

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18–21 January 2021

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

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Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The eleventh session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held via a live virtual platform from 18-21 January 2021. There were over 2,200 registered participants, including 97 Heads of State or Government and Ministers, along with delegates from 143 countries and the European Union, together with representatives from almost 400 organisations, and an online viewership of over 17,000 persons.

2. The Vice President of the tenth session of the Assembly, Burkina Faso, represented by H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedraogo, Minister of Energy, on behalf of the President of the tenth session of the Assembly, Uganda, declared open the eleventh session of the Assembly.

3. Condolences were offered to the family of H.E. Mr Ally Kirunda Kivejinja, Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda and President of the tenth session of the Assembly and a one-minute silence was observed in his honour.

4. Welcoming delegations, H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reflected on the devastation caused by the pandemic and acknowledged the importance of IRENA and the platform that the Agency provides in pursuit of the goal to accelerate the development and deployment of renewable energy as the clear and clean solution to the challenges of the pandemic at multiple levels. He expressed his gratitude to the Director-General and IRENA staff for facilitating discussions and supporting Members in the realisation of the global energy transition.

5. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo announced the prominent emphasis that the eleventh session of the Assembly has on achieving the energy transition in the context of COVID-19 and advised that the onus is on Members to collectively address such challenges, needs and the development of solutions to achieve a green, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous recovery. With reference to the report on [*Post-COVID Recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality*](#), issued by IRENA, he noted that Members and stakeholders continue to benefit from the practical insights provided as they strategize their key priorities to realise the implementation of their respective recovery packages. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo counselled that continued collaboration with IRENA to inform and mobilize Members' energy transitions will ensure the true effectiveness of IRENA's work. He highlighted that Members are well placed to confront the defining challenges resulting in a greater affirmation of the centrality of renewables to create a more sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous world that current and future generations deserve.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

6. The Assembly had, at its tenth session, designated by acclamation, Spain as President of the eleventh session of the Assembly. Accordingly, the outgoing President proposed that the Assembly elect Spain, represented by H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera, Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, as President of the eleventh session.

7. The Assembly elected by acclamation Spain, represented by H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera, Deputy Prime Minister, as President of the eleventh session of the Assembly.

8. The Assembly had, at its tenth session, further designated by acclamation Albania, Costa Rica, Ghana and India as Vice-Presidents.

9. **The Assembly elected by acclamation as Vice-President of its eleventh session:**

- **Albania, represented by Mr Gjergji Simaku, Deputy Minister of Energy;**
- **Costa Rica, represented by Mr Rolando Castro, Deputy Minister of Energy and Environment;**
- **Ghana, represented by H.E. Mr John Peter Amewu, Minister of Energy; and**
- **India, represented by H.E. Mr Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of New and Renewable Energy.**

10. The President informed the Assembly that she had proposed to Nigeria to act as Rapporteur of its eleventh session.

11. On the basis of the President's proposal, Nigeria was appointed as Rapporteur of the eleventh session of the Assembly.

b. Adoption of the agenda (A/11/L.1)

12. The President introduced the Provisional Agenda (A/11/L.1).

13. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (A/11/1).

c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

14. The President proposed to the Assembly that it appoints Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Greece, Maldives, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates as members of the Credentials Committee.

15. The Assembly appointed these nine countries as members of the Credentials Committee.

d. Participation of Observers (A/11/L.2)

16. The President introduced the document 'Draft List of applicants for observer status at the eleventh session of the Assembly' (A/11/L.2).

17. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its eleventh session to applicants included in the List of Applicants (A/11/L.2).

Agenda Item 3: Host country and other opening remarks

18. In her opening remarks, the President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera expressed her pleasure in returning to the renewable energy forum having previously been involved with the preparatory meeting for the inception of IRENA, in her capacity as Secretary of State in 2009, and having continuously engaged, in various capacities, on the issue of renewable energy. She voiced her solidarity with Members on the acceptance and capacity to adapt - as countries continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic - and to ensure minimum disruption of duties whilst charting multiple economic, social and environmental imperatives for the benefit of citizens worldwide. The President acknowledged that the level of engagement displayed and the awareness that renewable energy is crucial to overcome the challenges of the pandemic has ignited the joint ambition of Members towards the global energy transition. She noted that the pandemic has enabled the recognition of the vulnerabilities in current systems, propelled the need to confront challenges, increase welfare, strengthen resilience across all societies, and visualise the link between sustainable development and climate imperatives highlighting the concrete change that such objectives deliver to each country, region and global community. She commended the global community's efforts to place the energy transition at the heart of efforts to build a better world through the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the forthcoming

UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy, amongst other global, regional, and national initiatives. She noted that the pandemic has allowed the resilience and viability of renewables to be witnessed in comparison to other sources of energy, encouraging IRENA to leverage its near-universal Membership and key multilateral and private partnerships to bring the world together in charting a path towards a sustainable, resilient, inclusive, just and prosperous future.

19. The President declared that 18 January 2021, as the designated World Energy Transition Day, is a recognition of the turning point resulting from the pandemic in raising ambition and meeting development and climate objectives. The President acknowledged that IRENA's support to countries, since its inception, has enabled the Agency to lead the energy transition through a profound understanding of technical, policy and structural requirements for the accelerated development and deployment of renewable energy solutions, thus enabling Members to learn from each other and understand the needs, challenges, solutions, and best practices from IRENA's strong and diverse Membership and the key stakeholders who are working in tandem with them. She encouraged Members to utilise the IRENA platform to establish clear objectives, take decisive actions, and seize the opportunities that renewable energy brings to societies, economies, countries, and regions, to learn to turn challenges into opportunities, to commit to the energy transition, to invest in our collective future, and to create a better world—sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and just—for current and future generations by ensuring a unanimous course of direction.

20. Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations advised that funds needed for recovery from the pandemic must be simultaneously used to move economies toward net zero emissions, with concerted global action being necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. He stated that renewable technologies are the first choice for decarbonisation strategies as they make economic sense and create employment, which is one of the overarching objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). To enable the SDG7 standards to be met, he announced that a High-level Dialogue on Energy will be convened in September in New York and that he counts on IRENA's analytical capacity and global reach to help accelerate just energy transitions around the world.

21. As the host country representative, H.E. Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, welcomed participants to the Assembly, conveyed his congratulations to the President and expressed his appreciation to the Director-General and IRENA staff for their continued efforts. He noted that the pandemic has no boundaries and has negatively impacted all economies and societies worldwide without exception. He advised that mitigating impacts and achieving recovery will depend on the speed and readiness that the required large-scale measures are applied. He cautioned that the pledge to address all challenges, especially climate change, demands the need to intensify efforts to reduce severity and strengthen the ability to adapt and drive the global energy transition.

22. H.E. Dr Al Nuaimi commended the exceptional success achieved by IRENA through the cooperation with its Members and acknowledged IRENA's role in driving and stimulating the energy transition, quoting the exceptional growth in the Membership which has surged to 163 with an additional 21 countries in the process of accession. He noted the Agency's increased global influence and with reference to IRENA's [2019 Renewable Energy Statistics](#) he highlighted the growth of the renewable energy market with the global renewable energy capacity having doubled from 1,360 GW to over 2,537 GW. H.E. Dr Al Nuaimi provided an overview on the progress and achievements on renewable energy in the UAE with production capacity now increased from 10 MW in 2009 to 2,400 MW, and an additional 6,000 MW either under development or planned until 2030. He informed that the UAE is working on the development of hydrogen-based energy solutions, and mentioned that the UAE announced its second set of Nationally Determined Contributions in December 2020, which included the plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the energy sector and develop the region's first commercial carbon capture network, storage and utilisation programme, to enhance carbon neutrality and increase the clean energy share to reach

a production capacity of 14 GW by 2030 and 50 percent of the total domestic energy mix by 2050. He announced that multiple projects have been implemented in the Caribbean and Pacific Island States with a financial value of USD 450 million through the partnership between IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD).

23. Affirming the commitment of the UAE, H.E. Dr Al Nuaimi also noted that a significant amount of work is yet to be executed to reach the desired level of renewable energy that will effectively address the challenge of climate change whilst ensuring a better future for present and future generations.

24. The Director-General, in his address to the Assembly, welcomed delegations and expressed his congratulations to the President and the Vice Presidents of the eleventh Assembly. He conveyed his condolences to the family of H.E. Mr Ally Kirunda Kivejinja and commended his leadership in the successful delivery of the tenth session of the Assembly.

25. He announced that the World Energy Transition Day carries the message that post-2020 there is no more 'business as usual' to ensure a safe, resilient, and prosperous future for all, and that the energy transition plays a vital role and has set the tone for the coming year for reliance, equity and prosperity. He expressed his delight in the growth of IRENA's global family with Austria and Dominica having joined the Agency, which now has 163 Members and 21 States in Accession. He noted that although unable to meet personally, the virtual platform of the Assembly presents an opportunity to reach all corners of world and secure the attendance of a broad Membership and stakeholder base.

26. The Director-General further noted the appropriate commencement of the eleventh session of the Assembly during the World Energy Transition Day, mentioning that whilst Members placed the energy transition at the centre of IRENA's Medium-Term Strategy in 2018, it will play an increasingly vital role in the coming years in the common ability to overcome the health and climate crisis. He highlighted that the deliberations during the eleventh session of the Assembly will set the tone and provide the agenda for the coming year whilst also conveying to the worldwide audience that transforming the global energy system will lead to resilience, equity, and prosperity.

27. The Assembly received, with appreciation, and took note of the welcoming remarks.

Agenda Item 4: High-level Panel on Energy Transition for Sustainable Post-COVID Recovery (A/11/BN/1)

28. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribera, presided over the deliberations under this agenda item. After introducing this agenda item, she invited introductory remarks from the Director-General, which were followed by a moderated panel discussion.

29. The High-level Panel discussion was moderated by Mr John Defterios, CNN Business Emerging Markets Editor. It included key presentations from H.E. Mr Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, India, H.E. Ms Andrea Meza, Minister of Energy and Environment, Costa Rica, Mr Andreas Feicht on behalf of H.E. Mr Peter Altmaier, Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany, Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, European Union, H.E. Mr Aziz Rabbah, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment, Morocco, Mr Joao Galamba, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Action, Portugal, H.E. Ms Mila Aziabile, Minister of Energy and Mines, Togo, H.E. Mr Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry, UAE, followed by a discussion with Mr Todd Stern, former Special Envoy for Climate Change, USA, Ms Damilola Ogunbiyi, Chief Executive Officer, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Sustainable Energy For All and co-chair for UN Energy, Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP, and Mr Makhtar Diop, Vice President for Infrastructure, World Bank.

30. The President provided a context of the ensuing panel discussion which focused on sharing views on the role of the energy transition, driven by renewables in response to the pandemic. She advised that the session would also seek to highlight experience and concrete action to accelerate the energy transition in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

31. The President noted the consensus on the need to draw up stimulus packages that counter the economic damage from the pandemic, while increasing economic resilience, investing in the future, creating new jobs, facilitating access to modern sources of energy, modernising industries, and preparing for a healthy future. She underlined the extraordinary opportunity to accelerate an energy transition based on co-operation, common learning and solidarity. She relayed that, according to IRENA estimates, renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions combined, offer over 90 per cent of the mitigation measures needed to reduce energy-related emissions. She also underscored the need for a just transition that will achieve prosperity and equity for all.

32. The President noted that the energy transition goes beyond renewable and energy efficiency, touching upon the issues of healthier cities, motorised mobility, direct electrification, renewable hydrogen, energy storage, centralised and digitalised energy systems, district integration and energy demand management, amongst many other innovative technologies.

33. The President then referred to her home country of Spain and the efforts made to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, build a robust regulatory framework for the energy transition and develop an ambitious recovery plan. She noted that the European Union (EU) is encouraging European countries to concentrate recovery plans on the green and digital transition, scale-up renewable energies, invest in energy efficiency in buildings and industry and electrify the transport sector. The EU is also leading by example through the recent decision to increase its emissions reduction target from 40 to 55 per cent by 2030, compared to 1990. She also acknowledged that other countries, although at different scales and with different approaches and efforts, are also pledging to reach climate neutrality by mid-century, and underscored the need to cooperate and reinforce the common understanding of development and climate targets to realise the proposed goals.

34. The President pointed out that the net installed renewable capacity is estimated to grow by nearly 4% globally in 2020, reaching almost 200 GW. She also noted that, according to IRENA, investments in renewable energy and other green technologies should reach at least USD 2 trillion per year between 2021 and 2023, to shift from the current trajectory toward decarbonised systems. She concluded her remarks by underlining the importance of using the recovery measures to accelerate the energy transition in a just, balanced, inclusive and ambitious manner, aligned with scientific consensus and people's needs. The President also commended healthcare personnel and all frontline workers for their commitment during the pandemic.

35. The Director-General noted that the world entered the new year ravaged by COVID-19 and beset by a series of interrelated and stubborn challenges. The pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities that continue to define the lives of many worldwide and underscored co-dependencies. He advised that placing the energy transition at the heart of the crisis response is essential to building future resilience. He stressed that IRENA has been following developments worldwide and highlighted the diversity of country needs, abilities, priorities, and strategies. He also stressed the indispensability of global co-operation and underlined IRENA's readiness to serve its Members and seek their views on how to best leverage the Agency's global mandate and forward-looking mission to accelerate the energy transition. He noted that IRENA's [*Post-COVID Recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality*](#) report demonstrated how prioritising the energy transition could help policymakers tackle multiple priorities at once.

36. The Director-General introduced a short video, capturing some of the key findings of IRENA's analysis. The video highlighted that the pandemic revealed the vulnerability of the current fossil fuel-driven economies, and demonstrated the reliability, strength, and resilience of renewable energy and showed that, combined with energy efficiency, renewables could reduce 90 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions to build a climate-safe world, create jobs and new economic development. The video highlighted IRENA's [Post-COVID recovery](#) report for resilience, development, and equality, showing that dedicated recovery measures could create up to 6 million new jobs within the next three years. The video concluded by calling for urgent action to energise health care, set in motion long-term plans to climate neutrality, and scale up investments in renewables for a resilient energy system.

37. The moderator, Mr John Deferios, set the scene by noting that the current crisis has negatively affected energy demand, especially fossil fuels. He emphasised that pressure on power generators and international oil and gas companies has accelerated by the influence of global financial centres and investors' willingness to push the energy transition forward. He underlined that business-as-usual for oil, gas, coal companies and power generators could not continue, because citizens are demanding change.

38. Speakers underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic has created crises and challenges of unprecedented proportions and increased the calls for accelerated action to achieve sustainable development and align climate with energy and development goals. They highlighted the severe challenge posed by climate change. Speakers reiterated the urgent need to hold temperature at 1.5°C while stressing that this will not be achieved on the current trajectory given current energy, investment and market realities.

39. They highlighted the resilience and competitiveness demonstrated by the renewable energy sector during the pandemic and underscored the role of the energy transition in accelerating economic growth, generating socio-economic benefits, and fighting climate change.

40. Some speakers called for using this crisis to generate fresh momentum, put the energy transition at the core of recovery efforts and leapfrog towards carbon neutrality. They underlined the need for the post-COVID recovery to be inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to environmental threats. They also called for recovery plans to include climate-related expenditure and investment in innovation and green technologies.

41. One speaker highlighted IRENA's analytical capabilities in helping countries identify ways to decarbonise energy systems and develop a future-proof, secure, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly supply of energy, noting the importance of knowledge exchange among Members.

42. Some speakers underlined the need for a whole-of-government approach to promote the energy transition and announced national plans to this end. One speaker emphasised the importance of a whole-of-society approach and the need to raise awareness among the public on the positive impact of the energy transition.

43. Speakers stressed the importance of bilateral and multilateral efforts in advancing the energy transition. One speaker noted the important role of partnerships to meet energy demand and facilitate technology and knowledge exchange and another called for using partnerships to coordinate the distribution of responsibility to reduce fossil fuel subsidies.

44. Speakers noted the crucial role of IRENA and reiterated their commitment to work with partners to promote renewables and greater connectivity. One speaker referred to the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, to be held during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021 and noted IRENA's pivotal role in the Dialogue.

45. Several speakers underlined the importance of the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 and conveyed their aspirations for it to raise ambition, boost climate action through enhanced National Determined Contributions (NDCs), while also focusing on the energy needs of Africa and emerging markets. One speaker called for Governments to raise their ambition in the run-up to COP26 to signal to the markets their commitment to the Paris Agreement.

46. Some speakers accounted their climate strategies and targets regarding renewable energies, including in their NDCs, while some speakers referred to their national plans to become climate neutral by 2050. One speaker underlined the need to approach the energy transition from a multisectoral point of view, recognising the urgency to decarbonise the transport sector and ensure coordination between sectoral policies and NDCs.

47. Speakers highlighted national plans to increase installed capacity from renewables, expand access to electricity, promote the use of electric vehicles, fight air pollution and encourage recycling, among others. One speaker referred to the efforts to increase energy conservation through educational programs and demand-side management.

48. Speakers underlined the important role green hydrogen will play in the decarbonisation process, especially of transport and industry sectors, and referred to their national strategies for its deployment. Some speakers brought attention to the need for all transitional fuels to be on the table, especially for developing countries.

49. One speaker referred to discussions with big public oil companies on how to transform and engage them in the hydrogen business and another on the policies adopted to improve carbon capture and utilisation in the fossil-based power generation to reduce emissions while producing hydrocarbons.

50. Speakers underlined the challenges of securing financial resources, de-risking the domestic environments, strategically identifying the right investments, especially for countries with limited fiscal space, and identifying new pathways to attract and leverage private capital beyond the traditional areas of investment.

51. Speakers emphasised the private sector's critical role in promoting the energy transition and the need to create a favourable environment for its development. One speaker also called for measures to ensure that the private sector is not overly affected by the pandemic.

52. In summarising the discussion, the President reiterated that the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to recuperate and build a 'new normal' to avoid the damaging effects of climate change by placing renewables at the core of global efforts for energy transition. She stressed the need to highlight the socio-economic benefits of the energy transition and engage all stakeholders, especially those who may feel left behind, and underlined IRENA's leading role in mobilising partnerships and providing analyses.

53. The President underscored the urgency for faster, cheaper energy transition pathways to achieve the 1.5°C temperature target within the existing narrow window and noted the role of finance, insurance, resilience and green investments for the transformation. She also highlighted the need for international co-operation and multilateral partnerships and underlined the instrumental role of IRENA's global mandate regarding green recovery, development, and climate priorities. The President also commended the increased sense of commitment for a successful outcome at COP26. Concerning the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Dialogue on Energy, she noted the request for IRENA to play an active and leading role in preparations. She concluded by underscoring that the post-COVID recovery and energy transition efforts should be people-centred and not viewed as a technical race.

54. The Director-General complimented the moderator for the excellent work done and expressed his appreciation for the speakers' commitment to increase ambition on the path to COP26. He echoed the urgency to tackle the 1.5°C temperature challenge and stakeholders' role in the process and reflected on the growing calls from youth representatives to put climate on the political agenda to increase ambition and hold the temperature rise at 1.5°C.

55. The Director-General referred to IRENA's strength and capacity to organise discussions with government representatives, international organisations, experts and the private sector, and underlined the Agency's strong analytical capacity and active engagement with financial institutions. He further mentioned IRENA's commitment to deepening engagement with the private sector.

56. The Director-General emphasised that IRENA will build on the experience and the theory of change that has been outlined in the [Global Renewable Outlook \(GRO\)](#) and the [Post-COVID Recovery: An agenda for resilience, development and equality](#), reports. He underscored IRENA's intention to offer a path towards achieving the 1.5°C temperature target and carbon neutrality in the upcoming World Energy Transitions Outlook, to be released in the coming months.

57. In concluding the agenda item, the President commented that there is a need to promote women working in the energy industry and improve gender balance.

58. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the discussions.

Agenda Item 5: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021 (A/11/3)

59. The President presided over discussions with the assistance of the Vice Presidents, Costa Rica represented by Mr Rolando Castro, Deputy Minister of Energy and Environment, and India represented by Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

60. The Director-General introduced the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021 and highlighted that every Assembly session is a special occasion to provide political impetus and direction to the Agency's efforts. He stressed that the deliberations of the eleventh session would be deeply consequential due to the focus on the post-COVID recovery. He underlined the impact of the pandemic, exacting a huge cost in human suffering, further derailing the economy and reversing progress across many dimensions of development, but also the opportunity offered to renew and reorient the course of action. He noted the pandemic's effect on IRENA, its mission and priorities. Referring to his election campaign priorities and vision in the context of the Medium-Term Strategy for IRENA, he highlighted the extent to which his leadership has realised them. He then emphasised how swiftly IRENA had to adapt its work methods due to the pandemic to ensure mission continuity while contributing to the global response in line with its mandate, resources, and comparative advantages.

61. The Director-General underlined that, despite the challenges, IRENA has made good progress on all fronts. He reminded that IRENA was the first to argue that renewables would weather the crisis better than the rest of the energy sector, which has proven to be true. He stressed that, while suffering along with the global economy, renewable energy has outperformed the alternatives and electricity systems with high shares of renewables continue to operate effectively, with renewables remaining the technology of choice during the downturn. He relayed recent trends, such as the high investments made by the G20 in green energy in 2020, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, contraction of economies due to the recession and commitment of the European Union to net-zero. He underscored that these developments provided an opening for IRENA to position energy transition as a vital element of countries' recovery efforts, as underlined in the High-level Panel discussion.

62. He highlighted that the short-term responses laid out in the [Post-COVID recovery](#) report are aligned with the long-term perspectives outlined in the [Global Renewables Outlook](#), as set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. He highlighted that the [Post-COVID recovery](#) report showed that investing in renewables, efficiency, infrastructure, and innovation would be a financially prudent decision since they can contribute to job creation and increased GDP. To successfully respond to the challenges, he underlined the need for an annual investment of USD 2 trillion in the coming three years. He also referred to IRENA's estimates that governments can make the energy transition an effective tool for economic recovery toward a resilient, equitable, and prosperous future by investing in both people and technologies.

