

# REVIEW

# FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

## A PERIODIC BRIEF ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

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### ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

To a large extent, the global energy transformation is being driven by a policy imperative – to provide modern affordable and reliable energy to all while respecting sustainability needs.

Under current trends, the world is on course to exhaust its energy related “carbon budget” in under 20 years. To avert catastrophic climate change, urgent steps will have to be taken to ensure the complete decarbonisation of energy use, even amid the expected tripling of the world’s economy by 2060. This means renewable energy – already growing fast over the past decade – must grow at least six times faster, and policy makers are faced with the challenge of accelerating this transformation.



Today’s policies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a cornerstone of the Paris Agreement, can initiate an emission decline in the coming years, and considerably accelerate the renewable energy transition, but they fall far short of what is needed to limit global warming. Whilst renewable energy features prominently in most NDCs, there is substantial scope for countries to increase their renewable energy ambitions.

In addition to supporting climate stabilisation goals, a significant uptake of renewables can fuel economic growth, create new employment opportunities, and improvements in human welfare such as health and education gains. Social benefits can be further maximised by ensuring a just, timely and economically efficient transition, and enhancing its overall acceptance in local communities and across societies.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY BENEFITS

## THE ENERGY TRANSITION MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

- » **IRENA's latest analysis finds that accelerated renewables deployment could boost global gross domestic product (GDP) by around 1% in 2050, compared to the reference case**
- » **Welfare improvements, including economic, social and environmental aspects, will increase by 15%**
- » **Renewable energy jobs grew 5.3% in 2017, with the total surpassing 10 million worldwide. Around 29 million jobs could be created in the renewable energy sector in 2050**

**The energy transformation is technically feasible and economically beneficial** - REmap, a global energy transition roadmap presented in IRENA's latest report *Global energy transformation: A Roadmap to 2050* shows that renewables and energy efficiency provide an optimal pathway to meet the growing energy demand while sharply reducing carbon emissions. To provide a holistic outlook on maximising the benefits, and ensure a just and fair transition, the report connects the technology dimension with the socio-economic aspects. It shows that the on-going energy transformation, from fossil fuels to low-carbon technologies, is not only technically feasible, but also is more economically, socially and environmentally beneficial.

Cumulative gain through increased GDP from now to 2050 will amount to USD 52 trillion

Transforming the global energy system could boost the global GDP by around 1% in 2050. That year, the potential gain amounts to USD 2.06 trillion (based on 2015 rates), while the cumulative gain from today to 2050 amounts to USD 52 trillion. In the short- to mid-term (until 2035), the net positive impact on global GDP is mainly driven by an investment stimulus (with spending

on renewables, energy efficiency and grid flexibility) and carbon tax revenues. In the long term (post-2035), global GDP growth is primarily driven by indirect and induced effects, which are made possible by increased economic activity in the wider economy and which have greater economic multipliers than the energy sector. To reap these benefits from the energy transition requires that countries introduce carbon taxes, remove fossil fuel subsidies, and develop deep and strong domestic supply chains.

At the regional, country grouping and individual country levels, there are important disparities in the outcomes. This is because the various drivers of economic growth (i.e. tax revenue, trade, investment, and indirect and induced effects) play out differently across countries and regions, depending upon their energy systems, the ambition of their energy transition, and the existing socio-economic characteristics. Economic growth is stronger in regions and countries that are able to satisfy their consumption through domestic supply chains. On the other hand, countries with weak supply chains will rely on imported goods and services and thus will be less able to secure domestic socio-economic benefits.

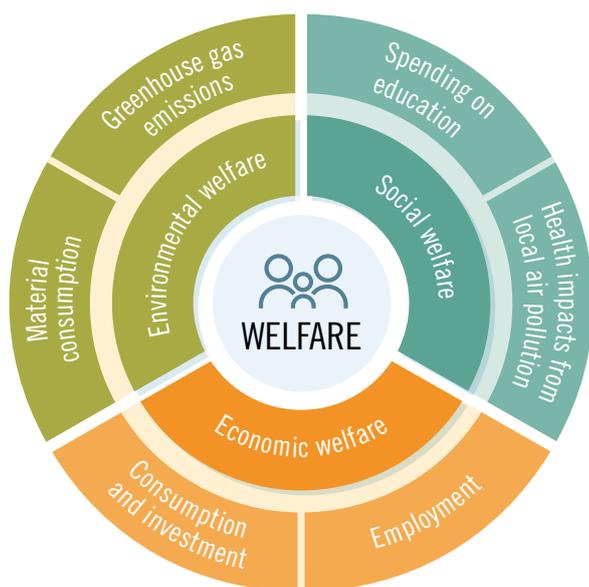
**Renewable energy improves welfare** - The multi-faceted socio-economic benefits of renewable energy have been gaining prominence as a key consideration for decision makers. Improvements in human welfare, including economic, social and environmental aspects will generate benefits far beyond those captured by GDP.

