

2020 IRENA Legislators Forum Report to the IRENA Tenth Assembly

11 January 2020, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

On 10 January 2020, more than 130 Members of Parliament from over 40 countries gathered together for the 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum to highlight the key role of renewables in accelerating the energy transformation with a specific emphasis on the importance of engaging communities in promoting a fair and just transition.

In this regard, discussions focused on the significant role that parliamentarians can play to advance the adoption and effective implementation of national policies that contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts and support gender empowerment efforts through the deployment of renewable energy.

Participants to the 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum emphasised the key role of parliaments in promoting the deployment of renewable energy projects, including in rural and local communities, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set by the Paris Agreement, as well as ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of national commitments.

To that end, Legislators discussed key ways through which to emphasise urgency of action and increase ambition at national level, foster the social dialogue and raise public awareness needed to support the deployment of renewable energy and the engagement of local communities in the energy transformation.

Participants to the 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum underlined that it is crucial that citizens and communities are encouraged to actively participate in the acceleration of the energy transformation, and recognised that Parliamentarians hold a unique position for raising awareness and increasing public support through the maximisation of socio-economic benefits of renewable energy, including jobs, increased welfare and local value creation.

Parliamentarians recognised the responsibility in contributing to national efforts and measures that could improve women's engagement and representation at all levels especially in the renewables sector, and explored ways to prioritise women's empowerment in national development strategies through the adoption of policies, gender targets and actions at the local level to accelerate development of renewables. Furthermore, it was noted that gender inclusiveness can be enhanced through targeted capacity building, education and training for women.

Participants emphasised the importance they attach to IRENA's pivotal role as the lead inter-governmental agency in the global energy transformation, and encouraged the continuation of its engagement with Parliamentarians to promote a fair and just transition through renewables. They proposed that the Assembly requests the Secretariat to continue to work with Parliamentarians in order to support them in accelerating the energy transformation on the ground.

Parliamentarians further encouraged IRENA to also engage in parliamentary meetings at the regional level, in synergy with regional parliamentary networks and assemblies as well as other relevant regional and international entities to further support Parliamentarians in their consideration of legislation necessary for the energy transformation.

In concluding the fifth IRENA Legislators Forum, Parliamentarians once again recognised the Forum as an effective way and platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and national experiences, while accentuating the multiple interlinkages of the energy transformation with the deployment of renewable energy.

** The report of the outcomes from the 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum was delivered the 10th IRENA Assembly Plenary by Honourable Vandana Chavan, Member of Parliament from India.*