63. Quoting IRENA's *Renewable Energy Statistics*, he emphasised that capacity has more than doubled between 2010 and 2019, reaching over 2,500 gigawatts, with the installed capacity of renewables systematically outpacing fossil fuels. He expressed certainty that 2020 would continue this trajectory largely due to the strong business case for technologies, enabled by progressive policies and strategies. He underscored that IRENA estimates that 500 gigawatts of existing coal plants with the highest operating cost could be replaced cost-effectively with new utility-scale solar PV and offshore wind.

64. The Director-General noted that policy makers are increasingly looking for amplifiers and re-evaluating current plans and strategies due to the economic downturn. He stressed that a renewables-based energy transition is one such amplifier, as it can generate three times more jobs than traditional energy sources. He highlighted IRENA's [Renewable Energy and Jobs - Annual Review 2020](#), which shows that 11.5 million renewable energy jobs were created in 2019, whereas the IRENA [Post-COVID recovery](#) report showed the potential to achieve even higher numbers by accelerating the energy transition. He underscored that recovery measures focusing on the energy transition can add almost six million jobs in the coming three years.

65. In this context, he stressed IRENA's primary mission to empower its Members with the knowledge and tools to translate the opportunities that energy transition offers into policy, strategy, and results. He acknowledged that 2020 challenged the quest to drive action on the ground. Still, he stressed that IRENA uses all available means to provide targeted and impactful support to 70 Members undergoing the energy transition and working with partners to support progress with their NDCs. He mentioned that this work is impacting 1.3 billion people, including 17 least developed countries and 20 small island developing states, leading to a reduction of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions of 3 billion tons of CO₂ equivalence every year.

66. The Director-General relayed that the Work Programme prioritises project facilitation to translate policy efforts into investment strategies and realise projects that improve lives and livelihoods around the world and leave no one behind. He clarified that, under the circumstances, many of the initial plans had to be adapted, but significant progress has been made, nonetheless. He mentioned the operationalisation of the Climate Investment Platform (CIP), set up with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), in collaboration with Green Climate Fund (GCF), which has already attracted 300 partners and 175 projects. He underlined that, despite the difficulties, there have been enough positive developments to bring some projects to fruition. He also informed that IRENA continues to explore further areas of collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), that will be announced in the first half of 2021.

67. The Director-General stressed the tremendous understanding IRENA has gained on countries' realities from directly working with them, which has been shaping the Agency's priorities for analytical work. He highlighted examples, such that out of 188 NDCs, 134 include renewable energy targets for electricity generation, but only 56 include targets for direct heat and transport. He emphasised that IRENA's [Global Renewables Outlook](#) showed that 60 per cent of energy-related emission reduction must come from sectors other than power and referred to the *Reaching Zero*

with Renewables report that provides detailed analysis of solutions for the hard-to-decarbonise sectors, including transport and industry. In this context, he underlined the central role of renewables, as they account for over 50 per cent of the emissions abatement potential in these sectors. He stressed that progress depends not only on technology choices but also on policy options, market solutions, foresighted plans, and international co-operation.

68. The Director-General stressed that competitive hydrogen produced with renewables would be a key component of the energy mix as an increasing number of countries commit to net-zero. He explained that the energy mix of the future would be primarily based on renewables, complemented by green hydrogen and bioenergy, and clarified that, according to IRENA estimates, green hydrogen could be competitive by 2030. He mentioned that in this context, IRENA has developed a guide to policymaking, to help countries overcome barriers and maximise benefits from the deployment of hydrogen, and partnered with countries, private sectors, and other entities to make a difference in terms of funding, with an inclusive approach, targeted partnership, and common action. He underlined the Agency's participatory approach and efforts for greater Member engagement through the Collaborative Frameworks, which also bring in a range of other partners and stakeholders and put Members at the heart of IRENA's work. He also referred to the work with the private sector and the creation of guidelines to facilitate collaboration through a coherent and principled approach that preserves the Agency's integrity and independence.

69. The Director-General then reflected on some important institutional aspects, noting the timely contribution to the core budget and generous voluntary resources that have provided the necessary resources for IRENA to fulfil its mandate. He explained that 94 per cent of programmatic activities were in progress or completed, and, thanking Members, he noted that 92 per cent of the core budget contribution has already been received, as well as USD 7.6 million in contributions from eleven donors, despite the current circumstances and competing priorities. He underscored that this proves the importance that Members attach to IRENA's mission and trust they have in the Agency's ability to deliver, achieved through the work of dedicated staff of high professional excellence. In this context, he paid tribute to all IRENA staff, who have performed impressively under the current trying circumstances, finding creative ways to work together remotely.

70. He emphasised the great importance he has placed on improving geographical diversity and gender balance, as promised. He highlighted that IRENA staff come from forty-three countries, and that the core staff is comprised of more women than men, ensuring gender balance. He underlined that for the first time there is gender parity in the senior team, adding that the senior staff represent all continents and reiterated his commitment to improve diversity at all levels to mirror IRENA's Membership and harness the best talent.

71. In conclusion, he noted that, while the future is unknown, there is no time to waste and with Members' guidance and support, a fresh, just, ambitious energy transition agenda can be set to make a resolute shift towards a better future for all. He also expressed the hope that 2021 would be the year the world left the old energy system behind and embraced a resilient, equitable, and inclusive way forward.

72. In the ensuing discussions delegations congratulated the Director-General for his leadership and guidance and the IRENA Secretariat for adapting its work methods and delivering the Work Programme, despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as for organising the Assembly in a virtual format. Some delegations congratulated the Director-General for achieving gender balance and urged him also to maintain geographical distribution among the staff.

73. Delegations welcomed the [*Annual Report of the Director-General*](#). One delegation appreciated that resource allocation between the four strategic objectives appeared more balanced than before, whereas another welcomed the efforts to implement the remaining activities.

74. Delegations reiterated IRENA's role as the centre of excellence, expertise and innovation; facilitator of knowledge dissemination; developer of policy options, and network hub for renewables and the energy transitions, and its work on socioeconomics.

75. One delegation underlined the need for IRENA to facilitate exchange of knowledge and skills, whereas another urged IRENA to continue working efficiently to help remove obstacles to capacity building, technology transfer, financing, and institutional frameworks.

76. One delegation commended the 2020 [Global Renewables Outlook](#) report, while another looked forward to the findings of the upcoming edition. Delegations noted the global trend of increased renewable energy capacity and production as well as decreased renewable power costs.

77. Delegations underlined the role of renewable energy in securing global energy transitions, promoting decarbonisation, achieving energy security, economic resiliency and growth, tackling socio-economic challenges and increasing energy access.

78. One delegation called for the international community to tackle the challenges associated with the increased deployment of variable renewables, such as the system flexibility and assessing the cost of the entire power system based on a country's circumstances and dealing with the mass disposal of storage batteries and solar panels.

79. Some delegations stressed the role of minerals and metals for a successful clean energy transition and the need to ensure their steady supply. Furthermore, one delegation underlined the need to ensure that the future mineral supply chains will be diverse, resilient, environmentally sustainable and respect the human rights of workers and populations in mining communities.

80. Delegations noted that the pandemic challenged economies and societies and negatively affected the energy sector. Still, it also demonstrated the resilience and competitiveness of renewables compared to other energy sources.

81. Delegations underscored that post-COVID recovery plans should be underpinned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement and the promotion of energy transitions to strengthen economic recovery, promote sustainability and help establish a roadmap to decarbonisation.

82. One delegation recognised that it is difficult for developing countries to set up stimulus packages, given that they lack the means to implement them and the countries may not be a preferred destination for institutional or green bond investors.

83. Several delegations accounted their national plans and strategies to increase renewables' deployment and the rate of renewables in their energy mix, expand access to electricity, promote the use of electric vehicles, improve efficiency, and support carbon capture and storage projects, improve energy storage, among others. Some delegations also referred to their national plans to reduce and eventually phase out coal.

84. Delegations underlined the importance of innovation and new technologies in developing safe and carbon-neutral energy systems at a competitive cost. One delegation commended IRENA for its work on innovation, and another underlined that the report [Innovation Outlook: Ocean Energy Technologies](#) contained valuable insights. They mentioned priority areas including electricity storage, electricity efficiency, efficiency of solar systems, new approaches to hydrogen, cyber security for the energy sector among others.

85. Some delegations underscored their national ambition and efforts to become leaders in the design, production and supply of clean, climate-friendly technologies. One delegation underlined that there is no single technological choice and the success of energy transition largely depends on the deployment of all viable technologies and sources to reduce CO₂ emissions.

86. In recognition of the importance of relevant skills acquisition, one delegation referred to their national plan to promote training to develop human resource capabilities and support initiatives boosting innovation in the sector, while another announced its plan to establish a Pacific Regional Training Centre with a partner country and called for support with the operations budget. In addition, another delegation called for training leaders to promote and motivate communities to participate in this new era.

87. Several delegations recognised the private sector's critical role in promoting energy transitions and developing innovative, climate-friendly technologies, highlighted how they are cooperating to this end, and welcomed IRENA's Guidelines for Co-operation with the Private Sector.

88. One delegation referred to its vision for a future where its citizens become successful entrepreneurs and service providers, empowered by renewable energy.

89. Delegations commended the [Green Hydrogen Cost Reduction](#) report, noting national hydrogen plans and strategies. One delegation informed Members of the upcoming 2021 International Conference on Hydrogen, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

90. Some delegations underlined the critical role of forging partnerships and multilateralism in expanding the deployment of renewables. Delegations underscored the importance they attach to cooperating with IRENA and support they receive from the Agency and committed to deepening co-operation.

91. Delegations welcomed the establishment of IRENA's Collaborative Frameworks. One delegation welcomed all initiatives facilitating Members' co-operation and engagement, as they increase IRENA's prominence in the energy transitions processes, which can lead to more partnerships, impact and enhanced delivery of the Agency's Work Programme.

92. One delegation commended IRENA for forging a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and several encouraged the Agency to further explore the role of renewable energies to strengthening food security.

93. One delegation welcomed the strong links between IRENA and the Vienna-based international energy organisations, which can help all partners to create synergies, avoid overlaps and increase IRENA's regional and global impact.

94. One delegation expressed appreciation for the Agency's co-operation with the Latin America Technical Forum of Energy Planners, under the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and expressed hope that IRENA will continue strengthening dialogues with the Latin American energy organisation.

95. One delegation welcomed IRENA's co-operation with the International Energy Agency (IEA) as well as the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) noting the [Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition: Heating and Cooling](#) report.

96. One delegation looked forward to working with IRENA to prepare the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy in September 2021.

97. Delegations underscored the existential threat that climate change poses and highlighted their commitment to engage in global climate action to combat climate change.

98. Several delegations referred to their national climate action plans to reduce emissions and their commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2040, 2050 or 2060. One delegation stressed that if financial support is extended, the country can achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

99. Some delegations noted that they have either submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or are preparing them, and commended IRENA on its work on NDCs.

100. Delegations looked forward to promoting the climate agenda and international collaboration to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021 and stressed the Agency's importance in supporting countries realise their climate goals and promoting the climate agenda.

101. One delegation welcomed the [Global Landscape of Renewable Finance](#) report, and another welcomed IRENA's efforts to investigate how underutilised capital pools can be activated to achieve the scale of investment required for the energy transition and looked forward to the findings of the [Mobilizing Institutional Capital for Renewable Energy](#) report.

102. Several delegations underscored the importance of putting regulatory frameworks in place and creating an investment-friendly environment for renewables and highlighted their policies and strategies to this end. One delegation emphasised that markets are changing, with investments being made into businesses, industries, and jurisdictions that are taking meaningful climate action and divesting from those that are not.

103. Some delegations underlined the need for future COVID-19 recovery measures to further increase investment in renewables and for the simplification of procedures in this context. To this end, they underlined the role IRENA could play in the exchange of policy best practices and innovative finance models and in using its expertise to develop solutions.

104. One delegation stressed that financial barriers are the main obstacle for all developing countries in deploying renewables, despite indigenous potentials. In this context, one delegation underlined the need for continued support from international partners and flexibility in accessing finance to realise the goals. Another urged IRENA to lead regional conferences and workshops to identify and tap potentials in project finance, public-private partnership, partnership models as well as intergovernmental co-operation.

105. One delegation called on IRENA to continue prioritising the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with both technical assistance and finance in their energy transitions.

106. One delegation commended IRENA for its work on project facilitation and another urged the Agency to enhance the work on financing programs that require work on project initiation and development to attract multilateral finance agencies, such as the Green Climate Fund and development banks. Another delegation called on IRENA to focus its resources on activities within its core mandate, such as data collection, analysis strategy and scenario development, and policy advice, stressing that IRENA's role is to facilitate and not implement projects.

107. One delegation welcomed the further collaboration between IRENA and the ADFD that will build on the achievements and considerable experience of the first phase and expressed its willingness to support it.

108. Some delegations welcomed the launch of the Climate Investment Platform, whereas one noted the existence of several successful platforms and encouraged IRENA to work with these. One delegation looked forward to learning more about the Platform's 175 projects, such as their geographical location and the type of renewable energy they deliver. One delegation expressed its readiness to hold the regional Investment Forum for Eastern Europe virtually.

109. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation of the 'Annual report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021' contained in document A/11/3.

Agenda Item 6: Ministerial Plenary Meeting: National Energy Planning and Implementation for Fostering Energy Transition (A/11/BN/2)

110. The Vice President, Mr Gjergji Simaku, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania, presided over the meeting and invited introductory remarks from the Director-General which were followed by keynote speeches from Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Director of UNFCCC and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma, President-designate of COP 26. Afterwards a High-level Panel discussion took place aiming to provide a platform to share views on the role of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the long-term energy strategy of countries, especially as an enabler to accelerate the decarbonisation of end-use sectors.

111. The High-level Panel discussion was moderated by Mr Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, having as panellists H.E. Ms Miriam Dalli, Minister of Energy, Malta, H.E. Mr Loknath Sharma, Minister of Economic Affairs, Bhutan, Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP, H.E. Mr Omar Paganini, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Uruguay, Dr Gloria Magombo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Power, Zimbabwe, Mr David Tvalabeishvili, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia, Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India, H.E. Mr Pietro Benassi, Chief Advisor at the Prime Minister's Office, Italy, Mr Lars Andreas Lunde, State Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Norway, Mr Pablo Vieira, Executive Director, NDC Partnership, Ms Fekitameloela 'Utolkamanu, Under-Secretary-General, UN-OHRLLS, H.E. Mr Arifin Tasrif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Indonesia and H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates.

112. The Director-General advised that to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and win the race to contain the climate emergency, it is necessary to have a clear vision bolstered by comprehensive strategies and plans. He emphasised that it is key to provide a direction and signal to the market by implementing enabling policies and regulatory frameworks, through the enhancement of NDCs and quantified substantiated targets, aiming to accelerate climate action. He noted that it is important to have commitments in-line with the path to the achievement of the Paris Agreement during the NDC revision process. He advised that the revised NDCs should include more ambitious energy transition components and expand their scope to include all energy systems, and end-use sectors such as transport, industry and buildings. He explained that this should be done in the pathway for transformation in accordance with the 2050 climate goal set out in IRENA's [*Global Renewables Outlook*](#), which emphasises positive results in major socioeconomic benefits, including jobs, economic growth, and improved welfare, areas where IRENA will continue to provide guidance to decision-makers. The Director-General announced that IRENA, with other partners-UNDP, UNFCCC, COP26 Presidency (UK and Italy), G20 collaboration and the NDC Partnership-has provided expertise in supporting the policy, regulatory and technology efforts of Members to enhance and achieve more robust energy components as part of their revised NDCs. He described IRENA's support in this regard, including strengthening data collection and development of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, providing perspectives on country-specific decarbonisation options for energy consuming sectors and assisting the creation of more conducive policy frameworks for renewable energy investments whilst facilitating access to finance, and stressed that IRENA will continue to use its large repository of tools, expertise, and initiatives to work side by side with countries in the implementation of their NDCs, which will be translated into tangible results through the Climate Investment Platform. He highlighted IRENA's Long-Term Energy Scenarios Network as a tool to improve the energy planning practices of countries, emphasising that knowledge exchange and international cooperation remain crucial in the global battle against climate change. He welcomed recommendations on how IRENA can further support Members in the alignment of their energy plans and NDCs with post-COVID recovery strategies and further welcomed the perspectives of UNFCCC, UK Presidency of COP26, UNDP and NDC Partnership as IRENA continues to leverage these collaborations to further strengthen its work and deliver results to Members.

113. The Director-General introduced a video on the role of cooperation in the enhancement and implementation of NDCs, as part of the climate action for the energy sector towards the accomplishment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

114. The keynote speakers shared their experiences on national energy planning and implementation for fostering energy transition, outlining the respective challenges, progress to date and ambitious pledges for the future.

115. Ms Patricia Espinosa advised on the priority to address global energy with a renewed sense of urgency as temperatures on land and sea continue to rise, and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation is not yet enough to achieve the 1.5-degree limit. Additionally, she warned that fossil fuel emissions continue to rise with two thirds of global CO₂ emissions coming from fossil fuel combustion and industrial process. She noted that the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions of movement reflected a fall of 7% in carbon dioxide and a reduction of 10% from the global emissions of greenhouse gas stemming from methane via oil and gas production. Ms Espinosa reminded Members that climate change is not the result of emissions from a particular year but is the consequence of the cumulative build-up of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere over time. This is comparative to a nation's long-term finances wherein a default without immediate action will have profound, widespread, and devastating consequences. Referring to IRENA's [Global Renewables Outlook \(GRO\)](#), she advised that the international community must take decisive action now through implementing renewed ambitions, goals, policies and frameworks in their NDCs and emphasised that if all renewable power targets included in NDCs were implemented in line with IRENA's GRO, global installed capacity for renewable power generation would grow by almost 42% over the next decade. She highlighted that out of 189 parties that have ratified the Paris Agreement, 90% mentioned renewables as part of their NDCs, and roughly 70% included quantifiable energy targets. Therefore, it is a sound basis that energy is at the heart of the climate change emergency and it must be at the heart of its solution. She emphasised that IRENA has a central role in the energy transition to scale up renewable energy throughout the world, highlighting the socioeconomic benefits of the transition. Investing in an energy system fit for the twenty-first century could push jobs in the renewables sector to 42 million by 2050 and this could result in a GDP growth of 2.4%, amounting to a cumulative gain of USD 98 trillion by mid-century. Finally, Ms Espinosa emphasised that energy planning and implementation are crucial to foster a swift energy transition in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and recent developments are a source of encouragement, with pledges by Japan, China, Republic of Korea, and others, together with the renewed commitment by the United States to the climate agenda. In the framework of the upcoming COP 26, she highlighted the five key areas where work must be advanced for the negotiations: 1) nations must meet pre-2020 commitments made in the last ten years to maintain trust in the multilateral system; 2) negotiations on the implementation of the Paris Agreement must be finalised, resulting in a balanced agreement to unleash the Agreement's full potential; 3) nations must live up to their financial commitments, particularly the pledge by developed nations to mobilise USD 100 billion annually by 2020; 4) in order to realise clear and unequivocal political determination to raise climate ambition, governments and societies must come together to turn expectations into decisions; and 5) the need for more positive engagement by observers and initiatives driven by non-party stakeholders. She acknowledged that IRENA's role is essential to achieve these goals and that the UNFCCC looks forward to collaborating with IRENA to make 2021 the year of climate action, and working with Members to ensure the success of COP26, taking the decisive step towards a cleaner, greener, and sustainable future for the benefit of the current generation and all of those to come.

116. In an effort to decarbonise the energy sector, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma, President-designate of COP 26, called on governments to raise ambition and action in their countries to invest in clean recoveries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, working together to make progress on climate ambitions. He urged all countries to come forward with new NDCs and long-term strategies, leveraging on clear policies towards their achievement. Examples of these policies are the

improvement of product efficiency standards, phasing out coal power, encouraging decarbonisation in those sectors where it is a challenge, and creating the policy environment to attract private finance. He highlighted that prompting the flow of both public and private finance is a key COP 26 priority and he further urged developed countries to honour the commitment made to raise USD 100 billion a year in international climate finance.

117. The Rt Hon Alok Sharma acknowledged IRENA's support to countries on the clean energy transition and work on NDCs and long-term planning. He announced that the United Kingdom launched a new NDC consistent with the net zero 2050 target and that a ten-point plan was announced last year for a green industrial revolution, to mobilise GBP 10 billion of government investment. This investment will spur three times as much from the private sector and aims to power every home in the country from offshore wind within a decade, and together with the investment on other low-carbon technologies will support and create a quarter of a million jobs. He outlined the 75% growth in the economy of the United Kingdom over the past 30 years, whilst reducing emissions by 43% and advised the need of working together to achieve faster progress, increase investment incentives, create economies of scale, and accelerate innovation. The Rt Hon Sharma highlighted the importance of the reduction in solar and wind power costs and how it is reflected in the deployment of these energy sources, which has doubled globally. He reiterated that collaboration is one of the key goals of his COP Presidency and that the COP 26 campaigns are bringing together governments, industry, inventors, development banks and civil society around five critical areas: finance, nature, adaptation resilience, clean transport, and clean energy. COP 26 will see the creation of new forums to strength collaboration, such as the Zero Emission Vehicles Transition Council and the Energy Transition Council, which will enhance international support to developing countries in moving away from coal. He concluded by summarising that it is through ambition, collaboration, and investment in green recovery that the global energy sector can be transformed.

