenary Hall)

Renewables are moving to the centre of the global energy landscape. Due to rapid technological advances and falling costs, they have grown faster than any other energy source and are now cost-competitive with fossil fuels in many part of the world, and this even before taking into account their

benefits in the battle against urban pollution and climate change. The Report of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation will highlight how the renewables-led energy transformation is impacting global geopolitical dynamics.

B) Socio-economic Benefits of the Energy Transition

Saturday, 12 January 10:30-12:30 (Plenary Hall)

Renewable energy deployment has immense socio-economic benefits and contributes, among others, to economic growth, job creation, improved air quality, tackling climate change, the provision of health services as well as clean transport. This discussion will focus on how policy makers can take the steps and measures needed to achieve energy transformation in a manner that is inclusive and responds to the needs of a large range of stakeholders.

C) IRENA/ADFD Selected Projects for 2018

Saturday, 12 January 12:30-13:00 (Plenary Hall)

IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) collaborate on a joint Project Facility whereby IRENA manages the independent selection process of project proposals, through a technical Panel of Experts, and an Advisory Committee that reports to the Council and the Assembly annually. This session will announce the selected projects for funding under the 6th funding cycle for 2018 and will be an opportunity to report on the advances on the selected projects in the previous cycles.

D) The Changing Role of Hydropower in the Energy Sector Transformation

Saturday, 12 January 14:30-16:30 (Plenary Hall)

This session will discuss recent changes in the role of hydropower, share good practices related to the energy efficiency improvements of hydropower and identify actions to enhance the adoption of hydropower in support of the energy sector transformation. Potential challenges and opportunities will be examined, encouraging participants to be actively involved in shaping solutions and guide the Agency's work in this area.

V. Plenary Considerations of Administrative and Institutional Matters

Saturday, 12 January 16:30-18:00 (Plenary Hall)

The Assembly will consider 16th Council conclusions and will provide guidance on specific administrative and institutional matters.

VI. High-level Segment: Taking Stock of Progress

Sunday, 13 January 10:00-13:00 (Plenary Hall)

This high-level session will discuss the achievements of the Agency and its Members during the last eight years as a basis for envisioning the Agency's future role in a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

VII. Appointment of the Next Director-General

Sunday, 13 January 14:30-17:30 (Plenary Hall)

IRENA Members will decide on the appointment of the next Director-General of the Agency.

VIII. Thematic Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement

A) 2019 Legislators Forum – Catalysing Parliamentary Action to Accelerate the Global Energy Transformation and Implement the Sustainable Development Goal on Energy

Thursday, 10 January 09:00-12:00 (Room A2) and 13:00-14:00 (Room B1)

This annual Forum brings together parliamentarians to share their experiences in setting enabling frameworks to accelerate renewables deployment.

A report on this high-level event will be presented to the Assembly on Friday, 11th January.

B) Public and Private Actions Needed to Accelerate the Energy Transformation – a Public-Private Dialogue

Thursday, 10 January 16:30-18:30 (Room A1)

This meeting will bring together leaders from the public and private sector to discuss enabling frameworks, innovative business models and market design to accelerate the deployment of renewables.

A report on this event will be presented to the Assembly on Friday, 11th January.

C) Solar Opportunities for Developing Cities

Thursday, 10 January 09:30-11:00 (Room B1)

Building on the outcome of the latest study by IRENA, this event will bring together representatives of cities in developing countries – municipalities and urban planners – and solar rooftop modelling experts.

The thematic event will offer an opportunity for Members and key stakeholders to learn about the potential policy design use cases and benefits of deploying Rooftop Simulators, highlight successful examples where these simulators have been used to benefit the urban planning process and discuss ongoing efforts by the Agency to demonstrate this system in two cities in developing countries.

D) The Future is RE-Electrification

Thursday, 10 January 14:00-15:30 (Room A2)

The thematic event will focus on providing Members with the latest country and sectoral experiences in electrifying end-use sectors, particularly through renewable electricity. The session will also present a preview of the findings from the report ‘The Future is RE-Electrification’, a joint undertaking between IRENA and the State Grid Corporation of China.

E) Launch of the Report of the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation

Friday, 11 January 13:15-14:30

F) Accessing Funding in the 7th Cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility

Saturday, 12 January 08:15-09:15 (Room B1)

This event will host an interactive discussion amongst delegates, representatives from IRENA Secretariat, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee. It will be an opportunity to answer any questions on the application process for the 7th Funding Cycle and representatives from previously selected projects will also be invited to share their experience.

G) Global Geothermal Alliance: Enhancing Dialogue and Cooperation

Saturday, 12 January 13:15-14:15 (Room B1)

This session will bring together members and partners of the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) to take stock of the progress made under several work streams towards accelerating the deployment of geothermal energy across the globe. IRENA will also provide updates on the latest activities under the GGA – including geothermal applications for food production and preservation. Members and partners of the Alliance will have the opportunity to share insights and experience, provide updates on projects and programmes and propose joint national and regional initiatives to be undertaken under the umbrella of the Global Geothermal Alliance.

H) Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement

Thursday, 10 January 14:30-16:00 (Room B1)

This event will address current challenges that impede energy access in humanitarian settings towards the vision of “safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services for all displaced people by 2030”. Partners and stakeholders are expected to participate in the event which will feature a presentation of the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) as well as the Agency’s work in this area.

I) Réunion de Concertation Francophone

Thursday, 10 January 16:30-18:00 (Room B1)

This event is convened by the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD) and members of the French-speaking Francophonie to exchange views on renewable energy deployment globally.

Related Matters

Agenda: The provisional agenda of the 9th session set out in document A/9/L.1, the annotations set out in document A/9/INF/1, as well as background notes for the various discussions, will be made available shortly.

Bilateral meetings: Subject to availability of space and services, every effort will be made to accommodate bilateral meetings. Requests should be sent to Bilateral@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “IRENA Assembly - Bilateral Meeting Request”.

Requests for bilateral meetings with the Director-General should be addressed to the DG Office (ODG@irena.org).

Questions relating to the Assembly should be referred to the Secretariat (Secretariat@irena.org).