



23 November 2015

Ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA
10 – 11 June 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

	Document Title	Document Number	Page
	Report of the ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA	C/9/SR/1	2
Annex 1	Agenda	C/9/1	21
Annex 2	List of participants	C/9/PRC/1	22
Annex 3	Chair’s Summary of the Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee meeting	C/9/CRP/2	29
Annex 4	Chair’s Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee meeting	C/9/CRP/3	32

Report of the ninth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. The ninth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 10 and 11 June 2015. The meeting was attended by the following Council members: Algeria, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Uruguay; as well as three alternates: Cyprus, Somalia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also in attendance were 58 other IRENA Members and other countries.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the eighth meeting of the Council of IRENA, Uruguay, opened the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

3. **The Council elected by acclamation Mr. Shri Upendra Tripathy, Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India as Chair, and Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy of New Zealand as Vice-Chair of the ninth meeting of the Council.**

4. **The Chair appointed Ethiopia as Rapporteur of the ninth meeting of the Council.**

b. Adoption of the agenda (C/9/1)

5. The Council considered and adopted the provisional agenda for its ninth meeting (C/9/L.1).

Agenda Item 3: Report of the Director-General: Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget (C/9/CRP/1; C/9/CRP/2)

6. The Director-General of IRENA, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, opened by welcoming delegations to the ninth meeting of the Council. He noted that in addition to Council members, over 260 participants had registered, representing 86 countries and the European Union. The Director-General also informed of the Agency's recent move to its permanent Headquarters, highlighting the new space as a beacon of sustainability in the

region and thanking the Host Country for the building and for its efforts to provide IRENA with a home befitting of its important mandate.

7. The Director-General presented his Progress Report on the Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget (document C/9/CRP/1) and reflected on the Agency's achievements to date. The Director-General noted that a number of IRENA products have gained global recognition, such as the recently-released Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2015 and Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2014. Other programmatic highlights included the release of Renewable Energy Target Setting; Renewable Energy Prospects: China; Renewable Energy Prospects: United Arab Emirates and Renewable Energy Prospects: United States of America; contributions to the G7 and G20 processes; climate and COP 21 activities; regional activities such as the Clean Energy Corridors; and Renewable Readiness Assessments. The Director-General indicated that the completion of deliverables to date indicates that project implementation is on schedule, as established in the work programme for 2015.

8. The Director-General informed delegations that, as of 30 April 2015, 96.5% of the 2014 assessed contributions and 49.5% of the 2015 assessed contributions had been provided by Members, with an additional 28% of 2015 assessed contributions received post-release of the Progress Report. In addition, he noted that USD 6.9 million was received from Germany and USD 11.9 million from the United Arab Emirates as part of non-assessed core contributions for the biennium. USD 12.9 million was also pledged in voluntary contributions from Belgium, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, with USD 6.2 million received to date. The unqualified external audit opinion received for the 2014 Financial Statements was also noted.

9. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), Mr. Martin Schöpe of Germany, reported on the Committee meeting which took place the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/9/CRP/2 for a full account of the meeting.

10. In the discussion that followed, delegations thanked the Director-General for the detailed report and work achieved to date, expressed their commitment to and support for the Agency, and commended the United Arab Emirates for the completion of the IRENA Headquarters building, as well as its continued contribution to the success of the Agency.

11. Several delegations highlighted national developments and expressed particular appreciation of Agency initiatives and products including the Global Atlas for renewable energy potentials, Clean Energy Corridors, costing work, cooperation activities with ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States), global advisory services, IRENA's off-grid and energy access work, Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2015, Project Navigator, the renewable energy auctions report, REmap, Renewables Readiness Assessments, analysis on socio-economic benefits, and the Model IRENA simulation. Delegations also commended IRENA on work undertaken on Africa and on developing countries, the contribution to the G7 process and training and development programmes.

12. Delegations welcomed work in communications and outreach and expressed the hope that the Agency continue to strengthen this work, with one delegation supporting additional efforts in upstream communications. Delegations also encouraged acceleration of the staff recruitment process and one delegation underlined the importance of gender balance, specifically in respect of the Agency's senior positions. They also noted the importance of cooperation with other international organisations and with international financial institutions to ensure consistency among both internal and external initiatives and to continue close collaboration with Members.

13. A few delegations noted the desire for increased focus on private sector and industry engagement, increased involvement in high-level strategy design, renewable energy grid integration, off-grid work, grid access in collaboration with national development agencies, and technology developments in areas such as solar PV cost reductions and offshore wind. One delegation noted interest in additional details on cooperation with the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM). Another delegation requested additional information on data sources related to, and companies involved in, IRENA's costing work. On the matter of Agency funding, one delegation requested that the Agency consider contributions from other stakeholders such as multi-national firms.

14. The transport sector and housing were noted by some delegations as challenging areas of development. One delegation expressed the desire for IRENA to conduct a study on how to scale-up renewable energy development in Southeast Asia with particular focus on green grids and on rural communities without access to energy. Another delegation supported the launch of programmes, the exchange of experience and creation of more robust frameworks for legislators, in order to promote the use of renewable energy, indicating the interest on this matter in Latin America.

15. In response, the Director-General expressed appreciation on behalf of the Agency for the strong support for and recognition of its work. He acknowledged that the Agency is present in a growing number of multinational and regional fora, signaling its increasing international role. The Director-General took note of the specific issues raised and noted that the Agency is pleased to have worked so closely with a large number of Members. He underlined the importance of the active involvement of Members in the development of the Work Programme and Budget, as well as Members' active role in the implementation of specific initiatives within the Work Programme framework. He maintained that the Agency will remain a source of knowledge, technical ability and advice.

16. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Report of the Director-General: Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget', contained in document C/9/CRP/1.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 (C/9/3; C/9/CRP/2)

17. The Director-General introduced the report by noting that the mid-term evaluation of the current Medium-term Strategy (MTS), covering the period 2013-2017, would be provided to the Assembly for its consideration at the sixth session. He added that the MTS encapsulates a shared understanding of how IRENA should advance its programmatic work and what its main objectives should be, while remaining flexible enough to adapt to future developments in the renewable energy sector.

18. He noted that IRENA's knowledge products are key instruments for engagement and awareness, and highlighted the importance of the Agency's direct support to countries and regions, and its ability to convene stakeholders. He added that the MTS envisages the Agency as the global voice for renewable energy, a centre of excellence, an advisory resource and a network hub. He underscored that the MTS guides the Agency's programming and delivery, ensuring consistency in approach and focus on longer term objectives. He also noted that the current MTS has provided guidance for the development of the Work Programme and Budget Framework and, as such, remains relevant in its current form.

19. He explained that the MTS provides guidance, with some specificity, on how the review should be undertaken, and referred to the annual reports and the evaluation of IRENA's programmatic activities as the main sources of information in the review process. The Director-General underscored that Members'

feedback in this respect is of great importance, and that the next MTS would require extensive consultation on the strategic direction for the Agency in the next period. Accordingly, he suggested that Members provide comments on the current MTS to guide the Secretariat in obtaining a well-informed overview as a starting point for the development of the next MTS. He explained that the next MTS would be presented to the Assembly at its eighth session in January 2018 along with the programmatic cycle for 2018-2019.