118. In his capacity as moderator, Mr Achim Steiner echoed the sentiments expressed on the impacts of COVID-19, advising that setbacks should not lead to abandonment of ambitions, and noted that the work of COP 26 and IRENA towards cleaner energy economies is fundamental to the climate change agenda and the recovery of economies. Mr Steiner highlighted that many countries are having extraordinary progress on achieving a just transition, as a reflection that the traditional incremental path is not the solution. In light of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021 that will focus on SDG7, he emphasised that the session is not only about carbon emissions, but also the socioeconomic dimensions of the energy transition, aiming to seek leadership in the public and private sector to act fast and realise ambitions. Following his introduction, Mr Steiner initiated the panel discussion, giving the floor to the high-level representatives of the panel.

119. H.E. Ms Miriam Dalli stated that as part of the EU, Malta shares the common objective of collectively achieving climate neutrality by 2050, which is part of the five pillars strategy launched by the current government. She further explained that as the country has limitations for the development of the energy sector, due to the geomorphology and indigenous oil and gas resources, renewables have become a key component in addressing the country's energy security and vulnerability to climate change. She highlighted solar PV as a key energy source for Malta, which is now moving forward with the implementation of new technologies that help manage the variability of generation, is also looking into battery storage, hybrid technologies and other solutions that will contribute to the island's security of supply. Particularly for SIDS, which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have limitations with availability of territory for large scale energy projects, integrating renewables with nexus areas such as water, food and environment is key. She expressed Malta's eagerness to share experiences with IRENA Members, especially with other SIDS, contribute to expanding the network and using IRENA as a platform to help other island nations overcome similar challenges that Malta is currently addressing.

120. H.E. Mr Loknath Sharma emphasised Bhutan's commitment to remain carbon neutral with CO₂ emissions reaching around 2.2 million tonnes, however with a capacity to sequester 8.6 million tonnes annually. He expressed the country's plans to promote the diversification of the energy matrix, which is currently dependant on hydropower only, by developing 75 MW of solar and wind power that, together with the six thousand domestic-sized biogas plants in operation, will contribute to Bhutan's energy security and economic growth. He explained that as Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group, Bhutan launched the LDC Vision to begin climate resilient development pathways by 2030 and deliver net zero emissions by 2050, through three main activities that have already started: LDC renewable energy and energy efficiency for sustainable development, LDC initiative for effective adaptation and resilience, and LDC university consortium on climate change. To conclude, H.E. Mr Sharma emphasised the importance of diversifying the energy matrix to promote energy security in LDCs, and the need for funds, expertise and technologies to push forward all types of renewable energy sources in the context of the LDCs.

121. Ms Inger Andersen highlighted the immediate importance to accelerate energy planning and transition, as the temperature will hit 3.5 degrees with current policies and NDCs in place. With the current commitment and global calls for net zero emissions of around 125 countries, the temperature will reach around 2.5 degrees, calling for the revised NDCs to address energy production and use as the primary contributor to global warming, for which plans must be prepared, funded, submitted and implemented. She explained that immediate action on renewable energy will prevent the next generation from inheriting a broken planet. The integration of an ambitious energy transition strategy in the process of building post-COVID recovery is critical, including the current existing technologies that facilitate the integration of renewable energy such as energy storage. Ms Andersen announced that UNEP's Production Gap Report found that USD 230 billion of the post-COVID recovery packages went to sectors responsible for fossil fuel production and consumption, while around half of that went to clean energy. She reiterated that increased immediate action, growth in the net zero club and training and implementation is vital.

122. H.E. Mr Omar Paganini, represented by Mr Fitzgerald Cantero, National Director of Energy, underscored the need to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 by avoiding the increase in fossil fuel consumption and implementing just social policies that promote the economic growth of the countries. He outlined Uruguay's ambitions in achieving the decarbonisation of its economy. Having already almost 100% of power coming from renewable energy, the country is now focusing on the promotion of low-carbon technologies that would facilitate the decarbonisation of the end-use sectors. Such efforts consist of the implementation of incentives to promote electric and hydrogen fuelled vehicles for heavy industrial and long-distance transport as well as electric battery vehicles and synthetic fuels for passenger vehicles, some of which are already at a pilot stage in the country. He highlighted the need for the development of hydrogen-based solutions, together with increasing renewable energy mix, which will facilitate the exploration of long-term decarbonisation goals for industries.

123. Dr Gloria Magombo highlighted Zimbabwe's commitment to reduce 33% of its emission by 2030, and therefore is promoting the development of clean energy sources such as the Bakota project, which is shared with Zambia and aims to bring 1,200 MW of light hydro. Additionally, Zimbabwe has developed a rural energy master plan that aims to achieve universal access for the country by 2030, compared to the current value of 44%, for which solar and small hydro based off-grid systems will be key. She detailed a series of strategies that Zimbabwe is putting in place, including promoting the use of biogas and bio-digesters to manage the urban waste; the implementation of e-mobility and hydrogen for vehicles; the uptake in the use of biofuels to achieve larger blending shares; and the development of the agricultural sector with low carbon technologies such as solar water pumping and heating, among others. Dr Magombo acknowledged the collaboration with IRENA on capacity building activities, technical guidance in the development of the Long-term Energy Scenarios, the finalisation of the Renewable Readiness

Assessment and capacity building for project facilitation tools. She highlighted that Zimbabwe is ready to work with partners to ensure sufficient funding and attract new investors to enable the implementation of this ambitious programme.

124. Mr David Tvalabeishvili noted that sustainable energy development is a step towards the achievement of a low emissions economy, based on synergies between clean energy generation, energy efficiency and renewable energy technology and policy, which requires investment and cooperation amongst regions and countries as well as a strong political will. In this regard, he highlighted Georgia's aim for the full and effective utilisation of tremendous untapped renewable energy potential in hydropower, geothermal, solar and biomass resources and mentioned that the energy transition initiatives, including 139 renewable energy projects currently under development, aim to increase energy security in the country especially during the winter season and reduce dependency on energy imports. In addition to a number of energy laws already in place, Mr Tvalabeishvili highlighted the development of Georgia's Energy and Climate Integrated Plan (NECP), which will set 2030 targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy and GHG emissions reductions and cover six key areas: energy efficiency, energy security, internal energy markets, decarbonisation, and research, development and competitiveness. Highlighting Georgia's commitment to the Paris Agreement and 15% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030, he announced that this target can be increased to 25% subject to global agreements, access to affordable financial resources, and technology transfer. This scenario would also ensure that Georgia's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 would remain 40% below 1990 levels. To conclude, he thanked IRENA for all the support and guidance on the country's efforts to promote renewable energy and affirmed Georgia's interest to use IRENA's platform to promote knowledge sharing and cooperation on the subject.

125. Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi highlighted India's ambitious targets of installing 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, to mitigate 326 million of CO₂ emissions annually, and 450 GW of installed capacity from renewables by 2030. India's promotion of renewable energy has increased its installed capacity by 2.6 times in the past six years. Furthermore, India has established a series of mechanisms to promote the implementation of renewables, including renewable energy solutions for the development of the agricultural sector; fostering adoption and manufacture of electric vehicles; schemes for the use of rooftop solar technologies; waiving of transmission charges for renewable power producers; and promotion of private investment in renewable energy projects, among others. Mr Shekhar concluded by highlighting India's efforts in promoting innovative low-carbon technologies such as green hydrogen and green ammonia to achieve a large commercial deployment.

126. H.E. Mr Pietro Benassi, advised that as President of the G20, Italy is called to create momentum by bringing countries together toward multilateral cooperation to ensure a sustainable recovery from the pandemic. This cooperation among the G20 members, whilst paving the way for a just and sustainable future through the concept of people, planet and prosperity-with health high on the agenda-is crucial. Italy's G20 Presidency will work with members on: 1) advancing a sustainable and green recovery, seizing the opportunities offered by innovative energy technological solutions, in the framework of the countries' national recovery plans and NDCs in view of the COP 26 deadlines; 2) fostering the role played by sustainable and smart cities as urban areas provide an ideal scale and context to test and deploy economy approaches such as natural based solutions for emissions reductions, enhancing energy efficiency, implement sustainable mobility solutions, and the spread of renewables; and 3) taking advantage of the opportunities stemming from the COVID-19 crisis to accelerate the alignment of global tactical flows towards a green transition, including the reorientation of global financial flows as part of the Climate Action Agenda, in the direction of a sustainable transition through synergy between public and private sectors.

127. H.E. Mr Benassi announced that the G20 Presidency is involving IRENA, together with other important agencies, to develop key contributions on accelerated deployment of ocean energy and offshore renewables, the role of cities in promoting renewable energy, the role of hydrogen for a decarbonised energy system, power system flexibility, and universal access to energy.

128. Mr Lars Andreas Lunde emphasised the importance of national economic stimulus packages in pandemic response and recovery, as well as in preparing for a better, greener, and more climate resilient world. He noted that Norway submitted its revised NDC with an enhanced 2030 target of reducing emissions with at least 50% compared to 1990 levels. He outlined that Norway has recently launched a White Paper with a comprehensive action plan for the period 2021 to 2030, aiming to achieve Norway's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Mr Lunde concluded by highlighting that Norway is moving to the new phase in exploring fresh opportunities from the emerging energy technologies provided by the energy transition. The government will present a White Paper to the Parliament on the long-term value creation and industrial development based on the country's energy resources, and the promotion of technologies such as offshore wind, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage.

129. Ms Fekitamoela 'Utoikamanu highlighted that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change yet had the least contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, and together with SIDS are in the front of climate action, which is translated into their commitment to reach net zero by 2050. She highlighted the great opportunity that the upcoming LDC-V Conference in Doha in January 2022, will serve in placing sustainable energy as a thematic priority for a new ten-year program for LDCs, and aiming to create new partnerships to support energy transition and climate action in the LDCs. She emphasised that post-COVID recovery plans should centre on energy transition as it is a conduit for poverty alleviation and increasing resilience of healthcare systems, including in fighting this and future pandemics, with the support from the international community to improve access to finance, build capacity, and assist developers in the preparation of bankable renewable energy projects. To conclude, she noted the importance of the collaboration between UN OHRLLS and IRENA in the framework of the signed MoU and in supporting LDCs in the deployment of renewable energy.

130. Mr Pablo Vieira outlined the work that NDC Partnership is doing through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), supporting 65 countries on improving the quality and increasing the ambition of their NDCs. Under CAEP, IRENA has multiplied the impact of the programme by supporting almost fifty activities in 25 countries, in addition to the large number of countries that the Agency is supporting together with UNDP under the Climate Promise initiative. Mr Viera highlighted the importance of the energy transition as part of countries' climate action plans. He informed that specific requests received under CAEP focused on increasing resilience and reducing emissions, of which 24% focussed explicitly on energy. He emphasised that finance needs to be mobilised on a large scale and countries need support to develop implementation strategies and roadmaps to prioritise and prepare energy projects for financing. The need to bring a wide range of finance from both public and private sectors was highlighted as an essential priority in the coming years for IRENA and NDC Partnership. He reiterated the central priority of economic recovery as an opportunity to drive climate action.

131. H.E. Mr Arifin Tasrif agreed that renewable energy should be considered the key driver for economic growth especially in the context of post-COVID recovery and outlined the importance of participation from private and state-owned companies, public-private partnerships, international organisations and governments to ensure successful development and fulfilment of solutions for the growing energy demand. He noted that Indonesia's ambitions aim to increase the share of renewable energy in the country to 22% by 2025 and 31% by 2050. H.E. Mr Tasrif highlighted that 90% of the total energy use in the country was derived from fossil fuel, and therefore Indonesia is setting a series of actions to advance the energy transition including the promotion of solar power plants to fulfil capacity demand, use of bioenergy in the agricultural sector and development of a grant strategy to ensure the energy sector targets, among others.

132. He noted that the MoU signed in 2018 between IRENA and ASEAN is a breakthrough to accelerate Southeast Asia's renewable energy development, as one of the fastest growing regions worldwide. He further noted that assistance from IRENA and experienced Members in the fields of energy system evaluation, policy planning, capacity building and project support, including technical assistance and project finance, will be beneficial to support Southeast Asia's efforts to strengthen the renewable energy framework as well as the region's economy as a whole.

133. H.E. Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammad Belhaif Al Nuaimi announced that the UAE submitted its second NDC under the Paris Agreement last month and through the support of stakeholders was able to enhance its ambition, among others, to reduce carbon emissions to 23.5% compared to the business-as-usual scenario by 2030, which translates to an absolute emission reduction of about 70 million tonnes of CO₂, in line with the UAE Energy Strategy 2050. He noted that the NDC is not a standalone achievement but a combined effort of all federal and local entities and expressed that the UAE stands ready to join forces with other countries to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

134. Delegations outlined national and organisational progress on the energy transition and their efforts to enhance their climate commitments as part of the revision process of the NDCs and in many cases achieve carbon neutrality in a specific timeline, with one delegation also highlighting the need to involve private sector companies and international investors. A delegation suggested 'nation coupling' be introduced, as was done with sector coupling, to identify which nations have an excess of energy that can be used by those who need it.

135. One delegation highlighted the continued need to access funding to achieve their commitments, as NDCs cannot be realised if fragmented financing and stringent procedures do not address the consideration of local conditions and expectations, particularly for SIDS.

136. The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) referred to the Climate Investment Platform that IRENA is unveiling around the world and explained that the lack of clarity over national targets for renewables, particularly for 2030, and then beyond for 2050 inhibits investment. The GWEC emphasised that a true climate emergency approach is needed to create a streamlined planning and permitting system to invest in more market design, in order to ensure that these trillions of dollars that companies are prepared to invest can be deployed at speed. The Latin American Energy Organisation advised the inclusion of project investment not only in generation infrastructure but also in the electrical rates required for a greater participation of electricity in the future energy mix. The International Geothermal Association highlighted the need to scale up the drive for geothermal heating and cooling and expressed its intention to work with the Global Geothermal Alliance and IRENA to facilitate the political frameworks and regulations needed for geothermal development.

137. Delegations mentioned that IRENA plays a key role as a global platform to learn and share insights and that it is essential for Members to work together with IRENA to create a framework for accelerated climate action. The Global Wind Energy Council emphasised the need to accelerate and ramp up installed capacity. One delegation suggested that Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) and IRENA could further strengthen cooperation with the view to support the needed energy transition, as GBEP's proven expertise in the assessment of bioenergy, sustainable and related policy guidance could add strategic value to the activities of IRENA.

138. Delegations underscored that collaboration and partnerships are key to success, with one delegation highlighting the work developed between IRENA and the Pacific NDC Hub that helped develop and test projects that can be scaled up to meet individual country needs. One other delegation mentioned that specific support from IRENA included strengthening of regulations, policy and strategy formulation, technical institutional assistance, and grants and concessional financing for targeted investments.

139. The Deputy Director-General thanked Ministers, policy makers and partners for joining the Ministerial discussion which highlighted the role of renewable energy in accelerating the energy transition and in which countries shared their experiences and best practices in the energy component of the NDCs. In her review of the discussion, the Deputy Director-General noted the emphasis placed on 2021 as being a critical year to tackle the two-fold challenges of climate change and post-pandemic recovery, wherein the key role of renewable energy in supporting a green recovery and rebuilding a more sustainable and climate resilient system is recognised. She noted that Members called upon the need to raise ambition on climate action, accelerate policy innovation across electricity and end-use sectors, foster networks of cooperation with the private sector, and improve access to finance to scale up renewable energy investments, and that Members and partners recognised the importance of working together to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement. She acknowledged the national steps being taken for the energy transition as a means to overcome challenges of energy security, fuel economic growth and create new employment opportunities.

140. The Deputy Director-General emphasised that COP26 offers the opportunity to demonstrate the global efforts for further cutting the energy-related greenhouse gas emissions through the enhancement of NDCs, with several countries already having improved their NDC commitments in the latest submissions last year. She noted that Members called on IRENA to play an active role to engage with national energy and climate constituencies for the enhancement and implementation of climate action through renewables, to support the efforts in energy transition, and to foster high-level energy/climate dialogues amongst Members and with partners to further support the implementation of climate action in the run up to COP 26 and beyond. She highlighted IRENA's engagement with 70 countries to support their efforts by providing long-term energy scenarios, capacity building on energy planning, data and statistics, and renewable energy targets and policy, and emphasised that IRENA looks forward to supporting other interested countries in this endeavour.

141. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 7: Ministerial Plenary Meeting: Scaling up Finance for Renewables (A/11/BN/3)

142. The Vice President, Mr Rolando Castro, Deputy Minister of Energy and Environment, Costa Rica, presided over the meeting and invited introductory remarks from the Director-General which were followed by a Panel discussion.

143. The High-level Panel discussion was moderated by H.E Mr Gabriel Quijandría, Minister of Environment, Peru having as keynote speakers H.E. Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates and Dr Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and as panel members H.E. Ms Hala Zawati, Minister of Energy, Jordan, Ms Sherine Elsharkawy, Deputy Minister of Finance for Economic Affairs, Egypt, H.E. Mr Claude Turmes, Minister for Energy, Luxembourg, H.E. Mr Chems Eddine Chitour, Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies, Algeria, Mr Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India, Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Mr Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, CEO, Masdar, Mr Csaba Kandrács, Managing Director, Central Bank of Hungary, Mr José Curbelo, Chairman, COFIDES, Mr Kevin Kariuki, Vice-President, African Development Bank (ADB), Dr Tareq Emtairah, Director, Energy Department, UNIDO, H.E. Mr Tomas Anker, Climate Ambassador, Denmark, Mr Demetrios Papatathanasiou, Manager Energy, World Bank, Dr Gary Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), and Mr Ariel Yopez, Chief, Energy Division, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

144. Welcoming participants, the Director-General emphasised the importance of scaling up investment to navigate the twin challenges of global health and climate crisis, for which IRENA has strongly advocated the alignment of recovery efforts with medium and long-term objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. He referred to the [Global Renewables Outlook](#) report launched by IRENA in 2020 which described how a renewables-driven energy transformation can bring far-reaching benefits in terms of energy security, energy access, environmental protection, and sustainable development. He noted that the report charts an ambitious yet feasible pathway to implement climate objectives whilst delivering jobs and economic growth, and that the intention is to guide the design of economic recovery packages and call for considerable scaling up of low carbon investment to USD 130 trillion to reach zero emissions in 2050. He noted that the [Global Landscape on Renewable Energy Finance](#) report finds that global investment in renewable energy has risen steadily, but they remain far below the required levels at about USD 300 billion globally in recent years whereas annual investment in renewables must triple to USD 800 billion by 2050 to realise the economic and social resilience in line with climate science. He advised that channelling this level of investments to the energy transition requires a steady pipeline of investor-ready and scalable, bankable renewable projects.

145. The Director-General announced that IRENA, with the guidance and support of Members, has invested considerable resources over the years in a suite of project facilitation services to support countries and is committed to provide comprehensive facilitation support to Members to speed up the building of project pipelines and to facilitate access to finance. The Director-General informed that in 2020, IRENA consolidated these services into a traditional space to provide project facilitation support for all Members which is integrated within the Climate Investment Platform launched at the Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and led by IRENA, UNDP, and SEforALL, in close cooperation with the Green Climate Fund. He noted that since its inception, the Climate Investment Platform aims to mobilise investment and facilitate access to finance in support of countries and their ambitious NDCs. The Director-General mentioned that Members' insights, opportunities and challenges reflect how IRENA can be leveraged in the common efforts to scale up investment in renewable energy.

146. The Director-General introduced a brief IRENA video highlighting that appropriate investment in the energy transition creates opportunities to connect capital to renewable projects.

147. The keynote speakers shared their experiences on scaling up finance for renewables by outlining the respective challenges, frameworks, projects to date and future ambitions, and advised on the future needs for further progress.

148. Dr Vera Songwe noted that Africa remains far behind and is the least energised region with only 250 GW installed electricity capacity compared to 7,150 GW globally and that Africa has almost 600 million people from the global 750-780 million that lack electricity access. Dr Songwe stated that the focus is on installing the actual power to individual houses for which the power industry is needed to create jobs, so people are able to pay electricity bills. She advised that Africa needs to move from a conversation on how many houses, individuals or rural communities do not have energy to discovering what energy is needed to power an industrial base, a service base on the continent that works. She announced that the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (CFTA) aims to create a one market Africa where there will be no more tariffs for moving goods across the continent and a reduction on non-tariff barriers that are important for businesses. She outlined that Africa's share of renewable installed electricity capacity is only 250 GW, 3.5% of the overall renewable share and noted that from all the investments in renewable energy over the last 10 years Africa benefitted by a mere 2% which underscores the need to determine what is preventing investment and stopping the demand and supply of these markets and what action is needed as a community to unlock investments in the energy sector of the continent.

149. Dr Songwe referred to the UNECA report which emphasised that the countries with the effective regulatory environment in place, such as South Africa, Kenya, Morocco, Egypt, are in receipt of the most investment in the energy sector. She further emphasised that regulatory stability and certainty attracts investment, noting that even with regulatory stability, financing may still be required for which innovative ways to attract finance through building the liquidity and sustainability facility to lower the cost of resources are needed. She outlined that energy investments in the continent are still expecting an 18% Internal Rate of Return, whereas a lower rate of 10-12% may be more manageable. She suggested further studies on alternative methods such as the use of pension funds and blending patient capital on the continent with new investments and called for African investors to move into the energy space. She opined that Africans need to invest in the energy sector in Africa to attract the rest of the world; a belief that has led to UNECA launching the Team Energy Africa to unite African energy developers who can also contribute to the dialogue on governance, institutions, management of utilities, ease of doing business, and transparency in the energy sector. She emphasised the need for regulation, financing and distribution, in that order. She underscored the cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation on distribution to rural communities whilst ensuring that no one is left behind, and the work with the Global Commission to End Energy Poverty, a Rockefeller Foundation initiative, which may unleash more investments in the integrated distribution framework and will hopefully support IRENA's work as African nations collectively move forward on renewable energy, create jobs, and realise the African Union's Agenda 2063 as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

150. H.E. Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi noted that renewables offer a viable path in meeting the growing energy demand whilst cutting down emissions and providing access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable power in the most remote areas of the world, with increasing investment in renewables offering a valuable opportunity to align economic recovery with sustainable development and climate change. He referred to IRENA's announcement on renewable energy investments having reached USD 322 billion in 2018, with modest growth seen through 2019, and the need to triple investment to reach USD 800 billion by 2050 to put the world on course for a climate safe future. He noted that as the UAE's projects enter the operational phase, they will raise the country's renewable power capacity to 8.4 GW by 2030. He outlined international renewable energy investments in 70 countries with the flagship energy company Masdar contributing USD 19.9 billion to projects with a gross capacity of 10.7 GW installed or under development. He reiterated that a successful green recovery requires collective efforts from everyone and depends on continued cooperation of all stakeholders across all sectors.

151. The moderator H.E. Mr Gabriel Quijandría emphasised the urgent priority to work towards accelerating the energy transition and scaling up financing in renewables and further noted that mobilising the private sector is crucial for delivering the energy transition to simultaneously recharge the economy, achieve recovery, and battle climate change. He announced that as renewable energy is now affordable, due to reduction in wind and solar power costs, there is a need to view investment as a competitive economic opportunity as it is the fastest, cleanest and low risk method to add capacity whilst also creating employment and invited the panellists to discuss the opportunities and challenges the world faces.

152. Ms Sherine Elsharkawy spoke on the efforts by the government of Egypt to accommodate the needed financing by instilling public-private partnership law, opening up competitive bidding to investors to produce wind, photovoltaic and solar energy projects and enabling financing for many projects based on a feed-in tariff program, having completed the first green bond in Egypt, the Middle East and Africa for 750 MW. She advised that green projects totalled USD 2 billion across their range of portfolios, of which 16% was expended on renewable energy, 19% on transportation, 26% on funding sustainable water and water management and 39% on the prevention of pollution.

153. As a frontrunner in the MENA region in terms of pace and scale of the deployment of renewable energy, H.E. Ms Hala Zawati mentioned the importance of the will towards locally produced energy resources, legislative framework and financing facilities and the harmony of the public and private sector, noting that the six-year investment on renewable energy equates to USD 4 billion. She expressed her appreciation for the cooperation of the international funding organisations from whom Jordan availed project funding and benefitted from their experience in project implementation.

154. H.E. Mr Claude Turmes mentioned that Luxembourg has the largest green bonds exchange in the world and seeks to continue issuing green bonds, work beyond the de-risking instruments and work with African countries. He highlighted that the low cost of renewable energy has encouraged Luxembourg to develop sophisticated financial instruments to lower interest rates and mentioned that the European Investment Bank will become more prominent at an international level in this regard. H.E. Mr Turmes voiced his wish to de-risk private-to-private projects to further promote investment in the renewables industry.

155. H.E. Mr Chems-Eddine Chitour reiterated that accelerating the elimination of fossil fuels will further ensure the success of climate objectives, noting that raised ambitions need cross-sectoral energy plans including building and industry. He advised that Algeria seeks to explore their subsidy policy to include a just access for rural populations, for which special programmes may be needed. He stated that Algeria is looking to work with reliable partners such as the European Union, as their existing gas pipeline could be used to transport natural gas and green hydrogen.

156. Mr Dinesh Jagdale advised that all countries need to look at different de-risking instruments, transaction levellers and innovative financial structures that will unlock finance for investment into renewable energy projects, and that governments need to differentiate between mature technologies and those that require guidance until they mature financially. He further advised that investor dialogue is key to matchmaking opportunities and called on IRENA to broaden its important role in facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue with domestic and foreign institutional investors to help Members unlock finance.

157. Ms Marjeta Jager reminded the panel that the European Green Deal is a recovery strategy with a transformative and inclusive agenda that combines policies and investments, and for which contact with other international partners, organisations, private sector, financial institutions, academia and civil society needs to intensify. She emphasised that the raised ambition includes the allocation of 30% funding for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), with sustainable energy remaining at the heart of the EU development cooperation and programming.

158. Mr Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi mentioned Masdar's investment in more than 30 countries and their intention to build on Masdar City experiences to explore opportunities in sustainable real estate, mobility solutions, storage and digitalisation. On conveying the challenges that Masdar faces, he noted that funding for green infrastructure is not an issue but ensuring funding flows to where it is needed is a challenge, for which there is a need for well-defined policy regimes, a welcoming regulatory environment, bankable power purchase agreements and robust investment for grid infrastructure. He advised that to address the challenges, clear renewable energy targets should be set by governments and reinforced by legislations; public-private partnerships and corporate off-take contracts are needed to ease the burden on governments; simplification of the bureaucracy is needed to cut through red tape; and sustainable finance solutions need to be further developed. He emphasised that the Climate Investment Platform, launched by IRENA, promotes the transparency and market mechanisms required and that the World Bank is scaling the solar programme, both of which provide the opportunity to build on initiatives and bring together regulators, development partners, financial institutions, commercial lenders, power off-takers, and equity investors to mitigate the funding shortfalls and ensure the path to a sustainable future.

159. Mr Csaba Kandrács underscored that central banks have a prominent role in the financial scale-up, with the responsibility to create the most favourable environment possible for green financing. He suggested that, as central banks cannot act in isolation, in an effort to nudge them, countries need to adjust incentive structures that enhance financial stability and have credible, predictable, and effective public policy coupled with public investment that enables project development. He noted that there is a need for more ‘good’ projects as the main constraint for scaling up financing for renewables is on the demand side as opposed to supply.

160. Mr José Curbelo outlined COFIDES’ programme, supported by the guarantees of the European Commission on renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa to promote sustainable energy in rural and peri-urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa, is open to investors and that through collaboration with IRENA’s marketplace platform, they have identified opportunities for investment resulting in the selection of 20 shortlisted projects to be developed, for which collaboration with IRENA on the next phase will continue. He emphasised that the aim was to gauge the willingness of the private sector to invest in off-grid electrification.

161. Dr Joachin von Amsberg voiced the mission of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, with 103 approved member countries worldwide, which is to finance the sustainable infrastructure of tomorrow, highlighting that USD 27 trillion is needed in global cumulative investments in renewables from 2016 to 2050 to enable the transformation. He outlined the main challenges that need to be addressed as the need for government regulation, as well as the need to mitigate risks in projects. He explained that risk mitigation should be addressed by governments, multilateral development banks, and the private sector through the introduction of better policies, innovative financing tools and regional cooperation. He announced that to ensure a greater number of bankable projects in low-income countries, the AIIB established a project preparation special fund and partnered with concessional finance providers to support governments in the design and development of renewable energy projects, including technical design and environmental impact assessments.

162. Mr Kevin Kariuki highlighted that the key issues for the African Development Bank are the commitments by countries in renewable energy generation on the establishment of a development environment, the importance of a stable environment to attract investment, the need for well-designed public-private partnerships, and the need for transparent procurement processes for investors and developers. He highlighted that ADB sponsors the Distributed Energy Service Companies Programme on the distribution of energy service focused on household solar companies, and informed that the bank is exploring various concessional financing instruments and credit enhancement mechanisms, assisted in part by the declaration of intent signed with IRENA on the development of renewable energy case studies and the promotion of renewable energy investment through the Climate Investment Platform and the annual African Investment Forum.

163. Dr Tareq Emtairah noted that public and development finance and international development partners should dedicate attention to helping countries address the barriers in the market itself through de-risking and regulatory support to governments and should create the value proposition and incentives for local players to engage in the renewable energy sector at various stages of the value chain. He highlighted the need for more support similar to the UNIDO Private Finance and Advisory Network facility that works with developers in frontier and least developing markets to assist entrepreneurs in bringing projects to the level of bankability. He advised that there is a need to build human capacity for policymakers in order to build confidence in the end products which will de-risk the market.

164. H.E. Mr Tomas Anker highlighted the risk of stranded assets if companies are unable to adapt their business models in due time to a world where policies, technologies, and consumer behaviour are all becoming greener, which emphasises the need to create a virtuous cycle of political, financial

and market ambitions to ensure a green recovery for which collaboration is necessary. He mentioned that the Climate Investment Coalition - which includes the Danish government and a range of institutional investors - aims to engage pension funds and other financial actors globally to increase their green investments towards 2030 and to work on enlarging the members to the Nordic agreement. He suggested that a way of inducing private investments is to deploy innovative approaches to generate a pipeline of projects and identify investment opportunities at scale and blended finance, where public-private investment partnerships support and strengthen the capability to attract private investors and realise projects in developing countries.

165. Mr Demetrios Papathanasiou announced that the World Bank's tool on the world's resources on wind and solar provides a starting point on assessing where countries are in terms of their potential, with the World Bank identifying that the main challenge is in the actual implementation phase, as financing is automatic in well-procured projects in a good policy environment. He noted that the main challenge is the ability of electricity systems to absorb all of the renewable energy in the systems for which there is a need for designing smarter grids, investing in energy storage projects and revisiting the use of hydropower in energy systems, and greater regional integration, cooperation and exchanges among countries. He announced the recent publication of the RISE report (Regulatory Indicators on Sustainable Energy) and encouraged Members to compare and evaluate their respective environments and investment friendliness.

166. Dr Gary Jackson noted that the Caribbean population represents 0.7% of the global population with small economies and resources in geothermal, wind energy, solar energy, biomass, and hydropower, for which the CCREEE has established five key principles: understanding the needs of people, policies, planning, public health issues, and partnerships. He expressed hopes to work with IRENA via the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) to facilitate these developments and the energy transition within the region.

167. Mr Ariel Yopez acknowledged that investments in unconventional renewable energy has risen sharply in Latin America which has increased installed capacity due to the abundance and quality of solar and wind resources and the reduction in costs of the technologies, with Latin America leading the way worldwide in terms of renewable energy auctions design. He outlined the role of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in mitigating the risk of new renewable technologies through the provision of additional security to both government and financing actors and supporting energy Ministries by developing sound policies and regulatory frameworks. He highlighted that the Technical Secretariat for the Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (RELAC) aims to reach a regional target of 70% renewables in the power sector by 2030, and noted that financial efforts from multilateral actors, the private sector and donors are critical to meet the future demand growth and needs for financing energy projects, with IDB's ability to channel climate finance and leverage other blended financial resources being fundamental in creating the trust and comfort for local commercial capital markets to provide long-term financing.

168. Delegations outlined their country's ambitions and commitments, emphasised the importance of collaboration with two delegations expressing their aspiration for further mutually beneficial economic partnerships, and acknowledged that private sector finance is vital to increase the scale and reach of the energy transition and highlighted the importance of promoting a transparent and responsible energy mineral supply chain as an incentive to attract private capital investments.

169. Delegations reiterated that there is a need to focus on establishing appropriate governance, institutional and regulatory structures which are key to attract the capital required, with one delegation suggesting the need for innovative solutions to shape bankable projects, stronger stakeholder processes to find the best ways to finance climate protection, fostering large scale financing for renewables as well as the need for additional efforts in supporting new business models for new entrants and established market participants to discover efficient ways to accompany them through the energy transition process.

170. The Director-General thanked the Vice President, the moderator and the panel for the interesting discussion. He underlined the necessity to have a legal environment in place to secure investment at an acceptable risk and the involvement of local financial institutions in this regard, the value of platforms for mitigating the risk in investments and the importance of public-private partnerships. He emphasised the importance of having a set of bankable projects, reiterating that the financial resources are available but good bankable projects in the appropriate legal environment are missing, and recalled the importance of redirecting pension funds as well as the emphasis on technical assistance and potential efforts of IRENA to facilitate the match between supply and demand. The Director-General acknowledged the appreciation and value shown for IRENA's facilitating role and he underscored the importance of working together with all actors from the public and private sectors, including utilities, renewables and oil and gas companies.

171. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 8: Ministerial Plenary Meeting: Renewables and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality - Innovation, Green Hydrogen and Socioeconomic Policies (A/11/BN/4)

172. The President, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera, Spain and the Vice President, H.E. Mr R.K. Singh, India, presided over the meeting and invited introductory remarks from the Director-General which were followed by a Panel discussion.

173. The High-level Panel discussion was moderated by Ms Laurence Tubiana, CEO, European Climate Foundation, and Mr Karsten Sach, Director General, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building, and Nuclear Safety, Germany, with the keynote speakers - Ms Kadri Simson, Energy Commissioner, European Commission; Mr Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency; and Mr Francesco Starace, CEO, Enel, and the panel members - Hon Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, Canada; H.E. Mr Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment, Morocco; Mr Thorsten Herdan, Director General, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany; H.E. Mr Arifin Tasrif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia; Ms Joanna Whittington, Director General, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, United Kingdom; H.E. Mr Awaidha Murshed Ali Al Marar, Chairman, Department of Energy, Abu Dhabi; Mr Dominic Waughray, Managing Director, World Economic Forum; Mr Marco Alvera, CEO, SNAM and Mr Daryl Wilson, Executive Director, Hydrogen Council.

174. Introducing the topic, the Director-General recognised the growing momentum and commitment of Members to the net zero goal, with 30 countries in the EU, in addition to the increasing numbers of subnational regions, cities and companies committing to net zero emissions as well as a wide range of other countries reviewing their objectives and seeking advice. He acknowledged the massive undertaking to reach net zero by mid-century across all sectors of the economy, for which unparalleled changes across the energy sector must be realised simultaneously, with renewables being the proven cost-competitive choice to deliver most of the reduction needed. He further acknowledged that key building blocks are underway to unlock the uncertainty that remains around the optimal pathway for the long-haul transport and heavy industry sectors. He underscored that renewables must play a critical role in all sectors and that electrification with renewables will be the principal route to emission reductions with more understanding needed on how to produce and best use green hydrogen and sustainable biomass.

175. The Director-General advised that sectors such as shipping and aviation will require cross-border solutions with industrial sectors such as steel, cement and petrochemicals being traded regionally and globally, and that new fuels like hydrogen or biofuels will increasingly be traded between countries, demanding intense international collaboration, which is one of the reasons for which IRENA was created. He highlighted that IRENA is exploring how to close gaps in collective

knowledge and is using its global networks to find new ways of bringing together Members and industry. He further announced that to build on IRENA's extensive efforts on developing climate safe energy scenarios, through informed insight from the 2020 IRENA publications combined with key events such as the 2020 IRENA Innovation Week, the 2021 edition of the *Global Renewables Outlook* report will include a global energy roadmap consistent with the 1.5-degree goal. The Director-General noted that IRENA will also build on the longstanding work on the socio-economic footprint of the energy transitions, highlighting the importance of a holistic approach towards job creation, industrial development, health and other development priorities, and just transitions.

176. The Director-General referred to the 2018 Assembly which adopted a five-year strategy for IRENA with the mission to lead the transformation of the global energy system, noting that the Agency is assisting Members in multiple ways, by supporting the development of national-regional roadmaps and strategies, undertaking analysis by providing platforms for the exchange of experience, and facilitating financing and action on the ground for which feedback from Members on the emerging priority is welcomed. He reiterated that the pandemic has stressed the imperative for a rapid shift to renewables, and the need to rebuild differently to recover and achieve resilient, equitable and prosperous economies and societies.

177. The Director-General introduced a brief IRENA video on the commitments of the Paris Agreement to achieve the net zero goal.

178. The keynote speakers shared their position on renewables and pathways to achieve carbon neutrality through innovation, green hydrogen and socioeconomic policies and outlined strategic positioning and business climates to attract national and international investments in such policies.

179. Ms Kadri Simson highlighted that under the motto "the future is clean or not at all" the aim of the European Commission, through their energy policy, is to be the first climate neutral continent by 2050 with a reduction of at least 55% emissions and 40% share of renewables by 2030, which includes the complete phase out of coal. She outlined the strategies adopted on hydrogen energy system integration, offshore renewable energy, the renovation wave, a revision of the EU main energy infrastructure planning for projects of common interest and the Trans-European Network for Energy and emphasised that the European Commission is also accelerating the review of all European legislation in all sectors of energy and climate action for which a proposal will be presented in June. She declared that a decentralised integrated energy system of the future will have hydrogen at its core as an energy carrier but also for its capacity to integrate reliable renewables and storage, for which an annual increase of USD 30 billion is required which is where the Green Deal coincides with efforts on recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. She highlighted that clean energy needs to create a competitiveness with each of pathways continuing to boost additional renewables and evolving to include new ones which are connected by a push towards greater innovation that science can identify and provide. She further highlighted that international cooperation will amplify all aspects outlined and with the Green Deal driving global engagement. She reiterated that international cooperation is essential to create a global rules-based market for green hydrogen which requires work on climate safety and environmental standards, and on common certification criteria for renewable and low carbon hydrogen. She stated that she views the plans for renewables in Europe as the ladder on which they will climb to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 with every rung on that ladder-renewable hydrogen, innovation, investment, and international cooperation-being as important as the next.

180. Mr Fatih Birol underlined the pledges for carbon neutrality by mid-century with more than 60% of the present global emissions being covered by these pledges and expressed that he expects other countries will join to give an unprecedented political momentum to address the climate challenge, which has more than 80% of emissions coming from the energy sector. In noting that only 3% of cars sold worldwide are e-cars, he advised governments to strengthen their clean energy

initiatives by designing financial instruments to encourage the shift towards e-cars over SUVs. Mr Birol mentioned that 50% of emission reductions needs to come from technologies that are not yet on the market, such as hydrogen, for which there is a need for innovation, research and development and the link to digitalisation, without which these new technologies will not be in place. To ensure a just transition, he highlighted the need to build mechanisms to support developing countries and ensure that they have access to the right technologies to enable the mobilisation of clean energy financing in their countries, informing that IEA is working with the World Bank and the World Economic Forum to build such mechanisms. He announced that the IEA, at the request of COP, is preparing the first roadmap to net zero by 2050 to be published in May and will fortify the successful outcome of the historical summit in Glasgow in November.

181. Mr Francesco Starace emphasised that long-term authorisation and cumbersome decision-making processes need to be addressed to allow technology to work effectively and highlighted that Africa has the largest concentration of people with little or no access to energy although it has a wealth of natural renewable energy resources, which reinforces the need to partner with public and private schemes. He informed that Enel has launched the Renew Africa platform to align all the stakeholders at the European, African, and global level that want to contribute towards making the renewable energy penetration of Africa a real success story. Mr Starace advised on the need to de-risk the perceptions that exist in the investor base as well as the need for some African countries to address legal and regulatory frameworks. He explained that Enel has a ten-year plan to invest EUR 190 billion in the transition and has tapped investors based on linking bonds to SDG objectives, as such a link is essential to substantially reduce the risk of companies and countries that issue these bonds.

182. Hon Seamus O'Reagan outlined Canada's new climate strategy, the most robust in the nation's history, aimed at surpassing their 2030 Paris Agreement targets and becoming a net zero nation within three decades. He informed that in order to achieve these aims, Canada has more than tripled the price on pollution over the next ten years to phase out coal-fired electricity by the end of this decade and injected an initial USD 15 billion of support towards new sources of clean energy, including solar, wind and biomass installations. He further outlined supporting mechanisms to eliminate coal dependency, such as a national action plan for small modular reactors, a national strategy for hydrogen, the completion of the nation's first geothermal project, the advancement of tidal power, and increased hydropower. He informed that Canada's new climate strategy seeks to support, amongst others, industrial decarbonisation, zero emission vehicles, retrofits for homes and buildings, and nature-based solutions such as the planting of two billion trees. Hon O'Reagan highlighted continued long-term commitment and policy action, consensus and strong collaboration between the Canadian provinces and territories as absolutely essential to the success of the implementation of the strategy and achievement of ambitious targets. In this regard, he emphasised the need to learn from the lessons of the pandemic and ensure an inclusive and equitable energy transition that places all citizens at its heart, in order to secure the full extent of socioeconomic benefits, with no one left behind. He highlighted the efforts of IRENA as central to the aim of building a just, inclusive and prosperous clean energy future.

183. H.E. Mr Aziz Rabbah announced that Morocco has started to draw up a roadmap on offshore energy, aiming to become a logistic platform through strategic positioning and the business climate to attract national and international investments. He confirmed that Morocco has a real momentum in hydrogen, having received expressions of interest from many national and international companies, and he outlined Morocco's various partnerships with the European Union, and forthcoming partnerships with Germany, Portugal, and Spain.

184. Ms Joanna Whittington highlighted the need to dramatically level up skills and job space by investing in industrial decarbonisation, energy efficiency improvements, offshore wind, advanced nuclear technologies, and smart grids to deliver opportunities, including high-skilled, high-paid jobs to all parts of the country whilst abating emissions.

185. H.E. Mr Awaidha Murshed Ali Al Marar, Chairman of the Department of Energy, Abu Dhabi noted the benefits from reports and technologies, and shared international experiences.

186. Mr Dominic Waughray highlighted that the mobilisation of key industry sectors across the heavier industries is gathering momentum and expressed optimism about the momentum that COP 26 will create, given the existing geopolitical conditions. He mentioned the systemic shifts in the rise of stakeholder capitalism amongst the private sector and stated that the key to financial instruments and investments are these policy frameworks which require the interaction between the public, private and key experts to chart out what can be done, the speed at which it can be done and what levers can be pulled across that whole portfolio.

187. Mr Marco Alverà emphasised that SNAM wants to accelerate the production of green hydrogen and noted that scaling up the manufacturing of electrolysers, which are still in their infancy, presents a lot of opportunities to improve the materials and technologies, for which giga-factories for electrolysers are needed. He further noted that governments have to decipher how to combine public and private policy.

188. Mr Daryl Wilson stated that governments have an enabling role to help scale the industry and reduce costs and he announced that the Hydrogen Council released a new report on decarbonisation pathways to guide policymakers towards realising the opportunity of hydrogen for their economies.

