

## Integrating Energy Transition into El Salvador's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

*Virtual Seminar, IRENA Zoom Platform*

18 August 2021, 18 – 19.30h (GST)

### **Background**

El Salvador has prioritised renewable energy projects to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels and improve energy security. By 2019, renewables, including hydropower, biomass, solar photovoltaic (PV), and geothermal power, had reached 64.3% of the country's total installed capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (GW). Since 2015, solar PV capacity alone has grown nearly tenfold, reaching 273 megawatts (MW) in 2019. The potential for renewable energy to contribute to El Salvador's energy mix is much greater. The next phase of renewables growth in El Salvador should aim to unlock renewable energy potential in the power sector, transport, agri-food, and industry, addressing challenges given by changes on rainfall patterns and climate change.

El Salvador's new National Energy Policy 2020-2050 and the ongoing efforts towards the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) revision are creating an opportunity for the Salvadorian energy sector to position renewable energy as key means to enhance the global climate agenda. El Salvador aims to promote the wide production of electricity from renewables by 2030 and reduce its increasing dependence on imported fossil fuels, which accounted for 69% of its total energy supply in 2019. In its first NDC, El Salvador committed to reducing 46% GHG emissions by 2025 in comparison to its emissions in 2015, and an additional 15% with international financial support and support for the development of 92 MW of geothermal energy. The country's commitment and targets highlighted in the Energy Strategy will be communicated in the upcoming revised NDC submission.

IRENA is supporting Latin American countries, such as El Salvador, in its NDC revision and implementation process through various service offerings, including Renewable Readiness Assessment (RRA), RE roadmaps, data and statistics, MRV systems, decarbonisation roadmaps, project facilitation, resource and technology assessments; and capacity building activities in areas such as policy and finance, low carbon technologies, modelling of energy scenarios, among others. This work aims to enhance the energy component with more ambitious targets, resulting in a more robust NDC to be submitted in the run up to COP 26.

Furthermore, the Agency is supporting countries to identify if national targets and planning can meet the NDC guidelines of the information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding (ICTU), as part of their NDC drafting process with a focus on the energy sector. Therefore, IRENA is organising a virtual seminar with representatives from respective governments, to facilitate the exchange of insights on updating NDCs. The discussion will touch on different topics such as components part of the NDCs, the achievement of climate action goals in the energy sector, examples of cross-cutting linkage between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mitigation

and adaptation priorities, among others. The discussion will build on IRENA's analysis and support in the enhancement and implementation of the NDC's energy component in El Salvador.

### **Objective**

The event will discuss the different necessary components to be considered in the drafting of more robust NDCs, with a focus on the energy sector. The discussion will aim to highlight the importance of including renewable energy in the NDCs, represented by clear targets and actions, leading to an accelerated transition to a sustainable, low-carbon, and resilient economy. Furthermore, the seminar will promote peer-to-peer collaboration among countries in the region, by including representatives from governments sharing their experiences and insights on the drafting of the NDCs and the inclusion of clear renewable energy ambitions.

## Agenda.

18 August 2021		
18:00 – 18:05	<i>Welcome remarks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. Fernando Lopez, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), El Salvador</li> <li>○ Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships (CEP), IRENA</li> <li>○ Salvador Handal, Executive Secretary, National Energy Council (CNE), El Salvador</li> </ul>
18:05 –18:25	<i>Scene-setting presentation Drafting El Salvador's NDC</i>	<b>Presentation:</b> José Torón, Regional Programme Officer, IRENA
18:25 –19:25	<i>Roundtable discussion: Experiences and insights in drafting energy ambitious in the NDCs</i>	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Fabian Barrera, Associate Programme Officer, IRENA</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Juan José García, Director of Energy planning, CNE, EL Salvador</li> <li>○ Emanuel Ayala, National Cabinet of Climate Change, Argentina</li> <li>○ María José García, Ministry of Energy, Chile</li> <li>○ Iván Relova, National Council for climate Change, Dominican Republic</li> </ul>
19:25 –19:30	<i>Closing Remarks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Salvador Handal, Executive Secretary, National Energy Council (CNE), El Salvador</li> </ul>