20. He closed by noting that there have been significant recent developments in the field of renewable energy, and that it was important for the Agency to continue maturing in all aspects of its existence. For this reason, he noted that he looked forward to the upcoming discussion on the next MTS, specifically on the main considerations that should be taken into account, on who should be the stakeholders to be consulted, and on how the process should evolve during the last two years of the current MTS.

21. The PSC Chair reported on the Committee meeting held the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/9/CRP/2 for a full account of the meeting.

22. In the discussion that followed, delegations stressed their commitment to this process and the future of the Agency, encouraging Members to engage in the development of the MTS. A delegation reflected on the pace of change in the renewables sector, noting that there have been significant changes since the inception of IRENA, and thus suggesting that IRENA consider the next biennium as a transition to the next MTS.

23. Another delegation underscored the importance of monitoring funding levels in the future so as to maintain resources for key projects, and another suggested that the MTS could be linked to the budget and overall goals for the direction of the Agency. That delegation noted that a key consideration was to make the MTS both clear and measurable.

24. Some delegations mentioned renewable energy topics that they considered particularly important for IRENA's attention in the future, including energy access, energy security, biomass work, and energy storage. One delegation commented that the competitiveness of renewable energy should continue to be a subject for attention in the next MTS, pointing out that this could be a topic for dialogue with industry and civil society. In this context, another delegation emphasised that further efforts at cost reduction could accelerate the uptake of renewable energy in developing regions, and thus be essential for poverty reduction. One delegation suggested to emphasize the Agency's work on environmental impact and on the link between renewables and energy efficiency. Another delegation emphasised the importance of bankable projects, especially in support of decentralised renewable solutions.

25. Some delegations noted that IRENA should have a wide spectrum of partners, including within the private sector, NGOs, and IGOs, since this collaboration provides opportunities to make the most of the Agency's resources. Delegations invited IRENA to continue to deepen its collaboration with, among others, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative, and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).

26. In response, the Director-General agreed that energy access and energy security should become a more prominent part of IRENA's work, noting that the Agency's Statute includes these issues as part of its mandate. He also highlighted that education and training in the field of renewable energy would be critical for the Agency to address in the future, since the scarcity of available, trained workforce could slow the spread of renewable energy. He also stressed the importance of energy transformation and system design, noting that the Agency would examine a range of related issues including decentralised energy generation and energy storage. He concurred that extensive consultation with Members and broad-based Member

ownership of the MTS development process during the next biennium are crucial, and closed by encouraging Members to consider the questions related to the current MTS posed in document C/9/3, and to submit written feedback to the Secretariat by 1 September 2015.

27. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General: Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017’ contained in C/9/3 and agreed with the proposed process for the review of the Medium-term Strategy.

Agenda Item 5: Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017 (C/9/2; C/9/CRP/2)

28. The Director-General introduced the topic, noting that the Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017 (Framework) contained in document C/9/2 provides IRENA’s programmatic and operational priorities within the strategic guidance of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017. He recalled that initial discussions on programming had commenced last year, and that the Assembly, at its fifth session in January 2015, had considered the outcome of these deliberations and had provided further input on the subject. He added that in response to the Secretariat’s invitation for feedback in February 2015, 16 Members had provided contributions. This collective feedback, coupled with the Agency’s experience in implementing programmatic work, had provided a solid basis for the development of a Framework based on three overarching strategic priorities: 1) sharpening programmatic focus; 2) responding to changing and emerging priorities; and 3) strengthening effectiveness, capacity and efficiency.

29. He noted that the Framework sharpens and rebalances programmatic components to better address the priorities identified in consultations, and in light of the significant evolution of the Agency and the sector in the past four years. He identified key ongoing areas for attention, including strengthening the business case for renewable energy, transcending the limits of the existing energy infrastructure, finding new technology and market solutions, and providing modern energy services to all worldwide. He reflected that IRENA would increase its work in the transport, heating and building sectors, noting that the Agency would need to monitor the latest developments and translate them into practical, policy-friendly tools to help Members adopt new technologies.

30. He elaborated further that in the coming biennium, IRENA should:

- Continue to provide objective, timely and policy-relevant information on each of the renewable energy types.
- Remain at the forefront of developments in the adoption of enabling policy frameworks at the national and regional levels, and continue to assess the key challenges faced by policy-makers in adapting to this dynamic environment.
- Develop effective tools that facilitate renewable energy projects, enable private sector investment, and increase transparency for countries on options available for investments in new renewable capacity, as well as innovative financing instruments.
- Continue to promote broader socio-economic and environmental opportunities emerging from the energy sector transformation.

- Provide a balance between knowledge products and direct support by playing a role both in providing comprehensive information on renewable energy, as well as in supporting countries and regions in their efforts to advance renewable energy deployment.
- Maintain direct and continuous engagement with Members and enhance the ability to be responsive to their needs, through refined communication and outreach activities.

31. The Director-General emphasised that IRENA would remain focused on its core mission and prioritise its activities, adding that the number of programmatic components has been reduced from 35 in the current Work Programme to 24 in the Framework. He noted that consistency of the programmatic structure would be maintained, with a rebalancing of programmatic components in each of the thematic areas to better address the priorities identified and guidance received through the consultative process.

32. He highlighted the importance of the Agency's continuous self-assessment and adaptation, as well as the need to develop partnerships for maximum impact with Members as well as with stakeholders in the private sector, regulators, utilities, legislators, the science and research community, and civil society.

33. On an institutional level, the Director-General recognised the importance of developing a comprehensive workforce strategy in the next work programme cycle which includes a framework for staff development and retention, succession planning and future staff resourcing. He noted that emphasis would also be placed on further strengthening programme coordination and delivery through effective project planning, design, and implementation, and also on increasing the focus on evaluation of impact. He acknowledged that transparency in resource planning and allocation, promoting accountability and administrative efficiency, and establishing safeguards against potential shortfalls would continue to be key factors to maintaining Members' confidence in the Agency.

34. On the topic of the budget, he noted that Members had emphasised that the ambition for the Agency should remain high, accompanied by innovative strategies for securing a sustainable balance between activities funded through core budget and voluntary contributions and other resources. He reported that, taking into account the Agency's increased membership, inflation and a full staffing component, and to strengthen some of the Agency's essential functions, the core budget proposed for the next biennium would be USD 23 million per annum. He explained that ambitions for a higher core budget exist but that he is mindful of the financial and budgetary constraints faced by Members.

35. He further noted that the Secretariat and the Host Country were discussing plans for potential future funding in extension of the bid commitment to the Agency. He closed by noting that the debate to date on the priorities and direction of the Agency were immensely important to the development of the current Framework, and said that he looked forward to Members' feedback in the process of articulating the next work programme and budget.

36. The PSC Chair reported on the Committee meeting held the day before the Council, and referred delegations to document C/9/CRP/2 for a full account of the meeting.