189. Delegations summarised their ambitions towards carbon neutrality through innovation, green hydrogen and socioeconomic policies highlighting the need for collaboration in investment, for hydrogen innovation and for continued innovation in renewable energy in general. One delegation emphasised that clearly outlined and transparent rules are needed for quick integration with the European market, and another stated that efforts are needed on technology and research in other areas, such as business models, customer behaviour and needs, and crucial social and economic issues.

190. Delegations referred to the global attention on green hydrogen as fundamental to unlocking the significant emission reductions throughout the industrial, transportation, power, and heating sectors, noting that hydrogen requires investment and fit-for-purpose regulatory framework and needs to be supported by the creation of a commercially viable route that will allow the building of a large hydrogen market, suggested working together to create the foundation and opportunities to advance large-scale hydrogen production and encouraged further development in green hydrogen. One delegation suggested that IRENA's Collaborative Framework on Green Hydrogen should focus on scalability, reducing costs of electrolysers and the establishment of the international trade of carbon dioxide free hydrogen that can be certified and verified in its production route.

191. The Director-General thanked the President and Vice President, moderators, panellists and speakers for the rich discussion on a subject of growing importance and he acknowledged that the strong political will is encouraging and essential to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and to build resilient and equitable energy systems. He summarised that the discussions reflected options to achieve the challenge of reaching net zero and that low-cost renewables are the central pillar of such strategies, with a wide range of exciting developments underway using renewable electricity and renewable fuels such as green hydrogen. The Director-General acknowledged the need for further support and the value of international collaboration and expressed his appreciation on the positive comments about IRENA's role in supporting just and inclusive energy transitions as well as calls for the Agency to continue that leadership role aligned with global policy priorities of a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

192. He welcomed the many suggestions made to further the work of IRENA and on the priorities for IRENA's Work Programme and noted that Members reaffirmed the lead role of IRENA in the implementation of net zero strategies in line with the Paris Agreement. He expressed the commitment of the Agency to continue to foster close partnerships with countries to develop the roadmaps for deep decarbonisation supported by IRENA's continued technoeconomic, socioeconomic, and policy analysis as a guide for governments, decision-making, and to promote a just transition. He noted the proposals for IRENA to take a central role in building the partnerships needed for development and dissemination of the systemic innovations needed for net zero targets, particularly through the IRENA Collaborative Frameworks, as well as in facilitating an inclusive public-private action agenda focused on solutions, including high share of renewable power and the growing use of green hydrogen. The Director-General concluded by stating that rapid and sustained action on multiple fronts is needed to face the net zero challenge and that the innovation and determination of policymakers and businesses displayed during the discussion adds confidence that goals can be achieved through concerted action and cooperation.

193. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 9: Ministerial plenary meeting: Driving the Agenda for Energising Healthcare (A/11/BN/5)

194. The Vice President, Mr Rolando Castro, Costa Rica, presided over the meeting, with the assistance of H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to IRENA. The meeting began with introductory remarks from the Director-General of IRENA and the World Health Organization respectively, followed by three keynote statements, a High-level Panel discussion and interventions from Members and stakeholders.

195. Mr Liu Zhenmin, Undersecretary General at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Dr Rajiv J. Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Mr Alex de Jonquières, Director of Health Systems and Immunization Strengthening at GAVI made keynote statements. The High-level Panel discussion was moderated by H.E. Dr Kandeh Yumkella, Member of Parliament of Sierra Leone, having as panellists - H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedrago, Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr T.S. Singh Doe, India, Mr Wisdom Tobogo, Ghana, Dr Maria Neira, WHO, and Mr Mark Carrato, Power Africa.

196. In his introductory remarks, the Director-General of IRENA noted the significance of the energy–health nexus with the issue of electrifying health facilities being at the forefront of policy makers' agenda. He welcomed the distinguished guests and close partners from the health and energy communities, expressing his appreciation to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the keynote speakers and panellists, and to H.E. Dr Kandeh Yumkella for acting as moderator.

197. The Director-General affirmed that the spread of COVID-19 brought the crucial issue of electrifying healthcare centres to the forefront with hundreds of millions around the world still relying on healthcare facilities, with or without reliable electricity, mainly resulting in poor, marginalised communities from lower and middle-income countries. He noted that renewable energy presents affordable, reliable and rapidly deployable solutions that can have a transformative impact on the lives of people, and that promoting dialogue on the nexus of renewable energy and health has been one of IRENA's priorities even before the pandemic. He recalled that on November 2018, through the International Conference on Renewable Energy Solutions for Healthcare Facilities, IRENA brought together key energy and health sector stakeholders, and has since then been supporting several similar platforms to raise awareness and provide leadership on this issue. Additionally, he recalled that in 2019, IRENA joined forces with WHO, UNDP, the World Bank, SEforAll and other partners in the Global Health and Energy Platform of Action, and that in 2020 IRENA collaborated with the African Commission to advance renewable energy development to bolster the African response to COVID-19.

198. The Director-General announced that IRENA is also working with Burkina Faso to carry out a sectoral assessment of the health system of the country. The assessment covers the overall energy needs of rural, as well as urban and peri-urban health centres, and identifies energy gaps to recommend robust delivery models based on renewables. An outcome of the assessment will be a report acting as a blueprint of recommendations for renewable systems, design for health clinics, and energy-efficient appliances that will enable the deployment of renewable energy solutions across the healthcare network of Burkina Faso. The recommended solutions will also consider specific short and medium-term energy interventions related to combating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Director-General expressed his appreciation to H.E. Mr Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso for his instrumental support for the implementation of the project within the country, which IRENA now plans to expand to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

199. In emphasising the cruciality of the electrification of health centres, the Director-General outlined the requirements of long-term planning, careful cooperation amongst all stakeholders around the energy and the health sector, and commitment, cooperation, and continued dialogue to ensure and address these urgent issues. He advised that through a multilateral approach, the response can draw on the capabilities and resources of countries and institutions around the world and it can ensure that no region, country, or community be left behind. The Director-General welcomed views, possible solutions and feedback on how IRENA can further support the efforts in this important agenda item.

200. The Director-General introduced a brief IRENA video on how the use of renewable energy solutions can improve healthcare services in rural areas, and how international cooperation can facilitate and accelerate these efforts.

201. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, highlighted the role of IRENA in supporting its efforts to promote clean and sustainable energy in health facilities and remarked how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of this issue. He mentioned that WHO published a manifesto for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19 with six policy prescriptions and more than eighty specific actions, which highlights the importance of ensuring a quick and health energy transition based on renewable energy as well as the need to accelerate investments in clean energy for health facilities. He remarked how the electrification of health facilities must be a development priority, and how action on this front must be accelerated. He listed five key priorities in this regard: (1) dramatically increase investments on the ground (2) political commitment and resource mobilisation (3) support countries to implement energy solutions for their healthcare systems (4) create enabling policy frameworks (5) increase cooperation between the energy and health sectors. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of platforms such as HEPA to maintain international efforts and focus on all of the five key priority areas and reiterated WHO's willingness to continue working on this issue.

202. The keynote speakers shared their position and efforts on driving the agenda to energise healthcare, calling for unified international action and highlighting the nexus between clean and affordable energy access and effective healthcare.

203. Dr Rajiv Shah compared his discussion from a year ago with Dr Tedros on the threat of COVID-19 to the present day, now that the pandemic has dramatically hampered the economic and social development of numerous nations and has exacerbated existing problems related to access to adequate healthcare. He noted that much of the underlying thesis of global development and economics is based on the idea that nations that have a lower level of resources can grow faster and in a more inclusive way as they raise their populations' standard of living, but that COVID-19 will likely cause poverty to increase over the next 3 to 5 years. He likewise noted that vaccine access will more likely be more available in wealthier economies, and that emerging

economies will therefore be more vulnerable to the public health crisis and its economic consequences, which will take a longer time to mend. He also emphasised that the Rockefeller Foundation is dedicated to arresting and reversing this great divergence and it has committed USD 1 billion not just to end the pandemic for everyone by expanding access to vaccines and other solutions but also to address inclusive growth in the context of the recovery which starts with making sure that everyone has access to productive electricity, ideally from renewable sources, as energy and electricity is the absolute core requirement and the lack of it is the core constraint to growth and inclusion. He mentioned that before the pandemic, more than 800 million people were still effectively living without electricity and that since the pandemic started, there are an additional 100 million people who have lost access. He emphasised the need to gather as a global community and expand access to clean, renewable electricity for health centres, communities, and emerging economies around the planet.

204. Dr Shah requested the support of the international community on three main points of focus: (1) each nation needs to ensure that its energy regulatory framework welcomes private investment, supports renewable and distributed energy infrastructure, and be open, accessible and transparent; (2) emerging economies and their development partners should actively support the electrification of healthcare facilities through renewable energy solutions via financial subsidies, inclusion of the energy-poor in electrification strategies, and by targeting rural health centres at the focus of this discussion. Additionally, governments should ensure that those subsidies are able to attract much larger flows of private investment; (3) governments and development partners must work together to align both private and public investments to ensure that projects be implemented quickly and be financed effectively. He advised that the Rockefeller Foundation is willing to work with any nation that seeks to utilise this approach with urgency during this crisis, as the Foundation has already created vehicles and programmes. Dr Shah emphasised that such an example can be instructive and can offer a roadmap for the future to ensure that every health centre and every community is served with electricity to solve the crisis of COVID-19 and to lay the groundwork for inclusive development and growth in the 21st century world.

205. Mr Liu Zhenmin emphasised that universal access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy services is indispensable to eradicating poverty, empowering women, and achieving numerous other SDGs. He also noted that the expanding energy access will be instrumental to rapidly accelerate the energy transition and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. He commented that the interlinkages between energy and healthcare are now obvious, and that energy services will be essential to respond to the pandemic, power healthcare facilities, maintain the required minimum temperature for medicines and vaccines, and to supply clean water for medical use. He also highlighted that distributing solar powered and energy-efficient medical devices holds a great potential for creating stronger and more resilient health systems, especially in rural areas, but that whilst significant progress has been made in recent years, close to 800 million people are still lacking access to electricity, with household pollution resulting in the death of 4 million people per year and with women and children being disproportionately affected. He warned that action must be scaled up to achieve SDG7, which is why the UN General Assembly has mandated the Secretary General to convene the High-level Dialogue on Energy, focusing on five themes: (1) energy access; (2) energy transition; (3) energy action to advance other SDGs, including SDG3 on health; (4) capacity building and data; (5) financing and investments. Mr Liu called upon all stakeholders to engage in the Dialogue's preparatory process, which has started to pool collective strengths and bring practical solutions for a sustainable energy future for all. He advised that a global mechanism for cooperation is available through the Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA), created within the UN system and co-convened by UN DESA, UNDP, WHO, and the World Bank. He further advised that Members revitalise their energy targets whilst strengthening cognition within the UN system and in collaboration with IRENA and other strategic partners and he noted that IRENA's leadership and analytical capacity will continue to be critical to catalyse action towards the achievement of SDG7.

206. Mr Alex de Jonquières highlighted that the core mission of GAVI is to bring the lifesaving power of vaccines to children in the world's poorest countries, informing that GAVI has helped countries immunise over 800 million children since its establishment, preventing 14 million deaths annually since 2000 and reducing child mortality by half. He declared that GAVI is a major investor in renewable energy to support the delivery of refrigerated vaccines. In this regard, GAVI launched the Cold Chain and Equipment platform (CCEOP) in 2015 to accelerate the deployment of new cold chain technologies to the least-developed nations, spending USD 200 million since mid-2017 on procuring and installing over 50,000 refrigerators, out of which 30,000 were equipped with solar panels. This effort enabled the delivery of immunisation services to a wider span of populations and minimised waste whilst reducing the climate impact of immunisation programmes. He highlighted three lessons learned from this experience: (1) technology has enabled progress through the introduction of Solar Direct Drive refrigerators, which use renewable energy to develop a lining of ice coating inside the refrigerators, thus permitting their functionality beyond sunlight hours; (2) partnerships have enabled GAVI to solarise at scale rapidly, systematically and with quality - over five sites are benefiting from daily installations through the mapped inventory of health facilities, through government-driven project management and a series of private-sector partnerships guaranteeing the quality of the installations and training local healthcare workers on the maintenance of the equipment; (3) such partnerships can vastly increment results, and working with WHO will ensure that countries manage immunisation programmes. He further highlighted GAVI's work with WHO, the World Bank, and other partners to jointly provide full electrification to health facilities, as GAVI has already made progress to ensure that energy can be harvested from the fridge design to run basic diagnostic and other medical devices and for lighting and cooling, which is a model to build upon.

207. The panellists consisted of policymakers and representatives from international organisations outlining their domestic and organisational electrification plans, efforts and partnership ventures. The Panel called for Ministers to enhance focus on the energy-health nexus, including through working together on the HEPA platform whilst also working to ensure universal clean cooking solutions.

208. Hon John Amewu represented by Mr Wisdom Togobo, Director at the Ministry of Energy, highlighted Ghana's focus on non-electrified health facilities, pointing out the lack of refrigeration space for basic vaccines and the heightened urgency of electrifying health facilities in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that installed solar electricity in health facilities aids the dissemination of information on healthcare, adherence to COVID-19 protocols and also promotes the opportunity to secure the appointment of medical professionals to work in remote communities.

209. H.E Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedraogo highlighted that as Burkina Faso pushes solar solutions into their healthcare systems, the objective is to ensure the provision of electricity for all. He also reiterated that the lack of electricity in healthcare facilities has a detrimental impact on human lives and the quality of life in rural areas, which demands affordable, accessible electrification through existing technology and investments.

210. H.E. Mr T.S. Singh Deo described the solar electrification of health facilities in Chhattisgarh, India and highlighted the problems experienced in delivering emergency healthcare at night at the maternity and childcare centres. He highlighted the importance of solar-powered drinking water pumps and purification systems.

211. Ms Maria Neira focussed on the importance of international cooperation, the HEPA platform and the need to accelerate the energy transition in healthcare facilities as the world faces history's largest global concerted effort in the distribution of vaccines. She reiterated the importance of access to clean energy as a critical effort to protect people's health and against the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to aiding in the post-pandemic economic and social recovery. She also

remarked on the seven million premature deaths caused by internal air pollution as unacceptably high, emphasising the need to accelerate the renewable energy mission. Finally, she expressed her hope that the provision of green electricity to healthcare facilities will be a priority.

212. Mr Mark Carrato highlighted the need to power refrigerators to store vaccines, adding that 25% of liquid and 50% of freeze-dried vaccines go wasted every year. He also emphasised the massive implications of energy poverty on human and economic development, noting that countries that are able to provide affordable energy can rebound faster and experience higher rates of GDP growth by improving agriculture, gender equity and educational outcomes.

213. Delegations provided an outline of their efforts to accelerate the electrification of healthcare facilities. They also highlighted the challenges met, such as the lack of technical assistance to support installed energy systems and the isolated nature of rural healthcare facilities demanding the need for standalone solar systems. One delegation called on IRENA to include in its Work Programme efforts to identify renewables-based decentralised solutions at a country level to power primary healthcare facilities in rural areas. One delegation highlighted the challenge brought by the lack of information and data in terms of the energy needs of health facilities, in addition to the lack of reliable information on the size and composition of the market to encourage private sector engagement.

214. Delegations emphasised the need to encourage investment in solar-powered equipment and solar-powered refrigerators, the urgency to increase investments in vaccine cold chains, and the need to increase the access of the health sector to financial resources in order to enable large scale electrification efforts. Delegations noted that a good method of influencing policy and investments is to value the benefits of sustainable energy in health centres for children and mentioned individual crowd-funding campaigns as a tool to finance off-grid solutions.

215. Delegations suggested the need for innovative business and financing models as well as partnership structures to welcome governments, partner organisations, and the private sector, and the importance of strengthening existing models to scale up electrification of health systems. One delegation highlighted the necessity for innovation in healthcare facilities such as baby warmers, autoclaves and shadow lights for operating rooms.

216. The Director-General thanked all the participants for the valuable discussion and noted the call for more collaboration, the need to work together in unison, and the importance of utilising existing alliances with the World Health Organization, World Bank, UNDP and other actors. He highlighted that the discussions on the important link between energy generation and health are a positive recognition for the Assembly. He welcomed the Islamic Development Bank, the Clinton Foundation, the European Commission and other partners of the Climate Investment Platform that will play a vital role on these issues.

217. The Vice President expressed his sincere gratitude to all participants and commended the Secretariat and the Director-General for the wise linkage of this item to the Assembly at a time of international suffering. He further expressed his sincere appreciation to the United Arab Emirates, for their hospitality and their generosity in hosting IRENA in Abu Dhabi.

218. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 10: Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events

219. Mr Joan Groizard, Director-General of the National Energy Agency of Spain, presided on behalf of the President, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera, and invited the presentation of the reports from the Assembly's Ministerial meetings and other events held in the context of IRENA's engagement in related areas.

Report from the High-Level Dialogue on Pandemic Response and Recovery and Africa's Energy Transformation

220. Mr Wisdom Togobo, Director at the Ministry of Energy of Ghana, presented the report of the High-Level interactive virtual Dialogue on Pandemic Response and Recovery and Africa's Energy Transformation, and informed that the meeting was attended by Ministers, development partners, financing institutions and international organisations. The meeting was co-hosted by the African Union Commission and IRENA and provided a platform to engage in a dialogue focussed on the actions needed to advance the transformation of energy systems in Africa given the experience of COVID-19.

221. Mr Wisdom Togobo acknowledged that the pandemic triggered a unique global emergency that is affecting economies and livelihoods worldwide and causing the decline of trade and commerce at regional and national levels across Africa. He drew attention to the fact that energy utilities are facing lower revenues, prompting action to shore up financial viability, and delaying project development on energy assets due to constraints on procurement and movement of personnel as manufacturing, construction, service, and retail activities have diminished. He stated that countries are taking action to protect their economies, prepare for the period to follow, focus again on development priorities, and resume sustainable economic growth whilst prioritising the protection of people and combatting the pandemic. He outlined immediate actions taken by governments as including emergency income grants for citizens, economic stimulus and relief packages to rescue the key economic sectors, tax reduction and subsidies to households, continued provision of electricity to the most vulnerable populations, free-of-charge water supply to all citizens, and expanded health centre networks powered by standalone solar systems. He reported that the Dialogue recognised that renewables could provide a valuable leverage for countries in terms of affordability, cost competitiveness, decentralisation, local innovation, and of the rapid expansion of energy assets as part of the continent's recovery with the potential to push Africa to eventually become a global energy powerhouse, although the acceleration of access to energy and fundamental obligations remain a priority for governments. He further reported that participants highlighted that the energy-water-food nexus, combined with information and communication technology, provides a clear focus for innovation and that participants further highlighted that each national policy and all harmonised regulations should ensure alignment with SDGs, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and international climate action objectives.

222. Mr Wisdom Togobo concluded by conveying that participants recognised the excellence of IRENA's work in addressing the key issues, appreciated the longstanding engagement of IRENA with Africa and expressed the wish for the Agency to continue and further scale up its technical support to contribute to the African Energy Transformation.

Report from the High-Level Dialogue on Accelerating the Energy Transition in Small Island Developing States

223. H.E. Mr Hussain Rasheed Hassan, Minister, represented by Mr Ahmed Ali, Director-General, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives relayed the report on the two interactive virtual High-level meetings on Accelerating the Energy Transition in Small Island Developing States to Stimulate Post-Pandemic Recovery, held on 1 June 2020 organised by IRENA in collaboration with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and on Energy Transformation in SIDS towards Sustainable and Climate Resilient Post-Pandemic Recovery, held on 20 September 2020 and organised in coordination with the governments of Denmark and Ethiopia.

224. The meetings provided a platform to engage in dialogue focussed on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on SIDS and the stimulation of climate resilient post-pandemic recovery efforts through an accelerated energy transition that is supported by international cooperation and partnerships to assist SIDS in meeting their commitments to UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meetings were attended by Heads of States and Governments, Ministers and High-level representatives of development partners. Mr Ahmed Ali relayed that participants acknowledged that the pandemic disrupted the international supply chain, altered economies, and accelerated the burdens of the ongoing climate crisis on SIDS whilst emphasising the importance of energy, water, food security, strengthening SIDS' resilience, and responding to the health emergency and climate crisis through the energy transformation.

225. Participants reiterated the need for customised and centralised approaches to emerge from the crisis whilst enhancing international solidarity to support the massive scale of investments enabled by financial resources, transfer of technology, and capacity building. Participants highlighted the need for tailor-made climate financing packages to address the current reality of climate emergencies, and the need to improve innovative financing mechanisms dedicated to low emission and climate resilient investments. He reported on the importance of transferring appropriate technologies and strengthening capacity to support the greening of island economies and to address the nexus of renewable energy and water, food security, health services, digital transformation, tourism, education, and the electrification of the transport sector.

226. Mr Ahmed Ali concluded by conveying that SIDS recognise that strong, durable, and genuine partnerships play a crucial role in accelerating the energy transformation in SIDS and that participants acknowledged the continued support provided by development partners and multilateral organisations, as well as IRENA's role as the coordinator of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative which continues to support SIDS economies through the energy transformation.

Report from the Ministerial plenary meeting on National Energy Planning and Implementation for Fostering Energy Transition

227. Dr Gloria Magombo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Power Development of Zimbabwe reported on the Ministerial plenary meeting, attended by Ministers, chief executives of UN agencies, regional organisations, and renewable energy industry associations, which provided a platform to engage in a dialogue focused on the significance of the energy transition to accelerate climate action, together with the role of IRENA in supporting countries on enhancing their climate commitments in the transition pathway through renewables.

