

**2017 IRENA Legislators Forum**  
**“Renewable Energy – the Role of Legislators in Catalysing Action”**

Abu Dhabi, 13 January 2017  
St Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

**09.00 Welcome**

**Mr. Adnan Z. Amin**, Director-General of IRENA

**H.E. Amal Al Qubaisi**, President of the United Arab Emirates’ Federal National Council (FNC)

**H.E. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment for the United Arab Emirates

**Setting the scene: The Global Energy Transformation**

**Mr. Adnan Z. Amin**

**09.30 - 13.00 Renewable energy policy instruments – Towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions**

*2015 stood out as an exceptional year in terms of international progress in the field of climate change and development. Both the post-2015 development agenda and the recent entry into force of the Paris Agreement place renewable energy at the core of national strategies.*

*As the energy sector accounts for more than two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, combined with energy efficiency, must be part of any viable solution on climate change. Furthermore, renewable energy contributes to at least twelve UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as food, health, water, and poverty eradication. Coordination of national policies across sectors is needed during the planning and implementation phases to achieve countries’ development goals.*

*Parliamentarians, as key actors in countries' decision-making processes, have a crucial role to play in setting enabling national frameworks and ensuring they are supported by sufficient funding and sustained by broad public support. Their active involvement is essential to ensure the long-term and effective implementation of national and international objectives.*

*The discussion during this session will focus on the policy and legislative tools, as well as financing mechanisms, which can effectively support the accelerated introduction of renewable energy in countries' energy mix.*

**Panel discussion and ensuing open debate**

**Moderator: Bärbel Höhn**, Member of Parliament, Germany

**Policy instruments: Feed-in-Tariffs, Auctions, Targets**

- **Rabia Ferroukhi**, Head of the Policy Unit, Deputy Director - Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA
- **Andries Gryffroy**, Member of the Flemish Parliament, Belgium
- **Georgina Trujillo**, Member of Parliament and President of the Energy Commission, Mexico

**Questions for discussion:**

- ❖ What are priorities and key considerations for setting an enabling legislative framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy?
- ❖ How can it be ensured that national renewable energy legislation accounts for the pace in which the sector is evolving?
- ❖ Are there factors to be considered when implementing policy tools, such as feed-in-tariffs, auctions or targets, to ensure their efficiency in a country-specific context?

## Financing renewable energy

- **Henning Wuester**, Director - Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA
- **Michael Eckhart**, Citi Group

### Questions for discussion:

- ❖ Which measures would support the flow of public and private sector finance towards renewable energy?
- ❖ Which measures would facilitate access to international funding sources such as climate finance to support the deployment of renewable energy?
- ❖ Can cross-sector policies maximise the cost-effectiveness of renewable energy policies?

**13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH**

### **14.00 - 15.00 In focus discussion - *Decentralised renewable energy solutions***

*Over a billion people in rural and peri-urban areas live without electricity access and around 2.9 billion rely on traditional fuels for cooking/heating. Gaining access to modern energy services would have an immediate and transformative impact on their livelihoods.*

*Access to modern energy is not an end in itself. It is an enabler of increasing productivity, rising incomes, improving food and water security, enhancing access to health and education, and of a wide range of development goals. Unless the issue of access to energy is resolved, meeting many other Sustainable Development Goals will be almost impossible.*

*In order to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030, the pace of expansion needs to double – using both on-grid and off-grid solutions. The modular, scalable and decentralised nature of renewables makes them easily adaptable to local conditions. They have the potential to significantly improve rural economies in a cost-effective manner and have an impact on income and employment along all segments of the value chain.*

**Panel discussion and ensuing open debate**

**Moderator: Dhamir Mannai**, Regional Director for Middle East and Africa, Climate Parliament, and former Member of Parliament, Tunisia

- **Salvatore Vinci**, Deputy Head, Policy Unit, IRENA
- **Harish Hande**, Managing Director and co-founder of SELCO

**15.00 - 17.30 Tools and key legislative requirements – *How to support the development of renewable energy legislation***

*Renewable energy has been widely recognised as one of the main climate change mitigation tools and a key component of any sustainable development strategy. Establishing enabling frameworks will take this agenda forward and help accelerate the ongoing energy transition.*

*Identifying and filling the knowledge gap in respect of supportive policy and legal frameworks could be a crucial step in this direction. Enhancing the knowledge and understanding of different renewable energy laws and policies worldwide, whilst taking into account the specific national circumstances, could help identifying best practices in an area that often appears to be highly complex and technical.*

*From databases to analytical reports and direct legislative assistance, this session will present an array of tools available to support parliamentarians in making informed decisions and taking action to strengthen the enabling environment for the deployment of renewable energy.*

**Panel discussion and ensuing open debate**

**Moderator: Konda Vishweshwar Reddy**, Member of Parliament, India

- **Marianne Lavergne**, Legal Advisor, IRENA
- **Michal Nachmany**, lead author of the *Climate Legislation Study*, Grantham Institute
- **Richard Ottinger**, Professor, Pace Law School

- **Nick Dunlop**, Secretary-General, Climate Parliament
- **Lawrence Biyika Song**, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change (PFCC), Uganda

**Questions for discussion:**

- ❖ What knowledge gaps are parliamentarians facing in their legislative function?
- ❖ Are there any identified barriers hindering the development of renewable energy legislation?
- ❖ How useful are collaborative initiatives, such as cross-party parliamentary networks, or networks of legal experts, in supporting parliamentarians' legislative work?

**17.30 - 18.00 Closing**

**Kathleen van Brempt**, Member of the European Parliament

**18.30 - 20.00 Reception**

*Manhattan Lounge, St Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi*