

Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA  
Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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## **Report of the seventh session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The seventh session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held on 14 and 15 January 2017 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. There were over 1050 registered participants, including 63 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, along with delegates from 150 countries and the European Union. The attendees comprised 130 Members of IRENA, 17 Signatories and States in Accession, 4 other states and 137 other entities.

2. The President of the sixth session of the Assembly, Egypt, represented by H.E. Mr. Magdy Rady, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Economic Relations and International Cooperation, welcomed delegations. H.E. Mr. Rady noted that renewable energy has become an integral source within the energy mix of countries rather than a mere “alternative” resource. He highlighted Egypt’s efforts to use its renewable energy potential to become an energy hub in the Mediterranean region and invited all interested parties to take part in this ambitious endeavour.

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

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

3. The Assembly had, at its sixth session, designated Italy by acclamation as President of the seventh session. Accordingly, the outgoing President proposed that the Assembly elect Italy as President of this seventh Assembly session.

**4. The Assembly elected by acclamation Italy, represented by H.E. Mr. Mario Giro, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as President of the seventh session of the Assembly.**

5. Today, energy generates not just light, but also peace, and thanks to renewables we are increasing our energy security, observed H.E. Mr. Giro in his opening remarks. Renewable energy can help the world achieve three other key goals, he said: creating new job opportunities and economic growth; combatting climate change while bolstering sustainable development; and facilitating access to energy, which thereby addresses some of the root causes of large migration flows. He added that in only a few years, IRENA has emerged as the global voice for renewable energy, become an essential instrument of multilateral cooperation, and doubled its membership, becoming a truly universal forum. He welcomed the Agency’s activities with Members of Parliament, stressing the importance of the work of parliaments in shaping strategic and ambitious legislation.

6. H.E. Mr. Giro said Italy was deeply committed to the objectives of the Agency, adding that renewables currently make up around 40% of the country’s power generation. Innovation and access, along with the linkages between climate change, energy security and sustainable energy, would be a focus of Italy’s membership on the United Nations Security Council and Presidency of the G7, he said. Moreover, Italy supports renewable energy within the European Union, contributing to the target of attaining a zero-carbon economy within this century.

7. The President emphasised that this Assembly, coming at a time of extraordinary global growth for renewable energy, was the first important event on energy transition after the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Marrakech and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. He expressed his confidence that this Assembly would set the course for a new era of renewable energy across the globe and that IRENA Members would put all their efforts into the transition to a low-carbon future.

**8. The Assembly elected by acclamation**

- **the Dominican Republic, represented by H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Energy and Mines;**
- **Indonesia, represented by Mr. Rida Mulyana, Director General for New and Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation;**
- **Jordan, represented by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Saif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources; and**
- **Morocco, represented by Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment,**

**as Vice-Presidents of its seventh session.**

**9. The Assembly appointed as Rapporteur Djibouti, represented by H.E. Mr. Yassin Houssein Bouh, Minister of Energy in Charge of Natural Resources.**

**b. Adoption of the Agenda (A/7/1)**

10. The President introduced the ‘Provisional Agenda’ (A/7/L.1).

**11. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (A/7/1).**

**c. Appointment of a Credentials Committee**

12. The President proposed to the Assembly that it appoint Angola, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines and Poland as members of the Credentials Committee.

**13. The Assembly appointed the proposed nine Members to constitute the Credentials Committee.**

**d. Participation of Observers (A/7/2)**

14. The President introduced the ‘List of applicants for observer status at the seventh session of the Assembly’ (A/7/L.2).

**15. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its seventh session to those entities on the list (A/7/2).**

**Agenda Item 3: Host country welcome speech and other opening remarks****Welcome remarks of the Director-General of IRENA**

16. In his opening remarks Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA noted that the Assembly is meeting at a time of profound change when the energy transformation is fuelled by a remarkable surge in renewables driven by markets, cost reductions and technological innovation. He emphasised that renewable energy is now firmly at the centre stage of global efforts to meet climate and sustainable development objectives, and is becoming the preferred source of energy for an ever-growing number of governments, businesses and consumers around the world.

17. The Director-General noted that the Agency welcomed its 150<sup>th</sup> member in 2016 and had a further 30 countries in the process of accession, and that the unparalleled speed with which IRENA has developed near universal membership means that it has at its fingertips a wealth of knowledge and experience that will allow its work to expand in size and scope, thereby reaching new stakeholders and bringing cutting-edge evidence and analysis to decision-makers all over the world.

18. The Director-General stressed that the speed and scale of the energy transformation calls, more than at any time before, for a strengthened global cooperation, through concrete action and initiatives, to seize its opportunities and grapple with the changes and challenges that it brings. He noted that the Assembly is an opportunity to do this, and expressed his beliefs that the knowledge and experience that will be shared among delegations will contribute to shaping a common sustainable energy future.

19. He highlighted the support of the host country, which has been central in reaching the level of success and ambition that IRENA has been able to achieve, and in the spirit of international co-operation he welcomed the delegations to the seventh session of the IRENA Assembly.

**Welcome remarks of the host country**

20. On behalf of the Agency's host country, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), H.E. Mr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, noted the momentum of renewables as a major factor in the global energy market, as reflected in the record investments and new capacity addition seen in 2015. He underscored the importance of renewable energy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfil the Paris Agreement. H.E. Mr. Al Zeyoudi highlighted IRENA's growth in membership and its contribution to the global energy transition through its advocacy and analytical work, including engagement at COP22 and the publication of REmap. He highlighted IRENA's role in convening various stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and academia, to accelerate the global energy transition.

21. H.E. Mr. Al Zeyoudi affirmed the UAE's support for IRENA and emphasised the partnership between the Agency and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). He underlined the UAE's long-term commitment to deploy renewable energy and build a low-carbon economy, while stressing the UAE's engagement in international energy cooperation and support for energy projects abroad. Highlighting the record low prices for solar power achieved in auctions, he pointed to expectations of further cost declines for renewable energy through 2025. He closed by inviting delegates to participate actively in the Assembly, as well as in the events of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

**Report from the meeting on the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative: Power Sector Transformation in Small Island Developing States (13 January 2017)**

22. H.E. Mr. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, highlighted the importance of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals as frameworks for combatting climate change. Reporting back from the meeting on power sector transformation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), he said renewable energy is the key solution to achieve the goals set out in these frameworks. Many SIDS have set ambitious renewable energy targets, and the meeting aimed to look at how to match these ambitions with reality, he explained.

23. The Prime Minister noted the need for greater support to implement the energy-related component of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. He highlighted that the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE), launched by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at COP22 in partnership with IRENA's SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, aims at accelerating the implementation of energy NDCs through the increased deployment of renewables and energy efficiency on islands. He underlined the actions that were identified to further support the implementation of energy-related NDCs, such as the exchange of knowledge and best practices, the development of capacity and the co-ordination of island-related work among international organisations.

**Report from the High-Level Meeting on Renewable Energy in South East Europe (13 January 2017)**

24. Reporting back from the meeting, Mr. Koli Bele, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Albania, noted the high level of interest in examining ways to scale-up IRENA's support to governments of South East Europe (SEE). Mr. Bele highlighted the launch of IRENA's report *Cost-competitive Renewable Power Generation: Potential across South East Europe*, which shows the region's cost-competitive potential from renewables to be 15 times higher than the planned total capacity addition by 2020. He welcomed the findings of the report as input to upcoming decision-making processes, stressing governments' current, ambitious commitments to scale-up renewables by 2020 and the region's aim to further increase the level of ambition for deployment by 2030.

25. Mr. Bele highlighted the areas that had been identified for closer co-operation between the governments of South East Europe, IRENA and development partners, namely resource assessment, renewable energy planning, socio-economic benefits of renewables, data availability (particularly in bioenergy), enabling frameworks to promote investments in renewables, grid integration, and renewable energy financing and risk mitigation. He informed the Assembly that participants had also discussed the 'Action Plan for IRENA's engagement in SEE' and welcomed the 'Abu Dhabi Communique on accelerating the uptake of renewables in South East Europe' as a strong signal for a common vision in the region.

**Report from the 2017 Legislators Forum (13 January 2017)**

26. Reporting back from the Legislators Forum 2017, Ms. Kathleen Van Brempt, Member of the European Parliament, highlighted the relevance of policy instruments, such as auctions or feed-in-tariffs, for deploying renewable energy. Ms. Van Brempt noted that participants had underlined the importance of public engagement and support for achieving the energy transition. She referred to the participants' discussion on options for international financing instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, to shift towards providing risk mitigation services to leverage private financing. Ms. Van Brempt noted that parliamentarians had emphasised the potential of decentralised energy solutions in rural and urban contexts to provide access to energy.

27. Ms. Van Brempt concluded that participants had stressed the value of IRENA's engagement with parliamentarians, such as through the Legislators Forum, to facilitate knowledge exchange and international co-operation. They had welcomed tools such as the IRENA Project Navigator and the International Energy Agency (IEA)/IRENA joint Policies and Measures Database, as well as IRENA's analytical work on policy instruments, financial risk mitigation and off-grid energy solutions. Ms. Van Brempt noted that participants had encouraged IRENA to extend its analytical work on legislative frameworks while further exploring avenues to disseminate its work to parliamentarians.