The impact of the REmap case on global welfare is positive. An index measuring six areas of social, economic and environmental welfare shows an increase of 15% by 2050, compared to the business-as-usual case. This is mainly because of the important reduction in negative health effects from local air pollution (- 62%) and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (-24%, in cumulative terms) until 2050. Gains in human health and lower carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels would generate average annual savings of USD 6 trillion in the period to 2050. Under the REmap Case, annual health and CO<sub>2</sub> benefits associated with the energy transition outweigh additional costs by two to five times in 2050.

Access to reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy plays an important direct role in improving welfare, and it can also have a multiplier

effect on development. Energy access has a cross-cutting impact on health, improved livelihoods, poverty alleviation, job creation, gender equality, and water and food security. Furthermore, energy access is related to additional household income and employment opportunities, both in the renewable energy supply chain and in downstream enterprises.

#### Welfare Improvements – key dimensions



Reducing the impact on human health and mitigating climate change would lead to savings that are two to five times higher than the costs of decarbonisation

**Job creation-** Job creation is a key priority for governments globally and the implications of the energy transition on employment in the energy sector and across the economy is increasingly under scrutiny. IRENA's latest edition of *Renewable Energy Jobs: Annual Review 2018* finds that the renewable energy sector created more than 500 000 new jobs globally in 2017, with the total number of people employed in renewables (including large hydropower) surpassing 10 million for the first time. This represents an increase of 5.3% over the number reported the previous year. Under the REmap case, it is estimated that there will be 76.5 million energy sector jobs by 2050, a net gain of 11 million jobs

compared to the reference case, with additional positive net impacts on economy-wide employment.

#### Boosting investments to achieve economic and welfare benefits –

The energy transformation is affordable, but it will require additional investments in low-carbon technologies. The additional costs of the comprehensive, long-term energy transition would amount to USD 1.7 trillion annually up to 2050. However, cost-savings from reduced air pollution, better health and lower environmental damage would far outweigh these costs. The REmap case suggests that savings in these three areas alone would average USD 6 trillion annually by 2050. Furthermore, to avoid stranded assets, sectors will require appropriately low-cost and long-duration financing on efficiency measures and low carbon technologies to realise the required investments and retrofits. Without this finance, delayed action is estimated to result in USD 11 trillion of stranded assets.

#### The need for an ambitious set of policy measures –

While the energy transition described in the report *Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050* is technically feasible and economically beneficial, it will not happen by itself. Government policy, including the degree of commitment to transforming the energy sector, is a key factor. An ambitious set of policy measures are needed to achieve this transformation: the rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies, carbon taxes to ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> prices provide an unambiguous signal to markets, extensive energy market reforms to integrate large shares of variable renewables, industrial policies to create and strengthen domestic value creation, and stringent low-carbon and energy efficiency mandates. Finance is a cornerstone of the energy transition. Investment must increase significantly beyond the level expected under current and planned policies. Last, but not least, policies are needed to ensure that transition costs and benefits are fairly distributed and transition processes are made as smooth as possible. They include retraining and up-skilling efforts, unemployment insurance and other social protection measures, public employment programmes, and investments aimed at economic diversification and revitalisation.

#### Further reading:

*Global Energy Transformation: A Roadmap to 2050* (IRENA, 2018a)  
*Perspectives for the Energy Transition* (IRENA, 2017)  
*Renewable Energy and Jobs: Annual Review 2018*

# POINT OF VIEW

## LAWMAKERS ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

### Juan Carlos Villalonga, Member of Parliament, Argentina

The Argentinian government declared 2017 as the Year of Renewable Energy. Although progress in the sector were initiated in 2016 after more than two decades of stagnation, the achievements throughout this year are remarkable - images of the first wind turbines components arriving in Argentinean ports were a clear illustration of a new era. At the beginning of 2017, contracts for 29 projects for a total of 1 142 megawatt (MW) were assigned. Under the RenovAr program, 59 projects for 2 423.5 MW were tendered. Currently, 30 projects entered into the construction stage, four are already in commercial operation and 24 will start to operate in 2018. Last August, an international auction marked a new milestone with prices up to 36 % below Round-1, and another 2 000 MW were awarded.

