

Fourteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA  
28 – 29 November 2017, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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## **Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 28 and 29 November 2017. The meeting was attended by the following Council members: Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; as well as nine alternates: Bangladesh, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, France, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, Spain, and Uruguay. Also in attendance were delegations of 60 other IRENA Members and other countries.

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

2. The Chair of the thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA, China, opened the meeting.

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

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

3. **The Council elected by acclamation China, represented by Mr. Zhi Guo, Chief Economist of the National Energy Administration, as Chair; and Colombia, represented by H.E. Mr. Faihan Al-Fayez, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Colombia to the United Arab Emirates, as Vice-Chair of the fourteenth meeting of the Council.**

4. The Chair appointed Norway as Rapporteur of the fourteenth meeting of the Council.

#### **b. Adoption of the agenda (C/14/1)**

5. The Chair introduced the 'Provisional Agenda' (C/14/L.1).

6. One Member proposed that, given the forthcoming end of the second four-year term of the Director-General of IRENA, an additional Council agenda item regarding the selection and appointment of the Director-General be added to the agenda. Another delegation suggested for the topic to be discussed within the framework of the eighth session of the IRENA Assembly.

**7. The Council considered and adopted the Agenda for its fourteenth meeting (C/14/1), including the amendment to add the selection and appointment of the Director-General as agenda item 8.e under institutional and administrative matters.**

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**Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (C/14/2; C/14/CRP/1)**

8. The Director-General of IRENA, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, welcomed delegations to the fourteenth meeting of the Council and introduced his 'Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017'. The Director-General highlighted the pace of the global energy transition driven by innovation in technology and business models along with the prospects of social and economic benefits. He highlighted IRENA's latest data, which shows that in 2016, 161 gigawatts of new renewable capacity was added to the global mix, representing an 8.7% increase in new renewable capacity worldwide. Most notably, around 70% of this increase in 2016 took place in developing countries, with 58% in Asia and 12% in Africa, where capacity additions doubled compared to growth in 2015.

9. The Director-General further noted that IRENA's analysis of the cost patterns for wind and solar has found that every doubling of cumulative installed capacity reduces prices by 20%. This means that in the next decade, costs for solar PV could drop by a further 60%, onshore wind by 35%, and concentrated solar power by almost 45%. A similar trend is also emerging in battery storage technologies, and IRENA estimates that the installed cost for stationary applications could fall by up to 30% by 2030 with similar numbers for mobile applications, raising the prospect that the electrification of mobility is around the corner. The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption stands at 18.3% today with significant potential yet to be exploited, he noted.

10. Renewable energy is at the heart of global efforts in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Director-General underscored. He acknowledged that more efforts are needed to encourage innovative approaches reflecting the diversity of technologies and actors to achieve a clean energy future. To reach the level of decarbonization envisaged by the Paris Agreement, the share of renewable energy would need to increase from the current level, around 15% of primary energy by 2015, to 65% in 2050. According to a study jointly undertaken with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the ambitious deployment of renewable energy in conjunction with energy efficiency measures could account for around 90% of the energy related carbon emissions restrictions needed by 2050. While the additional investment for such a transition would require around 0.4% of global GDP by 2050, it would more than pay off with a 0.8% growth of global GDP in 2050 projected as a result of this infrastructure investment.

11. The Director-General provided an overview of the Agency's programmatic activities and highlighted engagement with Members within the framework of international processes such as the G7, G20 and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), as well as regional and thematic initiatives of IRENA, such as the Clean Energy Corridors, SIDS Lighthouses, and the Global Geothermal Alliance, as a key strategy to realise the Agency's impact on the ground. In light of the private sector's vital role in accelerating and scaling-up the deployment of renewable energy, the Director-General noted in particular the relevance of the Agency's tools, such as the Sustainable Energy Marketplace, as well as its engagement through the IRENA Coalition for Action.

12. The Director-General closed by thanking Members for the timely transmission of assessed contributions that enabled the Agency to achieve a 95% completion rate for the biennium to date. Affirming that the Agency will continue to seek avenues to diversify its resource base, he noted that contributions to IRENA's budget could be reported, entirely or in part, as Official Development Assistance (ODA). He expressed gratitude for voluntary contributions received from the Walloon Regional Government of Belgium, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates to enable the full implementation of the work programme. He noted that IRENA will be taking a strategic approach to mobilizing voluntary funding in the future as well as frameworks for transparency and effectiveness in its utilization.

13. Delegations commended the Agency for the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 and its contributions as a convener for global energy cooperation, a facilitator for knowledge exchange, and as a source of policy advice to national and international energy policy efforts. Affirming their continuous support to the Agency, delegations welcomed initiatives and tools, such as the Renewable Energy Roadmap (REmap), Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA), regional Clean Energy Corridors (CEC), Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (Global Atlas), the Sustainable Energy Marketplace (Marketplace), the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA), and SIDS Lighthouse Initiative (SIDS Lighthouses). One delegation expressed appreciation, in particular, for IRENA's analytical work on job creation and economic benefits, grid stability, policies and market design, technological innovation and cost reductions. One delegation suggested that the Agency conducted further analysis regarding the benefits of digitalisation of renewable energy and stressed the need for the Agency to provide capacity building to countries in the renewable energy sector. The same delegation further noted the importance of continuous monitoring of resource allocations and utilisation during the implementation of IRENA's programmatic activities.

14. Delegations encouraged the Agency to continue supporting countries in their energy transition as a key strategy to implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In this regard, one delegation welcomed the Agency's analytical work on decarbonisation, while another noted the role of IRENA in supporting integrated energy planning and policy development for a low-carbon economy. One delegation stressed the potential of renewable energy to contribute to climate change adaptation.