**28. The Assembly received with appreciation the remarks and reports provided.**

**Agenda Item 4: Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (A/7/3)**

29. The Director-General introduced his Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 by providing an overview of key global energy trends in 2015 and 2016. He underlined the central role of renewable energy to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He stressed that the transition to a sustainable energy future brings unprecedented new opportunities that can revitalize economies and lift people out of poverty, and that the Agency is taking an active part in global efforts to accelerate this transition.

30. The Director-General highlighted that plummeting costs and rapid innovation had spurred investments, transforming renewable energy from niche to an economically and technically preferred solution. He emphasised the growing momentum behind renewable energy pointing to record power capacity additions, investments and jobs added in 2015. He mentioned that while early estimates for 2016 indicate that investments have not reached the levels of 2015, the price decreases have also led to record capacity additions for different technologies, as a result of the falling costs. He also provided examples of ambitious plans, investments and achievements in renewable energy deployment from several countries during the past year.

31. The Director-General described IRENA's engagement with international processes such as the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the G7, the G20 and the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue.

32. The Director-General further outlined the progress of the Agency's programmatic activities. He announced the release of the third edition of *REthinking Energy*, which analyses the latest developments in policy, technology and finance, and identifies areas of action to advance the energy transition.

33. He also noted the launch of the second edition of REmap – IRENA's global renewable energy roadmap for 2030 – which shows the need for an acceleration of renewable energy deployment across all sectors particularly end-use sectors. The Director-General stressed the importance of IRENA's support to countries, such as that provided through the Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRA) undertaken in 30 countries to date, and expanded regional activities, such as the Clean Energy Corridor initiative and support to islands.

34. The Director-General noted that socio-economic benefits, such as job creation, are increasingly becoming a driver of renewable energy deployment, along with a compelling business case and declining costs. He emphasised the key role of the private sector in general and as reflected more recently, for example, in renewable energy corporate sourcing initiatives. He highlighted the need for policy and regulatory stability to further scale-up private sector investments and reduce costs.

35. The Director-General stressed the importance of innovation as an enabler of change that has helped several countries to successfully integrate substantial shares of variable renewable energy into their power grids. He referred to IRENA's first Innovation Week, held in Bonn, Germany in May 2016, as part of the Agency's efforts to bring together stakeholders which can shape and accelerate the transformation of the energy sector.

36. The Director-General highlighted the existing and steadily growing potential of off-grid renewable energy, driven by technological innovation and new business models. He pointed to the success of the third International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC), held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2016, as a testament to the significant contribution off-grid renewable energy solutions can make towards the achievement multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

37. The Director-General stated that the Agency will continue to provide decision makers with accurate knowledge for the planning and implementation of the energy transition. He stressed that IRENA will continue its efforts to amplify its impact through close collaboration with a wide range of partners in its programmatic activities such as the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA), SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, and Sustainable Energy Marketplace (Marketplace). He underscored the importance of IRENA's continued engagement with relevant international organisations and international processes, including the United Nations, the G7, and the G20.

38. The Director-General concluded by thanking Members for the timely transmission of core resources and expressed his gratitude to the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Norway and the United Arab Emirates for additional voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the Work Programme in 2016. He informed Members that IRENA has qualified as an Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible international organisation.

39. In the ensuing discussion, delegations emphasised the importance of the Assembly as a platform for Members to discuss current trends in renewable energy, exchange knowledge and best practices, foster international co-operation, and take concrete steps to accelerate the global energy transition. One delegation expressed its appreciation for the holding of the high level event on South East Europe.

40. Delegations welcomed the report of the Director-General and commended the Agency on its progress in implementing the Work Programme and rapid growth in membership. They affirmed their continued support for IRENA's work, and several delegations expressed their interest in continued cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD).

41. Delegations highlighted the contribution of IRENA's initiatives and analytical work to national energy policy-making and implementation, such as through the Clean Energy Corridors, Global Atlas, GGA, REmap analysis, RRAs, SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, Marketplace and other project development tools, as well as its analytical work on bioenergy, corporate sourcing, financial risk mitigation instruments, electricity storage, geothermal energy, off-grid renewable energy options and policies, technological market trends, and cost reductions. Delegations encouraged IRENA to continue these activities.

42. Delegations highlighted the momentum and framework created by the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, COP22, the SDGs, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) for the deployment of renewable energy and achievement of universal access to energy. Several delegations emphasised IRENA's role in assisting Members in implementing the Paris Agreement and raising the level of ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions, as well as in pursuit of the SDGs.

43. Delegations emphasised the central role of renewable energy in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of a low-carbon economy, as well as its cross-cutting impact on other SDGs including poverty reduction, food security, clean water, public health, education, economic growth, women's empowerment and combatting climate change. They also underscored the role of renewable energy in enhancing energy supply and security.

44. Several delegations welcomed IRENA's engagement with international processes, such as COP22, G7 and G20, as well as with international organisations, such as the IEA, and encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts in this regard. One delegation invited IRENA to amplify its co-operation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme. Another delegation encouraged IRENA to collaborate with regional organisations and development partners, such as the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum.

45. A number of delegations stressed the need for further technological innovation to fulfil the Paris Agreement and achieve SDGs and encouraged IRENA to promote the adoption of new renewable energy technologies.

46. Several delegations highlighted that energy access remained an important issue and encouraged the Agency to continue its work in this area. Noting the potential of off-grid renewable energy in contributing to energy access, one delegation encouraged IRENA to lead an initiative promoting stand-alone solar systems as part of achieving the SDGs.

47. A number of delegations emphasised IRENA's role as a source of knowledge and policy advice, and as a promoter of international co-operation and implementation of renewable energy technology and business models to ensure a secure and sustainable energy future.

48. A number of delegations invited IRENA to provide policy advice and capacity building for their current national energy transition efforts. One delegation commented that, in their particular case, grid stability, the seasonality of renewable energy, and regulating consumer electricity prices remained a challenge.

49. Delegations expressed their commitment to the energy transition and shared their national efforts in promoting renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency and energy access. Delegations noted the business case of, and declining costs for, renewable energy.

50. Some delegations called upon Members to increase their efforts in accelerating the global energy transition. A number of delegations emphasised the importance of gender equality in renewable energy policy making and deployment.

51. Several delegations highlighted the need for IRENA to continue to focus its efforts on countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and encouraged Members to continue their support for the SIDS Lighthouses initiative.

52. Delegations emphasised the importance of private sector investments in accelerating the energy transition and encouraged governments to lead by creating an enabling environment. One delegation encouraged IRENA to support countries in establishing enabling frameworks for private sector investment, and another delegation expressed its support for IRENA's engagement with the private sector.

53. Delegations stressed the impact of greater regional integration of energy markets and power grids for energy security and decarbonising economies, referring to IRENA and other initiatives such as the Asian Supergrid, Clean Energy Corridors, the Eastern Africa Power Pool, the European Power Market, Global Energy Interconnection, and the Southern African Power Pool.



54. A number of delegations stressed the importance of international co-operation in the fields of knowledge exchange, research and development, and cost-reduction. One delegation encouraged international co-operation on improving efficiency along the fossil fuel value chain to strengthen climate change mitigation, energy security and energy supply.

55. Several delegations welcomed the launch of the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE) at COP22. One delegation also noted the work of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in West Africa.

56. A delegation pointed to the role of natural gas in decarbonising the power sector, while another one highlighted the potential of hydrogen technologies in transport and grid stability. One delegation noted the role of off-shore wind energy in the energy transition. Another delegation underscored the importance of storage solutions and waste management policies to achieve sustainable development.

57. Delegations encouraged IRENA to become more action-oriented in its work by assisting Members in the implementation of their strategies, and proposed to IRENA to focus on key trends and cross-cutting issues in combating global warming, and to deliver tangible and practical results. Two delegations called upon IRENA to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework of its tools and services to maximise the impact of its work.

58. The Deputy Director-General remarked that several countries' national achievements in promoting renewable energy had been included in IRENA's analytical work and disseminated to Members. He stressed that country interventions provided valuable input and guidance to the Agency's programmatic activities, particularly to the upcoming discussions on the next work programme for 2018-2019.

59. The Director-General welcomed countries' commitment to ambitious renewable energy policy targets and actions, including the promotion of innovation and international co-operation. He noted that discussions on renewable energy deployment had evolved beyond the decarbonisation of the power sector to include the transformation of economic and industrial activities.

60. Charing the last part of the morning session, the Vice President of the Assembly, H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic requested the delegations to consider the latest developments in the work of the Agency with regard to the IRENA/ Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility.