Six months ago, the Executive Power passed a Resolution to set up the Renewable Source Electric Power Market Regime, which regulates obligation of users to achieve renewable energy consumption objectives, established by Law 27.191. At the end of the year, the National Congress sanctioned Law 27.424, which creates the Regime of Promotion to the Distributed Generation from Renewable Resources, setting the share of renewable energy for users and distributors at national level. This norm was set with the participation of all the actors involved, and at the end of an almost two-years debate. This bill has gained extraordinary popular support. Together with the progress of tenders under the RenovAr Program, Argentina is on the path of meeting its renewable energy targets as established by law. Once the law of distributed generation will be regulated, the stage of microgeneration will begin, and Argentina will fully enter the era of renewable energy.

### Marcela Guerrero Campos, Member of Parliament, Costa Rica

During my time in Congress, climate change has been one of the most important pillar of our work. In order to take advantage of the abundant non-conventional energy sources Costa Rica is fortunate to have, we have been focusing on law projects relating to the energy transition. We have presented four different law projects: energy efficiency, residential generation and consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources, safe and sustainable mobility, and electric mobility. The latter was approved in December as a Law of the Republic.

The objective of this Electric Transportation Law is to give people better and more affordable access to all forms of transport, through financial and non-financial incentives. As an example, electric transport companies will benefit from tax exoneration on sales for 10 years. The law also encourages public companies to equip 10% of their fleets with electric vehicles. The law also contemplates an exclusive chapter for public transportation. This is the first law which will enable our country to stop depending on hydrocarbons and leave behind the era of fossil fuels, and enable us to lower emissions, and ensure a better quality of life, with better opportunities for the people.

The adoption of the Electric Transportation Law was enabled by the support of organised sectors in civil society, and lawmakers who brought changes in the legal structure in the aftermaths of the Paris agreement at COP21.



Juan Carlos Villalonga is a national Congressman, representing the City of Buenos Aires, and spokesman of Los Verdes, the Argentinean eco-political organisation. Former President of the Environmental Protection Agency of the City of Buenos Aires and former Political Director of Greenpeace Argentina (1994-2011).



Marcela Guerrero Campos was elected member of the Parliament in 2014 and has completed her four-year mandate. She was a referent in the Assembly on issues of environment, climate change, energy efficiency, urban mobility, public infrastructure and foreign trade administration

# CASE STUDIES

## ARGENTINA

The Argentinian 'Year of Renewable Energy' in 2017, launched by President Macri in January 2017, was put in place to catalyse the nation's renewable energy development and set the country on a path to easing its dependence on imported fossil fuels, and to reducing its carbon emissions in line with Paris Agreement commitments.

Renewable energy adoption in Argentina has seen positive progress since the establishment and introduction of Plan RenovAr in 2016. The plan sought to secure better financial conditions for the winners of renewable energy auctions. Under the programme, the Argentinian government set a target to increase the share of renewable energy to 20% in the energy mix by 2025, and an 8% renewable energy share in electricity consumption by 2017 – attracting approximately USD 35 billion in renewable energy investment in the process.

The early signs have been encouraging. Round one of the initiative was six times oversubscribed and more than 2.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy tenders were awarded in 2016, stimulating investment of around USD 4 billion. A further 1.2 GW of renewable energy was auctioned in the latest round of RenovAr in November 2017. This momentum is having a positive effect on prices too. Bids for wind and solar in round two of its RenovAr, averaged USD 4.7 and 4.8 cents per kilowatt-hour respectively, a fall of 12% and 13% on round one.

## DENMARK

Even with economically viable and scalable renewable-based solutions available for around two-thirds of the world's energy supply, population growth and rising energy demand could outpace energy decarbonisation without urgent investments in research and development. Innovation should be nurtured by putting proper policy incentives in place, based on a long-term perspective.

Denmark has embarked on an energy transition to 100% renewable energy in all sectors by 2050. From the earliest days, policy makers understood the importance of unleashing the creativity of public-sector entrepreneurs, which can lead to innovative solutions for decreasing the carbon footprint by sector coupling. For example, a local water service company has developed a technology to utilise renewable energy from wastewater, a waste product that is viewed nearly everywhere else as a problem to be managed. The company turned wastewater and other organic material into fertiliser for agricultural crop production, and also produced renewable heat and electricity.

