

2019 IRENA Legislators Forum Report to the IRENA Ninth Assembly

11 January 2019, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Members of parliament participating in the 2019 IRENA Legislators Forum emphasised the key role of renewables in accelerating the energy transformation and in reaching the goal of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030 as set by the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, discussions also focused on the significant role that parliamentarians can play in supporting and monitoring an integrated approach to the implementation of SDG 7 by facilitating partnership and collaboration through inclusive national processes as well as effective and accountable institutions.

To this end, legislators at the forum emphasised six key points to drive IRENA's parliamentary engagement:

- Accessing reliable knowledge, information and data on the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy to support their efforts in adopting relevant legislation, allocating budget, and ensuring accountability for the implementation of the SDGs;
- Institutionalising the Legislators Forum as a platform to further cultivate and connect a network of interested parliamentarians throughout the year, including developing a plan of action to support them in accelerating the energy transformation on the ground;
- Pledging to work with IRENA in organising parliamentary meetings at the regional level in coordination with regional parliamentary networks and assemblies;
- Developing a toolkit to support members of parliament in championing the uptake of renewable energy, through collaboration between IRENA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and other international and regional organisations;
- Calling upon IRENA to facilitate the adequate transfer of technologies through capacity building and technical advice to assist parliamentarians launch initiatives in their constituencies;
- Identifying and discussing opportunities stemmed by cross-border grid connections to address the challenge of integrating variable renewable energy in power grids.

The key role embodied by parliamentarians in establishing active networks towards these aims was recognised, and participants have called for working sessions on these issues with the inclusion of relevant stakeholders from the industry, and public and private sector entities.

Legislators agreed that they are well-placed to enact the important changes that are required in the pursuit and achievement of the energy transformation. Through their representative function of the people's needs, concerns and best interest, parliamentarians have the legitimacy, the responsibility and the capability to bring a unique perspective to global discussions on the energy transformation and its linkages to the SDGs, and to ensure a just, inclusive and timely transition to a sustainable energy system.

In concluding the fourth IRENA Legislators Forum, parliamentarians once again welcomed the Legislators Forum as an effective platform to facilitate a sustained and continued dialogue between IRENA and parliamentarians, and across parliamentary organisations and associations. They echoed their support for such dialogues to promote the formulation of evidence based-policies and mechanisms.