15. Delegations also emphasised the Agency's role in supporting countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular SDG 7. One delegation highlighted the opportunity of decentralised and off-grid renewable energy innovations in technology and business models to promote access to energy. In addition, the important role of renewable energy in the water, energy and food nexus was stressed by delegations. A delegation highlighted the interlinkage between SDGs 7 and 5 on gender equality, asking IRENA to undertake its activities with a view to promoting the inclusion of all stakeholders.

16. Delegations emphasised that it is economically and technically feasible to achieve a low-carbon energy future based on a high share of renewable energy, but noted the need for scaling-up and accelerating the transformation of their energy systems including through regional and international cooperation. One Member highlighted the role of renewable energy in promoting sustainable economic development, while several delegations recognising its potential to create jobs, and improve health by reducing air pollution. One delegation emphasised that social and economic benefits associated with renewables deployment exceed investment costs.

17. Delegations welcomed IRENA's cooperation with the IEA, the Clean Energy Ministerial, and Mission Innovation. One delegation encouraged IRENA to assume a greater role in coordinating regional energy-related initiatives.

18. Delegations welcomed IRENA's engagement with the private sector, including through the CEM Corporate Sourcing campaign. One delegation stressed that private investment is vital to the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement, while others emphasised the Agency's role in facilitating such investments, including through the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility and strengthened collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

19. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) [United States of America] informed the Council that the PSC discussed two selected programmatic activities, namely 'End-use sectors – The next step in the energy transition', and IRENA's 'Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility'. The Chair informed the Council of the PSC's recommendations on each of these two topics, which are contained in document C/14/CRP/1 in Annex 2 of this report.

20. The Director-General thanked delegations for their comments, highlighting their importance in guiding the Agency's programmatic work. Noting the progress made by Members in transforming their national energy systems, he emphasised the role of digitisation and innovation as game changers in the global energy transformation, as reflected in IRENA's proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019. The Director-General highlighted that, renewable energy has significant potential to deliver social and economic benefits for all stakeholders, including women, and to promote climate change adaptation as well as food, water and energy security. He welcomed Members' commitment to international energy cooperation as exemplified by their active engagement with international initiatives led or supported by IRENA, such as SIDS Lighthouses, the Clean Energy Corridors, the Global Geothermal Alliance, and the International Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC), as well as other platforms, including the World Future Energy Summit (WFES), and the biennial International Forum on Energy Transitions organized in China.

**21. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017', contained in document C/14/2, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly, with any necessary updates, for its consideration.**

**Agenda Item 4: Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (C/14/L.3; C/14/CRP/1)**

22. The Director-General introduced the 'Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022' (MTS) that defines the Agency's role in the evolving global energy landscape for the next five years. He noted that the document is a result of an extensive consultation process with Members and other stakeholders that was held over the last two years, during which the trends and developments affecting the work of the Agency, its comparative advantages, possible direction for the next five years, and the question of how to make it most effective and efficient in the evolving global energy landscape, were considered carefully. The Director-General expressed his gratitude to the United States of America for facilitating a Consultative Working Team comprising interested Members in order to drive the process and maintain the dialogue between Council meetings.

23. The Director-General noted that the coming period, IRENA will play a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy system as a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation, a global voice for renewable energy, a network hub for all stakeholders, and a source of advice and support for countries. This mission will be implemented along four pillars that will give orientation to successive programme cycles where they will be translated into action.

24. The Director-General stressed the strong imperatives for a global energy transformation provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Stressing the need for international cooperation, he underlined that the Agency's vision and near-universal membership enable it to effectively support national and international efforts to promote renewable energy deployment. The Director-General highlighted the importance of a robust and diverse resource base and affirmed the commitment to continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure maximum impact.

25. The PSC Chair reported on the Committee meeting held the day before the Council, and highlighted the Committee's recommendations on the matter, which are contained in document C/14/CRP/1 in Annex 2 of this report.

26. Delegations recognised the changing energy landscape the Agency operates in, and welcomed the MTS and its four pillars as comprehensive, relevant and well-balanced. Delegations commended the inclusive drafting process of the MTS and affirmed their continued support to the Agency's work, including through the provision of financial and human resources, capacity building, and analytical input. Several delegations stressed the importance of innovation in technology, markets and policy as

central elements of the MTS. Others also welcomed the inclusion of energy security, energy efficiency, decentralised and off-grid renewable energy, and digitisation in the Medium-term Strategy. Delegations highlighted the potential of the Agency to facilitate the peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and cooperation, as well as for a greater involvement of Members in its work.

27. Delegations highlighted the Agency's role as a platform for global energy cooperation, knowledge exchange, and as a source of policy advice in supporting the global energy transformation, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Delegations welcomed the Agency's focus on strategic partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and engagement with multilateral processes, such as the United Nations, G7 and G20, as well as regional initiatives and actors.

28. Delegations recognised the social and economic benefits renewable energy deployment can generate. One delegation highlighted the need for action regarding the provision of access to energy through renewables in this regard. Two delegations noted that the integration of high shares of variable renewable energy is a central issue in the ongoing global energy transformation. One delegation noted that transformation is not only needed in the power sector, but also in the end-use sectors, such as transportation and buildings. Two delegations welcomed the Agency's continued emphasis on developing holistic analyses and long-term scenarios as well as strategic partnerships in the light of governments' and the private sector's needs in planning and implementing the energy transformation. One delegation noted the potential of REmap for more detailed regional and country-specific analyses. Another delegation underlined the importance of harmonising data collection methodologies and standards for comparison to better understand trends in renewable energy deployment. One delegation welcomed IRENA's analytical work on cost reduction potentials.