## JAPAN

International climate goals require that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reach net zero in 2050, or earlier. Realising the decarbonisation of the global energy system, would require renewables to account for about half of total emission reductions in 2050, with another 45% coming from increased energy efficiency and electrification. Efforts need to emphasise overall building energy performance, bearing in mind the long-term targets of net-zero energy buildings with zero emissions. This is important given the long lifetime of buildings and long lead times in construction and in the renovation of existing buildings.

In Japan, the government has announced the ambition for more than half of newly built homes to be zero energy homes by 2020. This includes criteria on efficient ventilation, a 20% higher level of energy efficiency compared to an ordinary home, and an on-site renewable energy system. By 2030, all new private buildings should be net-zero energy in Japan, while all new public buildings are to be net-zero energy from 2020 onwards.

# IN FOCUS

## NDCs – POTENTIAL FOR ACCELERATING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

- » **The energy sector accounts for more than two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. As such, energy must be our priority in bringing down CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**
- » **The rapid deployment of renewables, coupled with energy efficiency, can achieve around 90% of the emission reductions in the energy sector needed by 2050, while at the same time advancing economic growth and development**
- » **Countries accounting for 99% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions submitted their climate plans under the Paris Agreement. However, there is still a gap between what countries have promised to do, and the emissions reductions needed to peak emissions by 2020 and stay on the 2°C trajectory**

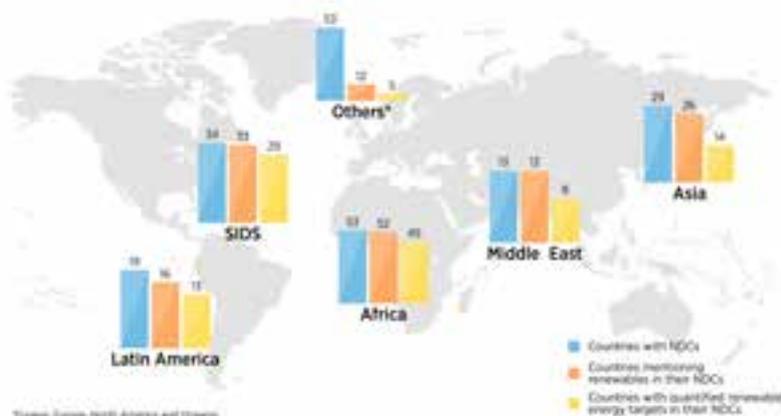
While a remarkable transition to a renewable energy future is currently ongoing, it is not happening fast enough to prevent dangerous climate change. As it stands, the world is on track to massively miss the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement.

Global renewable power installed capacity grew at a pace of 8.5% between 2010-2016, whereas NDC implementation of renewable energy deployment would only increase at an annual rate of 3.6%

Given the cost-competitiveness of renewables, governments today have unprecedented opportunities to utilise renewable energy targets in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)<sup>1</sup> to accelerate the global energy transition and increase climate-resilience.

<sup>1</sup> NDCs are the cornerstone of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Governments are well underway with implementing the first set of NDCs and will begin to review them in 2018. NDCs will be revised or updated by 2020, and every five years thereafter – with each revision aimed at being more ambitious than the previous one

### Renewable energy components in NDCs



### NDC targets for renewable power generation -

Renewable energy features prominently in most NDCs, confirming that the transition to a renewable energy future has come to be recognised globally as central to addressing climate change. However, NDCs have not kept up with the recent rapid growth in renewables. Global renewable power installed capacity grew at a pace of 8.5% between 2010-2016, whereas NDC implementation of renewable energy deployment would only increase at an annual rate of 3.6% over 2015-2030, significantly slowing down recent uptake. This may be a case of “under promising and over delivering”, suggesting that there is substantial scope for the next round of NDCs to be more ambitious. Countries can use the opportunity presented by the 2020 NDC update to examine whether their renewable energy components can be strengthened to reflect at least the current pace of renewable energy deployment.

### NDC targets for renewable heating, cooling and transport -

The majority of NDCs focus on renewable energy targets for electricity generation. Opportunities for accelerated renewable energy deployment in end-use sectors, such as heating, cooling and transport, were included only by a few countries. Yet, decarbonisation of the energy sector cannot be achieved through electricity generation alone. Significant CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions will be needed in heating and cooling in buildings (-73% compared to a business-as-usual scenario), transport (-70%) and industry (-56%).