37. In the discussion that followed, several countries stressed the importance of prioritisation in light of the Agency's limited resources, and in this context underscored the importance of programmatic focus. A delegation welcomed the balance between the Agency's analytical work and country support reflected in the document. Another delegation noted that, to ensure longer-term success, the Agency should be rigorous and focused on what can drive change, focusing on where it can have the most impact. Delegations welcomed the level of detail included in the Framework, and urged continued focus on the delivery of

results. Delegations appreciated the reduction of the number of components in the Framework, which reflects a streamlined approach directed toward areas where IRENA can have the most impact.

38. Delegations supported the existing thematic areas, and also expressed support for climate change work as it relates to COP 21, and on issues related to work in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Delegations also articulated their support for the continuation of flagship projects, including off-grid work, regional clean energy corridors, the socio-economic value of renewable energy including jobs, the REsource platform, the institutional publication, costing and REmap.

39. Delegations expressed their willingness to intensify their collaboration with IRENA, and supported the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and expertise among IRENA Members. In this context, one delegation observed that so far around 60 Members had provided statistical data to IRENA, and encouraged all Members to assist in completing this information-gathering. Another delegation stressed the importance of timely provision of data in making the case for renewables.

40. Some delegations mentioned knowledge exchange, noting that information on the transfer of renewable energy technology adapted at the local level, especially in rural areas, could be an area for additional IRENA attention. A delegation expressed appreciation for IRENA's training activities and noted the importance of continued support to countries in their national renewable energy deployment plans. On the topic of outreach and capacity-building, one delegation noted that it is important to identify training needs of a particular region, including language needs for the training materials, to make the best use of resources. One delegation, referring to the limited nature of resources and the work of other specialized entities in this field, advised the Agency not to involve itself over-extensively in work on sustainable cities.

41. One country noted that the development of innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy would be important, especially to increase the uptake of renewables in developing countries. In this context, another country noted that IRENA has an important role in making renewable energy markets more attractive to private investment in developing countries, and expressed appreciation for the Agency's ongoing research into solutions to address financing risks. Delegations observed that the project facilitation platform will open up a channel for positive collaboration for future projects in this area.

42. A delegation pointed to the areas for expanded future work of the Agency, including energy storage, where IRENA could carry out state-of-the-art reports on new and emerging technologies. A few delegations noted that renewable energy transport in particular would be important in the coming years, and one of these delegations noted that an analysis of this sector could be considered as part of the REmap analysis. Another delegation discussed energy access issues, noting that access to modern energy services is urgently needed in the developing world. Delegations stressed their interest in additional work on other types of renewable energy, in particular geothermal, biomass and biofuel.

43. On the question of investment and growth, a delegation noted the link to be made between the work on costing and the work on policy advice, and the attention to be given to the integration of renewables in existing energy infrastructure. In this vein, a delegation noted that additional practical reports on topical areas of IRENA's work, such as the auctions guide, could be especially useful to regulators. A delegation expressed interest in additional articulation of IRENA's engagement on climate change issues. Another delegation conveyed its support for the G7's call for the removal of fossil fuel subsidies, to accelerate the replacement of these fuels with renewable energy.

44. One delegation requested deeper engagement between IRENA and the countries of Southeast Europe, while another looked forward to expanded work in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, particularly the potential for a regional clean energy corridor. Another delegation stressed the significance of regional renewable energy deployment, noting that concrete development and implementation of the African Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) should be a priority especially given that it may be used as a model in other regions. This delegation added that the next work programme could develop an operational model for the ACEC by identifying key pilot projects and facilitating the exchange of best practices in grid design, integration, and sustainable development practices.

45. On the topic of the budget, some delegations noted the difficulties associated with increasing the core budget in light of internal financial constraints, and encouraged the Secretariat to explore potential additional sources of financing. A delegation noted that membership growth does come with expectations of budget increase, and that Members should therefore be able to consider a departure from zero nominal growth if a case for the increase was made, especially given that the starting point of the budget level is not high compared to other international organisations. Other delegations added that, for those countries that have a restrictive position on budget increases, it will be crucial to see the complete costed Work Programme, since detailed justification would be needed to support budget increases. Two delegations referred to the status of the Host Country's bid commitments after 2015, noting that additional potential resources should be investigated, discussed and developed. One delegation noted that one possibility to keep annual contributions more effective after 2015 would be to reduce external consultancies and instead increase the development of in-house capacity, which may also have a positive impact on staff retention. Another delegation noted that, while the implementation of multilingualism is important for communication, it should have zero net impact on core budget. Some delegations expressed support for an increase in budget in the next biennium. Noting that the increase in membership has reduced assessed amounts for many Members, one delegation urged countries to consider making voluntary contributions to the Agency reflecting this decrease in assessed contributions.

46. Delegations noted the importance of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of what IRENA has achieved, with metrics to be used for assessment, in order to focus on work with most impact. One country referred to the importance of effective management of projects at IRENA. Another highlighted the benefit of documenting the challenges faced by the Agency, especially with regard to implementation challenges.

47. Several delegations pointed out that IRENA should explore deepened relationships with international fora, and to strengthen its partnerships with other organisations so as to avoid duplication and in order to maximise resources. A delegation underscored the need to be cautious in the Agency's investments of time and resource in areas where other organisations are already active.

48. Some delegations underscored the importance of deepened engagement with the private sector and international financing institutions, with one delegation pointing to concrete projects such as REMade for labelling products produced using renewable energy. Another delegation agreed that private sector engagement should be strengthened and structured in a way to preserve the neutrality and impartiality of the Agency.

49. In response, the Director-General stressed that the next IRENA work programme and budget would be the first one following COP 21 in Paris, and that developments in relation to climate are becoming more relevant than ever. He agreed with the importance Members placed on IRENA's awareness of other organisations' activities, and on the development of joint projects so as to ensure maximum synergies. He acknowledged the significant opportunity for engagement with the private sector, especially with entities

that have substantial knowledge and expertise that could benefit renewable energy deployment in developing countries. The challenge for IRENA, he noted, would be to create the marketplace and the platform for this interaction to take place, while remaining unbiased. He highlighted the importance of capacity-building, and the need to identify the role that IRENA can play in this respect. The Director-General agreed that outcomes of its monitoring and evaluation efforts would be an important indicator and guide for IRENA in its programmatic efforts. The Director-General offered to circulate to Members a preliminary draft of the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017 approximately six weeks in advance of the tenth meeting of the Council. This transmission would include an invitation for Members to submit comments during a two weeks' timeframe, with a final draft being circulated before the Council meeting.

50. The Council took note of the 'Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017' contained in document C/9/2, and requested the Secretariat to take the comments and guidance received into consideration for the draft 'Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017'.

Agenda Item 6: Power Sector Transformation (C/9/DN/1)

51. The Director-General opened the first programmatic discussion by reiterating that the power sector transformation has already begun. Renewable power generation continues to grow rapidly, and continues to decline in costs. This development is changing the power sector at many levels, from policies to market design to business models. He highlighted the important role of IRENA's activities and its active participation and contribution to the Clean Energy Ministerial, and to the G20 and G7 processes.

