

FRANCE / JEAN-LOUIS BORLOO

Distinguished Ministers

Dear colleagues,

This is a historic moment. **50 years after the creation of IAEA and 30 years after that of IEA**, we are witnessing the official launch of IRENA, the first-ever international agency exclusively devoted to promoting renewable energy sources. As such, **IRENA is the agency for energy transition, the agency for 21st century energy, an energy that is sustainable, locally sourced and without borders.**

- I. The facts are known by all of us : **our energy paradigm is not sustainable over the long term.**

1/ If no action is taken, the current paradigm will lead to **temperature increases of 5°C by the end of the century**

2/ **In any case, this paradigm will not enable us to meet the planet's energy needs**, which are set to increase by 50 % until 2030 : in the near future, the planet will be home to 9 billion humans who will need energy to produce, consume, as well as for heating and travelling.

3/ This **paradigm, based on a hyper-concentration of resources, gives rise to a large number of imbalances, financial** ("economic rent"), political and geostrategic.

- II. We stand at **the eve of a major technological and economic sea-change.**

1/ **Virtually speaking, if one takes into account “external costs”, renewable energy sources are already competitive.** (ecological price)

2/ **The cost of solar power has already gone down by 60% between 1991 and 2003 ; That of wind-based electricity went down by 80% between 1980 and 2007.**

3/ **At a global level, renewable energy already constitutes a fully-fledged economic sector with 2.4 million jobs and 18% of total energy consumption.**

III. Irena must serve to speed up the transition

1/ **By moving faster on partnerships** between countries that already have some experience of renewables and countries that are only embarking on their first projects.

2/ **By moving faster on knowledge and technology dissemination : energy self-sufficiency implies a degree of technological autonomy.**

3/ **By moving faster on harnessing the significant natural potential of developing countries.**

4/ **By moving faster on partnerships** with the other international institutions active in the field of renewable energy : UNDP, UNEP, IEA, the World Bank...

Pooling together our skills and assets will improve our position in the race against the clock which has already started. It is a valuable tool and a welcome development on the road to Copenhagen.