Coupled with energy efficiency measures, renewable energy, including solar PV panels and solar water heaters, geothermal energy and electrification can have a significant impact in reducing emissions from heating and cooling in buildings.

Renewables can help to cut emissions in the transport sector coming from both passenger and freight vehicles. When electrification is not possible, emissions can be cut by replacing oil with biofuels or renewables-based hydrogen.

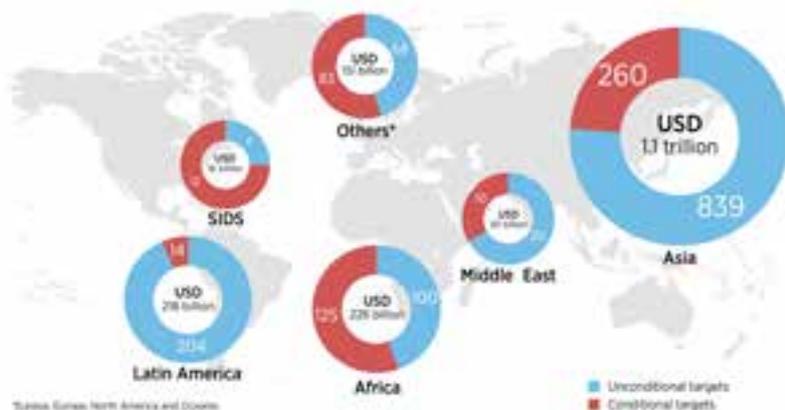
Further opportunities can be created by linking electricity generation with end-use sectors (sector coupling). The surplus renewable electricity can be stored and transformed for end-use, and thereby improve the flexibility of the power system, contributing to accommodate higher shares of variable renewables.

Significant potential also exists to upgrade existing fossil fuel-based systems to include renewable energy, including biofuels, solar and geothermal.

**Investment needs to implement the renewable energy component in NDCs** – The decarbonisation of the energy sector would require a total of USD 25 trillion to be invested in renewables up to 2050, or on average more than USD 700 billion per year. To implement the renewable energy targets of NDCs, more than USD 1.7 trillion would be needed between 2015 and 2030. More than 70% of this total investment needed would have to be mobilised to implement the unconditional targets that countries plan to implement unilaterally, a further USD 500 billion would be required in developing countries in the form of international finance to support the conditional targets. Embarking on this investment path will unleash the dynamics that can accelerate the energy transition.

As public resources are generally limited, the bulk of investment needed for the implementation of NDC-based renewable energy targets will have to come from the private sector. Public finance should focus more on risk mitigation instruments and structured finance mechanisms and less on direct financing, i.e., grants and loans to leverage the total investment needed. It is estimated that public finance ranging from USD 65 billion to USD 580 billion would be needed over the period 2015-2030 to mobilise private investment at scale. Of this, more than USD 45 billion

Total investment needed by 2030 for the implementation of renewable energy targets in NDCs



to USD 410 billion would be required to leverage the investment needed for the implementation of unconditional contributions; a further USD 20 billion to USD 170 billion would be needed to mobilise conditional investments.

The inclusion of renewable energy components in NDCs can help attract additional investment in the renewable energy sector.

**Raising ambitions in the next round of NDCs** – Renewable energy targets in NDCs are often less ambitious than targets that countries have already established in national energy plans and strategies. Furthermore, 85 Signatories to the Paris Agreement do not include renewable energy components in their NDCs yet, although the majority of these have established national targets for renewables.

Moreover, the cost-effective potential for renewable energy is much higher than that captured in NDCs (see Policy Compass, p.8). In some countries, the implementation of current NDCs would leave more than 65% of this potential untapped. Setting new renewable energy targets based on this potential can help to ensure that these are realistic while also ambitious.

Most NDCs treat renewable energy deployment primarily as a mitigation measure. Renewable energy deployment can contribute to adaptation efforts, for example, by promoting the diversification of the power supply and by building resilience through improved energy access.