29. Delegations highlighted the importance of a robust and broad resource base for the fulfilment of the Agency's strategy and work programme. One delegation suggested the introduction of an additional category of core non-assessed non-earmarked voluntary contributions. Another delegation asked the Agency to develop an overview of funding needs and programmatic priorities to guide Members' provision of voluntary contributions. The Agency was also encouraged to diversify its resource base by mobilising finance from the private sector, federations, research grants and climate funds. One delegation highlighted the mutual benefits of secondments to the Agency and the need to innovate in its approach to meeting the needs.

30. The Director-General expressed his appreciation for Members' comments and their contributions to the Agency. He highlighted that the MTS reflects the shift in the global energy transformation, from renewable energy power generation to a systemic transformation of the economy, driven by innovation in technology, markets and policy. In this regard, the Director-General underscored the role of the Agency as a network hub and source of policy advice. As such, the Agency will continue to focus on analytical work, such as long-term scenario modelling, private sector engagement, harmonisation of renewable energy data, innovation and energy security. The Director-General welcomed proposals to diversify the Agency's resource base and highlighted the success and mutual benefits secondments. He also emphasised the Agency's commitment to multilateral cooperation to avoid duplication and utilise synergies, and called upon Members to support this through their engagement in various international processes and organisations.

**31. The Council endorsed the 'Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022', contained in document C/14/L.3, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration.**

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**Agenda Item 5: Programmatic discussion - Increasing the share of renewable energy through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (C/14/DN/1)**

32. The Director-General provided an overview of the Agency's activities and engagement with stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society during the climate conference (COP23) in Bonn, which included the organisation of the Renewable Energy Day, the High-Level SIDS event hosted in cooperation with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the governments of Fiji and Germany, and a communications campaign led by IRENA's Coalition for Action, among others.

33. The Director-General drew attention to the launch of the report "*Untapped potential for climate action: Renewable energy in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*", which outlines steps to implement renewable energy-related actions included in the NDCs. He emphasised that NDCs provide a framework that can attract additional investments in renewable energy deployment. The report also suggests that there is significant potential for raising the level of ambition of renewable energy targets in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In this regard, the upcoming NDC revision process in 2018 provides a good opportunity to do so, especially within the end-use sector. The Director-General affirmed that the Agency would continue to engage with other international organisations to further develop the knowledge framework around renewable energy in NDCs. He noted that the Agency will offer a facility dedicated to providing strategic planning and technical support to Members for implementing and further developing the renewable energy components of NDCs.

34. The Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC), Mr. Henning Wuester, presented some highlights of the report. He noted that the implementation of renewable energy targets in NDCs would require USD 1.7 trillion between 2015 and 2030, and stressed the importance of enabling policy frameworks to attract investment in this context. The Director illustrated how renewable energy targets in the NDCs could be strengthened, including by aligning them with national energy plans, by bringing them up to the level of current renewable energy deployment rates, and by considering the overall cost/effective potential for renewables. He explained that 145 countries have recognised the link between renewable energy and climate change mitigation by including a renewable energy component in their respective NDCs. He also stressed that there is considerable potential to strengthen renewable energy targets related to the end-use sector, and to recognize the contribution of renewables to climate change adaptation and energy access.

35. In the ensuing discussion, Members welcomed IRENA's support for the implementation and revision of the NDCs, given the key role of renewable energy in addressing climate change and meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement. They acknowledged the potential that existed in better aligning national energy policies and renewable energy targets in NDCs as outlined in the report.

36. Delegations shared examples of their national efforts and affirmed their commitment to tackle climate change and foster sustainable development through implementation of their renewable energy targets, including those related to energy access. Several delegations called for ambitious and concrete action, with two delegations emphasising that the level of ambition on renewable energy within NDCs needed to be raised in order to implement the Paris Agreement. To this end, other delegations highlighted the importance of international cooperation, including on financing.

37. Delegations welcomed the efforts to support the NDC revision process to accelerate renewable energy and climate action, and to ensure policy coherence. It was stressed that this process should include all stakeholders, including from government, private sector, civil society and academia. Delegations recognised the importance of energy efficiency and cross-sectoral synergies being reflected within NDC targets.

38. The Agency was encouraged to promote the linkages between energy, climate and development policy as part of its role as a global voice for renewable energy. Several delegations stressed the need

for long-term strategies and holistic policy approaches for developing and implementing NDCs effectively. The importance of enabling policy frameworks for renewable energy deployment was stressed by some delegations, and Members were called upon to exchange experiences and best practices in this field. One delegation encouraged the Agency to continue to develop policy analyses, scenarios and roadmaps as a basis for mobilising technological innovation and finance for renewable energy deployment. The importance of capacity building for the implementation of the NDCs was underlined by one delegation. While one delegation suggested that the Agency should facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how, another delegation recognised the opportunity for close cooperation with the NDC Partnership to utilise synergies for programmatic engagement at the country level, and to facilitate peer-to-peer learning.

39. Delegations highlighted the central role of private investments for NDC implementation, with one delegation regarding the mitigation of investment risks as particularly important. While it was noted that renewables are cost-competitive, two delegations encouraged the Agency to support countries in accessing relevant finance, underlining the difficulties that still exist in this regard.

40. Some delegations recognised the potential of renewable energy, including decentralised systems, in strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience, and welcomed IRENA's work in this regard. Two delegations underlined the role of renewable energy in achieving energy security, while another delegation stressed the food, water and energy nexus. One delegation suggested that the Agency should analyse the impacts of renewable energy targets in NDCs on energy access, economic growth, as well as health.

