

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Fourth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 12 November 2012

**Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the
Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting**

Context: Pursuant to decision A/1/DC/10/Rev.1, the Policy and Strategy Committee met to review and provide recommendations to the Council on the progress in implementing the Work Programme and Budget 2012, in developing the Proposed Work-Programme and Budget for 2013 (C/4/3), and in refining the Medium-term Strategy (C/4/4).

Objective: The main objective of this meeting was to review the progress in implementing the Work Programme and Budget 2012, in developing the Proposed Work-Programme and Budget for 2013 and in refining the Medium-term Strategy in order to report back to the Council at its meeting on 12 November 2012.

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 12 November 2012.

The following views and comments were made by participants.

1. Work Programme and Budget 2012 (WPB2012)

- Pleased with visible progress made by IRENA in the course of its first full year of the programme implementation, as well as the strengthening of its Secretariat.
- Welcome progress made by IRENA in gaining its place in the international scene and positioning itself globally.
- Welcome the increased number of activities directly related to meeting countries needs in response to countries requests.
- Recognize efforts made by the Secretariat on communication and outreach, and stress the need for further improvement on communication with both with Members and external stakeholders.
- Importance of a two-way communication:
 - Encourage the Secretariat to communicate early information on its activities, (e.g. events, projects and publications) to help Members to better engage with IRENA-related work.
 - Members to be proactive in engaging with the Secretariat to offer their support, and be responsive to specific requests from the Secretariat (e.g. provision of knowledge, expertise and data).
- Appreciate the circulation of the Status of Work Programme Implementation matrix, which provides progress on deliverables under each programmatic area.

2. Medium-term Strategy (MTS)

- Welcome the significant improvement in the current draft in articulating the strategic direction of the work of IRENA and endorse the current draft.
- Time is now to finalize the MTS, which will remain a living document to be reviewed at mid-term (i.e. 2016). Some indication of resource implications for strategic direction and priorities would be helpful.
- The MTS should be used to help define the role of IRENA in the international space, such as its engagement with relevant initiatives being developed under multilateral fora (e.g. UNFCCC, SE4ALL, CEM) to add value and avoid duplication.
- Important to define indicators on how to measure progress and impact of IRENA's work in advancing its mission.
- Some specific suggestions to the text of the MTS were made and these are shown in Annex I.

3. Proposed Work-Programme and Budget for 2013 (WPB2013)

- Welcome the new organizational and programmatic structures. The new structure and proposed activities of the WPB2013 are in line with the MTS and IRENA's vision for the future.
- Welcome collaboration with other regions and encourage the geographical expansion of the regional work.
- IRENA to define its audiences/end users and adapt its reports and publications for effective messaging.
- Need indicators on how to measure progress and impacts on the ground, as well as indicators of achievement on communication and outreach.
- Continue to engage with stakeholders and partners to ensure synergy and complementarity with other activities, such as those of IEA and REN21.
- Welcome plans for engaging with private sector and civil society.
- Important to ensure interlinkage between all three subprogrammes.

3.1 Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC)

- Welcome the forthcoming activities in addressing the critical issues around socio-economic and environmental impacts of renewable energy deployment.
- Encourage countries to be responsive to specific requests from the Secretariat (e.g. provision of data).
- Need clarity on the terms of engagement with private sector and civil society (e.g. criteria for selection).

3.2 IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC)

- Welcome plans for advancing REMAP2030 including work on regional and national levels, and encourage collaboration with international initiatives.
- Welcome the proposed work for energy storage and grids, and the establishment of the Renewables Costing Alliance.
- Country engagement will be necessary to ensure success of the work on roadmaps, costing analysis and innovation strategies.

3.3 Country Support and Partnership

- Welcome the impact of Renewable Readiness Assessments (RRA) in catalyzing action for renewable energy deployment, and look forward to the revised RRA methodology to be made available to countries.
- Need clarity on how countries and regions would be prioritized for RRA work.
- Recognize the importance of action taken at local level (e.g. by local authorities) for the accelerated deployment of renewables.

Annex I

- Para 12: “*Based on the overall mission of IRENA as outlined in its statute, IRENA’s vision in the medium-term is ...*” replace mission with vision and vision with mission. Para 23: “*IRENA’s focus in the medium-term would be to advise developing countries*” remove developing.
- Para 24: “Additionally, it also recognizes that developing countries have the greatest need for assistance and support ...” replace the greatest with significant.
- Para 27: “*IRENA’s role is to become the broker and accelerator ...*” replace the broker with the catalyst.
- Add para 29: “To facilitate the convergence of the efforts of international organizations and bilateral aid programmes, in order to reduce duplications and redundancies, avoid a piecemeal approach of support and enable the deployment of comprehensive and integrated strategies in the countries, whenever it makes sense. “
- Add at the end of para 28 : “..based on indicators of tangible impacts as defined in the programme”