**Further reading:**

*Untapped Potential for Climate Action – Renewable Energy in Nationally Determined Contributions (IRENA, 2017)*

# POLICY COMPASS

## UNTAPPING RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION

Analysis of NDCs in relation to national energy plans and actual deployment trends, show that in many cases, NDCs have not kept up with recent, rapid growth in renewables, nor with national plans for renewables in the energy sector. The cost-effective potential for renewables is much higher than that captured in current NDCs. Raising the level of ambitions in NDCs would strengthen the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement and help to significantly limit the global temperature rise.

### 1. FACILITATE QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS IN CURRENT NDCs

- » Create a stable, consistent and transparent enabling framework for renewables to provide a sound basis for deployment and a long-term perspective for investors
- » Renewable energy targets contained in NDCs should be translated into effective investment plans, in close co-ordination with overall energy planning
- » Use public finance to effectively mobilise private investment, focusing on risk mitigation instruments and structured finance mechanisms

### 2. RAISE AMBITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS IN NEXT ROUND OF NDCs

- » As global renewable energy capacity additions continue to increase at an unprecedented pace, the ambition of updated NDC-based targets for renewables should reflect this pace of deployment
- » Consider alignment with, and inclusion of, other, more ambitious, national targets
- » Take into account the cost-effective potential of renewables and set new and more ambitious renewable energy targets

### 3. BROADEN THE SCOPE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPONENTS IN NDCs AND ENSURE ITS QUALITY

- » In the next round of NDCs, explore the potential role of renewables more systematically to incorporate renewables in end-use sectors as well as for adaptation
- » Biofuels, solar thermal and in many locations geothermal solutions have the potential to be scaled up, especially for transport and for heating and cooling in buildings, while placing a particular focus on sector coupling solutions
- » Include renewable energy targets for adaptation, including for energy access through off-grid renewables, and, beyond that, to use renewables to increase the resilience of their economies

### 4. ENSURE THE QUALITY OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPONENTS IN THE NEXT ROUND OF NDCs

- » Take into account all relevant national targets, strategies and plans and ensure consistency to provide clear and reliable signals to investors
- » Base targets on sound data and projections. Impact should be assessed properly both in terms of renewable energy deployment and investment needs

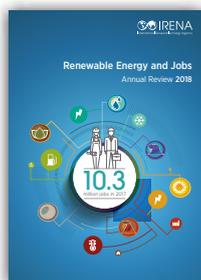
### 5. PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO INCREASE OWNERSHIP AND ACCEPTANCE:

- » Enhance the integration of climate change and energy policies by progressively integrating into national energy policy planning climate change considerations
- » Involve all stakeholders (government (all relevant ministries), industry, the financial sector, utilities and civil society) in the implementation and the revision of the NDCs to develop policy framework and investment plans

#### Further reading:

*Untapped Potential for Climate Action – Renewable Energy in Nationally Determined Contributions (IRENA, 2017)*

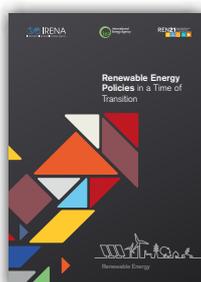
# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



## RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOBS – ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

Renewable Energy and Jobs, presents the status of employment, both by technology and in selected countries, over the past year. Jobs in the sector (including large hydropower) increased 5.3% in 2017, for a total of 10.3 million people employed worldwide, according to this fifth edition in the series.

*IRENA, May 2018*

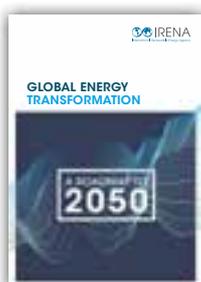


## RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICIES IN A TIME OF TRANSITION

Spurred by innovation, increased competition, and policy support in a growing number of countries, renewable energy technologies have achieved massive technological advances and sharp cost reductions. Renewables have come to the forefront of the global energy transition, with nearly every country adopting a renewable energy target.

This report identifies key barriers and highlights policy options to boost renewable energy deployment. After reviewing current policies and targets worldwide, it examines sector-specific policies for heating and cooling, transport and power, as well as measures for integrating variable renewables. An updated policy classification and terminology list can serve as a global reference for renewable energy policy instruments.

*IRENA, April 2018*



## GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSFORMATION: A ROADMAP TO 2050

Renewable energy needs to be scaled up at least six times faster for the world to start meeting key decarbonisation and climate mitigation goals. This can happen using technologies that are safe, reliable, affordable and widely available. Yet the envisaged energy transformation cannot happen by itself. IRENA's report identifies focus areas where policy and decision makers need to act.