41. The Director thanked countries for their commitment to more ambitious renewable energy targets within NDCs, and highlighted opportunities for an increased focus on end-use sectors and climate change adaptation. In this context, he noted the link to the Agency's work on the water-energy-food nexus. The Director also emphasised that, in taking the work on NDCs forward, IRENA would engage closely with relevant partners, including the NDC Partnership.

**42. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.**

### **Agenda Item 6: Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 – Report of the Director-General (C/14/L.4)**

43. The Director-General introduced the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (C/14/L.4). The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee and the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee [Antigua and Barbuda] reported on the Committees' considerations of the item.

44. The Director-General emphasised the profound shift of the global energy landscape and noted that the 2018-2019 programmatic cycle would further cement the Agency's important role in facilitating the global energy transformation. In this regard, he informed the Council that the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 is framed under the four pillars of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022, namely that IRENA will serve as a centre of excellence; a global voice for renewables; a network hub; and a source of advice.

45. The Director-General underlined the need for an adequate and diversified resource base to allow for growth commensurate with IRENA's global role. In this regard, additional voluntary contributions of approximately USD 25 million would be needed to support the implementation of the Proposed Work Programme. A core budget amounting to USD 44.78 million for the biennium was proposed, taking into account the assessed contributions of new Members and an estimated inflation rate of 2.5%. Core non-assessed contributions of USD 10.02 million from Germany and USD 9.12 million from the United Arab Emirates were proposed. He noted that Germany informed the Secretariat that its core non-assessed contributions will be increased to USD 10.2 million.



46. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), informed the Council on the discussions held within the framework of the AFC, which are contained in document C/14/CRP/2 in Annex 2 of this report. While the majority of Members was able to accept the budget as submitted, they were encouraged to consider solutions for maintaining the proposed budget level considering one Member's inability to support the increase in its contribution.

47. Delegations welcomed the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, its renewed structure and alignment with the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. Several delegations affirmed their support for the Agency's programmatic work, including through further voluntary contributions. Delegations underlined the importance of diversifying the resource base of the Agency to allow for growth commensurate with IRENA's global role, including through the introduction of a new category of core non-assessed and non-earmarked contributions, as suggested by one delegation. Another delegation recommended that resources be reallocated and earmarked for specific causes in line with both strategic priorities of the Agency as well as national priorities. One delegation recognised that a growth in staff is required to reflect IRENA's growing membership and its diverse needs.

48. One delegation expressed appreciation for the Agency's close collaboration with international fora, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the G20. Several delegations emphasized the importance of IRENA's continued engagement in international processes, such as the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and in particular, the review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, as well as the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in line with the Paris Agreement. One delegation suggested a special focus on universal access to energy and interlinkages of renewable energy with SDGs related to water and climate change.

49. Several delegations expressed support for expanding IRENA's work on geothermal energy, the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) and one delegation asked about the plans concerning the planned practitioner groups. Delegations also recognised the Agency for its work on Renewable Energy Roadmaps (REmap), appreciated its independent review and suggested a greater utilisation of peer review mechanisms. One delegation welcomed further integration of the Agency's project facilitation tools, including the IRENA Project Navigator (Project Navigator); Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (Global Atlas) and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace (Marketplace), as reflected in the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019. Another delegation emphasized the importance of partnership with the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE) launched in cooperation with the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS), to keep renewable energy in SIDS high on the international agenda.

50. Highlighting the importance of financing the energy transformation, several delegations encouraged the Agency to further strengthen cooperation with the private sector and local institutions. One delegation underlined that this work is most effective when it is coupled with advice on investment-friendly regulations and market design, targeted use of financing instruments and support for the development of a pipeline of bankable projects. One delegation requested the Agency to accelerate emphasis on the energy transition at regional and local levels and offered to share their best practices in this regard. Another delegation asked the Agency to analyse ways to encourage public support and local acceptance of renewable energy deployment.

51. Several delegations encouraged the Agency to strengthen its work on systemic innovation and commended the progress on integration of high shares of renewable energy at the national level. One delegation highlighted areas of interest for further cooperation including transformation pathways, access solutions and acceleration of innovation, notably battery energy storage systems and attendant regulatory and policy frameworks, as well as expert advisory in integrating renewable energy in the power sector. Another delegation expressed interest in system costs, the need to further expand variable renewables and requested the Agency to analyse and report on renewable technologies under severe weather conditions.

52. Delegations further expressed interest in specific areas where IRENA could contribute with research and analysis. One delegation asked the Agency to further assist Members with cross-sectoral approaches and deployment of renewables in end-use sectors, and welcomed the Agency's efforts on supporting renewable energy solutions for refugee camps. One delegation expressed appreciation of the recent study entitled *Accelerating renewable mini-grid deployment: A study on the Philippines* and voiced its desire to avail the Agency's support for a study on hybrid systems. Another delegation expressed its interest in sustainable scale-up strategies for bioenergy, and one requested capacity building efforts of the Agency to include vocational training. One delegation requested that a cross-biennial comparison of the budgetary proposal by object of expenditure be provided.