228. Dr Gloria Magombo reported that participants recognised 2021 to be crucial in tackling the twofold challenges of recovery from the pandemic and the climate change imperative, recognising the key role of renewable energy in supporting a green recovery and rebuilding sustainable and resilient systems whilst also enhancing energy security, fuelling economic growth and creating new employment opportunities to guarantee a just transition. Several factors, such as innovation and technology cost reductions, are creating new opportunities to achieve more ambitious targets for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector. She noted that Members expressed their commitment to develop realistic long-term energy plans that ensure the implementation of their NDCs and stressed the need to translate objectives into action. Furthermore, Members called on raising renewable energy ambitions, accelerating technology, policy and regulatory innovation across electricity and end user sectors, fostering networks of cooperation with the private sector, and improving access to finance to scale up renewable energy investments. She reported that participants highlighted the importance of working together to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as partnerships and concerted efforts across countries were recognised as an indispensable avenue for building capacity and maximising synergies to transform national commitments in the NDCs and long-term strategies from vision into a reality.

229. Dr Gloria Magombo concluded by conveying participants' call for IRENA to play an active role in supporting national energy and climate constituencies in the enhancement and implementation of climate action through renewables and energy transitions and that they encouraged IRENA to foster high-level energy and climate dialogue amongst Members and partners for an improved implementation of climate action in the run-up to COP 26 and beyond.

Report from the Ministerial plenary meeting on Scaling Up Finance for Renewables

230. Ms Franziska Freiburghaus, Regional Head of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates reported on the Ministerial plenary meeting, attended by Ministers, Member delegations, heads of regional agencies, international financial institutions, and multilateral development and investment banks, which provided a platform to engage in a dialogue focussed on scaling up financial investments to fulfil the global decarbonisation and climate goal.

231. Ms Freiburghaus informed that Members and participants acknowledged that the Agency has invested considerable resources with the guidance and support of Members to develop project facilitation services that include knowledge and skills development, training, research, innovation, and planning, which combined can support Members in speeding up the process of building bankable project pipelines and facilitate access to finance. Participants further acknowledged the creation of a coherent institutional space through the Project Facilitation and Support Division in IRENA and the Climate Investment Platform to identify, present a pipeline and channel projects towards investment.

232. Ms Freiburghaus noted that the opening remarks stressed the investment mobilisation needed to ensure renewable energy deployment as a vital part of climate action initiatives, and the need to integrate those into medium to long-term post-COVID recovery plans. She advised that participants expressed three key views on the framework conditions for investment: (a) the importance of stable and predictable policies and regulatory environments to attract renewable energy investments, with transparent procurement procedures, land tenure rights, and clear national targets being inherent factors, and with a suggestion that advances should be made in improving regulatory capacity to lower investment risks and make capital more readily available; (b) to counter the unequal distribution of investments by strengthening climate investment through the crucial investment in human capital, to create an ecosystem of quality players for a worthwhile market in which to invest, which will enhance vital capacity across the entire pipeline from planning to maintenance, and (c) the importance of comprehensive and cutting-edge financial solutions that engage with principles of inclusion to enforce a just and fair energy transition.

233. Ms Freiburghaus stated that Members highlighted the role of domestic financial sectors as paramount for leveraging private and foreign investments and developing cutting-edge de-risking instruments, providing funding, and also for the medium-term capacity building focused on renewable energy finance. The role of financial and investment architects of renewable energy funding in engaging institutional investors, central banks, Ministries of finance, national development banks, and commercial banks was also highlighted.

234. Participants reiterated that in addition to being environmentally beneficial, renewables are also highly beneficial economically as renewable energy is more affordable than fossil fuel sources, creates high-quality jobs, drives economic growth, and creates opportunities to further enhance inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups, amongst others. As such, the availability of sound financial instruments, including concessional funds with local financing institutions, credit guarantees for enterprises, green bonds, pension funds and safeguard assessment methodologies to ensure bankable projects, were provided as concrete suggestions for scaling up financial investments. Participants encouraged IRENA to continue its leadership on the energy transition and investment facilitation in the context of post-COVID response and recovery, and the objective to build back better, greener and more resilient, leaving no one behind.

235. Participants strongly supported the Agency's initiatives and guidance provided by Members and welcomed further discussion on scaling up finance for renewables during the forthcoming Council and related meetings. Participants commended IRENA for continuing to forge bilateral

and multilateral partnerships across sectors and geographies, and highlighted the continued importance of partnerships in building a green, inclusive, and resilient future, with an emphasis on bringing together all actors along the renewable energy value chain, including regulators, development finance institutions, commercial capital providers, off-takers, and developers. Ms Freiburghaus conveyed that participants welcomed the growing realisation by Ministries of finance and central banks on their role in supporting renewables by boosting a conducive financial system that includes green bonds, credit supply, and lowering the risk of green assets.

236. Ms Freiburghaus conveyed that the participants encouraged IRENA to continue to deliver its current capabilities on providing demand-driven investment facilitation services for renewable energy to all Members, requested that IRENA further enhances capabilities for investment facilitation to adequately accommodate Members' requests and recommended more intense engagement with the Agency to request and supplement services for investment facilitation.

Report from the Ministerial plenary meeting on Renewables and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality - Innovation, Green Hydrogen, and Socioeconomic Policies

237. H.E. Mr Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates reported on the Ministerial plenary meeting, attended by Ministers and senior policy makers from over twenty countries as well as leading industry representatives including Enel, SNAM, the Hydrogen Council and the World Economic Forum, which provided a platform to engage in a dialogue focussed on the requirements associated with achieving carbon neutrality.

238. H.E. Mr Kapoor reported on the themes reflected by participants which included the necessity to turn targets into long-term strategies, where plans were highlighted by participants. He noted that Ministers welcomed IRENA's work on the Long-Term Energy Scenarios Network and its upcoming advice on net zero transition pathways as part of the *2021 World Energy Transitions* report to be launched in March, and that participants called on IRENA to continue to play a leading role in supporting countries, exploring the technical, socioeconomic, and policy implications of energy transformation in the preparations for COP 26 later this year.

239. He conveyed the broad consensus that renewable power will form the backbone of energy transition plans, as well as the important role of molecules from biomass and hydrogen. Some participants outlining green hydrogen's potential as a vector of broadening the use of renewables and opening up solutions for some hard-to-decarbonise sectors. He mentioned that a common view was that there is significant potential through both public and private sector actions to reduce costs and scale up green hydrogen production. Participants highlighted the need for further systemic innovation, including on new solutions for industry and transport and they noted that IRENA's innovation programme is supporting this goal, including through the biennial IRENA Innovation Weeks and the upcoming Innovation Landscape Report on the renewable electrification of end-of-use sectors.

240. H.E. Mr Kapoor conveyed that participants emphasised the importance of closer international collaboration between governments and industry and on the cross-border nature of many challenges, the need for closer collaboration on enabling conditions, such as trade, green fuels and common standards, and that participants strongly recommended the inclusive Collaborative Frameworks, including that on Green Hydrogen, to drive public-private action. In conclusion, he conveyed that participants recognised that the pathway to carbon neutrality is a massive challenge that requires rapid and sustained action on multiple fronts, with a clear mandate for IRENA to continue its leading role in supporting the development of net zero strategies, addressing enabling conditions and convening the global community to ensure that Members can deliver a just and inclusive transition.

Report from the Ministerial plenary meeting on Driving the Agenda for Energising Healthcare

241. H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedraogo, Minister of Energy of Burkina Faso, reported on the Ministerial plenary meeting, attended by Ministers and High-level representatives from renewable energy and health sectors, which provided a platform to engage in a dialogue focussed on the critical role of energy for electrifying healthcare facilities.

242. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that participants shared their experiences on the deployment of off-grid renewable energy solutions to provide reliable and clean electricity to health centres, particularly in remote and rural communities. The participants expressed how the nexus between renewable energy and healthcare services requires an even greater importance during the ongoing pandemic and how it can help health systems to fight against the spread of COVID-19, particularly by reinforcing the energy needs for vaccine storage and distribution. He conveyed that the participants emphasised key actions needed by governments and partners to move the agenda forward, noting that nations need to adapt a nexus approach, looking at energy in the context of health systems, water and sanitation, air pollution and climate, and promote multi-sectoral collaboration. The discussion also highlighted that public investment is essential to support widespread electrification of healthcare facilities and requires a range of efforts for market activation. He informed that participants stressed the importance of efficient channelling of donors' money to complement public funding, and of enabling regulatory framework, investment risk coverage, and technological innovation to address access to energy in social sectors. Another key action that was emphasised is for the electrification of healthcare systems to be viewed as a holistic process instead of focusing on single elements of the health value chain, with efforts aimed at deploying renewable energy solutions to enable vaccine cold chain, for example, needing to be scaled up and integrated within a wider effort toward greening and powering health care facilities. Participants noted that renewable energy, particularly solar PV, is an optimal solution for unelectrified facilities and facilities with unreliable supply. Furthermore, technological innovations such as improved battery storage, greater efficiency of medical appliances, as well as more thought-out redistribution of spare electricity can multiply the results. Lastly, he informed that increasing the quality of the data is a vital step for informing decision-makers and spurring greater resource mobilisation and more robust electrification strategies, as noted by the participants.

243. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo further conveyed that participants called for IRENA to continue to effectively engage with both the energy and health communities to support renewable electrification of health clinics, particularly those in remote and rural areas. He reiterated that the participants expressed a keen interest in deepening collaboration with IRENA on the nexus of renewable energy and priority sectors such as healthcare, food and water.

Report from the 2021 Legislators Forum

244. H.E. Dr Kandeh Yumkella, Member of Parliament of Sierra Leone, reported on the 2021 IRENA Legislators Forum where over one hundred members of Parliaments representing over fifty countries were engaged in a dialogue on "Parliamentary actions to scale up renewable investments: Renewable energy as an enabler of services".

245. H.E. Dr Yumkella informed that very early into the discussion, the access to modern and sustainable energy services was identified as an area of high concern and deliberation considering the current global health and economic crisis. This prompted the discussants to explore short- and medium-term actions that members of Parliament can promote to mobilise and increase investments in the renewable energy sector, both at national and sub-national levels.

246. H.E. Dr Yumkella emphasised that participants in the Legislators Forum renewed their commitment as parliamentarians to promote the deployment of renewable energy projects and to support the scale up of renewable investments to further accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change. He reported that the participants agreed to set goals of enabling a cleaner, more efficient, and greener future for their countries whilst recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, with legislators also expressing the need and appreciation for the role of IRENA in enabling national legislative and policy frameworks that support the deployment of renewable energy.

247. H.E. Dr Yumkella reported that the participating parliamentarians welcomed the suite of project facilitation services developed by IRENA as toolsets to support countries with their energy transitions and to overcome the challenges encountered when securing investments for renewable energy. He further highlighted that participants recognised the need for multilateral partners to support countries in systematically and coherently addressing barriers to the achievement of a steady pipeline of investor-ready and scalable projects while also acknowledging the opportunities that renewables can bring, especially in the current time and situation. Adding that participants emphasised that the shift to renewable-based energy systems requires the need to mobilise capital from institutional investors, he noted examples that were discussed such as pension plans, insurance companies, sovereign wealth funds, foundations, endowments, as well as private actors.

248. H.E. Dr Yumkella reported that parliamentarians highlighted that public funds must prioritise investments to drive a wider structural shift and foster national and regional energy transition strategies, as a decisive step in building resilient economies and societies. In this regard, members of Parliament encouraged IRENA to further support dialogue and cooperation with parliamentarians and parliamentary associations, including regional and global interparliamentary associations, and facilitate such collaborations to accelerate energy transitions.

249. In concluding, H.E. Dr Yumkella announced that the attending parliamentarians at the sixth IRENA Legislators Forum welcomed the Forum as an effective platform to facilitate a sustained and continued dialogue between IRENA and parliamentarians and across parliamentary organisation associations, adding that they echoed their support for such dialogues to promote the formulation of evidence-based policies and mechanisms.

Report from the 2021 IRENA Youth Forum

250. Ms Kervelle Baird, a young professional from Trinidad and Tobago, reported on the second IRENA Youth Forum, which gathered 350 young people from over 80 countries to engage in dialogue on ‘Promoting an Inclusive and Just Energy Transition’.

251. Ms Baird reported that the Youth Forum and its three preparatory working group meetings underscored the importance of clean energy in achieving fundamental rights to a healthy society and climate, with inadequate access to energy being a barrier to ending the current pandemic, particularly given its effect on the effective and efficient storage and distribution of vaccines. She further reported that the Forum acknowledged that universal access to clean energy through renewables is paramount and can be attained through a just and fair energy transition and recognised the importance of organisations working together and engaging young people, especially through initiatives such as the Health and Energy Platform for Action (HEPA).

252. She reported that young participants emphasised that the energy transition presents an opportunity for the youth to refine their skills, enabling them to accept new roles as energy professionals, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and leaders, which requires governments and industries to prioritise skill building for the youth, women, and marginalised groups. Participants also stressed that education serves as a foundation to continue to develop the necessary skills and that governments must provide skills training to meet the needs of their society, including those related to the energy transition.

253. Ms Baird noted that participants in the IRENA Youth Forum acknowledged that renewable energy studies should be an integral component of modern curricula as this generation of youth has proven to be innovative, entrepreneurial, and well-versed in technological knowledge. In this regard, it was noted by participants that governments should facilitate youth involvement in solving challenges through entrepreneurship, such as by helping local start-ups compete with international developers and providing micro credits, while also recognising the need to facilitate initiatives such as energy clubs, energy hackathons, youth energy awards, mentorships, calls for proposals, incubators, and accelerators which are needed to support the development of start-ups and young peoples' entrepreneurial journeys. In the same vein, apprenticeships, internships, and entry-level positions were noted as crucial to build the skills of the youth through work experience.

254. She conveyed that participants recognised that young people have a relevant role in accelerating the energy transition as they have taken action and mobilised, as demonstrated by the geographic diversity of academic institutions, advocacy groups, and start-ups represented at the IRENA Youth Forum. She highlighted that participants urged IRENA to continue to promote the IRENA Youth Forum as an inclusive platform and emphasised the need to ensure continuous and meaningful engagement of the new generation of decision-makers in developing plans and making recommendations for action, considering IRENA's role as the lead intergovernmental organisation to promote renewable energy and support countries in their energy transition.

255. In conclusion, Ms Baird acknowledged and appreciated the youth engagement work that has been championed by IRENA at a time of great change and uncertainty and added that the youth are committed and look forward to continuing the central work for the future of the energy transition and its impact on global prosperity.

Report from the 2021 Public-Private Dialogue

256. Mr Adam Bruce, Global Head of Corporate Affairs at Mainstream Renewable Power reported on the Public-Private Dialogue, attended by IRENA Members, members of the IRENA Coalition for Action, Legislators and other stakeholders.

257. Mr Bruce thanked IRENA and its Members for the provision of the Coalition for Action platform in which non-state actors can share experiences. He highlighted that the Coalition's membership of over 110 includes private companies, industry associations, civil society, and research institutions and reflects the growing interest from renewable energy actors to engage with IRENA and its Members.

258. He reported that whilst the pandemic posed immediate challenges for the renewable energy sector, it also fostered innovation in the industry and demonstrated the strong resilience of renewables compared to fossil fuels, confirming the urgent need to accelerate the energy transformation. He noted that although many countries have taken important steps to further accelerate the transition to a renewables-based energy system by announcing more ambitious policies and measures, including net zero emission targets and green recovery programmes, the Coalition remains concerned that many others have yet to act decisively, and achieving a successful transformation requires governments and the entire energy industry to be on board.

259. He highlighted key outcomes from the Dialogue, including evidence that COVID-19 has brought forward peak oil demand and a policy reset in many countries. However, to date more than half of the total stimulus funds allocated to the energy sector have gone to fossil fuels, which is a deeply sub-optimal use of scarce resources that run the risk of becoming quickly stranded.

260. Mr Bruce further emphasised that financial markets reflecting the investor appetite have increasingly shifted towards renewables and that the global investment community is divesting from fossil fuels, sending a clear signal of where the future of energy lies. He called on governments

to implement decisive and consistent policies to leverage this investment and accelerate the transition through the adoption of forward-looking market design. He reported that the dialogue deduced that the delay of the energy transition risks not only leading to stranded assets but also stranded workers, that a just transition requires governments and the private sector to work together to ensure that workers and communities are not left behind, and that an accelerated transition that is fair and just can be achieved given the right policy framework. He noted that for every million dollars invested in renewables three times the number of jobs is created compared to the same amount invested in fossil fuels.

261. Mr Bruce conveyed that it was acknowledged through the dialogue that 2020 was a gamechanger for the global renewable energy sector and that the sector is more than ready to invest and deliver and advised that the opportunity to achieve a green recovery and accelerate the energy transition should be seized by all, together.

Report from the Dialogue on the joint Ministerial Meeting between the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Energy

262. H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA, reported on the summit and dialogue meetings that took place during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, which was attended by Ministers, private sector representatives, executives and youth, with one thousand delegates and forty speakers.

263. The meeting was co-hosted by the United Nations, IRENA, and the United Arab Emirates and marked the start of the preparatory processes to ensure coherence across international platforms for the two summits that will take place in September in New York.

264. H.E. Dr Al-Hosany reported that the agriculture sector accounts for nearly one-third of all energy consumed and 25% of global emissions, whilst the lack of energy access undermines food production and security, notably for the 500 million smallholder farms worldwide and 2.8 billion people without clean cooking access, with the lack of reliable cold chain being responsible for 23% of food losses in emerging economies. She reported that participants in the Ministerial meetings made concrete proposals on potential summit outcomes with simultaneous food, energy and climate benefits, for which a full list will be compiled and circulated to IRENA and UN delegates. She noted that some of the proposals include connecting every agro-processing facility in Sub-Saharan Africa to renewable energy by 2030, a doubling of research and development efforts on climate smart agriculture within five years, increase of food yield by 30% by 2030 without increased carbon emissions, including through indoor farming powered by renewable energy, achieving carbon neutrality of the fertilizers industry by 2040, expansion of pilot initiatives that offer financial rewards and carbon credits for small farmers who adopt renewable energy, expansion of direct application of geothermal power to food production and processing, raising an additional USD 10 billion of investment in three years for sustainable access with energy and carbon benefits, 50% reduction of post-harvest food loss by 2030 facilitated by prioritisation of distributed renewables in areas with high loss rates, building a network of centres of excellence for coal chain, mainstreaming targets for reducing post-harvest food loss into nationally determined contributions, earmarking 50% of funding for women-led projects and 30% for youth-led projects, and establishing food-energy collaboration accelerators in 10 countries in two years.

265. She acknowledged that to achieve these proposals, participants emphasised the importance of enabling policies, tailored financing schemes for SMEs and consumers, fostering technology, delivering modern innovation, strengthening public-private partnerships, deepening cross-sector collaborations and knowledge sharing, and ensuring engagement of women, youth, and indigenous communities ensuring that no one is left behind. The co-hosts announced that they are forming a small working group to ensure coordination on joint food-energy outcomes for the summits in September, as well as for COP 26 in November.

266. The Assembly received, with appreciation, and took note of the reports provided.

Agenda Item 11: Establishment of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition (A/11/4)

267. The President, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera presided and invited the Chair of the Council to present his report under this agenda item.

268. H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedrago, in his capacity as Chair of the nineteenth and twentieth Council presented the proposal on the establishment of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition, noting that at the nineteenth and twentieth meetings of the Council and related programmatic discussions, the dialogue on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency to intensify efforts and strengthen international collaboration and cooperation in support of a rapid global energy transition, and the urgent need to ensure universal access to energy for simple and basic needs, to meet health standards and requirements to keep populations safe. He highlighted that the pandemic emphasised the duty of Members to act with speed towards this common objective.

269. He acknowledged that Members have recognised the requirement for global leadership and commitment to maintain political momentum toward effective post-COVID recovery in support of the energy transition and in line with achieving sustainable development goals and commitments under the Paris Agreement, which has reinforced the importance of taking the discussion on the energy transition to the next level and mobilising political momentum across the globe with the well-placed support of IRENA. He advised Heads of States, Ministers and national and regional representatives to leverage the near-universal Membership and convening power of IRENA, place the energy transition at the heart of recovery efforts and recognise that this is a collective effort.

270. He conveyed that his proposal for the establishment of an open-ended Global High-level Forum dedicated to the energy transition was endorsed by the Council, in the recognition that enacting widespread and far-reaching change requires a dedicated space for an open and impactful discussion, for leaders to talk about the needs, challenges, and opportunities in accelerating the energy transition in support of societies and economies, for dialogues with experts, academia, the private sector, and relevant actors who can support the realization of shared goals, for concerted action on the aspirations for people worldwide and concerted focus on how to make it happen as quickly as possible. He noted the shift in discussions following the pandemic, from when the energy transition may be achieved to how soon this collective aspiration can be achieved.

271. In identifying the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition as an important occasion to help chart the course towards a bright future that is sustainable, climate safe and full of promise, he expressed his gratitude to the members of the Council for their endorsement of this proposal, and to all Members for their continued support. He invited Uganda, as President of the tenth Assembly, to share insight on the initiative.

272. Mr Michael Ahimbisibwe reiterated the support of Uganda, in its capacity as the President of the 10th Assembly, for the establishment of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition and noted the endorsement of the Council and the strong support of Members as testament to the community spirit displayed by Members and willingness to collaborate with one another on collective aspirations. He outlined that Uganda seeks to increase access to energy and establish a framework to enable serving as many communities as possible, including using large and small energy systems for a variety of purposes, and highlighted the opportunity that such a Forum will provide to discuss the energy transition at a high level and broaden the scope of discussions to achieve energy transition aims as quickly as possible, for the benefit of societies and economies and for the current and future generations.