61. In his introductory remarks for the presentation of the selected projects of the fourth cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility, the Director-General presented the facility as an innovative model of collaboration and partnership that is supporting developing countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future. He expressed his appreciation for the cooperation between IRENA and the ADFD, noting the achievements of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility's work in leveraging co-finance from other sources and driving renewable energy deployment. The Director-General concluded by acknowledging the contribution of the Advisory Committee members during the fourth cycle and encouraged Members to continue to participate in the Committee during the fifth cycle.

62. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, the Director-General of the ADFD, highlighted the catalytic role renewable energy plays in achieving the SDGs. He affirmed the ADFD's commitment to the objectives of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility, and to pursue efforts to further expand its impact. H.E. Mr. Al Suwaidi announced the allocation of a total of USD 44.5 million to the four selected projects in the fourth cycle, which were the Solar Hybrid Micro-grid Project in the Marshall Islands, the Solar Rural Electrification Project in Niger, the Ile de Romainville Solar Park Project in the Seychelles, and the Tina River Hydro Development Project in the Solomon Islands. He closed by thanking the Advisory Committee and Panel of Experts for their work.

63. The Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee, Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy of New Zealand, reported on the selection process of the projects in the fourth cycle, and presented the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fourth project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility’, set out in document A/7/5. He noted that the four projects selected for funding represented geographical and technological diversity.

64. The Chair’s report was followed by statements from country representatives of the four projects selected for funding in the fourth cycle. Representing the Marshall Islands, Hon. Mr. Alfred Alfred Jr., Minister of Resources and Development, highlighted the relevance of partnerships such as the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility in achieving a clean energy future. In particular, he noted the impact of the renewable hybrid micro-grid project in contributing towards the national renewable energy and climate change targets, achieving energy security, and ensuring improved quality of life for the population through access to clean, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services.

65. On behalf of Niger, H.E. Ms. Amina Moumouni, Minister of Energy, emphasised the contribution of the project towards achieving energy access in rural areas, and improving living standards by providing renewable energy services to schools, health centres, administrative and religious facilities, public areas, as well as for irrigation and drinking water.

66. H.E. Mr. Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles, stated that the project would support the country in making progress towards its long-term goal of 100% renewable power generation, unlocking additional investments in renewable energy, strengthening energy security, and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. H.E. Mr. Dogley pointed to the potential of the project to create jobs and to obtain significant annual savings from the reduced need for fossil fuel imports.

67. On behalf of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Mr. David Day Pacha, Minister of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification, noted that access to concessional financing, expansion of the grid, the development of enabling policies and regulatory frameworks, as well as appropriate business models to leverage private investments represent a substantial challenge for the Solomon Islands. He stressed the central role of renewable energy in achieving energy access and transforming the power sector, and highlighted the impact of the ADFD-funded hydropower project on the country’s efforts in this regard. He closed by underlining the significant potential of the project to contribute to the people’s social and economic welfare in the country.

**68. The Assembly took note with appreciation and adopted of the ‘Annual report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017’ (A/7/3).**

**Agenda Item 5: Programmatic discussion: Enabling the private sector to accelerate renewable energy deployment – Corporate sourcing of renewables (A/7/DN/1)**

69. Chairing the session, the Vice-President of the Assembly H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Saif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, introduced the topic, highlighting that the past year has seen a significant increase in the voluntary demand for renewably sourced electricity from large corporations to supply their own operations and supply chains. Corporate sourcing presents important opportunities for renewable energy market growth, said H.E. Mr. Saif. To further scale up corporate procurement of renewables, regulatory challenges and barriers need to be assessed, in order to support governments in making informed decisions on enabling framework conditions. He underlined the importance of the private sector in creating a sustainable energy future in Jordan, emphasising enabling policy and legal frameworks that have been developed in the country to further promote public-private partnerships.

70. Mr. Henning Wuester, Director of IRENA's Knowledge Policy and Finance Centre, presented the Secretariat's recent work on corporate sourcing of renewables, undertaken in collaboration with the IRENA Coalition for Action and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM). He outlined how corporations are becoming increasingly important renewable energy investors, with 40% of Fortune 500 companies making renewable energy commitments and over 80 leading corporations aiming for 100% renewables as part of the RE100 initiative. He described different sourcing types available to corporates, such as direct investments, green power procurements, renewable energy certificates (RECs) and power purchase agreements (PPAs). The main drivers for corporations to source renewable electricity include locking in fixed and long-term electricity prices, meeting environmental and climate objectives, and strengthening corporate reputation and branding. In his final remarks, Mr. Wuester highlighted IRENA's ongoing work on the REMade Index, which will provide the first global landscape survey on this topic, covering both the policy and corporate perspectives.

71. Following the Secretariat's presentation, H.E. Mr. Saif invited the panellists to express their views on the topic. H.E. Ms. Tone Skogen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway noted that corporate sourcing is of key importance to scale up private sector financing and investment in renewable energy. H.E. Ms. Skogen explained that Norway is one of the few countries in the world that have an excess production of renewable energy, making the country an attractive market for corporations wanting to source renewables, as recently witnessed through major sourcing deals by global tech companies. She further recommended three priorities for governments aiming to establish a solid enabling framework for voluntary markets: first, to avoid market distortion; second, to secure long term, predictable and stable frameworks for developers and investors; and third, to ensure a well-maintained grid network that can support additional renewable energy integration.

72. Mr. Thorsten Herdan, Director-General for Energy Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany, underlined that corporations are increasingly turning to renewable energy investments, as these ensure fast returns and function as a form of insurance. At the same time, renewables improve corporate branding and image, as increasing numbers of customers prefer to purchase clean and green products. The motives behind corporate sourcing of renewables still need to be better understood, and this could be achieved by establishing a network of companies to exchange best practices and lessons learnt, and IRENA could play an active role in facilitating this dialogue.

73. Mr. Roger Gonzalez Lau, Vice-President for Energy at CEMEX, said his company was investing in renewables as a way to reduce carbon intensity and to lower energy-related production costs. He said that to encourage corporate sourcing of renewables, governments need to provide several key mechanisms, such as strategies with clear targets for corporations, clean energy certificates, auctions in which corporations can bid, new regulations to facilitate distributed renewable energy, and a carbon tax. Mr. Gonzalez Lau concluded that IRENA could serve as a knowledge platform to exchange information on markets and policies for corporate sourcing of renewables.

74. Mr. Ibrahim al Zubi, Head of Sustainability at Majid al Futtaim Group, described several reasons for corporations to invest in renewable energy. He said that besides energy efficiency, important considerations included business value and high return on investment, long-term profitability, the mitigation of volatile energy prices, and corporate citizenship and sustainability branding. Lastly, he referred to the need to further raise awareness on how corporations can invest in renewable energy, and to the importance of encouraging public-private dialogue and creating platform for ongoing discussion.

75. In the plenary discussion that followed, Members provided their perspectives on what the private sector and governments should do to spur corporate sourcing of renewables. Several delegations referred to the CEM Corporate Sourcing of Renewables Campaign and acknowledged IRENA's ongoing work on the REMade Index. Some Members' interventions highlighted the importance of including the perspective of the private sector during the process of developing some of the Agency's documents, including the Work Programme and the Medium-term Strategy.

76. In their final remarks, the panellists concluded that further private sector engagement is needed to scale-up renewable energy to the required levels. Mr. Wuester noted that many countries expressed their support to IRENA for continuing its work on corporate sourcing and further referred to the need for a platform to share experiences. He encouraged countries to participate in the REMade Index country survey to further analyse enabling frameworks for corporate sourcing of renewables.

77. H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Saif, closed the session, noting that businesses across the globe have recognised renewable energy as a feasible means to not only power their operations sustainably, but to contribute to the social and environmental well-being of their communities and customers. He emphasised IRENA's role in supporting international efforts to exchange knowledge and create public-private platforms. Initiatives like the 'REmade Index', could prepare the ground for IRENA to strengthen and streamline international dialogue in this key field, he said.

**78. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.**

#### **Agenda Item 6: Report of the Council Chair**

79. The Assembly Vice-President, H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic invited the Chair of the Council to present his Report under this Agenda item.

80. Ethiopia, in its capacity as Chair of the twelfth Council meeting and Vice-Chair of the eleventh Council meeting, represented by H.E. Mr. Sileshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, reported to the Assembly on the activities of the Council during 2016 and referred delegations to the reports of the two Council meetings, contained in documents C/11/SR/1 and C/12/SR/L.1.

81. H.E. Mr. Bekele highlighted that both the eleventh and twelfth Council meetings attracted more than 300 government representatives from around 100 countries, including Members and non-Members, representing a record level of attendance at an IRENA Council meeting.

82. He recalled the important discussions the Council held on programmatic activities and initiatives during 2016, such as the Agency's work on costing, jobs and cities; REmap analysis; the contribution of renewable energy to countries' NDCs and towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and IRENA's regional activities in Latin America, West Africa and Asia. He noted that these discussions provided Members with the opportunity to actively engage with the Secretariat on its work and to provide input and guidance on its on-going and future activities.

83. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Bekele explained that at both meetings in 2016, the Council discussed the future orientation of the Agency's work in preparation for the consideration of IRENA's Medium-term Strategy for 2018-2022 at the eighth session of the Assembly. Finally, he noted that in the course of 2016, the Council also considered a range of institutional and administrative matters in preparation for the Assembly's consideration on those matters.

**84. The Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Council Chair.**

**Agenda Item 7: Institutional and administrative matters****a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/7/4, A/7/4/Rev.1 – see Agenda Item 12)**

85. The Chair of the Credentials Committee, Poland, represented by Mr. Sebastian Stępnicki, introduced the ‘Report of the Credentials Committee’ (A/7/4). Based on its examination of credentials received, the Committee determined that 120 Members had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

86. The Committee recommended that these Members be entitled to participate in the seventh session of the Assembly. The Committee also noted that a number of delegations attending had not submitted any credentials and invited these delegations to conform to this requirement.

**87. The Assembly considered and adopted the ‘Report of the Credentials Committee’ (A/7/4).**

**b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (A/7/5)**

88. The Assembly Vice-President, H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde referred to the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fourth project cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility’, set out in document A/7/5, and explained that the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Project Facility, New Zealand, had presented the report to the Assembly the day before.

89. Having considered recent consultations between interested Members on the matter, the Vice President noted that the following countries are candidates for membership of the Advisory Committee for the fifth project cycle: France, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe as members, and Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia and Portugal as alternates on the Advisory Committee for the fifth project cycle.

**90. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fourth project cycle’ (A/7/5) and appointed France, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe as members, and Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia and Portugal as alternates on the Advisory Committee for the fifth project cycle.**

**c. Council membership for 2017-2018 (A/7/DC/1)**

91. The President of the sixth session of the Assembly, Egypt, represented by H.E. Mr. Magdy Rady, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, introduced the item, and referred the Assembly to the proposed list of Council members for the years 2017-2018, contained in the annex of the related draft decision (A/7/DC/L.1).

92. Colombia expressed interest in assuming the role of Vice-Chair of the thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA.

93. H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde encouraged the newly-elected members of the Council, under the stewardship of the outgoing Council Chair and Vice-Chair, to designate a Chair and Vice-Chair for the thirteenth meeting of the Council, scheduled to take place on 23 and 24 May 2017 in Abu Dhabi. He noted that at the twelfth meeting of the Council, China expressed interest in assuming the role of Chair of the thirteenth meeting of the Council.

**94. The Assembly adopted decision A/7/DC/1 on the membership of the Council of IRENA.**

d. **Staff Provident Fund** (A/7/6)

95. The Chair of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board, Mr. David Iyamah, introduced the item and referred delegations to the ‘2015 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’ (A/7/6), including the Audited Financial Statements of the Staff Provident Fund for 2015. He highlighted that Members are requested to appoint two Member State representatives to the Management Board of the Staff Provident Fund.

**96. The Assembly appointed Germany and the United Arab Emirates to serve on the Staff Provident Fund Management Board.**

**97. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘2015 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’ (A/7/6).**

e. **Audited financial statements for 2015 and status of implementation of external audit recommendations** (A/7/7; A/7/8)

98. The Director of IRENA’s Administration and Management Services Division, Mr. David Iyamah, introduced the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2015’ (A/7/7), as well as the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’ (A/7/8).

**99. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2015’ (A/7/7) and the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’ (A/7/8).**

f. **Appointment of the external auditor** (A/7/9; A/7/DC/2)

100. The Director of the Administration and Management Services Division presented the ‘Note by the Director-General on Selection of the External Auditor’, contained in A/7/9, as well as the related draft decision A/7/DC/L.2.

101. One delegation abstained from this agenda item, taking the view that the external auditor should be a public auditor. The delegation also noted that it abstains from discussions on the agenda item related to the staff tenure policy for reasons previously stated at the Council meetings.

**102. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Note by the Director-General on Selection of the External Auditor’ (A/7/9) and adopted decision A/7/DC/2.**

g. **Indicative IRENA scale of contributions for 2017** (A/7/10; A/7/DC/3)

103. The Director of the Administration and Management Services Division presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017’, as contained in document A/7/10, and the related draft decision A/7/DC/L.3.

**104. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017 (A/7/10) and adopted decision A/7/DC/3.**

#### h. Report of the Ethics Officer (A/7/11)

105. The Ethics Officer of IRENA, Ms. Salma Khalid, introduced the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’, contained in document A/7/11.

**106. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’ (A/7/11).**

#### i. Secondment of personnel (A/7/12)

107. The Chief of Human Resources of IRENA, Ms. Jinah Lee, presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on Secondment and Related Matters’, contained in document A/7/12.

**108. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on Secondment and Related Matters’, contained in document A/7/12.**

#### j. Operation of the arbitration system (A/7/13)

109. IRENA’s Legal Advisor, Ms. Marianne Lavergne, presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA’, contained in document A/7/13.

**110. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Operation of the Arbitration System for IRENA’ (A/7/13) and endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of the report.**

#### k. Amendments to staff rules (A/7/14)

111. IRENA’s Legal Advisor presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Staff Rules’, contained in document A/7/14.

**112. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on Amendments to the Staff Rules’ (A/7/14), including the amendments to the Staff Rules contained therein.**

#### l. Staff tenure policy (A/7/15; A/7/DC/4)

113. The United States of America, represented by Mr. Griffin Thompson, Director of the Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, U.S. Department of State, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the twelfth meeting of the Council and having chaired the Council meeting on this issue, reported to the Assembly the outcome of the Council deliberations on the matter of the length of staff service at IRENA. He referred to the ‘Note of the Director-General on temporary measure on the length of staff service’, contained in document A/7/15, and to the Council recommendations contained in the related draft decision set out in A/7/DC/L.4.

**114. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Note of the Director-General on temporary measure on the length of staff service’ (A/7/15) and adopted decision A/7/DC/4.**

**Agenda Item 8: Programmatic discussion: Driving the decarbonisation of the energy sector through innovation (A/7/DN/2)**

115. The Assembly Vice-President, H.E. Mr. Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, opened the session by noting that important challenges remain in the power sector. He emphasised the importance of international collaboration to share ideas, identify key innovation needs and trends, create a shared understanding and ensure impact.

116. The panel of experts involved leaders from the governmental and private sector, who showcased promising technological innovations that can play a key role in scaling up the deployment of renewable energy to meet climate targets defined in the Paris Agreement.

117. Mr. Paul Durrant, Head of Innovation Policy of the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, acted as moderator for the panel discussion during the session. As part of his introduction, Mr. Durrant acknowledged the importance of international collaboration to catalyse the development and the commercialisation of innovative technology solutions to decarbonise the power sector. He referred to an ongoing collaborative initiative, Mission Innovation, which encompasses 20 countries aiming to double their public investment in research and development (R&D) for clean energy. He also stressed how IRENA's work is a testament to what can be achieved successfully through international co-operation.

118. Mr. Martin Keller, Director of the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), underlined that renewable energy has gone from a niche to a mainstream technology, adding that continued innovation was critical. He referred to the need for improved means to store electricity at lower costs, for demand-response technologies, and to keep advancing grid technology through smart meters, smart appliances and robust system security.

119. Ms. Lisa Malmquist Ekstrand, Senior Policy Specialist, EU & Global Public Affairs at Vestas, pointed out the untapped potential to make wind power even more competitive by using smart data to improve diagnostics, remaining life analysis, service and after-sales optimisation. She referred to new materials as a game changer, exemplified by radical weight reduction through new design solutions and active damping and control solutions that can minimise societal disturbance from wind technologies. She also outlined the benefits of shifting the traditional value chain to a mobile factory, thereby reducing logistics and creating the potential for local job creation.

120. Mr. Paul Pan, General Manager for the Middle East and Africa Region for Huawei Smart PV Business, began by outlining the option of utilising power lines to transmit information instead of building a new communications infrastructure. He emphasised that the digitalisation of the energy network is starting to eliminate the borders between producers and consumers, with 'prosumers' emerging and playing a significant role in the energy trade market.

121. Mr Felix Zhang, Vice-President of Envision Energy, spoke about the critical need for secondary enabling factors to achieve the decarbonisation of the energy sector. These factors include flexible market design, expanded transmission, fast ramping, making decisions closer to real time with larger balancing areas and storage options, including power-to-gas technology.

122. The panel discussion consistently acknowledged the untapped opportunities that digitalisation and intelligent systems present in the renewable power sector. The prospect of a societal transition from information technologies to intelligent technologies was noted, as well as the need to analyse behaviours and link across borders to optimise efficiency and energy output.



123. Delegations remarked that IRENA should continue to play an active role in international knowledge co-ordination to advance innovation and technologies. A delegation pointed to the link between innovation and R&D, where research should not be overlooked as a way to promote technology transfer and new market opportunities in different geographical and social contexts. One delegation suggested that IRENA could establish a framework for engagement on R&D, facilitating stakeholder dialogues and forging links between financing and innovative solutions. A delegation encouraged IRENA to continue researching the investments needed to decarbonise the power sector by 2050 and to make the findings accessible to all IRENA Members.