53. The Chair of the AFC briefed the Council on the informal discussions held in the margins of the Council meeting in response to the request to consider solutions to maintain the current budgetary levels (see paragraph 46). Specifically, this concerned an increase in the core budget of USD 1.8 million resulting from new membership, inflation and decreased vacancy rates. The Secretariat presented an alternative proposal, which was deemed potentially acceptable by Members, subject to further internal discussions at national level. This proposal was to keep the current core budget base as at the adoption of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017, but maintain the practice of including new membership contributions, which were applied from the outset in the programmatic cycle. New Members who joined after the adoption of the 2016-2017 Work Programme and Budget would be presented in a dedicated part of the scale of assessment<sup>1</sup>. In this way, the practice of an increase in budget based on new Member contributions would be preserved and the core budget base would still reflect this growth with no financial impact on the United States of America. The rest, amounting to around USD 1.7 million, would be placed in a core non-assessed budget where the Director-General would be requested to report at the Assembly in 2019 on progress in securing voluntary funding for this part of the Work Programme. In this regard, there was strong support for the introduction of a Renewables Acceleration Fund for the additional core non-assessed contributions towards the implementation of the Medium-term Strategy, and the Secretariat was encouraged to discuss with interested Members to secure pledges at the outset of the biennium. It was agreed that the Assembly decision would have to provide clarity on this alternative arrangement and ensure that it does not set a precedent for the future.

54. To prepare a revised budget in time for the eighth session of the Assembly, Members requested that the Secretariat provide a note that explains the proposed approach that would be considered through a silence procedure for Council Members' response by 11 December 2017<sup>2</sup>. One delegation emphasised that the proposed arrangements must not create unfunded obligations that would eventually require an increase in assessed contributions if voluntary contributions are not forthcoming. It welcomed the Agency's proposal to monitor progress on this matter, and suggested exploring other ways to contribute to the Agency, such as secondments.

55. The Director-General expressed appreciation for all contributions, acknowledged suggestions and responded to specific comments. He thanked the delegations proposing to align voluntary contributions and establish a non-assessed funding platform.

**56. The Council took note with appreciation of the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 as contained in document C/14/L.4 and decided to transmit a revised version to the Assembly for consideration, subject to comments received by Council Members by 11 December 2017.**

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<sup>1</sup> The IRENA scale of contributions is based on the UN scale of assessment. Increase in the number of IRENA Members inversely impacts contributions of the existing Members, with the exception of the United States of America, which is assessed at the fixed rate of 22%.

<sup>2</sup> The deadline for response was subsequently extended to 15 December 2017.

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**Agenda Item 7: Programmatic discussion: Accelerating the energy transition through effective project facilitation (C/14/DN/2)**

57. The Director-General introduced the Agency's work on project facilitation. He noted that renewable energy is witnessing an unprecedented expansion, underpinned by enabling frameworks, rapidly falling costs and technological innovation. While renewable energy markets are growing, investment levels are not increasing at a sufficient pace, as renewable energy projects may face challenges due to commercial risk, cumbersome administrative processes and lack of capacity at the local level.

58. The Director-General provided an overview of IRENA's project facilitation tools, which aim to address these challenges. The Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (Global Atlas), the Sustainable Energy Marketplace (Marketplace) and the Project Navigator enhance the quality of renewable energy project proposals, reduce project development costs and improve access to financing options. As a result, IRENA's project facilitation tools help accelerate renewable energy investments in developing countries. As a next step, the Agency will aim to integrate better its suite of tools to provide a single access point and maximise synergies, as well as establish closer links with the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility. In addition, the Director-General introduced the Global Solar Energy Standardisation Initiative led by IRENA together with the Terrawatt Initiative, which is developing standardised project documents for solar photovoltaics to streamline and simplify project development and financing processes. The Initiative is entering its final review phase and results will be launched in 2018.

59. The Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC), Mr. Henning Wuester, and the Director of the Innovation and Technology Centre (ITC), Mr. Dolf Gielen, provided further details on the activities of the Agency related to project support. In their presentation, they highlighted results achieved already using the platforms, including projects that had been advanced to financial closure. It was stressed that IRENA's project facilitation tools and platforms were developed based on identified needs of investors and project developers. The Agency aims to support project pipeline development and further improve and integrate existing tools to increase the share of investor-ready projects while addressing the lack of capacity in project development and at financial institutions at the local level. Much emphasis is placed on collaborating with other institutions and initiatives and act as an integrator of various support programmes operated at global and regional levels.

60. Delegations commended the Agency's work on project facilitation, including its tools and support services and emphasized the need for intensified work on these to be central to the Agency's Medium-term Strategy. Specific cases of the impact of the Agency's zoning and site appraisal services on renewable energy development were highlighted. Several delegations also welcomed the introduction of the Global Solar Energy Standardisation Initiative, with one delegation expressing interest in contributing to it, and acknowledged efforts to integrate tools with existing platforms and resources. Several delegations welcomed support on strengthening technical and institutional capacity as well as partnerships with UN Agencies, international organisations, the private sector, and regional and sub-regional organisations. In this regard, one delegation highlighted the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement in a synchronised and collaborative manner through project support. One delegation expressed particular appreciation for the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility and the delivery of concrete projects.

61. Several delegations expressed interest in IRENA's capacity building and training programmes and underscored the importance of tailored-made capacity building, transfer of appropriate technology, data and statistics. One delegation expressed interest in including information in the Marketplace about regulatory, technical and geographical framework conditions as well as local subsidies and licensing procedures, tender advertisements, market conditions, data and grid connectivity. It underscored the necessity of stable and long-lasting public support mechanisms, a conducive business environment and predictable legal and regulatory environments.

62. Delegations commended the risk mitigation aspects of the project facilitation platforms of the Agency, as this is one of the main concerns for policy makers, investors and the public. One delegation agreed that the risks associated with early stages in project development and the scaling-up of small projects into larger programmes are key challenges in project finance and emphasised that collaboration and shared learning opportunities may help enhance impact and effectiveness of project facilitation support. Another delegation underlined that there was a gap in understanding the market and recommended that the Agency makes efforts in educating financiers.

