

VIRTUAL WEBINAR:

Advancing the Energy Transition in Central Asia through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies (LTS)

IT Platform: Zoom

Date: 8 July 2021, Thursday

Time: 12.00-14.00 Abu Dhabi Time / 9.00 – 11.00 UK Time

Background

In 2015, during COP 21 in Paris, the different Parties agreed to pursue their best efforts to maintain the global temperature increase well below two degrees Celsius, or even further at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Parties committed themselves to achieve these long-term climate goals through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies.

Emissions from the energy sector account for around two-thirds of the global greenhouse gas emissions. However, IRENA estimates that by 2050 the accelerated deployment of renewables and the implementation of energy efficiency strategies can potentially achieve 90% of the required emissions reductions. Thus, summing up efforts to decarbonise the global energy systems is vital to meet the climate mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.

Central Asia has a great variety of renewable energy resources but in many cases still largely untapped. While hydropower makes an important contribution to the energy mix in Central Asia, vast resources for biomass, wind and solar energy could also be harnessed to help provide the region with clean, indigenous, cost-effective and sustainable energy supply. As expressed in the *Astana Communiqué on Accelerating the Uptake of Renewables in Central Asia*, Central Asian countries are committed to scaling up all forms of renewable energy in line with adopted targets extending to 2030 and beyond. The economic recovery that follows COVID pandemic provides a key opportunity to build back a more sustainable and climate-resilient economy and society. Therefore, aligning each government recovery plans with the Paris Agreement objectives and Low Emission Development Strategies can help accelerate this sustainable energy transition in the region.

Subsequent to the first round of NDC submissions, IRENA in collaboration with UK COP26 Presidency, has organized a series of *Regional Expert Meetings on Climate Change, Enhanced NDCs' and Renewable Energy Deployment*. One of the key recommendations from these meetings was to continue such dialogue between energy and environment stakeholders and enable further sharing of information and experiences between countries, organizations and experts to strengthen the collaboration and partnerships that could support the implementation of RE actions in NDCs.

Against this backdrop, IRENA in partnership with the UK COP26 Presidency is hosting a Virtual Webinar on “Advancing the Energy Transition in Central Asia through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies (LTS)”. This Webinar will act as a platform for regional discussions on raising the ambition of the national climate pledges in the lead up to COP26, enhancing progress towards developing LTS, and exploring, in particular, the key role renewable energy financing will play in Central Asia countries’ energy transitions.

Objective

This virtual event will have a regional focus on Central Asia, aiming at:

- **encouraging more ambitious climate action** by all governments in Central Asia, including the submission of updated long-term climate/energy strategies in support of the goals set out in the Paris Agreement;
- deepening the understanding on the **opportunities offered by the energy sector** in the decarbonization efforts;
- discussing the key role of **mobilizing renewable energy financing at scale** and **de-risking investments** in Central Asia to accelerate energy transition
- **sharing experience across the region** on long-term climate/energy strategies, and from analysis and studies by **regional and international institutions**;

Audience

The event will gather participants from government institutions, financial institutions, development partners, media and non-governmental organizations. Zoom, a cloud-based video conferencing service will be used for this webinar with option of simultaneous interpretation between **English and Russian**.

Programme

Time	Agenda items	
15 min	Welcome Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRENA, Director-General, <i>Mr. Francesco La Camera</i> • UK COP26 Presidency, Regional Ambassador - COP26 Regional Ambassador: Europe, Central Asia, Turkey & Iran, <i>Mr. David Moran</i> • UNFCCC, Director of Mitigation Division, <i>Mr. James Grabert</i>
15 min	Scene Setting Presentation	<p>IRENA's NDC Support and Regional Engagement in Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRENA, Head of Regions, Country Engagement and Partnerships, <i>Mr. Binu Parthan</i>
40 Min	<p>Panel Discussion 1: Experiences, Opportunities, and Best Practices for the enhancement and implementation of NDCs and LTS</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Amanda McKee, Head of Knowledge Management and Head of CAEP, NDC Partnership</p> <p><u>Potential Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, Ms. Jana Koperniech • Kazakhstan, Mr. Olzhas Agabekov, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources • Turkmenistan, Mr. Kerim Saparmuhamedow, Ministry of Energy • Uzbekistan, Ms. Olga Belorussova, Chief of Monitoring and Soil Pollution Department, Uzhydromet • Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Zamirbek Temirbekov, Ministry of Energy • GIZ, Dr. Johannes Schuhmann
40 Min	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Mobilizing RE financing at scale and de-risking investments for Energy Transition</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Ahmed Badr, Director, Project Facilitation & Support Division, IRENA</p> <p><u>Potential Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KazEnergy, Mr. Damir Narynbaev • EBRD, Ms. Veronika Krakovich • ADB, Mr. Sohail Hasnie • IsDB, Mr. Mohamed Al Sayed • IFC, Mr. Waleed Saraf
<p><i>Closing Remarks:</i> IRENA, Deputy Director-General, <i>Ms. Gauri Singh</i></p>		