

Mr. Chair

The Portuguese Delegation wishes to express its satisfaction for the convening of this Foundation Conference for IRENA and thanks Germany for organizing and hosting this important event.

Portugal has participated in the three previous Preparatory Meetings of IRENA.

In recent years Portugal has created an important track record on renewable energy that accounts today for 43% of all electricity produced in the country. Hydropower and wind power have the biggest share of total installed capacity, but a diversified renewable mix is being developed, having flagship projects on solar photovoltaic and wave energy, but also biogas, biomass and geothermal installed projects.

In this context, bearing in mind the importance of renewable energies for Portugal, it is only natural that we have decided to be among the founding members of IRENA.

Portugal believes IRENA will play an important role in promoting sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale, through cooperation, technology transfer and best practices' sharing among its members.

To achieve these objectives it is important that IRENA collaborate and create positive synergies with organizations and networks already engaged on energy, namely with the International Energy Agency, in order to complement resources and competencies by developing solid cooperation with these organizations.

Also important for the success of IRENA is to guarantee, in its composition, the widest representation of the international community, to better ensure that the final goals are reached.

Portugal would like to express its satisfaction for the inclusion, in the Statute, of the principle of equality among all members and the preference for consensus in decision making process.

The creation of IRENA takes place in a crucial moment when negotiations for a new post-Kyoto regime for climate change are underway and will be concluded in the Copenhagen Conference, at

the end of the year. In this context, we would like to emphasize the central role of renewable energy for mitigation strategies and as an important instrument to tackle climate change.

World financial crisis cannot serve as an excuse to slow down our efforts in deploying renewable energies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On the contrary, today the promotion of the renewable sector represents an opportunity to invest, create skilled jobs, foster economic growth and stimulate new businesses. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are in many countries, including Portugal, a strong baseline for national recovery programs.

Mr. Chair

To conclude, I would like to express Portugal's strong commitment to IRENA and our resolution to contribute in a constructive and proactive way to help IRENA to achieve the ambitious goals that have been set.

Thank you.