124. A delegation also suggested that IRENA could support further efforts in the electrification of the heat and transport sectors, along with the feasibility study on integrating high shares of renewables into the grid.

125. The panel called on IRENA to contribute to closing the gap between resource maps and roadmaps, and to link them to research. In addition, the panel welcomed the delegations' suggestions, and indicated that all stakeholders need to come together to find better solutions and facilitate the bundling of different sectors.

126. The panel also highlighted that policy makers should level the playing field for all energy sources and promote innovation in the whole energy sector. The support must not only come from governments, but from multilateral agents as well.

127. Mr. Dolf Gielen, Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre, provided the closing remarks. He noted that the energy sector is in a new phase, where system integration becomes increasingly important and new fields, synergies and players are contributing to renewable energy innovation. He underlined the respective roles of the public and the private sectors, whereby governments must promote a vision and foster transparent public and private co-operation.

### **Special address by the President of the United Nations General Assembly**

128. Chairing the session the Assembly Vice-President, Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco invited the President of the United Nations General Assembly to deliver his special address to the Assembly of IRENA.

129. In his special address to the seventh session of the IRENA Assembly, the President of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, underlined the need to accelerate a global energy transition to cleaner, renewable sources. He noted that a number of key agreements adopted over the last 18 months, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement, provide grounds for the transformation of the energy system and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. He recalled the record USD 305 billion invested in renewable energy globally in 2015, as well as the historic price decrease of renewable energy technologies in recent years.

130. H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson said he believed it was possible to double the renewable share in the global energy mix to 36% by 2030. However, he highlighted three points that need to be further developed in order to achieve this:

- Firstly, to establish regulatory frameworks that create enabling environments for businesses;
- Secondly, to introduce policies that encourage innovative public-private partnerships;
- Thirdly, to roll out education programmes to raise awareness of the importance of renewable energy and shape consumer behaviour.

131. He further emphasised the importance of international co-operation, harmonised standards, capacity-building, technology transfer and the exchange of best practices. He commended IRENA's Assembly as a platform that stimulates such collaboration and works to drive the global energy transformation.

**132. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.**

**Agenda Item 9: Strategic discussion: Investment pathways towards advancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (A/7/DN/3)**

133. The Assembly Vice-President, Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco reported on the outcome of COP22 and its meaning for the Global Climate Action Agenda, referring to the Marrakesh Action Proclamation, whereby developed countries reaffirmed their USD 100 billion mobilisation goal and all Parties reaffirmed their commitment to combating climate change as a matter of priority. He said that COP22 was also an opportunity to announce new initiatives, such as the '2050 Pathways Platform' and the 'NDC Partnership'. In conclusion, Mr. El Hafidi said he looked forward to the focus of COP23 on the Small Island Developing States those most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

134. Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA, said NDC implementation presented an opportunity for decarbonising the energy sector and tackling climate change. He added that significant potential remains to increase ambitions in the renewable energy components of NDCs, and synergies between NDC implementation and the mobilisation of renewable energy finance can be created through actions at both the national and international level. The Director-General emphasised the importance of addressing risks and barriers to private investment in renewables and attracting large-scale investors in the sector. He referred to IRENA's work in this context, including a comprehensive study on risk mitigation and structured finance, and an initiative on standardised project documentation templates for solar photovoltaic (PV) projects (the Solar Energy Standardisation Initiative). Finally, he recommended the development of a global renewable energy guarantee scheme as a complementary step forward.

135. H.E. Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines of India, highlighted the strong commitment of his government to accelerating the deployment of renewables as a way to secure stable energy prices and supply. He spoke about the ambitious targets set by India for 2022 and highlighted the progress already made, pointed to the risk of currency depreciation and the lack of long-tenure debt capital as major barriers to private investments in India, and highlighted efforts by the government to address these barriers, mentioning, among others, the establishment of the National Clean Environment Fund to provide low-cost funds for renewables, the introduction of a tax on coal, and the use of stricter measures to improve the profitability and creditworthiness of local distribution companies. He emphasised the need for global cooperation to help countries in their economic development and renewable energy advancement. In particular, he stressed the importance for developing countries to have access to renewable energy technologies and the role that climate funds could potentially play in this context.

136. H.E. Mr. Alfred Alfred, Jr., Minister of Resources and Development of the Marshall Islands, highlighted how the NDCs of most SIDS point to renewables as a way to decarbonise the energy sector and at the same time build climate resilience. He spoke about the experience of the Marshall Islands, where the use of renewables would help advance energy security. H.E. Mr. Alfred emphasised the importance of international co-operation and climate finance to support NDC implementation and accelerate renewable energy deployment in the SIDS.

137. Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Global Practice Leader for Climate and Energy at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), highlighted efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement, and stressed the importance of going beyond current NDCs, both in terms of setting more ambitious targets and extending their term beyond 2030. He noted that some countries have already developed their mid-century climate strategies and encouraged other countries to set clear targets for 2050. Mr. Pulgar-Vidal emphasised the importance of setting targets based on scientific evidence to achieve international climate goals, and mentioned the WWF's Science Based Targets Initiative developed for this purpose. The Paris Agreement reinforces the new paradigm of sustainable development, together with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, he said. Finally, Mr. Pulgar-Vidal underlined the importance of setting up enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, linking energy to other sectors of the economy, and involving non-state actors such as businesses, non-governmental organisations and academia in the discussion.

138. Mr. Youba Sokona, Head of the Interim Delivery Unit of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), emphasised how the flexibility and adaptability of renewables offer the opportunity to improve energy access and foster economic development, especially in Africa's least developed countries, where energy systems are not in place yet and the economic landscape is dominated by micro-, small- and mid-sized enterprises. Political will and international co-operation are key requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, Mr. Sokona said, adding that the AREI would not follow a preconceived approach in helping countries with implementation, but would rather take into consideration specific local conditions. Lastly, Mr. Sokona underlined the need to combine climate finance with development finance to leverage private investments.

139. Mr. Mike Eckhart, Managing Director and Global Head of Environmental Finance and Sustainability at Citigroup, stressed the importance of mobilising finance at scale. He confirmed the important role of governments and development banks in this regard, but highlighted that their limited resources will not be enough to address the climate change challenge. On the other hand, there are more than enough resources in private funds, with over USD 5 trillion per year available in the debt and equity capital markets, he noted. Mr. Eckhart underlined the centrality of project creditworthiness in attracting private investments in clean energy, highlighting off-taker risk in particular, and suggested building a global regime for off-taker guarantees. Mr. Eckhart proposed converting the Green Climate Fund into a guarantor, based on his estimate that the USD 10 billion pledged to the Fund could potentially unlock an additional USD 100 billion per year.

140. Many delegations mentioned their renewable energy targets, both in NDCs and beyond, citing experiences of successful implementation and calling for increasingly ambitious NDCs. In identifying the drivers of successful NDC implementation, several delegations recognised the key role of international co-operation, as well as the presence of climate and development finance to attract private investments. Many delegations also underlined the importance of setting up enabling policy and regulatory frameworks. In identifying barriers, some delegations referred to the lack of know-how and technology access as a major constraint, highlighting the need to liberalise the technology market.

141. Several delegations commended IRENA for its role as a platform for international dialogue. They welcomed, among other activities, the Solar Energy Standardisation Initiative, the work on risk mitigation and structured finance and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace. Many delegations encouraged further engagement by IRENA on policy support and investment facilitation to support countries in the implementation of their NDCs. One delegation welcomed the idea of a global renewable energy guarantee scheme and suggested taking synergies with existing similar instruments into account. Furthermore, one country suggested examining the possibility of initially implementing such a guarantee scheme at a small scale in the Pacific region. Another delegation suggested reflecting on the diversity of risks, the variety of instruments available, and the range of financial institutions when developing this global guarantee scheme.

142. Mr. Anthony Cox, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) informed participants about a study on investment growth for the transition to a low-carbon economy that the OECD is currently conducting in collaboration with IRENA and other organisations.

143. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Henning Wuester, Director of IRENA's Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre of IRENA, summarised the main points raised during the discussion, particularly suggestions on IRENA's role in supporting the acceleration of renewable energy deployment and strengthening NDCs. He mentioned the need to prioritise risk mitigation to attract private investments, especially in relation to currency and off-taker risks. He emphasised the synergy between NDC implementation and renewable energy investments and stressed the importance of advancing NDCs before the 2018 stock-take on progress in the climate change process. To conclude, Mr. Wuester expressed IRENA's readiness to work in partnership with governments, as well as other public and private institutions.

**144. The Assembly took note of the presentations and discussions.**

#### **Agenda Item 10: Report from the Ministerial Roundtables**

##### **Ministerial Roundtable I: Towards an Economy Fuelled by Renewable Power: Innovation for the Next Stage in the Power Sector Transformation**

145. Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the European Commission, reported on the key points from the first Ministerial Roundtable, 'Towards an Economy Fuelled by Renewable Power: Innovation for the Next Stage in the Power Sector Transformation' which brought together ministers, high-level government representatives and leaders from the private sector to exchange cutting-edge experiences of innovations that are accelerating the transformation of the power sector. The discussions were enriched by concrete examples, illustrating how innovative technologies, accompanied by innovative approaches to deploy those technologies, have been advancing in developed and emerging economies.