63. Several delegations offered insights into their own experiences with regard to delivering renewable energy projects. One delegation shared its experience in tendering renewable energy projects under an unfavourable investment climate and offered to share its knowledge in risk insulation and mitigation techniques, including the establishment of trust funds, issuance of treasury bills and usage of additional guarantees from international financial organisations. Another delegation offered insights into achieving a dramatic rise in renewables through tariff mechanisms. One delegation requested more country-specific information within the project facilitation tools, and another suggested specific components for climate change adaptation.

64. The Director-General expressed appreciation for delegations' comments and elaborated on some of the specific issues mentioned. He underlined that the Agency would take steps to amplify the impact of project facilitation tools by creating synergies between them. He further noted that projects should be made replicable and foster win/win scenarios for all stakeholders.

65. Mr. Henning Wuester thanked Members for the encouraging comments on the topic and addressed several specific matters. He invited delegations to join the review of the draft project document templates developed under the Global Solar Standardization Initiative at a launch event during the World Future Energy Summit on 16 January 2018. Mr. Dolf Gielen concluded the discussion with several examples of successful cooperation on project facilitation between the Agency and Members.

**66. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.**

### **Agenda Item 8: Institutional and administrative matters**

#### **a. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (C/14/5)**

67. The Deputy Director-General, Mr. Sakari Oksanen, introduced the item by emphasising the importance of financing for scaling-up renewable energy deployment. He thanked the United Arab Emirates and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) for the continuous cooperation, and recognised the contribution of the fund towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IRENA/ADFD Project Facility has helped mobilize a total of USD 576 million in project funding, including USD 189 million from ADFD and USD 387 million in co-funding from other sources during its initial four funding cycles. The Deputy Director-General pointed to the high demand for concessional loans, which amounted to a request for USD 3.8 billion for 395 projects up to the fifth cycle, and which represent a total value of USD 13.6 billion and USD 9.8 billion in co-financing primarily from governments and other development funds. IRENA provides a tracking framework to facilitate project implementation and leverages other tools, such as Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs), the Sustainable Energy Marketplace (Marketplace), Project Navigator and the Global Atlas for Renewable Energy (Global Atlas) to support the development of investor-ready projects. He announced that the selection of projects in the fifth cycle would be presented at the upcoming eighth session of the IRENA Assembly.

68. The Chair of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility Advisory Committee, Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy from New Zealand, thanked the members of the Committee, namely

France, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe, as well as the alternates, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia and Portugal, for their collaboration, and presented the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility fifth cycle summary report. He noted a 10% increase in the number of applications compared to the previous cycle and recognised the success of a wide range of communication and outreach efforts undertaken, including social media, webinars, newsletters and engagement during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. He pointed to an increased diversity of renewable energy technologies among the project proposals reflecting the overall growth, development and viability of renewables markets, and noted that the chosen projects represent a potential of added capacity of 45 MW with a total value of USD 196 million, including USD 73 million in loans from the ADFD, and USD 123 million from other sources. Highlighting ADFD requirements for government guarantees, he encouraged governments and public agencies to develop appropriate proposals to submit to the Facility in subsequent cycles.

69. The Advisory Committee Chair informed delegations that the sixth funding cycle was opened for online applications on 16 November 2017, and will be closing on 15 February 2018. Expressions of interest for becoming a member of the IRENA/ADFD Advisory Committee in the sixth cycle were received from Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Finland, France, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, while Japan, Jordan, Pakistan and Tonga have applied to become alternates. The Advisory Committee will be appointed within the framework of the eighth session of the IRENA Assembly.

**70. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the fifth cycle of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility’, contained in document C/14/5, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration.**

**b. Report of the Ethics Officer (C/14/6)**

71. The Ethics Officer of IRENA, Ms. Salma Khalid, presented the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’, contained in document C/14/6.

72. One delegation welcomed the development of an online ethics training course and future updates on its use. It sought clarification pertaining to the rate of compliance with the financial disclosure policy as well as the identification of additional individuals required to participate in it.

73. The Ethics Officer clarified that individuals who were identified in the report as additional individuals required to submit a financial disclosure were newly hired staff, and referred to the procedures as laid out in the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest. She added that the ethics report to date has been consistent in confirming full compliance by the time of the Assembly.

**74. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’, contained in document C/14/6, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration.**

**c. Report of the Director-General on internal audit (C/14/7; C/14/CRP/2)**

75. The Director-General presented his ‘Report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’, contained in document C/14/7.

76. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported on the Committee meeting and referred delegations to document C/14/CRP/2 for a full account of the Committee’s recommendations to the Council.

77. **The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’, contained in document C/14/7.**

**d. Status of implementation of external audit recommendations (C/14/8; C/14/CRP/2)**

78. The Director of IRENA’s Administration and Management Services Division (AMS), Mr. David Iyamah, presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’, contained in document C/14/8. He noted that two recommendations related to information technology (IT) password policy and mapping of service of accounts were implemented. Further recommendations, including the finalisation of the capacity agreement relating to IRENA’s permanent headquarters in Abu Dhabi and review of depreciation rates of the Agency’s assets, are in the process of being implemented.

79. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported that the Committee had considered the report, had no comments thereon, and had decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

**80. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’, contained in document C/14/8, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration.**

**e. Selection and appointment of the Director-General of IRENA**

81. Given the forthcoming end of the second four-year term of the Director-General of IRENA, some delegations highlighted the need for sufficient time for the process of selection of the next Director-General and emphasized the importance of the early establishment by the Council of the Director-General Selection Committee pursuant to provisions on the subject contained in document A/5/5. To allow regional groupings time to propose members to the Committee, some delegations suggested to convene a meeting of the Council on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Assembly.