*IRENA, April 2018*



## REVIEW FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS: PREVIOUS ISSUE

### ISSUE 6 — SPECIAL EDITION — 2018 IRENA LEGISLATORS FORUM

At the Eighth session of the IRENA Assembly last January, the IRENA Legislators Forum re-convened as a global platform for parliamentary discussions on renewable energy. It saw the active participation of close to 60 members of parliament from 30 different countries.

*English Français Español*

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## IPU RESOLUTION ON SDGs AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Over the past four years, IRENA has developed its engagement with members of parliament, who have an interest in renewable energy and its inter-linkages with socio-economic development.

In addition to the Legislators Forum, IRENA has been pursuing its co-operation with relevant organisations, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), with a view to co-ordinating activities and reaching out to a wider pool of interested parliamentarians.

Recently, IRENA was invited to contribute to the discussions leading to the adoption of the IPU resolution on **'Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy'**.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted by the 178 member Parliaments of the IPU during the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 March 2018.



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.





## SAVE THE DATE 2019 IRENA LEGISLATORS FORUM 10 JANUARY 2019

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Express your interest to participate by sending an email to [legislators@irena.org](mailto:legislators@irena.org)



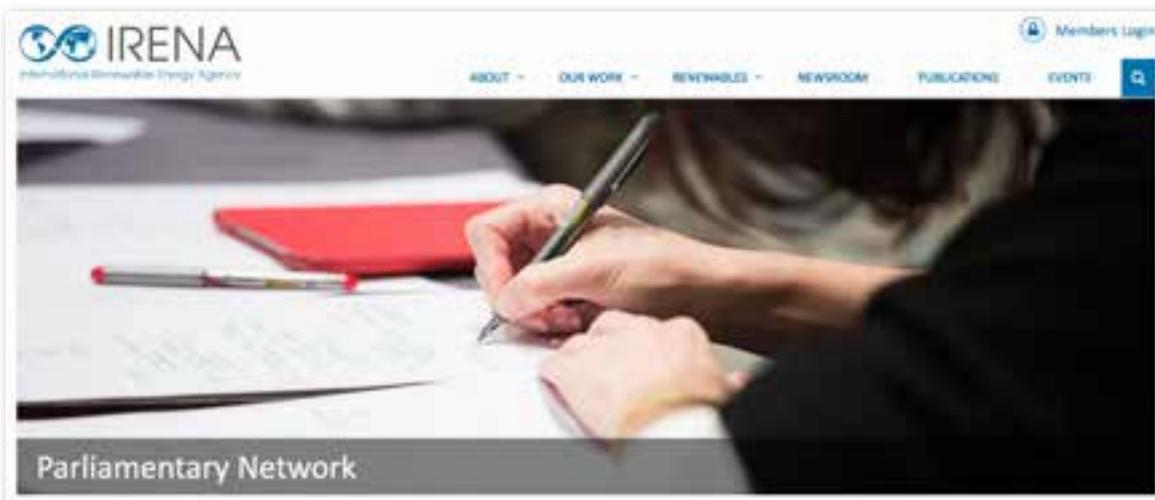
The forthcoming edition of the IRENA Legislators Forum is taking place at a time of great opportunity as the momentum of the energy transformation continues to grow. Within a few years, renewables have moved to the centre stage of the global energy landscape. All over the world, countries are raising their ambitions to scale-up renewables not only in the power sector but also increasingly in end-use sectors. Renewable off-grid solutions are making a decisive contribution to expanding energy access. Moreover, the global drive to address climate change and take active steps to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is providing further impetus to renewables deployment worldwide.

The IRENA Legislators Forum will take an in-depth look at challenges and issues countries are facing in their transition to a sustainable energy future. This year, a specific focus will be placed on the status and trends of renewable energy deployment in Africa, as well as the opportunities to accelerate the energy transformation while simultaneously harnessing socio-economic benefits, such as fueling economic growth, creating new employment opportunities, and improving human welfare.

As in previous years, the fourth Legislators Forum will be directly followed by IRENA's annual Assembly, a gathering of high-level officials from over 160 Member States, in addition to international and regional organisations, private sector and non-governmental entities. Participants in the Legislators Forum can arrange to also attend the Assembly (11-13 January) and the World Future Energy Summit (14-17 January), and take part in the global discussion on the energy transformation.



# ENGAGING WITH IRENA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Review for Parliamentarians



Legislators Forum



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