146. He highlighted that there is a general consensus that renewable energy sources will become the predominant energy source of the future and that there are unique aspects of the current power sector transition, which are driven by the particularities of renewable energy innovation, as innovation has played and will continue to play a critical role in this process. These particularities have enabled renewable energy technologies to extend the frontiers of innovation, becoming the most competitive and dynamic option in the energy sector. Future opportunities for innovation may include seasonal storage, the fuelling of heating by renewable power, decarbonising the transport sector, particularly for aviation and freight, and the potential use of hydrogen from renewable sources. Digitalisation can be a particularly potent driver of future innovation, enabling the power sector to be coupled with end-use sectors i.e. transport, heating/cooling, industry and buildings. He stressed that one factor that has deeply benefitted from the aforementioned developments is innovation in policy.

147. Mr. Ristori emphasised that in order to achieve the necessary rate of renewable energy deployment to meet international targets, the volume of projects and the scale of financing should be equally ambitious. For this to occur, technology and policy innovations must be accompanied by innovations in other parts of the energy domain, such as new planning practices, which must consider the pace of change and prioritise the acceleration of related administrative processes. Governments should also consider an innovative approach to cross-border power transmission, and regional market structure, as this could broaden investment perspectives in terms of efficiency and optimal resource allocation, and they should be aware that certain forms of subsidies can potentially undermine such an integration process.

148. He noted that countries and the private sector called for innovation in regulatory frameworks that will simplify processes for project development, such as land acquisition, grid connection and the issuance of permits. Advanced technological innovations in front-runner countries should not deter other nations from exploiting their current capabilities. High shares of renewables can often be attained without advanced storage and generation technology. In addition, the role of gas as a transition fuel from fossil to renewable sources was discussed at various points throughout the discussion. The general view is that gas can play a transition role, but questions remain about how long the transition period will last.

149. Mr. Ristori stated that both private and public actors agree that innovation will continue to drive the transformation of the energy sector, not only in power but across the entire energy landscape, while innovation in technology will continue to play a major role, and innovation in market design, business models and planning will also be essential, he said. As innovations throughout these areas rapidly emerge, the need for an appropriate platform to share experiences and best practices, depending on local conditions, remains crucial. IRENA has an important role to play in supporting countries through capacity building and analysis, and in implementing appropriate approaches.

150. As the discussion made clear, both private and public actors agree that innovation will continue to drive the transformation of the energy sector, not only in power, but across the entire energy landscape, Mr. Ristori noted. While innovation in technology will continue to play a major role, innovation in market design, business models and planning will also be essential, he said. As innovations throughout these areas rapidly emerge, the need for an appropriate platform to share experiences and best practices, depending on local conditions, remains crucial. IRENA has an important role to play in supporting countries through capacity building and analysis, and in implementing appropriate approaches.

## **Ministerial Roundtable II: Catalysing off-grid renewable energy to achieve universal electricity access and SDGs**

151. H.E. Ms. Tone Skogen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, reported on the key points from the second Ministerial Roundtable, ‘Catalysing off-grid renewable energy to achieve universal electricity access and SDGs’ which allowed ministers, the private sector, banks and development partners to exchange ideas and experiences about off-grid renewable energy development and deployment.

152. H.E. Ms. Skogen highlighted that cost reductions and technology advancements have enabled off-grid renewable energy solutions (stand-alone and mini-grids) to become a mainstream option for expanding electricity access, as they are modular and rapidly deployable and, in most rural areas, they are already a more cost-effective solution compared to grid-based options.

153. She noted that several governments demonstrated the will, targets and plans to support off-grid renewable energy deployment. Decentralised solutions are not only applicable to developing countries, but are relevant in the development of the new energy system globally, it was noted. To accelerate the pace of off-grid renewable energy deployment, there is a need to rethink the solutions applied and approaches followed for electrification. Integrated planning processes are needed that consider the viability of grid-based and off-grid solutions for bringing sustainable, timely and adequate electricity access. An enabling environment to scale-up deployment relies on tailored policies and regulations, customised financing and business models, capacity building and innovative technology solutions. Planning processes need to involve all stakeholders active in the sector and integrate off-grid solutions from an early stage.

154. H.E. Ms. Skogen stressed that mobilising the private sector will be key. Innovative partnerships are needed between the public and private sector to share risks, provide opportunities for innovation with business, financing and technology solutions, and create foundations for a sustainable off-grid market. Governments need to look at access from a ‘delivery of services’ perspective and not based on megawatts alone. A focus on health, education and livelihoods will drive efforts towards electrification and maximising benefits. The development of technical capacity unanimously came across as crucial to ensure that technological solutions are adapted to local conditions. These capacities need to be developed across the value chain, including among regulators, financing institutions and communities.

155. She emphasised that access to affordable long-term financing for end-users and entrepreneurs was deemed important for catalysing growth in the sector, with a focus on unlocking asset-based financing for rural consumers, and leveraging on microcredit delivery. The importance of innovative financing tools, including provision of guarantees for de-risking private sector investments and local currency loans, was highlighted. Besides power generation technology, innovation on the appliance side, including appliances for productive uses and public services, could transform the lives of millions with new economic possibilities and social inclusion. Collection of data, statistics and information available for rural electrification need to be strengthened. This would not just assist decision-making on where off-grid solutions are needed, but also allow the monitoring of impact. Partnerships and international co-operation, as well as peer-to-peer learning, will be essential to maximise efficiency and heighten impact in the pursuit of universal electricity access.

156. Within her summary, H.E. Ms. Skogen said that the participants requested IRENA to facilitate the exchange of experiences, including the sharing of best practice examples from Africa and Asia with other parts of the world. IRENA was called upon to use its technical capacity and convening power to facilitate capacity building and provide assistance to governments. Participants also believed that IRENA could play a leading role in the effort to enhance data collection, statistics and the availability of information on rural electrification. Finally, IRENA was encouraged to continue facilitating partnerships and international co-operation, as well as peer-to-peer learning.

### **The Italian Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry’s Green Embassy initiative**

157. Italy, represented by Mr. Massimo Gaiani, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was invited to introduce its ‘Green Embassy’ initiative. Following an introductory film, Mr. Gaiani further elaborated on the ‘Green Embassy’ initiative and other related initiatives of the Italian government. The ‘Green Embassy’ initiative, also known as ‘Farnesina Verde’, is jointly developed with ENEL and serves as a good example of public-private co-operation, he noted. Mr. Gaiani explained that ‘Farnesina Verde’ involves a number of initiatives that promote sustainability and energy efficiency. He noted that the first ‘Green Embassy’ was established in 2010, when the roof of the Italian Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, was equipped with more than 400 photovoltaic (PV) panels. The initiative was further developed with the installation of PV power plants on the roof of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as of many other Italian Embassies and Consulates globally, of which Abu Dhabi is the most recently launched project. Italy believes renewable energy, together with smart energy systems, will become increasingly important in the power network, and this initiative is a contribution to the energy transition, Mr. Gaiani said.

**158. The Assembly considered and took note of the presentations and reports provided.**

**Agenda Item 11: Arrangements for the eighth session of the Assembly**

159. Yemen expressed its support for the nomination of the President and Vice-Presidents of the eighth session of the Assembly and noted its interest in being part of the bureau at next sessions.

**160. The Assembly designated Uruguay as President of the eighth session of the Assembly, and Afghanistan, Nigeria, Norway and Sudan as Vice-Presidents.**

**161. The Assembly decided to hold its eighth session on 13 and 14 January 2018 in Abu Dhabi.**

**Agenda Item 12: Any other business**

162. The Assembly Vice-President, Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi noted that the Credentials Committee was approached by Monaco, informing that it had submitted its letter of credentials, but that the letter was not presented to the Committee for review. The Committee agreed to examine the letter of credentials and found it to be valid. Monaco was added to the list of Members fulfilling the requirements of Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in the report of the Credentials Committee.

**163. The Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Credentials Committee as orally amended and requested the Secretariat to reissue the document to be included in the report of the Assembly (A/7/4/Rev.1).**

**Agenda Item 13: Assembly conclusions and closing of the meeting**

164. The Assembly Vice-President, Mr. Abderrahim El Hafidi spoke about the progress the world has been witnessing in the development of renewable energy and shared with the Assembly Morocco's experience in the field. He pointed out the progress made and challenges overcome by his country so far. In 2008, Morocco was more than 99% dependent on fossil fuels for its energy. In 2009, it launched an ambitious strategy to develop renewable energy and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. A target was set to attain 42% renewable energy in the country's energy mix by 2022. Shortly after that, Morocco adopted a new target, aiming to reach 52% by 2030.

