

Report back from the Public-Private Dialogue at the 10th Assembly

by

Bruce Douglas, Deputy CEO, Solar Power Europe

on behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 11th January 2020

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action, it is my pleasure to report back from the 3rd Public-Private Dialogue held yesterday during IRENA's pre-Assembly day. I would like to thank IRENA and its Members for providing non-state actors this unique opportunity to share our perspectives.

Two years ago, our dear colleague and friend Steve Sawyer, former Director of Greenpeace International, Secretary General of the Global Wind Energy Council and passionate member of the Coalition for Action, stood here and reported back from the first Public-Private Dialogue. In this year's Dialogue, we missed him dearly and commemorated his passing.

There is continued and growing interest from renewable energy actors to engage with IRENA in forums such as the Public-Private Dialogue. The Coalition's membership has now expanded to nearly 100 members including private companies, industry associations, civil society, research institutes, and international organisations.

Members of the Coalition are pleased to see that more and more governments recognise the urgency to implement very high shares of renewable energy. This encouraging transformation is showcased in the Coalition's white paper focusing on utilities in transition to 100% renewable energy, which was launched in yesterday's Public-Private Dialogue.

However, the Coalition remains concerned that renewable energy targets in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) fall short of what is needed to achieve global climate objectives, in particular in wealthy and high-carbon emitting nations. Implementing renewable energy projects continues to be challenging in many countries and investment levels are still far below what is needed.

With that, I would like to highlight key takeaways from yesterday's Public-Private Dialogue:

- 1) Achieving high shares up to 100% renewable energy in all sectors will not be possible without a transformation of energy system structures along with policies that support the characteristics of renewables-based systems.
- 2) Scaling up investment in both small and large scale renewable energy projects to close Africa's energy gap, will require the derisking of investment, integrated planning, and adequate policy frameworks.

3) Early involvement of local communities, continued collaboration among all stakeholders and inclusive decision-making processes are key to ensuring renewable energy projects maximize socio-economic benefits for communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last decade, renewable energy has become the most cost-competitive energy option in many parts of the world.

We, the Coalition for Action call on all governments to urgently enhance their NDCs this year. Significantly more ambitious renewable energy targets and domestic frameworks are required to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

The Coalition for Action stands ready to work with all of you as we continue down the road to a sustainable energy future which leaves no one behind.

Thank you.