52. The Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC), Mr. Dolf Gielen, provided an overview of IRENA's existing activities on power sector transformation. These activities fall into the categories of energy systems planning, technical regulation like grid codes, technology analysis, market designs for off-grid systems, and systems operations. These activities have resulted in a range of products, including high-level policy guides for the integration of variable renewables, detailed technology analysis of smart grids and battery storage systems, and the application of grid stability assessments to support island utilities in assessing the impacts of renewables on the operation and management of their power system.

53. Mr. Gielen also presented IRENA's plans to extend the activities on power sector transformation in the next Work Programme to include analysis of dispatch models and different market designs, and to apply existing methodologies and analyses in Member countries. A number of examples were provided, such as extending the scope of IRENA's grid stability assessments and the application of IRENA's grid investment assessments. Mr. Gielen ended his presentation with the release of IRENA's technology roadmap *Renewables and Electricity Storage*. This roadmap is built on stakeholder consultations with more than 200 experts, and provides a global action agenda for national action and international cooperation on the development of policy frameworks, databases, assessment tools, standards and guidelines to ensure that electricity storage will support the acceleration of renewables.

54. The Chairperson of the Global Energy Storage Alliance, Ms. Janice Lin, underlined the usefulness of the technology roadmap on electricity storage, emphasising that collaboration will be the key to success. She also highlighted the important role that policy-makers in the State of California have played in assessing storage as one of the options to achieve their ambitious target of 50% renewable power generation by 2030.

55. A number of country representatives stressed the importance of continued technology development for the power sector transformation, including smart grids, storage, the integration of information technology

in power sector solutions, and more interconnected grid networks. With respect to interconnectors, delegations noted that IRENA's activities on the development of clean energy corridors would be an important vehicle to support and connect power sector transformation across multiple countries.

56. Besides technology, new market designs are becoming increasingly important for the transition of the power sector. Delegations highlighted a number of specific elements: commercial models for smart grids and smart communities, tariff-setting for electricity rates, the creation of more flexible balancing markets, market designs that maximise the value of renewable power and models to integrate the use of renewable power in transport, buildings, industrial processes, and agriculture.

57. Several delegations raised the point that power sector transformation is relevant for both large interconnected systems as well as in smaller off-grid, and islands systems. They noted that several islands and electrification programmes for off-grid systems have ambitious targets to transform to power systems with 100% renewables. These delegations commented that the specific challenges of such a transformation should be recognised and addressed in IRENA's activities.

58. Several delegations mentioned the need to engage with the relevant stakeholders within countries, since some distribution companies have extensive experience in managing renewables-based grids, which can be shared. Furthermore, delegations noted that there is the need to assist in the development of in-house capacity for operating and managing grids, including the use of least-cost dispatch models and integrated resource planning.

59. Delegations encouraged IRENA to continue and strengthen the collaboration on power sector transformation with other actors and activities in this field, such as the International Energy Agency, the World Bank, the Clean Energy Ministerial and existing bilateral and international programmes on energy access and renewable power financing.

60. The Council took note of the presentation and discussion.

Agenda Item 7: Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris (C/9/DN/2; C/9/CRP/2)

61. The Director-General introduced the topic by highlighting the importance of 2015 for climate change and pointed out that the energy sector accounts for over two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, and emissions from the supply sector are projected to at least double by 2050 compared to 2010 levels under current policies. Therefore, he stated, actions to reduce the carbon intensity from energy supply are critical in the fight against climate change. In this regard, he noted that the business case for renewables has been recognised by many countries, which have undertaken action to increase renewable energy use as part of their strategies towards low-carbon and climate-resilient economies, including in the submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

62. The Director-General noted that such positive signals must be followed through in order to reach a robust climate agreement in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – known as COP 21 – that builds upon real solutions, offering countries opportunities for development while addressing the climate change challenge. He added that IRENA is leading global efforts to promote renewable energy deployment as a strategy

towards mitigating the negative effects of climate change, through activities ranging from the provision of timely analysis, to efforts toward implementable solutions for renewables.

63. Ms. Angela Churie Kallhauge, senior programme officer in the Country Support and Partnerships (CSP) division of IRENA, presented an overview of the activities undertaken by IRENA in preparation for COP 21 and beyond, including the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the Global Geothermal Alliance. She outlined four areas IRENA has been focusing on:

- **Knowledge and information**, with the release of IRENA's flagship publication *Rethinking Energy: Climate Edition* including findings of REmap 2.0, scheduled for COP 21;
- **Technical advice and support**, with IRENA's close engagement with regional and national stakeholders and the UNFCCC Secretariat in taking part in the Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) on renewable energy. IRENA is also organising regional technical dialogues on renewable energy and climate change (one for West and Central Africa and the other for East and Southern Africa);
- **Strategic partnerships and initiatives**, with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the 1 Gigaton Coalition;
- **COP 21 activities**, IRENA is organising a renewable energy event at COP 21, in collaboration with the French Syndicate for Renewable Energy (SER), the European Commission and REN21.

64. While these activities relate to the period up to COP 21, Ms. Churie Kallhauge explained that IRENA is also setting a sound foundation in assisting its Members further with the implementation of appropriate climate strategies.

65. A representative of the host country of COP 21, France, thanked IRENA for the essential work undertaken in the field of climate change and on the international mobilisation, which increased this year. France's objective, the representative stated, is to ensure the creation of an alliance to accelerate climate action, to mitigate the average temperature increase, in order to achieve a universal agreement in Paris. France emphasised the importance of cooperation and providing developing countries with support, to enable the achievement of low-carbon and sustainable development. The French delegation called on governmental, non-governmental and private sector stakeholders to engage in creating a cooperative framework to achieve equitable access to development and to strengthen economies. The delegation emphasised that France would provide support to formal negotiations as well as informal processes to push for a clear mandate and guidelines from all participating parties at COP 21. The French delegation highlighted the high-level meeting on climate action (also known as 'Action Day' on climate), as part of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, to take place on 5 December 2015, and encouraged IRENA's engagement in the thematic Action Day on energy on 7 December 2015, in which renewable energy, energy access and energy efficiency issues will be addressed. It reiterated that it would welcome other initiatives and complementary approaches, in order to identify priority areas for action. The delegation noted that IRENA's role is fundamental for the success of the collective efforts to combat climate change.

66. A representative of the host country of COP 20, Peru, said that Peru is working together with France, the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda to prepare actions before Paris, and to form coalitions between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The delegation noted that the UN Climate Summit held in New York in September 2014 was a milestone in this regard and added that such efforts in the global climate context are directly related to depicting renewable energy as a viable solution for climate change. In conclusion, the Peruvian delegation encouraged IRENA to further promote investments, growth, and national and regional action that highlight renewable energy potential.

67. The PSC Chair presented a report of the PSC's consideration of this matter, noting that the PSC had welcomed the various activities of IRENA in highlighting the potential of renewable energy as a major means to mitigate climate change. Concerning climate financing, he noted that the speed of disbursement of public funds was seen as a critical issue and that IRENA should assist in accelerating these processes. He reported that the PSC had stressed that IRENA should also assist in the development of risk mitigation instruments to reduce costs, including those arising from changing exchange rates over time. The PSC also stressed that IRENA, based on its comparative advantage in knowledge and experience with countries, could provide advice to climate financing institutions for renewables deployment, to countries in applying for such funding, or in project implementation. The PSC recommended that IRENA should further analyse these options to help define its optimal function, taking into account substantive and financial implications.

