

**IRENA**  
**FINAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE**  
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**OPENING STATEMENT**  
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**SECRETARY GENERAL OF ENERGY-SPAIN**

Good morning.

Dear delegates, dear colleagues, welcome to this Final Preparatory Conference of the initiative for an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

It is a pleasure for us to host in Madrid this event, which hopefully will set up the foundations for the final constitution of IRENA.

We all agree that if we continue in a business-as-usual scenario of fossil-fuel based economies, we can not expect a sustainable energy future. The threat of climate change, the risks affecting energy security and the growing energy needs, urge for a new paradigm.

In a context like this, it is clear the important role that renewable energy can play for shifting to a new model.

In Spain we are very aware of it, since our situation in terms of energy dependency is especially difficult: about 80% of our energy consumption is imported, and all of it is fossil fuel. Renewable energies, together with energy efficiency, are regarded by our Government as key tools to meet the energy policy targets: competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability.

In particular, Spain has made a clear commitment to achieve the maximum integration of renewable energy in the energy system. Therefore, very ambitious targets have been set for renewable energies, in order to go from 7% by 2007 to 12 % by 2010 and to 20% by 2020 in terms of energy consumption, according to our European Union commitments.

As a result, Spain is among the leading countries with regard to installed capacity in technologies such as wind, PV, solar thermal, solar thermoelectric and biofuels.

34 out of 91 GW of electricity installed capacity are renewable facilities, representing around 20% of total electricity production.

Our wind sector is of remarkable importance: during 2007, the amount of additional capacity reached 3 GW. So that total installed capacity is now above 15 GW. The total share of wind in electricity production in 2007 was 10%. In 2020, we expect to reach 40 GW.

The benefits of this deployment are not only those derived from the achievement of our energy policy targets, but also the consolidation of a competitive industrial sector.

According to our experience, a key element for the successful development of renewable energies is an adequate regulatory framework, that provides the long term stability needed to attract investment and helps these technologies to become day by day more competitive.

This framework, in addition to a clear financial scheme, must include other elements, such as priority access to the grid, as well as special technical requirements, given the difficulties arising from the management of sources with such a variability.

Government also plays an important role in energy planning. It is important to asses the potential of these energies and see their contribution to the total energy mix. In Spain we have long-term plans for the deployment of renewables, setting objectives for each technology, identifying administrative and technological barriers, proposing measures and including monitoring mechanisms to ensure the fulfilment of the plan.

Additionally, in the case of Spain, the Government is very active directly through the Institute for the Diversification and Energy Saving, a public institution depending on the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade. This Institute has been investing in demonstration projects in the early phases of the live-cycle of the technologies, since many years ago, when technologies like wind were at its childhood. This, together with public and private R&D institutions, are also features that explain Spanish leadership situation.

This successful story is full of lessons learned. Countries in the front line are obliged to share their experiences, in order to prevent newcomers from repeating their mistakes. The magnitude of the energy challenge we are facing gives almost no margin for new mistakes.

In this sense, international cooperation plays a key role: the exchange of views and experiences between countries gives to all a great opportunity. Sharing information and best practices, providing policy advice to governments, promoting technology transfer and capacity building, among many others, are activities needed for enhancing the deployment of renewable energies and so, putting in place the need for a global revolution in the way that energy is supplied and consumed.

For the renewables sector, precisely IRENA can be the starting point for such a shift, a specialised agency that can provide advice and support for the swift expansion of renewables worldwide. In spite of the existence of other international organizations dealing with this issue, it is clear that there is some space that must be covered.

To manage this revolution, IRENA should work together with these existing organizations, especially the International Energy Agency, in order to complement and not to overlap efforts, to avoid duplication of work and to take advantage of existing synergies. As we all agree, cooperation and coordination are of paramount importance.

There has been a great progress in the two previous preparatory meetings. A lot of consensus and support to the initiative has been reached. And we have on the table some proposals for statutes, financial scheme and governing structure that hopefully during this Conference, should lead to the formal constitution of IRENA.

Let me give you again my warmest welcome to Madrid. I am sure that this meeting will be as successful as we all wish.

Thank you very much.