165. The Assembly Vice-President referred to the renewable energy-related challenges that had been mentioned during the plenary discussions, such as the variability of power generation from some renewable sources, but stressed that all these challenges could be overcome. He concluded by noting that the future of energy is renewable energy and encouraged all participants to strive for higher shares of renewables in their energy mix.

166. In his closing remarks, the Director-General thanked the President, Vice-Presidents, Ministerial Roundtable rapporteurs, and all countries and organisations present for their efforts and input. He also thanked the host country, the United Arab Emirates, for its support.

167. The Director-General underlined the valuable discussions that took place throughout the Assembly. He emphasised that the Members' interventions have all focused on real, practical solutions for seizing the opportunities and addressing the challenges of scaling up renewable energy. The overarching message coming out of the discussions, he noted, was one of undeterred optimism and a determination to act marked by real, practical solutions for addressing the challenges of scaling up renewable energy.

168. He summarised several key points that captured this message. First, the momentum of the energy transformation continues to accelerate, extending from countries to cities, the private sector and citizens. Second, renewable energy is widely acknowledged as a readily available way to realise the Paris Agreement and implement Nationally Determined Contributions. Third, the Director-General noted that this would be a multi-faceted energy transformation, both in terms of existing power systems and in terms of expanding energy access to people and communities that previously had none. Fourth, energy is not an end in itself, but an enabler for improving livelihoods and implementing most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

169. The Director-General stressed that discussions reflected a determination to take the energy transformation to the next level, particularly in terms of tapping into all renewable energy sources, including geothermal and biomass, integrating higher shares of renewables in power generation, as well as in taking renewable energy to the end-use sectors – transportation, heating, and cooling - and scaling up off-grid renewable solutions.

170. He highlighted that IRENA is committed to working with all members, international processes (such as G7 and G20), and initiatives (such as IREI and AREI), and key relevant organisations, to accelerate renewables deployment and make further progress towards the decarbonisation of the energy sector.

171. The Director-General noted that the global energy landscape in which IRENA was established is very different from the one today, and reminded delegations about upcoming preparations related to the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) for 2018-2022 and invited Members to actively participate in the preparation process. He noted that the next MTS will determine the future direction of the Agency, and that the ownership of Members in its development and implementation is critical for its effectiveness and amplifying its impact.

172. The Assembly Vice-President thanked all delegations for their participation and support, which resulted in a very productive meeting, and declared the seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA closed.



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Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

14 January 2017

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## **Agenda**

### **14 January 2017**

#### **10.00am – 01.00pm**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of work
  - a. Election of officials
  - b. Adoption of the agenda
  - c. Appointment of a credentials committee
  - d. Participation of observers
3. Host country welcome speech and other opening remarks
4. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017

#### **02.30pm – 06.00pm**

This session will run parallel to the Ministerial Roundtable

4. Continuation of Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017
5. Programmatic discussion: Enabling the private sector to accelerate renewable energy deployment – Corporate sourcing of renewables

#### **03.00pm – 06.00pm**

**Ministerial Roundtable: Towards an economy fueled by renewable power - Innovation for the next stage of the power sector transformation**

**15 January 2017****10.00am – 01.00pm****Ministerial Roundtable: Catalysing off-grid renewable energy deployment - Towards universal electricity access and the attainment of SDGs****10.00am – 01.00pm**

This session will run parallel to the Ministerial Roundtable

6. Report of the Council Chair
7. Institutional and administrative matters
  - a. Report of the credentials committee
  - b. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
  - c. Council membership for 2017-2018
  - d. Staff Provident Fund of IRENA
  - e. Audited financial statements for 2015 and status of implementation of external audit recommendations
  - f. Appointment of the external auditor
  - g. Indicative IRENA scale of contributions for 2017
  - h. Report of the Ethics Officer
  - i. Secondment of personnel
  - j. Operation of the arbitration system
  - k. Amendments to staff rules
  - l. Staff tenure policy
8. Programmatic discussion: Driving the decarbonisation of the energy sector through innovation

**02.30pm – 06.00pm**

9. Strategic discussion: Investment pathways towards advancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
10. Report from the Ministerial Roundtables
11. Arrangements for the eighth session of the Assembly
12. Any other business
13. Assembly conclusions and closing of the meeting

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Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

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## **List of observers at the seventh session of the Assembly**

### **IRENA Signatories / States in Accession**

1. Austria
2. Central African Republic
3. Chile
4. Costa Rica
5. El Salvador
6. Guinea
7. Guinea-Bissau
8. Honduras
9. Lebanon
10. Liberia
11. Libya
12. Madagascar
13. Malawi
14. Paraguay
15. Ukraine
16. United Republic of Tanzania
17. Uzbekistan

### **UN Member States: Non Signatories / Non States-in-Accession**

1. Brazil
2. Canada
3. South Sudan
4. Turkmenistan

**Others**

1. ABB
2. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
3. ACWA Power International
4. Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
5. African Biofuel and Renewable Energy Company
6. African Climate Policy Centre
7. African Development Bank
8. African Energy Commission
9. African Union Commission
10. Alliance for Rural Electrification
11. Arab Forum for Environment and Development
12. Arab League
13. Atlantic Council
14. Azuri Technologies
15. Caribbean Community Secretariat
16. CEMEX
17. Central European University
18. Citigroup Inc.
19. Clean Energy Solutions Center
20. Climate Action Network
21. Climate Institute
22. Clinton Foundation
23. Cook Islands
24. Council on Energy, Environment and Water
25. Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence
26. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority
27. Dubai Supreme Council of Energy
28. Ecobank
29. Ecologic Institute
30. Economic Cooperation Organization
31. ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
32. Emerson Collective
33. Emirates Environmental Group
34. Emirates Green Building Council
35. Enel
36. Energinet
37. Energy Charter
38. Energy Watch Group
39. ENGIE
40. Envision Energy
41. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
42. European Climate Foundation
43. European Federation of Energy Traders
44. European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
45. European Renewable Energies Federation
46. European Wind Energy Association

47. First Solar
48. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
49. Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
50. Fraunhofer Institute
51. French Development Agency (AFD)
52. German International Cooperation (GIZ)
53. G-Global
54. Global Energy Capital LLC
55. Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization
56. Global Green Growth Institute
57. Global Solar Council
58. Global Wind Energy Council
59. GO15
60. Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government
61. Huawei
62. Iberdrola
63. IEA Bioenergy
64. Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Chinese Taipei
65. Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
66. Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies
67. International Center for Sustainable Energy Development
68. International Electrotechnical Commission
69. International Energy Agency
70. International Energy Forum
71. International Geothermal Association
72. International Hydropower Association
73. International Institute for Sustainable Development
74. International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)
75. International Solar Energy Society
76. Islamic Development Bank
77. Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)
78. Japan Renewable Energy Foundation
79. KfW Development Bank
80. Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
81. Mali Folkecentre
82. Masdar
83. Middle East Solar Industry Association
84. MINES ParisTech
85. Mobisol
86. National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC)
87. National Renewable Energy Laboratory
88. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)
89. Novozymes
90. OECD
91. OPEC Fund for International Development
92. Pace University School of Law
93. Pacific Islands Development Forum

94. Pacific Power Association
95. Peace Boat
96. Powerhive
97. Practical Action
98. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
99. Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa
100. REN21
101. ReNew Power Ventures
102. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
103. Renewables Grid Initiative
104. Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN)
105. Revelle Group
106. SE4ALL
107. Secretariat of the Pacific Community
108. SELCO Solar Light
109. SIDS-DOCK
110. Siemens
111. SkyPower
112. Solairedirect
113. Sonnen GmbH
114. Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
115. State Grid Corporation of China
116. Statoil
117. TCX Investment Management Company
118. TeaM Energy Foundation
119. The Climate Group
120. The Varda Group
121. Total
122. United Nations
123. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
124. United Nations Environment Programme
125. United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
126. University of Southampton
127. Vestas
128. VITO
129. World Future Council
130. World Meteorological Organisation
131. World Resources Institute
132. World Wildlife Fund
133. World Wind Energy Association
134. Wylton Group
135. York University
136. 2017 Legislators Forum
137. 50Hertz Transmission

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15 January 2017

## **Report of the Credentials Committee**

1. In accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly appointed a Credentials Committee consisting of the following nine members:

1. Angola
2. Dominican Republic
3. Fiji
4. Germany
5. Kazakhstan
6. Kenya
7. Pakistan
8. Philippines
9. Poland

2. The Credentials Committee met on 14 January 2017. The Committee elected Mr Sebastian Tomasz Stepnicki of Poland as Chairperson.

3. The Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in respect of the representatives attending the seventh session of the Assembly. The Credentials Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as at that date.