68. The Director of IITC presented the findings of the REmap study in relation to climate change. He said that under the business-as-usual scenario, CO₂ emissions are projected to raise to 41 Gigatons (Gt). However, a combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency could maintain a 25 Gt path which would keep the concentration in the atmosphere from surpassing 450 ppm of CO₂, the level at which scientists believe that global warming must be kept in order to remain within an increase of two degrees Celsius and avoid the most catastrophic consequences. He noted that the country-focused analysis is easily actionable, based on its bottom-up, technology and sector-wide approach. He reported that six REmap country analyses have been published, with five in preparation, and with additional countries having requested similar studies. He said that the REmap analysis has been expanded to 13 additional countries and noted that, by COP 21, a summary of the REmap 2.0 findings would be available. He noted that the REmap 2.0 study shows the strong implications of renewable energy on climate change, the synergies between energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the need for transformation in end use sectors.

69. The Secretariat presented three programmatic initiatives related to climate change. Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Acting Director of the CSP division of IRENA, presented an overview of the African Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC), a regional initiative calling for accelerated development of renewable energy potential and cross-border trade of renewable power within the power pools of Southern Africa and East Africa (SAPP and EAPP). The Corridor, which extends from Cape Town to Cairo, enjoys the political commitment of African leaders to strengthen regional institutions and transmission infrastructure in order to form competitive markets and bring down costs across generation sectors. The development of ACEC is guided by a Ministerial communiqué signed at the fourth session of the IRENA Assembly in January 2014. Since then, he explained, the support for the initiative has expanded considerably with the engagement of more than 30 governments, development partners, regional organisations, financing institutions as well as the private sector. The communiqué calls for an Action Plan with five pillars, he said, highlighting the work undertaken in each area: 1) resource assessment and zoning; 2) national and regional planning; 3) enabling frameworks and the policy, regulatory and financing levels; 4) capacity building; and 5) awareness raising.

70. Mr. Gonul also introduced the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA), highlighting the latest developments and progress made to be featured at COP 21. He noted that the objective of the Alliance is to contribute to the scale-up of geothermal energy deployment for power generation and non-power applications. Although there are certain obstacles facing the accelerated deployment of geothermal energy, it can provide a stable base-load power and possibly be used for heating at competitive prices. He added that the REmap 2030 analysis concludes that a five-fold growth in geothermal power installed capacity can be achieved by 2030. As an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, GGA seeks to expand geographical coverage to geothermal-rich countries, development partners, international, regional, national organisations and the private sector. He concluded that the concept of the Alliance would be finalised at a multi-

stakeholder meeting of 36 countries in Nairobi, Kenya on 15-16 June 2015, and that the formal launch of the GGA was scheduled to take place at COP 21.

71. The Director of IITC presented an overview of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, the third initiative launched at the Climate Summit in September last year. Given the rapid growth of renewables in island settings, the initiative focuses on power sector transformation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), enabling structured systems for transition, information exchange and capacity building, in order to promote climate resilience and economic prosperity. He noted that the Initiative's concrete activities include grid assessments, Renewables Readiness Assessments (RRAs), quick scans, and the creation of roadmaps for development, grid stability studies and studies on tariff impact of renewable energy. A Project Navigator module for islands has been launched – which provides tools for project developers specifically-tailored to islands issues. Mr. Gielen noted that the Initiative currently includes 27 SIDS and 18 development partners. He added that the event co-organised with the government of France in Martinique on 22-24 June 2015 would define an Action Agenda for SIDS Lighthouses, focusing on technical aspects such as resource assessments, geothermal and marine technologies, renewable energy solutions for desalination, biomass utilisation and waste-to-energy systems. He noted that further SIDS Lighthouses workshops are planned in cooperation with Japan and Germany, in Bangkok and Cape Town respectively. He thanked France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the United States for their contributions to the Initiative, and encouraged Members to consider making additional voluntary contributions.

72. The Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) of IRENA, Mr. Henning Wuester, presented the concept for a project facilitation platform, and its application in the context of the ACEC. The platform is a virtual marketplace that connects project owners, public and private finance institutions and service providers, in order to a) assist with the initiation of projects; b) to support project development; c) to advance project financing of renewable energy projects. This will be achieved by improving the transparency of the market and active facilitation – including through the initial screening of projects, quality assurance and quality control for service providers, and donor coordination. He highlighted the fivefold increase of global investments in renewable energy from USD 55 billion in 2004 to over USD 270 billion in 2014. Mr. Wuester noted that more than double the amount of investment would be needed to reach USD 650 billion on average per annum between today and 2030 needed to reach the doubling target examined by REmap, and this requires mobilising private finance and guiding public finance intervention. Close contact had already been established with various international finance institutions to collaborate through the platform. He added that the lack of information for investors can impede the advancement of bankable projects. With the virtual market place, IRENA would support projects at the early stage and would offer tools and databases for market players. He highlighted that the ACEC would be the initial focus and subsequently other regions, including other corridors and the SIDS, would be targeted.

73. In the ensuing discussions, several delegations welcomed IRENA's plan to release the REmap 2.0 Summary and *Rethinking Energy: Climate Edition* as part of its activities on climate change. They expressed their full support and commitment to IRENA's work in maximising synergies between renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in highlighting the policy imperative for accelerated action in renewable energy.

74. A few delegations noted that a number of IRENA's programmatic initiatives have been useful for national low-carbon strategies and especially for the development of INDCs. Several delegations requested that IRENA follow the submission of INDCs and undertake a gap analysis, maximising countries' potential for action against climate change and showing renewable energy's contribution to fill these gaps. There was broad agreement that IRENA could support countries in their preparations for COP 21 by expanded

work in the area of climate finance. These delegations pointed out that IRENA could facilitate access to funding mechanisms, including the GCF, cooperate with donor communities and other non-state actors to utilise private funds, and assist countries in identifying where financial needs can best be met.

75. One delegation emphasised the importance of renewable energy as a means to combat climate change and asked for the scope of PFP activities to be expanded to other regions to maximise its potential and value added in terms of guaranteed renewable energy investments. That delegation confirmed its willingness to ensure the success of the PFP and to partner with IRENA in the organisation of the renewable energy event planned at COP 21. It concluded by expressing the hope to see IRENA take a leadership role on renewable energy and climate change issues in the future.

76. The Director-General acknowledged that there was consensus that climate change was a defining topic for the Agency and the international efforts toward sustainability and energy transformation. He stressed the importance of innovative financing, as business models are changing, and as multilateral financing need to adapt in order to become profitable. On private finance, he mentioned that new financial instruments allow for the financing of large-scale renewable energy projects. On INDCs, he noted that based on availability of data provided in individual country INDCs, IRENA would be able to assess the contribution of renewables to their total mitigation impact using REmap. On islands, he reported that IRENA is emphasising the business case for renewables in order to further increase the share of renewable energy and enhance resilience in these settings. The Director-General concluded by underlining IRENA's commitment to facilitating a strong conclusion from Paris, which would set a foundation for IRENA's work in the coming years.