273. In acknowledging IRENA's near-universal Membership he noted that, although at different levels of development, it is diversity that connects Members and allows the understanding of different needs and priorities, sharing of best practices, and learning from different experiences to motivate one another toward a common goal and come together and discuss solutions to the challenges faced by global leaders. Mr Ahimbisibwe emphasised that the opportunities presented by the energy transition are boundless for policy makers, economies and societies, and most importantly, boundless for humanity as a whole. He further emphasised that the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition will raise ambitions to new heights and lead to abundance across all continents, providing benefits and welfare gains to all people from the islands to the mountains, and he noted that Members are poised to take discussions on the energy transition to the next level through this Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition as they leverage the collaborative and inclusive nature of the IRENA platform in mobilising political momentum and achieving the vision an accelerated and effective energy transition for people, nations, regions, and the global community, and for humanity as a whole.

274. He affirmed that Uganda stands ready to assist Spain in the deliberations of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition, including providing facilitation and support, as required.

275. The endorsement of the proposal was further supported by delegates of the Assembly.

276. The Director-General congratulated Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Spain for their efforts in creating the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition and appreciated the strong support from Members, emphasising close and continuous engagement as critical for the success of the IRENA mission. He acknowledged that the efforts of the Council were abundantly affirmed in the deliberations of the Assembly, identifying that concerted cooperation and regular interaction are essential elements to forge a lasting change in the energy transition, reiterating that IRENA is the result of Members' strong wish to exchange and share experience and shape common strategies.

277. At a time when countries are managing multiple priorities and crises, the Director-General noted that the Global High-level Forum will help maintain political momentum, amplify efforts, and stimulate common action. He reiterated IRENA's support to all Members to accelerate a just energy transition and transformational change and he further reiterated that IRENA shall continue to shape the global energy discourse that future generations will be proud of to live with universal and affordable access to sustainable energy, a more just and equal united world that is resilient and prosperous.

278. The President, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera stressed the importance of maintaining synergies between the work of the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition and other existing global initiatives, promoting dialogue, experience, strengths, and fostering increased ambition in the domains of energy and climate action, noting that there are various complementary initiatives such as the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy and the Energy Transition Council established in the run-up to COP 26 by the incoming COP Presidency. She underscored that working in a coordinated fashion will be key to ensuring a united direction and that the Global High-level Forum will be particularly instrumental to position IRENA as the world-wide reference on the energy transition.

279. The Assembly took note, with appreciation, of the proposal recommended by the Council and decided to establish the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition and its terms of reference.

Agenda Item 12: Report of the Chair of the Council

280. The President, H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera invited the Chair of the Council to present his report under this agenda item.

281. H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso, in his capacity as Chair of the nineteenth and twentieth Council, highlighted that the Council continues to provide a necessary platform for Members to shape the agency's work and that the Council's primary task is to support the work of the Assembly and the work of IRENA in general by facilitating consultation and cooperation among Members in preparing for each Assembly session. He acknowledged that 2020 presented a particularly unique situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic which demanded quick adaptation to the new way of conducting professional and personal affairs and as such, the Council held its 19th and 20th meetings back-to-back in a virtual setting from 3-4 November 2020.

282. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported on the activities of the Council during 2020 and referred delegations the draft summary reports contained in documents C/19/SR/L1 and C/20/SR/L1.

283. He recalled that the programmatic discussions at the Council meetings in 2020 included 'Energy transition policies to maximise socioeconomic benefits' and 'Accelerating the Energy Transition through Integrated Project Facilitation Support'. He confirmed that discussions related to the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021 verified that IRENA's activities remain in high demand and that all Members expect and look forward to the Agency maintaining the same level of output, quality, and relevance. He informed the Assembly of the initiatives of the Agency through the establishment of the Collaborative Frameworks on 'Enhancing the Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems', 'Geopolitics of Energy Transformation', 'Green Hydrogen', 'Hydropower' and 'Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables', and informed that the work of the Agency in the virtual meetings of the Collaborative Frameworks in 2020 was applauded by Members, noting the guiding principles and modalities for each of the Collaborative Frameworks.

284. He announced that the Council endorsed the organisation of Ministerial meetings on these important Frameworks in 2021 and that the Council recommends that the Assembly invite the Agency to convene Ministerial meetings on each of the Collaborative Frameworks in 2021, in the context of the Work Programme of the Agency.

285. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo acknowledged the support of Malaysia, represented by Mr Asdirhyme Abdul Rasib, as Vice-Chair of the 2020 Council meetings and the Members who served on the two Committees of the Council, giving special thanks to the Committee Chairs, H.E. Ms Perina Sila of Samoa and Mr Griffin Thompson of the United States of America for their essential work in assisting the Council to prepare for this Assembly session. He also thanked Cyprus for acting as Rapporteur and all members of the Council, as well as the Members that participated in the 2020 meetings for their commitment and active contribution and concluded by conveying the gratitude of Burkina Faso and Malaysia to the Council for entrusting them with the Chairmanship of the last two Council meetings.

286. **The Assembly considered and took note of the report of the Chair of the Council.**

Agenda Item 13: Administrative and Institutional matters

a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/11/5)

287. The President of the Assembly invited the Chair of Credentials Committee, the United Arab Emirates, represented by Ms Beatrix Schmuelling, to introduce the Report of the Credentials Committee (A/11/5). The Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, in respect of the representatives registered to participate in the eleventh session of the Assembly.

288. Based on its examination of credentials received, the Committee determined that, as of 19 January 2021, one hundred and four Members had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly or were represented by the competent authority and therefore, deemed to conform to the credentials' requirement.

289. The Committee also noted that six Members in attendance had not submitted credentials in the proper form and recommended that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

290. The Committee further noted that twenty-five Members with a registered delegation had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommended that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the eleventh session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials would be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

291. The Committee reiterated its recommendation from previous Reports, that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representatives, if possible, not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly, as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session.

292. The Chair of the Credentials Committee expressed her appreciation to all the Committee Members for their work and to the Secretariat for its assistance.

293. The Assembly considered and approved the Report of the Credentials Committee (A/11/5) and the recommendations therein.

b. Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (A/11/6)

294. The President invited the Chair of the Council to present the report and thanked the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr Mike Allen and the Committee members for their work.

295. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo, in his capacity as Chair of the nineteenth and twentieth Council, reported that the Committee briefed the Council on the report, which marked the closing of the selection process of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility. The Council recognised the outstanding achievement of the Facility and the Advisory Committee, chaired by Mr. Mike Allen of New Zealand. He informed that the Council took note of the Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility and submitted it to the Assembly.

296. H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, thanked the Advisory Committee, the Chair, and the Panel of Experts for their excellent work, noting that the efficient project screening process in place enabled the selection of strong projects in a timely manner. She highlighted that the evolution of the Facility permitted it to be the foundation to the Climate Investment Platform and other investment vehicles and emphasised the need for the selected projects to continue the implementation and monitoring activities, and to continue sharing the lessons learned with the Membership. H.E Dr Nawal Al-Hosany welcomed the efforts of IRENA and ADFD to explore new partnership opportunities.

297. The Assembly considered and approved the Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility (A/11/6).

c. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2019 (A/11/7)

298. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council noted the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2019, wherein no external audit recommendations were made, and that the Council further noted the consistent improvement in the financial position of the Agency. He informed that the Council took note of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2019 and submitted it to the Assembly.

299. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2019 (A/11/7).

d. Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor (A/11/8; A/11/DC/L.1)

300. The President referred the Assembly to documents A/11/8 and A/11/DC.L.1.

301. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor and the result of the technical financial proposals received and submitted it to the Assembly. He noted the draft Decision on the Appointment of an External Auditor of IRENA as presented to the Assembly for its consideration.

302. The Assembly considered and took note with appreciation the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor’ (A/11/8) and adopted the draft decision as contained in A/11/DC/L.1

e. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/11/INF/2)

303. The President referred the Assembly to document A/11/INF/2 for consideration.

304. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund and submitted it to the Assembly. He noted that the Report was updated before the Assembly to include a complete status of contributions as of 10 December 2020, with annex one containing the status of contribution of Members of the Agency, and annex two containing the status of contribution of Members with arrears reaching or exceeding the amount of their contribution for the two preceding years.

305. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund’ (A/11/INF/2).

f. Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 (A/11/9; A/11/DC/L.2)

306. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council noted that the scale of contributions will be adjusted should further Members join the Agency before the eleventh session of the Assembly. On behalf of the Council, H.E. Mr Ouedraogo welcomed Dominica and Austria to the IRENA family. He reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021, which reflects the inclusion of the two new Members, and submitted the Report to the Assembly. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo further noted that the Council presented a draft decision on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 to the Assembly for its consideration.

307. The Assembly considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 (A/11/9) and adopted the related draft decision as contained in A/11/DC/2.

308. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 as contained in A/11/9 and adopted the related draft decision as contained in A/11/DC/2.

g. Staff Provident Fund (A/11/10)

309. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the 2019 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA and submitted it to the Assembly for consideration. The Council proposed that Germany and the United Arab Emirates be appointed as the Member representatives to the Provident Fund Management Board for 2021 and 2022.

310. As proposed by the Council, the Assembly appointed Germany and the United Arab Emirates to serve as Member representatives to the Provident Fund Management Board.

311. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘2019 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’, as contained in A/11/10.

h. Staff Tenure Policy

312. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the report of the Director-General - Staff Tenure Policy (C/19/3) and informed that the Council recommended that the Assembly request further deliberations on the matter at the twenty-first meeting of the Council following the provision of further detail and an in-depth cost analysis towards the assessment of cost implications.

313. One delegation suggested a neutral evaluation of the staff regulation to be carried out by the Administration and Finance Committee to align the regulation with IRENA’s needs of excellence that are currently not met, and further suggested that IRENA establishes an annual human resources action plan to identify HR issues, propose solutions and evaluate past solutions implemented and present the plan to the Assembly on an annual basis.

314. The Assembly considered and took note of report by the Council Chair on the Staff Tenure Policy and agreed with the recommendation made by the Council.

i. Report of the Director-General on Secondment of Personnel (A/11/11)

315. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on Secondment of Personnel, containing an update to the implementation of the secondment and loan arrangements since the last report to the Assembly at its ninth session in January 2019, and submitted it to the Assembly for consideration.

316. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on Secondment of Personnel’ as contained in A/11/11.

j. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/11/12)

317. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest and submitted it to the Assembly for consideration. The Council noted that no issue emerged requiring consultation with the Ethics Advisory Board.

318. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest’ as contained in A/11/12.

k. Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS) – Mid-term Evaluation (A/11/13)

319. Delegations welcomed the findings of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS) Mid-term Evaluation, which showed that the mission and objectives of the current MTS remain valid and can effectively guide the programmatic implementation of the Work Programme for its duration.

320. Delegations underscored IRENA's role as providing strategic support, identifying policy options and facilitating matchmaking actions, noting that IRENA is not an implementing agency.

321. One delegation underlined the importance of monitoring and evaluating the impact of IRENA's work and welcomed the plans to establish a relevant framework.

322. One delegation stressed the role of the MTS as a strategic compass, assisting the Agency in pinpointing the areas of work where it can add most value by making the best use of available resources, while another delegation called for the next MTS to be anchored in immediate and long-term challenges.

323. With regard to the preparatory process for the MTS 2023-2027, delegations expressed interest in actively engaging in it. One delegation called for the process to be inclusive, while several delegations welcomed the creation of the Working Team.

324. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS) - Mid-Term Evaluation’ as contained in A/11/13 and agreed with the recommendation of the Council.

l. Note of the Director-General – Interpretation of the “Competent authority of the Member” for the purpose of issuance of credentials for participation in the sessions of the Assembly (A/11/14)

325. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council considered the Note of the Director-General on Interpretation of the “Competent authority of the Member” for the purpose of issuance of credentials for participation in the sessions of the Assembly (the Director-General’s Note).

326. He informed that the Council recommended to the Assembly to endorse the interpretation of the “competent authority” proposed in the Director-General’s Note which seeks to confirm the current practice whilst at the same time providing flexibility to Members to determine the competent authority for the issuance of credentials.

327. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Note of the Director-General on the Interpretation of the “Competent authority of the Member” for the purpose of issuance of credentials for participation in the sessions of the Assembly’ as contained in A/11/14 and agreed with the recommendation of the Council.

m. Review of the Procedure of the Selection and Appointment of the Director-General (A/11/15)

328. H.E. Mr Ouedraogo reported that the Council took note of the Review of the Procedure on the Selection and Appointment of the Director-General at the nineteenth meeting of Council and of the recommendations outlined within.

329. A delegation suggested it may be advisable to examine the process and specify how candidates will be proposed by the Council to the Assembly, to examine how potential conflict of interest could be prevented and how best to ensure gender equality through procedural regulations.

330. The Assembly considered and took note of the ‘Review of the Procedure on the Selection and Appointment of the Director-General of IRENA’ contained in document A/11/15 and the recommendations therein.

n. Council Membership for 2021-2022 (A/11/DC/L.3)

331. The President introduced the item and referred the Assembly to the draft decision on the IRENA Council membership for the year 2021-2022 and the related annex containing the proposed list of Council members for 2021-2022, as contained in A/11/DC/L.3, as submitted by Uganda, the President of the tenth session of the Assembly.

332. Uganda, represented by Mr Michael Ahimbisibwe, recalled that the two-year term of the current members of the Council ended on 31 December 2020 and to prepare for the election of the new Council for the period 2021-2022, Members were invited to express their interest in Council membership by the deadline of 31 March 2020. He announced that expressions of interest received by this date formed the basis for further consultations within each regional group and he advised that the four Vice Presidents of the tenth session of the Assembly, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Luxembourg, and Samoa supported Uganda in this process by receiving expressions of interest from Members of their respective regional groups, and facilitating consultations as necessary to reach consensus among the Members of the regional groups. He acknowledged that the regional facilitators provided updates to the Council at its 20th meeting in November 2020 on the status of the consultations among their respective groups and informed Uganda upon completion of a final proposal.

333. He thanked all the Vice Presidents for their valuable support in guiding their respective group towards a fair and equitable output as well as all Members for their inclusive and constructive participation in the process and conveyed best wishes to the new Council members in their important role over the next two years.

334. The Assembly considered, took note, and adopted the draft decision on the ‘IRENA Council membership for 2021-2022’ as contained A/11/DC/3.

Agenda Item 14: Arrangements for the twelfth session of the Assembly

335. The President noted that Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Greece expressed their interest and availability to serve as Vice Presidents of the twelfth session of the Assembly.

336. The President noted that two expressions of interest were received from Costa Rica and El Salvador to serve as President of the twelfth session of the Assembly, and informed that she will conduct consultations in the near future with the two Members with the aim of reaching a mutually harmonious decision, the results of which will be shared with the Membership.

337. The President proposed to designate Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Greece as Vice Presidents.

338. The Assembly designated by acclamation Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Greece as Vice Presidents of the twelfth session of the Assembly.

339. The President proposed 15-16 January 2022 as dates for the twelfth session of the Assembly in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

340. The Assembly decided to hold its twelfth session on 15-16 January 2022 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, prevailing circumstances permitting.

Agenda Item 15: Any other business

341. The UAE reiterated its statement made at the twentieth Council meeting and proposed the initiation of the International Renewables Day to the Assembly. She encouraged IRENA, with the support of Members, to take this proposal forward to the United Nations for adaptation, detailing that a day dedicated to renewable energy will enhance discussions between all levels of society and reaffirm the global renewable energy agenda, will drive global consensus on renewable energy by highlighting its positive impact on people's lives, their future and their wellbeing, will deepen the international cooperation that is urgently needed to facilitate access to clean energy and help achieve a low emission economy, and will provide a platform to highlight the benefits renewable energy carries and its cruciality in the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals.

342. The Assembly took note of the proposal.

Agenda Item 16: Closing of the session

343. The President advised that any Member who was unable to make a statement due to the technical constraints presented by the virtual nature of the Assembly is invited to submit a written statement to the Secretariat, and that any unresolved matter may be brought to the attention of the Membership for its consideration.

344. H.E. Ms Ribera thanked Members for the honour to chair the eleventh session of the Assembly and noted the enthusiasm and rich contributions of every participant in the discussions, and commended the interaction amongst Members and key stakeholders, including CEOs from companies and business associations, representatives from regional and multilateral bodies and international voices from the finance community and the civil society, all of whom are key players in building a different future.

345. The President highlighted the overarching messages of prime importance from the discussions at the eleventh session of the Assembly as including: (1) relevance for the energy transition to capitalise and visualise the social and economic benefits (2) the need to facilitate just transitions and to extend energy access to everyone, with no one being left behind (3) the common interest shared in strengthening cooperation between different stakeholders and different countries to remove barriers at national, regional and international levels for a swift expansion of renewables, of new markets for green hydrogen and of many new simple technologies (4) the need to bring to the forefront of policy debates around the energy transition the costs of inaction, including the climate emergency and its costs to development and prosperity (the cost of lack of food and its impacts on health) as well as increasing financial risk and stranded assets, (5) the sense of urgency in the road towards decarbonised development pathways (6) the leading role of governments in creating enabling environments, de-risking investments, and promoting the scaling up of new technologies, as well as the shared responsibilities of private companies, private investors, citizens and the society as a whole. She acknowledged the unique opportunity to put the

energy transition at the core of the post-COVID recovery plans and to leapfrog into climate neutrality, combining all possible synergies. She underscored that the Assembly was held during a year in which the energy transition is going to be at the very core of many discussions, including at the geopolitical and practical levels, regarding the type of development and prosperity that is expected for the future, with Members conveying important messages that will remain at the centre stage for a long time.

346. She emphasised that the Paris Agreement constituted a historical landmark and global turning point for the need to cooperate to face the severity of climate change, its consequences, and the responsibilities it brings, which will impact the most vulnerable if fast and adequate action is not taken. She explained that the commitment to limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius brings a measurable position, a quantification of the risk and a worldwide understanding that united action against the threat that will affect us all is needed, as it could particularly affect the most vulnerable and jeopardise quality of life and basic survival on this planet. She noted that science is unequivocal about the way to counter these consequences which span all economic, social, and environmental dimensions – the need reduce global greenhouse emissions for which renewable energy and energy efficiency are the cornerstone mitigation measures, the need to achieve climate neutrality by mid-century and reduce emissions by 45% in 2030 compared to 2010 as the IPCC has thoroughly explained in its special report in 2018. The President elaborated that much of the global greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector and it is not only a question of climate but one of fairness, of a right to achieve development and prosperity for the citizens all over the world, access to modern sources of energy, and also for the development and improvement of our economies. She stated that building new green stimulus plans for reshaping the way we understand the economy and the development of prosperity is vital, that there is no room to make a mistake, and that full advantage of the opportunities the world has must be seized as investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon technologies create a multiplier effect on the economy that is larger than the average effect of them in other economic areas.

347. The President underscored that turning the crisis into an opportunity is within reach by working together, noting that the best practices from IRENA's strong, diverse, and motivated Membership remains a good source of inspiration. She conveyed that she looks forward to continuing to make the best use of the IRENA community over the next year to set clear objectives, facilitate pathways, take decisive actions and seize the opportunities that renewable energy brings.

348. H.E. Ms Ribera thanked the Vice Presidents for their valuable contributions as well as the Members, delegations, panellists, moderators, multilateral and stakeholder partners, interpreters, and colleagues who contributed to the success of the eleventh session of the Assembly. She expressed her gratitude to the IRENA Secretariat for conducting the virtual Assembly to a successful conclusion under the trying circumstances.

349. The Director-General reflected that the discussions during the Assembly presented a resounding affirmation by Members of IRENA's lead role in the energy transition and emphasised that the success of the Agency rests on the ability for each Member to advance their energy transitions. He affirmed that delivering on the mission depends on the ability to remain closely engaged with the Membership, listen to feedback, and closely follow Members' guidance and that IRENA will continue to work alongside all Members in accelerating a just and inclusive energy transition and green recovery, noting the broad consensus on the vital role of the energy transition for recovery, acknowledged by Members as not only needing to be better but also to leading to a different energy system with renewables at the centre, guided by climate and development objectives.

350. He affirmed that IRENA will explore opportunities to support Members in translating the global investment and financing plan outlined in the [Post-COVID recovery](#) Agenda into a reality and will scale up IRENA's capabilities to facilitate investments in renewable energy projects in response to Members' calls. He noted the Agency's longstanding work on the socioeconomic footprint of energy transitions as vital to both recovery and just transition, for which IRENA will continue to shed light to the full impact of energy transition and support countries in maximising job creation, industrial development, and health benefits, amongst others. He further affirmed that the Global High-level Forum on Energy Transition will be instrumental in sustaining political momentum for energy transitions worldwide, and that IRENA looks forward to supporting the President in taking this initiative forward during this critical year.

351. He informed that IRENA was called upon to play a role in upcoming global meetings, most notably the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy, the UN Food Systems Summit and the COP 26, declaring that IRENA will ensure that a renewables-based energy transition is made prominent in the preparation for and during these meetings. He acknowledged the clear recognition of the urgency to address the climate crisis and renew momentum in the lead-up to COP 26, with Members calling on IRENA to deepen its work on climate and net zero strategy, for which IRENA will work on the priorities brought to the forefront during the discussions, including innovation towards the net zero targets, focusing on new solutions to accelerate the global energy transition. He declared that IRENA will also seek to play an active role in supporting national energy and climate constituencies in the energy transition efforts as a part of the Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategy under the Paris Agreement, and will work with partners to provide concrete support on implementation, mobilising financing, and building capacity in countries.

352. The Director-General reflected that the pandemic underscored the vulnerability of existing systems and served as a reminder on the imperative of staying on track to realise sustainable development goals. He noted that universal access to affordable and reliable energy services must remain a key focus area and that supporting those most in need, particularly LDCs and SIDS, remains one of IRENA's priorities. He highlighted the importance of targeted technical assistance, financing support in the energy transition, and the need for ensuring complementarities with existing initiatives, noting that IRENA will continue to chart efficient ways forward as work continues on encouraging green investment, including through the Climate Investment Platform and a new project financing facility, with strong partnerships being essential. He reiterated that IRENA will work with all key stakeholders to play a part in transforming the global energy system.

