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and

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Concluding speech at the IRENA founding conference

World Conference Center,

former Plenary Chamber of the German Parliament

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Check against delivery!

I. IRENA has been founded

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Colleagues,

- It is done. IRENA is in the world. **Yes – we did it!**
- That is good news. Together we have taken an important step towards shaping a shared, sustainable future.
- With IRENA we are bringing together the political and the economic aspects of issues that must be considered together: energy and development, peace and ecological justice.
- Although it has been a rush to put everything in place this past week, many countries have already signed. Many have said they want to sign as soon as possible.
- I can clearly see from here at the front the joy and relief on the faces.
- Now it is time to say thank you to the wonderful team that made today possible.
- Thank you to all those who have had only one love during the last few weeks: IRENA.
- Thank you to the ministries that took part.
- Thank you to the splendid vice-chairs from Denmark and Spain.
- Thank you to our host city Bonn.

- And a very special thank you to Hermann Scheer. Your commitment to bringing about the necessary turn-around in energy policy is unequalled in Germany. Clearly you are yourself full of renewable energy.
- We have had it impressed upon us here that we are surrounded by crises, but the way ahead is full of opportunities.
- Renewable energies do not bring with them the risks that fossil fuels or nuclear energy entail.
- Renewable energies are inexhaustible, decentralised, climate-neutral and stable.
- With renewable energies it is possible to pursue development without the risk of climate breakdown.
- Renewable energies will secure work and jobs for innovative companies and national economies.
- There can be no lasting peace in the 21st century without renewable energies.
- Renewable energies are our planet's great gift for our future.

II. Summary

- That is why this conference has rightly received great international interest and public attention.
- More than 120 countries from the North and the South were represented here, we had 60 informative national statements with ambitious goals, we had high-level visits from 43 ministers.
- 75 countries signed the statute of IRENA!
- It is wonderful that you were here and took part in the conference. We have thus been able to send a message, signalling the new, cooperative global policy that we look forward to and that we need more urgently than ever to resolve the current crises (food, fuel, finance).
- Together we can change the “fossilised” approach to energy policy.
- Renewable energies will soon move out of their niche existence to take their place at the heart of international energy policy. We can make sure that happens.

III. Looking ahead

- We have reached the end and are looking forward.
- IRENA must now quickly become a practical working entity and achieve further international visibility.
- We now need all emerging economies and industrialised countries to further increase their commitment to IRENA.
- Now is the time for all member states to make tangible contributions to IRENA – both financial and in terms of manpower. We need your best experts for IRENA. Starting tomorrow.
- Now is also the time to set national goals for energy, environmental and development policy.
- Most OECD countries already have the capability to increase the amount of electricity they generate using renewable energies to at least 20%.
- Here in Germany we also want to take concrete steps to shoulder our share of the responsibility and, therefore, in the period up to 2014, we will be investing 2.5 billion euros for renewable energies in bilateral development cooperation. This investment will be specifically targeted at 45 countries.
- Tomorrow the preparatory committee will meet for the first time. We wish them a successful start.
- Today is a great day for renewable energies.

- I would once more like to thank you all for helping to bring this about. I hope that this day will shine on, warm and sunny, far into the century ahead of us.
- And now, to bring this portentous day to a ceremonial conclusion, I invite you to join us at tonight's dinner on the Petersberg.