77. The Director-General concluded the session by highlighting the progress made in the preparations for COP 21 in Paris. He added that the presented initiatives would provide a practical way forward in terms of implementation and deployment of renewable energy by COP 21. He further noted that these initiatives would address challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy, at the financial, policy and regulatory levels, with a view to enabling an energy transition and enhancing action around climate mitigation and adaptation. The Director-General concluded that these initiatives set the concrete direction IRENA is taking on the road to Paris and thanked Members for their continued support and feed-back.

78. The Council took note of the presentations and discussions.

Agenda Item 8: Renewable Energy Auctions (C/9/DN/3)

79. The Director-General opened the session on Renewable Energy Auctions by stating that this mechanism facilitates the deployment of renewable electricity in a regulated, cost-efficient and transparent manner while also achieving a number of other objectives. As these advantages have become more widely appreciated, he noted, the number of countries adopting renewable energy auctions has increased from six in 2005 to more than 60 as of early 2015. The Director-General mentioned that auctions present an opportunity for further development of renewables, given auctions' flexibility to adapt to changing market conditions and arising challenges. Moreover, he stated that auctions have been delivering some of the lowest electricity prices per kilowatt-hour, including in Dubai and Egypt. The Director-General thanked Germany, which allocated funding through the Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group of the Clean Energy Ministerial to produce the guidebook *Renewable Energy Auctions: A Guide to Design*.

80. Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Head of the Policy Unit of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) of IRENA, highlighted that 164 countries have introduced targets in order to support the transition to a more sustainable energy system (a four-fold increase since 2005). To achieve these targets, policies have been instrumental in encouraging investments and stimulating the development of the sector. Among the successful policies, auctions have gained prominence recently. She explained that the increasing interest in auctions is driven by the flexibility of their design to suit specific country contexts and goals; their ability to bring out the real price of the product being auctioned in a structured and competitive process; their potential to enable greater certainty regarding prices and quantities; as well as their ability to provide certainty to investors. Ms. Ferroukhi also highlighted the possibility of high transaction costs associated with auctions, and the potential risk of delays and underbuilding (when not all of the planned projects are actually built). She stated that the extent to which each of these strengths and weaknesses affects the results of an auction depends on the design choices made in relation to the circumstances of the country.

81. It is in this context, she said, that the study on the design of auctions was conducted. Constituted of six volumes, the guidebook contextualises auctions among other policy mechanisms and assesses the impact of their design on their outcome. These design elements are categorised into four groups: the auction demand, the qualification requirements, the winner selection process and the sellers' liabilities.

82. Ms. Ferroukhi emphasised that, for an auction to be successful, its design needs to ensure increased competition among participating bidders in order to bring the prices down. She explained that in order to foster competition and prevent collusion, the design elements to be considered include the diversity of competing technologies, the number of rounds of auctions organised, the volumes auctioned in each round and the number of project developers who participate in the auction and submit their bids. At the same time, she said, it is essential to include measures that can limit participation to bidders that are able to deliver the project, such as reputation requirements and compliance rules for delays and underbuilding. Moreover, bids should be limited to projects that can meet deployment goals, including:

- technological requirements (technology-specific auctions or imposing the use of high quality equipment);
- project size constraints (minimum size constraints to benefit from economies of scale or maximum size constraints to encourage small players);
- grid access requirements (to ensure that the power produced can be transmitted through the grid);
- location constraints (to avoid competition with other sectors such as agriculture).

Ms. Ferroukhi added that it is important to ensure that development goals are considered and that the design elements can be introduced in such a way as to maximise socio-economic benefits.

83. She concluded by saying that renewable energy auctions play an important role in the new generation of policies and that they have become increasingly sophisticated in their design. She stressed that the different policy options available to support renewable energy deployment are not mutually-exclusive. Even if the evolution of policies seems to move away from the feed-in tariff, for example, each policy type can be used to address different technologies, capacities, markets and objectives. She pointed out that some countries have moved from one instrument to the other and that many countries have used them in combination. Decision-makers have tailored policies according to specific contexts and the objectives to be achieved.

84. A representative from the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) discussed the factors that have led to the lowest price for the procurement of solar PV globally, resulting from the auctioning of 200 MW of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. The factors that have contributed to the

significantly low prices, he stated, include the mitigation and allocation of financial risks, the technology neutrality of the auction (thin film fixed versus crystalline tracking panels) and the solid and transparent procurement process. Moreover, the fact that it was part of a broader plan of systematic auctioning led suppliers to offer lower prices in order to enter the market for the long run.

85. In the interventions that followed, country delegations encouraged the continuation of IRENA's work on the topic. Several delegations stressed that, while the auction scheme has been successful in deploying renewables by encouraging competition, thereby often leading to a decrease in support costs, auctions are not the only effective policy instrument. Delegations agreed that the experience of different countries in implementing auctions has led to many lessons learned that can be replicated in other countries.

86. The Council took note of the presentation and discussion.

Agenda Item 9: Administrative and Institutional Matters

a. Ethics Advisory Board

87. The Council Chair introduced the item by recalling that at its second session, the Assembly adopted the 'Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA' (A/2/13), which calls for the establishment of an Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) as a standing board, composed of three members of the Council appointed by the Council for two-year terms, established to assist with the implementation of this policy and in ethics matters. He noted that the term of the current EAB members would come to a close at the current Council meeting.

88. The Council appointed Ethiopia, Fiji and India as members of the Ethics Advisory Board for a two-year term.

b. Arbitration Panel (C/9/4)

89. The IRENA Legal Advisor, Ms. Marianne Lavergne, introduced the 'Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel' contained in document C/9/4.

90. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), Mr. Conrod Hunte of Antigua and Barbuda, reported that the AFC had considered the report, had agreed with the proposals contained therein and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

91. One delegation noted that an arbitration system is important to effective functioning of an intergovernmental organisation, and expressed its satisfaction with the measures in place.

92. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel' contained in document C/9/4 and approved the Panel of the six arbitrators referred to therein for renewal of their term for a further two year period.

c. **Staff Provident Fund (C/9/5)**

93. An Executive Management representative of the Provident Fund Management Board, Mr. Dolf Gielen, introduced the '2014 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board' contained in document C/9/5.

94. The AFC Chair reported that the AFC had considered the report, had no comment thereon and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

95. The Council took note of the '2014 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board' contained in document C/9/5 and decided to submit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.

d. **Audited Financial Statements (C/9/6; C/9/CRP/3)**

96. The Director-General introduced the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014' contained in document C/9/6, noting that the Agency has received unqualified audit, as has been the case since its inception.

97. The AFC Chair referred delegations to document C/9/CRP/3 for a full account of the discussion that had taken place at the AFC meeting and reported that the AFC had decided to submit the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014' to the Council for its consideration.