353. He referred to the Assembly's reiteration of the importance of including the private sector and its essential role in realising energy transitions, as well as the importance of ensuring that oil and gas companies transition to clean energy, as detailed in the [Global Renewables Outlook](#) and the [post-COVID recovery](#) reports. Noting that the Collaborative Frameworks can provide an effective platform for public-private cooperation in this regard, he expressed his gratitude to Members and key stakeholders for their unequivocal support for the Collaborative Frameworks and affirmed that IRENA looks forward to organising the proposed Ministerial meetings.

354. In closing, the Director-General thanked H.E Ms Ribera for her able leadership in chairing the meetings and steering the discussions at the eleventh session of the Assembly. He also thanked IRENA staff for their hard work and dedication, the UAE as host country and Germany as the host of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn. He expressed his appreciation to the Membership for their strong engagement and collaboration, as well as their patience and understanding in the limitations imposed by the virtual nature of the session.

355. The President declared the eleventh session of the Assembly closed.

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18 – 21 January 2021

Provisional Agenda

Plenary

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Organisation of work**
 - a. Election of officials
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
 - c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - d. Participation of Observers
3. **Host country and other opening remarks**
4. **High-Level Panel on Energy Transition for Sustainable Post-Covid Recovery**
5. **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021**
6. **Ministerial plenary meeting: National Energy Planning and Implementation for Fostering Energy Transition**
7. **Ministerial plenary meeting: Scaling up Finance for Renewables**
8. **Ministerial plenary meeting: Renewables and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality - Innovation, Green Hydrogen and Socioeconomic Policies**
9. **Ministerial plenary meeting: Driving the Agenda for Energising Healthcare**
10. **Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events**
11. **Establishment of the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition**
12. **Report of the Chair of the Council**
13. **Administrative and Institutional matters**
 - a. Report of the Credentials Committee
 - b. Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility

- c. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2019
- d. Report of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor
- e. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund
- f. Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021
- g. Staff Provident Fund
- h. Report of the Director-General – Staff Tenure Policy
- i. Report of the Director-General on Secondment of personnel
- j. Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest
- k. Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022 (MTS) – Mid-term Evaluation
- l. Note of the Director-General – Interpretation of the “Competent authority of the Member” for the purpose of issuance of credentials for participation in the meetings of the Assembly
- m. Review of the Procedure on the Selection and Appointment of the Director-General
- n. Council Membership for 2021-2022

14. Arrangements for the twelfth session of the Assembly

15. Any other business

16. Closing of the meeting

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18–21 January 2021

List of applicants for observer status at the eleventh session of the IRENA Assembly

IRENA Signatories / States in Accession

1. Brazil
2. Cambodia
3. Central African Republic
4. Chile
5. Honduras
6. Madagascar
7. Malawi
8. Papua New Guinea
9. United Republic of Tanzania

Others

1. Aalamaram
2. Abibinsroma Foundation
3. ACAML
4. ACCESS Coalition
5. ACCIONA
6. ADET Togo
7. Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
8. AFPG
9. Africa GreenCo
10. Africa Middle East Asia Power (AMEA Power)
11. Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
12. African Biofuel and Renewable Energy Company
13. African Development Bank Group
14. African Union Commission
15. African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDU-NEPAD)
16. Alectris
17. ALER
18. All On
19. Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
20. Alternative Energy Pty Ltd
21. Aman Welfare Health and Educational Society
22. APALAC Coalition
23. Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund (R2E2 Fund)
24. Armenian National Interests Fund
25. ASEAN Centre for Energy
26. Ashden India
27. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
28. Asian Institute of Technology
29. Asociación de Combustibles Renovables de Guatemala

30. Association Burkinabè pour la Survie de l'Enfance (ABSE)
31. Association for Promotion Sustainable Development
32. ATEC Australia International Ltd
33. AWE African Development
34. BASF
35. BCG
36. Brazilian Solar Photovoltaic Energy Association (ABSOLAR)
37. British Petroleum
38. Brookings Institution
39. Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft e.V. (BSW)
40. Business Innovation Research
41. Cader (Camara Argentina de Energia Renovable)
42. Cadire Cameroon Association
43. Caez Muñoz Mejia Abogados
44. Camas y Blancos
45. CANEUS
46. CapSol Partners GMBh
47. Carbone Guinée
48. Carbon Tracker
49. CareClix
50. Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
51. Caribbean Development Bank
52. CARILEC
53. Cassa Depositi e Prestiti
54. CCREEE
55. CEEW
56. Central African Power Pool
57. Cepel/Electrobras
58. CERN
59. CeSI
60. China Electric Power Research Institute
61. China National Renewable Energy Centre
62. China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute
63. China University for Mining and Technology – Beijing
64. Clean Cooking Alliance
65. Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC)
66. Clean Energy Ministerial Secretariat
67. Climate Action Network International
68. Climate Change and Development Authority
69. Climate Institute
70. Clime Capital Management Pte Ltd
71. Clinton Health Access Initiative
72. CNN
73. COFIDES
74. Columbia University
75. Commission for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
76. Congolese Association for Agricultural Development (ACDA)
77. Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency
78. Cornell University
79. CoronaNet Research Project
80. CRU International
81. Danish Energy Agency
82. Delft University of Technology

83. Desert Technologies
84. Dii Desert Energy
85. DNV GL
86. Dubai Carbon
87. Dutch Foundations
88. East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE)
89. Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP)
90. Ecologic Institute
91. Ecology Africa Foundation
92. Economic Commission for Africa
93. ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
94. ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
95. EDP Distribuição
96. Educating Girls and Young Women for Development (EGYD)
97. EEM Consulting
98. EGEC Geothermal
99. Emirates Environmental Group
100. Enda Third World/Enda Energy
101. ENEL Green Power
102. ENEL S.p.A
103. Energy Action Partners
104. Energy and Climate Branch, Economy Division
105. Energy Community Secretariat
106. Energy Research Institute
107. Energy Watch Group
108. Energy Lab Zimbabwe
109. Energyneering Zimbabwe
110. Engage Infrastructures Ltd
111. Engie Group
112. Eni SpA
113. Enrupt
114. Envipower Energy and Fertilizer Pvt Ltd
115. EPDA
116. Escarus TSKB
117. ETA Florence Renewable Energies
118. ETA Srl
119. Eternum Energy
120. EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network
121. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
122. European Climate Foundation
123. European Heat Pump Association
124. European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
125. European University Institute
126. EVRoaming Foundation
127. Experto Pais
128. Factor Ideas Integral Services
129. Falck Renewables
130. Federation of Cooperatives of Mayoko Countries (FECOPAM)
131. FedP3 LLC
132. Fiocruz
133. Finergreen
134. Fiocruz
135. First Abu Dhabi Bank

136. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
137. FOSG
138. Fraunhofer ISE
139. French Association of Geothermal Professionals (AFPG)
140. Gaiadoc
141. Gatop Workshop
142. GAVI
143. Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
144. GE Renewable Energy
145. Geothermal Canada
146. Geothermal Power Plant Investors' Association (JESDER)
147. Geothermal Rising
148. German Citizen Energy Alliance (Bündnis Bürgerenergie e.V.)
149. Ghent University
150. GIZ
151. Global Access Partner
152. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
153. Global Practice Energy and Extractives (GEE) – World Bank
154. Global Solar Council
155. Global Vision India Foundation
156. Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
157. Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)
158. GPPRD
159. Graded SpA
160. Grameen Shakti
161. Green Energy Technology
162. Green School
163. Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc
164. Hālig-Partners
165. HD Fotovoltaica
166. Hivos
167. Hydro Empowerment Network
168. Hydrogen Council
169. Hyundai Global Service
170. Iberdrola
171. Iceland Renewable Energy Cluster
172. Ideal Quality Networks
173. IFAD
174. Ignite Power
175. India-UK Development Partnership Forum
176. Indonesia Electrical Power Society (MKI)
177. INNIO Power
178. Innovea Development Foundation
179. Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies
180. Institution of Engineers
181. Instituto Andino y Amazónico de Derecho Ambiental (IAADA)
182. INTEGER Ltd
183. Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
184. International Association for Energy Economics /Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
185. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
186. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
187. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
188. International Council of Environmental Law

189. International Energy Agency (IEA)
190. International Energy Charter
191. International Energy Forum (IEF)
192. International Energy Transition (IET)
193. International Finance Corporation
194. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
195. International Geothermal Association (IGA)
196. International Hydropower Association
197. International Institute for Applied System Analysis
198. International Solar Alliance
199. International Solar Energy Society
200. International Sustainable Development Institute
201. International Trade Union Confederation
202. International Tribal Alliance for Community Development and Environmental Restoration
203. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
204. International Windship Association (IWSA)
205. Institut de Recherche en Energie Solaire et Energies Nouvelles (IRESEN)
206. Iran Renewable Energy Association
207. Islamic Development Bank
208. Ivera Consulting
209. Japan International Cooperation Agency
210. JESDER
211. Justandout
212. Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil
213. Kathak Academy, Special Consultative Status (ECOSOC)
214. Khalifa University
215. King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
216. KNUST
217. KTH Royal Institute of Technology
218. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)
219. League of Arab States
220. Legislators Forum (IRENA Legislators Forum 2021)
221. LeoVera
222. Life Purpose Center e.V
223. Magellan Global
224. Magyar Nemzeti Bank
225. Mainstream Renewable Power
226. Masdar
227. MAUSAM Movement for Advancing Understanding of Sustainability and Mutuality
228. McDonough Innovation
229. MERELEC
230. MERE-SAUWIA
231. MESIA
232. MIT Energy Initiative
233. Moi University
234. Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (Masen)
235. Mujeres En Energia Renovable Mexico AC
236. Mustapha Danjuma & Co
237. Namibia Energy Institute
238. National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations of Liberia (NACCSOL)
239. National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL)
240. National Solar Energy Federation of India
241. National University of Tumbes

242. NDC Partnership
243. Netherlands Wind Energy Association
244. Network for Promotion of Agriculture and Environmental Studies
245. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
246. New Energy Nexus
247. Nuvve
248. Nyala Indonesia
249. NYU Center for Global Affairs
250. Ocean Energy Europe
251. Oceans and Sky-Blue Venture
252. OLADE
253. ONS Foundation
254. OPEC Fund for International Development
255. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission
256. Ørsted
257. Oxford Policy Management
258. Pacific Community
259. Pacific Islands Development Forum
260. Panyapiwat Institute of Management
261. Phanes Group
262. Politecnico di Torino
263. Population Education Resource Centre (PERC)
264. Power Africa (USAID)
265. Power for All
266. Power Futures Lab
267. Practical Action Foundation
268. PriVida Power Limited
269. ProSun
270. Public Policy Studies Institute
271. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
272. Reboot Philippines
273. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
274. Regional Energy Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA)
275. REN21
276. Renewable Energy Institute, Tokyo
277. Renewables-Grid Initiative (RGI)
278. RES4Africa Foundation
279. Rocky Mountain Institute
280. RTI International
281. Russian Energy Agency
282. Rystad Energy
283. SACREEE
284. SADC Secretariat
285. Sahelia Solar
286. Salvadorian Chamber of Industry (ASI)
287. SB Energy Corp
288. Sciences Po
289. SDG7 Youth Constituency
290. Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
291. SELCO Foundation
292. Self Employed Women's Association
293. Senado de la Republica en Mexico
294. SER - French Renewable Energy Association

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295. Ser Colombia
 296. Shizen Energy
 297. SHURA Energy Transition Center
 298. Siemens Energy LLC
 299. Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy
 300. Simon Fraser University – School of Sustainable Energy Engineering
 301. Sindicatum
 302. SkyPower Global
 303. Snam
 304. Society of Renewable Energy
 305. Solar Energy Cluster
 306. SolarPower Europe
 307. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 308. Southeast Asian Energy Transition Partnership
 309. Southern African Power Pool
 310. SPACE10
 311. State Grid Corporation of China
 312. State Grid Energy Research Institute
 313. State Polytechnic of Jakarta
 314. Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
 315. Stockholm Environment Institute
 316. Student Energy
 317. Sunna Design
 318. Sustainable Energy for All
 319. Swift Consulting Engineers Ltd
 320. Swiss Business School
 321. Syarikat Dy Hj Napsiah Sdn Bhd
 322. Synergy Consulting
 323. Syrian Environment Protection Society (SEPS)
 324. Technische Universitat Berlin
 325. The Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator
 326. The Central Bank of Hungary
 327. The Energy and Resources Institute
 328. The Fletcher School, Tufts University
 329. The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan
 330. The Redemption Health Foundation for Sustainable Rural Development and Conservation
 331. The Rockefeller Foundation
 332. The University of Tokyo
 333. The World Bank
 334. TiLT Capital
 335. Total
 336. Tottori Resource Recycling, Inc
 337. Toyota
 338. TSKB
 339. TU Delft Global Initiative
 340. Turkish Wind Energy Association (TUREB)
 341. UN Chief Executive Board
 342. UN Office of the President of the General Assembly
 343. UN SDGs Professional Support Group for Africa
 344. U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
 345. Ukrainian Wind Energy Association
 346. Union for the Mediterranean
 347. United Nations

348. United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (UNIDEP)
349. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
350. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
351. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
352. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
353. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
354. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
355. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
356. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
357. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
358. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
359. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
360. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
361. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
362. United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY)
363. United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
364. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
365. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
366. United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)
367. United Voices to Serve Forest and Environment (USFE)
368. Universidad de Chile
369. University of Brazil
370. University of British Columbia
371. University of Cambridge
372. University of Roma³
373. University of Southampton
374. University of Sussex
375. USAID
376. Usmanu Danfodiyo Universtity
377. Vestas Wind Systems
378. VITO Arabia LLC
379. VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.
380. Waste Netherlands
381. WaterPower Canada
382. Wien Energie
383. Wind Prospect Operations
384. World Bioenergy Association
385. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
386. World Climate Foundation
387. World Economic Forum
388. World Future Council
389. World Health Organization (WHO)
390. World Wind Energy Association
391. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
392. Yellow Door Energy
393. Yemeni Institute for Strategic Affairs
394. YIL Agence
395. Youth Forum (IRENA Youth Forum 2021)
396. YPF SA
397. Yucel
398. Zayed University

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18 – 21 January 2021

Decision on the appointment of an external auditor of IRENA

The Assembly,

Recalling Article XII.C. of the IRENA Statute which provides for the Assembly to take decisions on financial matters, including on the appointment of an external auditor who shall hold office for a period of four years and who shall be eligible for re-election;

Emphasising the need to ensure that the arrangements for the annual audit take into account the international nature of the Agency, and the need to conduct an open and competitive process, open to both public audit institutions and private audit firms;

Noting that the Secretariat conducted an open and competitive procurement process in accordance with the Statute and relevant regulations to select an external auditor to audit the Financial Statements of the Agency and of the Staff Provident Fund for the period 2021 – 2024;

Having considered the Note of the Director-General on the Selection of the External Auditor contained in document A/11/8;

Decides to appoint Lochan & Co. as the external auditor to audit the annual financial statements of the International Renewable Energy Agency and of the Staff Provident Fund, for the period 2021 – 2024.

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18 – 21 January 2021

Decision on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021

The Assembly,

Recalling that the Assembly at its tenth session, through decision A/10/DC/1, adopted the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021;

Noting that, pursuant to Article XII.A.1 of the IRENA Statute, mandatory contributions of Members are based on the scale of assessments of the United Nations, as determined by the Assembly;

Further noting that the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 is based on the 2016-2018 Scale of Assessments as approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/70/245;

Noting that the Council, at its twentieth meeting, considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021, as contained in document C/20/6, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for its consideration at its eleventh session;

Bearing in mind that new Members join the Agency periodically pursuant to Article VI of the IRENA Statute, and that the IRENA Scale of Contributions is to be adjusted to account for such new membership in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.2 to 6.4;

Having considered the Report of the Director-General on the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021 as contained in document A/11/9;

Decides to adopt the Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2021, as contained in the Annex to document A/11/9, as the applicable scale of contributions for 2021.

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18-21 January 2021

Decision on the IRENA Council membership for 2021-2022

The Assembly,

Noting that, pursuant to Article IX.G.1 of the IRENA Statute, the Assembly shall, by consensus of the Members present, elect the members of the Council;

Noting further that Article X.A of the Statute states that the members of the Council shall be elected on a rotating basis as laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, with a view to ensuring effective participation of developing and developed countries and achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution and effectiveness of the Council's work;

Noting further that the election to the IRENA Council is also governed by Rules 69 and 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as contained in document A/5/5, with due regard being paid to the regional groupings set out in the annex thereto;

Recalling the decision to set 31 March 2020 as the deadline for Members to express interest in Council membership for the period 2021-2022 as a basis for further consultations as necessary;

Noting with gratitude the guidance received from the President of the tenth session of the Assembly pertaining to the overall process and *recalling* the extensive consultations conducted in the spirit of cooperation and transparency within each regional grouping between March and December 2020 by the President and four Vice-Presidents of the tenth session of the Assembly;

Commending the President and the four Vice-Presidents for their efforts to enable an inclusive and transparent consideration of the matter as well as the Members for their adherence to the procedure and deadlines and their efforts to reach agreement on Council seat allocation in a cooperative spirit;

Bearing in mind the need to ensure inclusiveness and engagement by all countries in the global effort to scale up the deployment of renewable energy and *encouraging* the Council in this context to ensure transparent and broad participation of all Members of the Agency in its work;

Decides to elect the members of the Council for 2021-2022 set out in the Annex to the present decision.

ANNEX

IRENA Council Membership for 2021-2022

2021

Members

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Colombia
4. Denmark
5. El Salvador
6. Germany
7. India
8. Japan
9. Kenya
10. Norway
11. Republic of Korea
12. Saint Lucia
13. Somalia
14. Switzerland
15. Turkey
16. Turkmenistan
17. United Arab Emirates
18. United Kingdom
19. United States of America
20. Vanuatu
21. Zimbabwe

Alternates

1. Canada
2. China
3. Cyprus
4. Dominican Republic
5. Egypt
6. Italy
7. Nigeria
8. Tuvalu
9. Uruguay

2022

Members

1. Algeria
2. Benin
3. Canada
4. Cyprus
5. Denmark
6. El Salvador
7. Germany
8. India
9. Italy
10. Japan
11. Kenya
12. Norway
13. Republic of Korea
14. Saint Lucia
15. Somalia
16. Turkmenistan
17. United Arab Emirates
18. United States of America
19. Uruguay
20. Vanuatu
21. Zimbabwe

Alternates

1. China
2. Colombia
3. Dominican Republic
4. Egypt
5. Nigeria
6. Switzerland
7. Turkey
8. Tuvalu
9. United Kingdom

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18 - 21 January 2021

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At its eleventh session the Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee consisting of the following members: Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Greece, Maldives, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

2. The Credentials Committee met on 19 January 2021. The Committee elected Ms Beatrix Schmuelling, the representative of the United Arab Emirates, as Chairperson.

3. The Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in respect of the representatives registered to participate in the eleventh session of the Assembly. The Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as of 19 January 2021.

4. The Committee determined that, as of 19 January 2021, the Members listed below had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, or were represented by the competent authority and therefore deemed to conform to the credential's requirement:

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Canada; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; Ethiopia; European Union; Fiji; Finland; France; Gambia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Ireland; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Latvia; Lebanon; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Malta; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mexico; Mozambique; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Yemen; and Zimbabwe.

5. The Committee noted that 6 Members had not submitted credentials in the proper form and recommends that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

6. The Committee noted that 25 Members with a registered delegation had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the eleventh session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials will be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

7. The Committee recommends that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representative, if possible, not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session.

8. The Committee recommends that the Assembly requests the Secretariat to issue to all IRENA Members, at least three months before each session of the Assembly and as may be needed thereafter, a reminder about the requirement to submit the credentials of their representatives in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and no later than the opening of the session.

Eleventh session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 18-21 January 2021

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Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Montevideo

H.E. Mr Alvaro Carlo Ceriani
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Fitzgerald Cantero
National Director of Energy
Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Montevideo

Ms Fiorella Prado
Second Secretary
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Bárbara El Dbeissy
Chancery Officer
Embassy of Uruguay to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

YEMEN

Mr Rami Al-Shaibani
Director General for Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Sana'a

Mr Ahmed Zaki Murshed
Director of Solar Energy Department
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Sana'a

Ms Fatima Badr
Engineer
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Sana'a

Mr Mohammed Al Awlaqi
Second Secretary
Embassy of Yemen to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

ZIMBABWE

Hon S. Zhemu
Minister
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

Ms Gloria Magombo
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

Ms Shorai Kavu
Chief Energy Development Officer
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

Mr Sosten Ziuku
Director of Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Harare

B. SIGNATORIES AND STATES IN ACCESSION

BRAZIL

H.E. Mr Bento Albuquerque
Minister
Ministry of Mines and Energy

H.E. Mr Fernando Luís Lemos Igreja
Ambassador
Embassy of Brazil to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mariana Espécie
Chief of Staff
Energy Research Office, Brasilia

Ms Clarissa Forecchi
Head of Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brasilia

Ms Tatiana Freitas
Commercial Officer
Embassy of Brazil to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

CAMBODIA

Mr Narith Bun
Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Mines and Energy, Phnom Penh

Ms Lanin Mao
Head of Office
Ministry of Mines and Energy, Phnom Penh

CHILE

H.E. Mr Jorge Daccarett
Ambassador
Embassy of Chile to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Mr Giovanni Cisternas
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of Chile to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

**UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA**

Ms Samira Bokhari
Minister Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania to UAE,
Abu Dhabi

C. OTHER COUNTRIES

HAITI

Mr Nicolas Allien
Energy Unit Coordinator
Ministry of Public Works Transportation and
Communication, Port-au-Prince