82. One delegation underlined the role of the President of the eighth session of the Assembly in notifying the membership of the forthcoming end of the four-year term of the Director-General. Noting this, several delegations proposed to defer the consideration of this matter to after the notification by the President. One delegation proposed to discuss this matter at the fifteenth meeting of the Council in May 2018. A number of delegations voiced their concern that the next ordinary Council meeting in May 2018 would be too late to start the work of the Selection Committee, given its important task of securing a thorough and transparent selection process.

83. One delegation proposed to convene a Council meeting immediately after the close of the eighth session of the Assembly following the notification by the President of the Assembly of the forthcoming end of the four-year term of the Director-General. Delegations expressed their agreement to this proposal. One delegation requested the Secretariat to provide a recommendation regarding the date and precise timing of the Council meeting, given that many Members will remain in Abu Dhabi for a limited period. The Secretariat responded that it would provide Members with a recommendation shortly following a review of the necessary organisational and logistical arrangements.

**84. The Council took note of the discussions and decided to convene a meeting of the Council, either on 14 or 15 January 2018, immediately following the eighth session of the Assembly.**

### **Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the eighth session of the Assembly (C/14/9)**

85. The Director-General noted that the eighth session of the IRENA Assembly would be held on 13-14 January 2018. He stressed the importance of the Assembly as the first high-level intergovernmental meeting following COP23 and the One Planet Summit in Paris to discuss the global energy transformation and its role in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Director-General further emphasised the importance of the adoption of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 to provide a robust framework for the Agency's future direction and programmatic activities.

86. The Secretariat provided additional information regarding the Assembly and noted that at its seventh session, the Assembly had designated Uruguay as President of the eighth session of the Assembly, and Afghanistan, Nigeria, Norway and Sudan as Vice-Presidents. It referred delegations to document C/14/9 containing 'Items for consideration at the eighth session of the Assembly', and elaborated on the programmatic topics that will be discussed. In addition, a number of programmatic events are planned to be held on 12 January 2018, while the Assembly meeting will again coincide with the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, in which IRENA will participate actively.

**87. The Council took note of the document 'Items for consideration at the eighth session of the Assembly', contained in document C/14/9, noting that further items may be added following the Council meeting and in consultation with Uruguay as the President-designate of the Assembly.**

### **Agenda Item 10: Arrangements for the fifteenth meeting of the Council**

88. The Chair informed the Council that Argentina had expressed interest to serve as Chair and Samoa as Vice-Chair of the next meeting of the Council, respectively.

89. H.E. Mr Fernando De Martini, Ambassador of the Embassy of Argentina to the United Arab Emirates, representing the Chair-designate, thanked Members for the trust placed upon them to chair the fifteenth meeting of the Council.

**90. The Council agreed with this arrangement, and decided to designate Argentina and Samoa as Chair and Vice-Chair of the next meeting of the Council, as well as its fifteenth meeting. The Council also decided to hold its fifteenth meeting on 8 and 9 May 2018.**

### **Agenda Item 11: Any other business**

91. No comments were raised.

### **Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting**

92. The Director-General thanked the Chair for his leadership and delegations for their active participation. He expressed his appreciation for Members' support to the Agency since its inception, recalling its successful evolution. He emphasised the need for IRENA to remain flexible and agile to be able to respond to Members' needs within the context of the global energy transformation. He closed by inviting delegations to attend the eighth session of the Assembly in January 2018.

93. The Chair thanked delegations for their collaboration during the meeting, and recognised the efforts of the Chairs of the Programme and Support Committee, and the Administration and Finance Committee, as well as the Rapporteur.

**94. The Chair announced the fourteenth meeting of the Council to be closed.**

**INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

Fourteenth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 28 – 29 November 2017

**Agenda**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Organisation of work**
  - a. Election of officials
  - b. Adoption of the agenda
  - c. Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Council
- 3. Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017**
- 4. Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 - Report of the Director-General**
- 5. Programmatic discussion**

Increasing the share of renewable energy through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- 6. Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018 -2019 - Report of the Director-General**
- 7. Programmatic discussion**

Accelerating the energy transition through effective project facilitation
- 8. Institutional and administrative matters**
  - a. IRENA/ADFD Project Facility
  - b. Report of the Ethics Officer
  - c. Report of the Director-General on internal audit
  - d. Status of implementation of external audit recommendations
  - e. Selection and appointment of the Director-General of IRENA
- 9. Arrangements for the eighth session of the Assembly**
- 10. Arrangements for the fifteenth meeting of the Council**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Closing of the meeting**



**INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

Fourteenth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 28 - 29 November 2017

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the *Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019* (C/14/L.4) and the *Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022* (C/14/L.3). To reflect on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017, the PSC discussed two selected programmatic activities, that are also contained in the *Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017* (C/14/2).

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 28 and 29 November 2017.

### **Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting Chair's Summary**

**Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019**

The Director-General introduced the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022, which defines the Agency's direction for the next five years, and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, which outlines the implementation focus for 2018-2019.