98. One delegation welcomed the level of detail in the report, noting that it confirms that IRENA is spending funds in accordance with the approved budget, and urged continued focus on delivery of results.

99. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014' contained in document C/9/6 and decided to submit them to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.

e. **Internal Audit (C/9/7; C/9/CRP/3)**

100. The Director-General introduced his 'Report on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken' contained in document C/9/7.

101. On the matter of Members' access to internal audit reports, raised by one delegation at the previous Council meeting, the Director-General noted that based on the outcome of the review conducted by the Secretariat of the practice followed in other international organisations, the Secretariat will make internal audit reports available to Members, upon their specific written request, for their viewing at IRENA Headquarters. He expressed the hope that this measure will give assurances to Members of his full commitment to maximum transparency. He closed by underlining the importance of ensuring that appropriate safeguards are maintained to protect confidentiality and the rights of the individuals, contractors or Members referenced in the reports.

102. The AFC Chair referred the Council to document C/9/CRP/3 for a full account of the comments under this item and reported that the AFC had considered the 'Report of the Director-General on the Activities of

the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken' and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

103. One delegation welcomed the level of detail and preparation evident in this report. It noted that the reports of the Internal Audit Office are invaluable tools for management, thanked the Secretariat for actions taken to implement the audit recommendations, and encouraged continuation of these actions.

104. The Council took note of the 'Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken' contained in document C/9/7.

Additional matters raised during the meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee (C/9/CRP/3)

105. The AFC Chair reported on comments made at the AFC meeting under the item 'Any other business' regarding the provision of Staff Regulations that limits the service of all categories of staff to seven years and referred the Council to document C/9/CRP/3 for a full account of the comments on this matter. The AFC Chair reported that the AFC had acknowledged the impact of the limit in service on staff and the Agency, and recommended that options be explored to address this matter.

106. Two delegations encouraged the Secretariat to look into this service limitation and consider possible alternatives.

107. The Council, taking into consideration the views expressed as well as the report of the AFC, decided to further consider this issue at its next meeting.

f. Committee membership and chairmanship

108. The Council Chair introduced the item by noting that, at its first session, the Assembly had established the current committees, the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC). He reported that the Council was requested to appoint new committee members and elect new chairs for a two-year term at this meeting.

109. The Council Chair underscored that the two committees have been encouraged by the Assembly and the Council to conduct their formal business in an open and participatory manner, by providing all Members of the Agency the opportunity to participate equally in all committee activities, and that both committees have fully embraced this approach.

110. The Council appointed Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, France, India, Iran and Israel as members of the Administration and Finance Committee, and Fiji, France, Germany, India, Iran, Malaysia and Mauritius as members of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

111. The Council appointed Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee and Germany as Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

Agenda Item 10: Arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Council

112. The Council designated India as Chair, and New Zealand as Vice-Chair of the tenth meeting of the Council, and decided to hold its tenth meeting on 23 and 24 November 2015.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

113. One delegation encouraged delegations to participate in the Energy Transition Dialogue in Germany on a date to be announced in 2016, the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) on 4-7 October 2015, and the Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC) on 4-6 April 2016. Another delegation noted the upcoming deadline for submissions for the Zayed Future Energy Prize, and encouraged all in attendance to apply or raise awareness within their countries about the prize. This delegation also invited all delegates to attend the next World Future Energy Summit, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi on 18-21 January 2016. A delegation drew attention to the International Green Technology Exhibition and Ecoproducts Conference of Malaysia (IGEM) to take place on 9-12 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. All Members were also invited to attend the 'Island Energy Transitions: Pathways for Accelerated Uptake of Renewables' meeting in Martinique on 22-24 June 2015.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting

114. The Chair thanked delegations for their commitment and engagement, which provided productive feedback and guidance for the future activities of the Agency, and closed the ninth meeting of the Council.

Ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA
10 – 11 June 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

10 June 2015

Agenda of the ninth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organisation of work
 - a. Election of officials
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Director-General: Implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget
4. Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017
5. Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017
6. Power Sector Transformation
7. Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris
8. Renewable Energy Auctions
9. Administrative and institutional matters
 - a. Ethics Advisory Board
 - b. Arbitration Panel
 - c. Staff Provident Fund
 - d. Audited Financial Statements
 - e. Internal Audit
 - f. Committee membership and chairmanship
10. Arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Council
11. Any other business
12. Closing of the meeting

Ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA

10 – 11 June 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

13 October 2015

List of participants

Council members (19)

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Algeria	Guezzane Said	Director-General	Centre for Research and Development of Energy and Natural Gas (CREDEG)
2		Attiya Salah	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
3		Ramdane Ferhat	Minister Plenipotentiary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
4	Cameroon	Adama Saidou	Director	Ministry of Environment and Natural Protection
5	China	Xing Yiteng	Deputy Director	Department of Renewable Energy, National Energy Administration
6		Li Yanzhong	Program Officer	Department of International Cooperation, National Energy Administration
7		Wang Zhongying	Deputy Director General	Energy Research Institute, National Development and Reform Commission
8	Ethiopia	Abdulkadir Risku Salih	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
9		Girma Risa	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
10		Gosaye Abayneh	Director of Energy Study and Development Directorate	Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy
11	Fiji	Robin Nair	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
12		Emosi Rakai	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
13		Paula Katirewa	Director of Energy	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
14		Sarika Lata	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
15	France	Michel Miraillet	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
16		Clemence Barret	Deputy Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
17		Cyril Vial	Charge de Mission	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
18		Martine Kubler-Mamlouk	Deputy Permanent Representative to IRENA	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
19		Philippe Geiger	Deputy Director of European and International Affairs	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Energy
20		Stephen Marchisio	Head of Strategic Sectors Support Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21	Germany	Eckhard Lübke-meier	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
22		Alexander Haack	Team Leader Energy	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
23		Angelique Bachour	Assistant, Energy Affairs	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
24		Ellen von Zitzewitz	Deputy Head of International Energy Policy Division	Federal Ministry for Economy and Energy
25		Kerstin Fähmann	Head of Division	Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
26		Kirstin Bergmann	Executive Officer	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
27		Martin Schöpe	Head of Division for International Affairs of Energy and Environment, Renewable Energy, Bilateral Cooperation with Industrial Countries	Federal Ministry for Economy and Energy
28		Philipp Wittrock	Policy Advisor	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
29		Ralf Schröer	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
30		Sebastian Brokelmann	First Secretary, Energy Affairs	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
31	India	Upendra Tripathy	Secretary to the Government of India	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
32		Dilipkumar Khare	Director	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
33		Mohdshahid Alam	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
34		Neeta Bhushan	Deputy Chief of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
35		Thettalil Parameswaran Pillai Seetharam	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
36		Vijay Krishnamoorthy	Director Energy Security	Ministry of External Affairs
37	Italy	Pietro De Martin	Head of Energy and Environment Unit	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
38		Alessandro Rizzo	Energy Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
39		Caterina Gigliuto	First Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
40		Riccardo Toxiri	Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisor	Gestore dei Sistemi Energetici - GSE
41		Umberto Bernardo	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
42	Japan	Kenji Hirata	Minister Plenipotentiary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
43		Eiji Tanaka	Deputy Director of International Strategy Division	Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
44		Kanji Fujiki	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
45		Kazuto Nakamura	Senior Assistant Director	International Affairs Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
46		Kenji Yoneda	Researcher	Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
47		Tomoyoshi Hisamori	Deputy Director	International Affairs Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
48		Tsuyoshi Tanaka	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
49	Malaysia	Loo Took Gee	Secretary General	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
50		Dato Adnan	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
51		Gladys Mak	Director	Sustainable Energy Development Authority
52		Lim Shean Pin	Principal Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water
53		Mazita Marzuki	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
54		Wan Shahril	Senior Regulatory Officer	Energy Commission
55	New Zealand	Mike Allen	Special Envoy for Renewable Energy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
56		James Munro	Deputy Head of Mission	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
57		Jeremy Clarke Watson	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
58		Merinda Lee Hassall	Development Manager, Energy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
59		Saleem Al-Tamari	Policy Advisor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
60	Poland	Marcin Scigan	Expert	Ministry of Economy
61		Andrzej Lysiak	First Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
62		Joanna Makola	Junior Expert, Renewable Energy Department	Ministry of Economy