4. The Committee determined that, as of 14 January 2017, the Members listed below had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. Those delegations that did not submit credentials but are represented by the competent authority were deemed to conform to the requirement. The Committee recommends to the Assembly that the following Members are entitled to participate in its seventh session:

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Antigua and Barbuda
6. Argentina
7. Armenia
8. Azerbaijan
9. Bahrain
10. Bangladesh
11. Barbados
12. Belarus
13. Belgium
14. Belize
15. Bhutan
16. Bosnia and Herzegovina
17. Botswana
18. Burkina Faso
19. Cameroon
20. China
21. Colombia
22. Comoros

23. Croatia
24. Cuba
25. Cyprus
26. Czechia
27. Denmark
28. Djibouti
29. Dominican Republic
30. Egypt
31. Ethiopia
32. European Union
33. Fiji
34. Finland
35. France
36. Germany
37. Ghana
38. Greece
39. Hungary
40. Iceland
41. India
42. Indonesia
43. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
44. Iraq
45. Israel
46. Italy
47. Japan
48. Jordan
49. Kazakhstan
50. Kenya
51. Kiribati
52. Lesotho
53. Luxembourg
54. Malaysia
55. Maldives
56. Mali
57. Malta
58. Marshall Islands
59. Mauritania
60. Mauritius
61. Mexico
62. Micronesia (Federated States of)
63. Monaco
64. Mongolia
65. Montenegro
66. Morocco
67. Mozambique
68. Namibia
69. Nauru
70. Kingdom of the Netherlands
71. New Zealand
72. Niger
73. Nigeria
74. Norway



75. Oman
76. Pakistan
77. Palau
78. Peru
79. Philippines
80. Poland
81. Portugal
82. Qatar
83. Republic of Korea
84. Republic of Moldova
85. Romania
86. Russian Federation
87. Saint Lucia
88. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
89. Samoa
90. Sao Tome and Principe
91. Saudi Arabia
92. Senegal
93. Serbia
94. Seychelles
95. Sierra Leone
96. Singapore
97. Slovakia
98. Slovenia
99. Solomon Islands
100. Somalia
101. South Africa
102. Spain
103. Sri Lanka
104. Sudan
105. Swaziland
106. Sweden
107. Switzerland
108. Tajikistan
109. Thailand
110. Tonga
111. Turkey
112. Tuvalu
113. Uganda
114. United Arab Emirates
115. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
116. United States of America
117. Uruguay
118. Vanuatu
119. Yemen
120. Zambia
121. Zimbabwe

5. The Credentials Committee noted that a number of delegations attending the seventh session of the Assembly had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recalled the importance of submitting credentials in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and called on delegations to conform to this requirement at forthcoming sessions of the Assembly.

Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

15 January 2017

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## **Decision on the membership of the Council of IRENA**

The Assembly,

*Noting* that, pursuant to Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute, the Assembly shall, by consensus of the Members present, elect the members of the Council;

*Noting further* that Article X.A of the Statute states that the members of the Council shall be elected on a rotating basis as laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, with a view to ensuring effective participation of developing and developed countries and achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution and effectiveness of the Council's work;

*Noting further* that the election to the IRENA Council is also governed by Rules 69 and 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as contained in document A/5/5, with due regard being paid to the regional groupings set out in the annex thereto;

*Noting with gratitude* the guidance received from the President of the sixth session of the Assembly pertaining to the overall process and *recalling* the extensive consultations conducted in the spirit of cooperation and transparency within each regional grouping between April and November 2016 by the four Vice-Presidents of the sixth session of the Assembly;

*Commending* the four Vice-Presidents for their efforts to enable an inclusive and transparent consideration of the matter as well as the Members for their adherence to the procedure and deadlines and their efforts to reach agreement on Council seat allocation in a cooperative spirit;

*Bearing in mind* the need to ensure inclusiveness and engagement by all countries in the global effort to scale up the deployment of renewable energy and *encouraging* the Council in this context to ensure transparent and broad participation of all Members of the Agency in its work;

*Decides* to elect the members of the Council for 2017-2018 set out in the Annex to the present decision.

**ANNEX****IRENA Council Membership for 2017-2018****2017****Members**

1. Argentina
2. Bahamas
3. Belgium
4. Burkina Faso
5. China
6. Colombia
7. Egypt
8. Germany
9. Ghana
10. India
11. Japan
12. Norway
13. Republic of Korea
14. Russian Federation
15. Samoa
16. Sudan
17. Turkey
18. United Arab Emirates
19. United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland
20. United States of America
21. Zimbabwe

**Alternates**

1. Bangladesh
2. Cyprus
3. Dominican Republic
4. France
5. Kenya
6. Malaysia
7. Panama
8. Philippines
9. Spain
10. Uruguay

**2018****Members**

1. Argentina
2. China
3. Colombia
4. Cyprus
5. Egypt
6. France
7. Ghana
8. Italy
9. Japan
10. Kenya
11. Malaysia
12. Niger
13. Russian Federation
14. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
15. Samoa
16. Saudi Arabia
17. Spain
18. Sweden
19. United Arab Emirates
20. United States of America
21. Zimbabwe

**Alternates**

1. Bangladesh
2. Dominican Republic
3. Germany
4. Panama
5. Philippines
6. Republic of Korea
7. Sudan
8. Turkey
9. Uruguay

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Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

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## **Decision on the appointment of an external auditor of IRENA**

The Assembly,

*Recalling* Article XII.C. of the IRENA Statute which provides for the Assembly to take decisions on financial matters, including on the appointment of an external auditor who shall hold office for a period of four years and who shall be eligible for re-election;

*Emphasising* the need to ensure that the arrangements for the annual audit take into account the international nature of the Agency, and the need to conduct an open and competitive process, open to both public audit institutions and private audit firms;

*Noting* that the Secretariat conducted an open and competitive procurement process in accordance with the Statute and relevant regulations to select an external auditor to audit the Financial Statements of the Agency and of the Staff Provident Fund for the period 2017 to 2020;

*Having considered* the Note of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor contained in document A/7/9;

*Decides* to appoint Deloitte and Touche, M.E. as the external auditor to audit the annual financial statements of the International Renewable Energy Agency and of the Staff Provident Fund, for the period 2017 to 2020.

Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

15 January 2017

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## **Decision on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017**

The Assembly,

*Recalling* that the Assembly at its sixth session, through decision A/6/DC/1, adopted the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017;

*Noting* that, pursuant to Article XII.A.1 of the IRENA Statute, mandatory contributions of Members are based on the scale of assessments of the United Nations, as determined by the Assembly;

*Further noting* that the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017 is based on the 2016-2018 Scale of Assessments as approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/70/245;

*Noting* that the Council, at its twelfth meeting, considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017, as contained in document C/12/7, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at its seventh session;

*Bearing in mind* that new Members join the Agency periodically pursuant to Article VI of the IRENA Statute, and that the IRENA Scale of Contributions is to be adjusted to account for such new membership in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.2 to 6.4;

*Having considered* the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017 as contained in document A/7/10;

*Decides* to adopt the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2017, as contained in the Annex to document A/7/10, as the applicable scale of contributions for 2017.

Seventh session of the Assembly of IRENA

Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

15 January 2017

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## **Decision on temporary measure on the length of staff service**

The Assembly,

*Noting* that, pursuant to staff regulation 5.4, the total length of service on fixed-term appointments shall normally not exceed seven years;

*Noting* also the Council deliberations on the issue in view of the upcoming tenure limit for a number of staff serving with the Agency, as summarized in the Note of the Director-General on temporary measure on the length of staff service contained in document A/7/15;

*Mindful* of the need to maintain the requisite skillset and expertise of staff to meet the operational requirements, in the best interest of the Agency and its staff;

*Recalling* Article XI.C. of the IRENA Statute, which stipulates that the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity;

*Emphasising* that staff performance and programmatic needs shall continue to be the main considerations in extension of staff appointments;

*Recognizing* the young age of the Agency, and the need for additional empirical evidence to support informed decision-making;

*Having considered* the recommendations made by the Council at its twelfth meeting;

1. *Decides* to grant the Director-General the authority to extend the length of service of all staff serving with the Agency on 15 January 2017 for a period of up to four years in addition to the periods currently provided for in Staff Regulation 5.4 (b) and (c).
2. *Requests* the Council to consider the necessary amendments to the existing staff tenure policy for recommendation to the Assembly no later than at its tenth session.
3. *Takes note* of the Council's request to the Secretariat to continue analyzing the human resource trends, including turnover rate, vacancy rate and years of service, as well as impact of the staff tenure policy on these trends, and to report on these to the Council at its fifteenth meeting.

31 May 2017

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 Seventh session of the Assembly  
 Abu Dhabi, 14-15 January 2017

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### A. MEMBERS

#### AFGHANISTAN

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H.E. Mr Ali Ahmed Osmani  
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<b>BAHRAIN</b> <i>Representative</i>	H.E. Mr Abdulhussain Mirza Minister Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs, Manama  Mr Jassim Isa Al Shirawi General Manager Oil and Gas Affairs, Manama  Mr Abdul Majeed Abdul Karim Consultant Office of the Minister, Ministry of Oil, Manama  Mrs Jehan Salahuddin Al Murbati Director Sustainable Energy Unit, Manama  Mr Ahmed Abdul Rasool Bucheery Office Manager Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs, Manama

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Mr Igor Bondarev  
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Mr Nikita Khatenevich  
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 Thimphu

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