

Chair's conclusions: Final Preparatory Conference for the foundation of IRENA

23-24 October 2008, Madrid, Spain

At the initiative of Germany, Spain and Denmark and the invitation of the Spanish Government 51 states attended the Final Preparatory Conference and finalised discussions on IRENA's Statute. This major breakthrough makes it possible for IRENA to be founded in early 2009. The initiative is strongly supported by a significant number of developing and industrialised countries of the world.

The Final Preparatory Conference represents a milestone in the founding process of IRENA and marks the transition from the preparatory to the operational phase. The agreement on the Statutes is of major importance for the signing of the Treaty at the Founding Conference scheduled for 26 January, 2009 in Bonn, Germany. The number of countries present at this crucial stage and their active participation indicate the significance that states worldwide give to an international agency with global outreach for renewable energy and a low carbon economy.

IRENA's Statute designs a lean and effective structure to fulfil its tasks and objectives. It further establishes a solid financial basis for the agency through mandatory and voluntary contributions. In order to act swiftly, participating states agreed on a resolution establishing a Preparatory Commission, as interim body of IRENA. The first meeting of the Preparatory Commission will take place on 27 January, 2009, the day after the Founding Conference and will ensure a rapid and effective start of the agency.

The conference agreed on procedures and criteria for selecting IRENA's interim Director-General and interim headquarters which will guarantee transparency and fairness. Signatories of IRENA are invited to put forward applications for the interim headquarters and nominations of candidates for the post of interim Director-General until 30 April, 2009.

General agreement was expressed on the scope of IRENA's initial activities. The work programme will be further developed between the Founding Conference and the second meeting of the Preparatory Commission in June 2009. In line with discussions on preceding preparatory meetings emphasis will be placed on providing, upon request, policy advice for national governments, facilitate technology transfer and capacity building. The agency will work in close coordination with other related international organisations, thereby creating synergies.

Germany has been designated as depositary, and in this context the next steps in the founding process will be:

- **27 October, 2008:** The final version of the agreed texts (Statute, Resolution Establishing a Preparatory Commission and Decisions on the Procedure and Criteria for Selecting the Interim Headquarters and Interim Director-General) will be sent to participating countries. States intending to sign the Statute during the Founding Conference on 26 January will need to start the necessary domestic legal procedures for signature.
- **Early December, 2008:** The depositary will circulate legally reviewed documents to all participating countries together with the invitations to the Founding Conference and the first meeting of the Preparatory Commission in Bonn, Germany and will inform all UN Member States.
- **Mid December, 2008:** The depositary will send the draft documents for the first meeting of the Preparatory Commission.
- **26 January, 2009:** Founding Conference in Bonn, Germany
- **27 January, 2009:** First meeting of the Preparatory Commission in Bonn, Germany
- **June 2009:** Second meeting of the Preparatory Commission, selection of interim Director-General and interim headquarters