- The PSC welcomed the documents introduced by the Director-General, and recognised the inclusive process of their development which helped ensure balance of views and requirements of all Members.
- The PSC emphasised the importance of the agility of the Agency so that its programmatic activities can adapt to the rapidly changing energy landscape. It also noted the need for a close collaboration with international organisations and other actors in the field to benefit from respective comparative advantages and to avoid duplication.
- The PSC welcomed the plans to proactively utilise the expertise that exists within the membership. It also encouraged IRENA to use its convening power to facilitate common action and impact on the ground.
- The PSC highlighted the importance of the systematic evaluation of IRENA's programmatic outputs to ensure their continuous relevance and impact.
- The PSC stressed the importance of strategic partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to extend IRENA's impact in a more cost-effective manner, thereby ensuring sustainability of the effort. It encouraged the Agency to seek avenues for further cooperation and engagement with the private sector considering their indispensable role in the transformation of the global energy system.
- The PSC recognised the need to keep under review the role IRENA can play in the transformation of the global energy system, given its near universal membership, the sustainable development and climate imperatives, and the emerging need to address resilience and adaptation. In this context, the Agency's resource limitations were highlighted as well as the need to prioritise programmatic activities.

### **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017**

The PSC discussed two programmatic activities based on an update by the Secretariat, and provided feedback and guidance for the way forward. These included discussions on renewable energy in end-use sectors and on the Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility.

- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on renewable energy in end-use sectors and stressed the importance of addressing both technology and policy aspects. It encouraged IRENA to undertake analyses of country-specific potentials for direct and indirect contributions of renewable energy to the end-use sectors. It was noted that greater policy alignment was required across sectors, as well as between renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency. Given that urban settings are playing a key role in the intersection of power and end-use, the PSC asked for further analysis on the subject.
- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on the Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility to foster entrepreneurship in renewable energy, including with SMEs and business associations. The PSC highlighted the link between the Facility and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribution to energy access.
- Recognizing the cost-competitiveness of renewables and shift towards market-based policy instruments, the PSC emphasised the importance of enabling policy frameworks to mobilise private sector investments in renewable energy, including by mitigating investment risk. The PSC underlined the need for capacity building for governments, including for implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The PSC highlighted the need for close collaboration between the public and private sector to implement renewable energy projects at scale. In this respect, access to project finance was particularly noted, such as through the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility.

### **Any other business**

No issues were reported under this item.

**INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

Fourteenth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 28 - 29 November 2017

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee (hereafter “AFC” or “Committee”) met on 27 November 2017. It reviewed matters related to the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, Internal Audit, and External Audit.

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

The following comments and recommendations were made:

1. Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019
  - The Director-General reflected on the progress made in the implementation of the current Work Programme and Budget as set out in the ‘Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017, contained in document C/14/2, and introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019’, contained in document C/14/L.4.
  - The Host Country expressed its support for the proposed 2018-2019 budget and reaffirmed its continuing commitment to the Agency, including through core non-assessed contributions and support for the Agency’s Headquarters operations.
  - One Participant, while supporting the work of the Agency, informed of his Government’s zero nominal growth policy applicable to all international organisations, including IRENA, and stressed the importance of maximum efficiency in the use of limited resources. The Participant requested the Secretariat to propose a revised budget that did not increase this Member’s contribution and to highlight the impact that this change to the budget would have on the 2018-2019 Work Programme.
  - One Participant noted they normally applied a similar zero nominal growth budget policy for international organisations, but observed that the proposed budget is reasonable and can be supported given the growth of IRENA membership.
  - One Participant supported the proposed 2018-2019 budget, noting the effect of the increase of the Agency’s membership and inflation that has occurred since the adoption of the 2016-2017 budget. The Participant invited the Secretariat to present to the Council a proposal for an additional budget provision that would encourage pledges from Members at the beginning of the biennium to ensure greater additional contributions and provide a more predictable resource base.
  - The Director-General expressed his appreciation for the support of the proposed 2018-2019 budget and acknowledged the financial constraints being faced by certain Participants. He advised that the proposed 2018-2019 budget is presented as a zero real growth budget and that the inflation rate contained therein is lower than the actual rate of inflation of the host country of the Agency’s Headquarters. The Director-General also stated that the demand for the Agency’s services as well as the Agency’s membership is increasing, and noted that the Agency’s global mandate means that not all Members are able to provide additional voluntary contributions. The Director-General noted the Secretariat will propose options to allow the maintenance of the overall level of the proposed work programme and budget to retain coherence of the programme. He said that one of these options could be create a new line in the core non-assessed part of the budget where Members could contribute additional resources to make up the shortfall in the core assessed resources.

- The Chair of the AFC noted that the discussion of the proposed 2018-2019 budget would continue in the Council. He acknowledged that the majority of Members was able to accept the budget as submitted and encouraged Participants to consider solutions for maintaining the proposed budget level while accommodating the concerns expressed by one Member.
2. Report of the Director-General on internal audit
    - The Director-General introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’, contained in document C/14/7.
    - The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.
  3. Status of implementation of external audit recommendations
    - The Secretariat introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations’, contained in document C/14/8.
    - The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council.
  4. Any other business
    - One Participant enquired whether the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’, contained in document C/14/6, should also be considered by the AFC. The Chair advised that this matter is not part of the Committee’s mandate, referring to the Terms of Reference of the AFC contained in document C3/DC/3, and that this document is submitted directly to the Council for its consideration.
    - The Participant also proposed that an agenda item on the appointment of the Director-General Selection Committee be inserted into the Agenda of the fourteenth meeting of the Council.
    - One Participant referred to the Addendum to the ‘Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of IRENA and the Rules of Procedure of the Council of IRENA’ on the selection and appointment of the Director-General, contained in document A/5/5, and noted that this process is triggered by the Assembly.
    - The Chair of the AFC advised that consideration of this matter did not fall within the Terms of Reference of the AFC, and thus any further discussions that may be required at this stage should be held in the Council.

Fourteenth meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 28-29 November 2017

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