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
63		Katarzyna Pieniazek	Intern	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
64		Sebastian Stepnicki	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
65	Swaziland	Peterson V.D. Dlamini	Senior Energy Officer	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
66		Constance Mthupha	Third Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
67		Donald Mazibuko	Counsellor	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
68		Gcina Dlamini	Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
69	Trinidad and Tobago	Zaffar Khan	Programme Director	Sustainable Energy Management
70	Turkey	Yusuf Yazar	General Director	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
71		Hakansener Akata	Assistant Expert	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
72		Ilham Atus	Second Secretary	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
73		Levent Bilgen	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
74		Merve Kayserili	Assistant Energy Expert	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
75	United Arab Emirates	Thani Al-Zeyoudi	Permanent Representative to IRENA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
76		Ali Ozair Al Shafar	Head of Energy Section	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
77		Ghasaq Shaheen	Energy Analyst	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
78		Hannes Reinisch	Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
79		Majed Dodeen	Editor / Translator	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
80		Mohammed Al-Kobaisi	Energy Affairs Manager	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
81		Naoko Kubo	Senior Analyst	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
82		Reem Ketait	Energy Analyst	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
83		Sameer Assaf	Domestic Policy Expert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
84	United States of America	Timothy G. Williamson	Deputy Director	Office of Alternative and Renewable Energy, Bureau of Energy Resources, Department of State
85		Akbar Khalid	Political Officer	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
86		Alessandro Nardi	Foreign Affairs Officer	Office of Specialized and Technical Agencies, Bureau of International Organisations, Department of State
87		Mark Motley	Economic Officer	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
88	Uruguay	Olga Otegui	National Director of Energy	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining
89		Nelson Chaben	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE

Council Alternates (3)

	Country	Name	Position/Title	Institution
1	Cyprus	Elpidoforos Economou	Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador	Diplomatic Mission to UAE
2		Georgina Lahdo	Officer	Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism
3	Somalia	Abdirahman Ahmed	Manager	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Nick Clements	Head of International Low Carbon Engagement	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5		Olivia Tunnell	Official	Diplomatic Mission to UAE

Members of IRENA

1. Albania
2. Angola
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Argentina
5. Azerbaijan
6. Bangladesh
7. Belarus
8. Belgium
9. Benin
10. Colombia
11. Czech Republic
12. Denmark
13. Djibouti
14. Dominican Republic
15. Egypt
16. Finland
17. Ghana
18. Greece
19. Indonesia
20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
21. Iraq
22. Israel
23. Jordan
24. Kazakhstan
25. Kenya
26. Kingdom of the Netherlands
27. Kuwait
28. Latvia
29. Luxembourg
30. Mexico
31. Montenegro
32. Nigeria
33. Norway
34. Pakistan
35. Peru
36. Philippines
37. Portugal
38. Republic of Korea
39. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
40. Senegal
41. Serbia
42. Seychelles

43. Sierra Leone
44. Slovakia
45. South Africa
46. Spain
47. Sri Lanka
48. Sudan
49. Sweden
50. Uganda
51. Yemen

Observers

Signatories / States-in-Accession

1. Guinea
2. Ireland
3. Lebanon
4. Liberia
5. Russian Federation

UN Member States: Non Signatories / Non States-in-Accession

1. Thailand
2. Ukraine

Ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA

10 – 11 June 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

10 June 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the progress made in the second year of implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015 (A/4/DC/1), as reflected in the Director-General's progress report (C/9/CRP/1). The PSC also considered the 'Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017' (C/9/2), 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris' (C/9/DN/2), and the 'Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017' (C/9/3).

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 10 June 2015.

Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting

Implementation of the Work Programme 2014-2015

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work in implementing the Work Programme 2014-2015. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's progress made in the implementation of the first four months of the second year of the biennial work programme. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the progress made both in the biennium and since the establishment of the Agency, stressing that IRENA's knowledge products coupled with direct engagement with, and support to countries and regions has underpinned its role as the global voice for renewables.
- The PSC expressed its satisfaction with the Agency's active participation in fora such the G7, G20, the Clean Energy Ministerial, and climate action activities, as well as events organised by its Members.
- The PSC members informed of their national deployment strategies and ambitious targets. They emphasised benefits of the diverse IRENA products, such as on socio-economic issues, efficient policy design, technology cost reduction and finance instruments that assist in advancing their renewable energy agendas.
- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on the business case for renewables and on the energy transformation, including on off-grid and mini grid solutions, and encouraged additional focus on these solutions.
- The PSC highlighted the contribution of the REmap country analysis to respective national strategies. It also encouraged IRENA to work further on energy security and energy transformation.
- The PSC encouraged Members to participate in IRENA's programmatic activities, and to contribute financially and otherwise to those programmatic activities of particular interest to them.

Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on the preliminary framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017. The Secretariat presented IRENA's proposal for the work programme framework. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The Secretariat emphasised that early consultation with Members had been vitally important for the formulation of the Framework and programmatic priorities.
- The Secretariat presented the work envisaged within six thematic areas and explained the realignment of programmatic components, which reflect the priorities identified through the consultative process.
- The PSC welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to streamline programmatic components to take into account priorities and concerns previously identified by Members.
- The PSC agreed that the Framework provides a good balance between knowledge, advisory and support functions of the Agency, and welcomed clear focus of thematic areas that reflect priorities discussed in previous meetings.
- The PSC noted the dynamic nature of the sector and emerging priorities, and emphasised the need to remain responsive to Members' needs, including the geographical expansion of the regional work. The importance of engagement with the private sector was also emphasised.
- The PSC noted great discrepancies in the cost of renewables in different settings and recommended that IRENA examine the ways to cost reduction to assist Members in their decision-making.
- The PSC articulated the need to be mindful of the work and mandates undertaken by other entities to avoid duplication of work and ensure synergies in the development of the next work programme.
- The PSC stressed the importance of allocating core resources to ensure the continued availability of key products, such as the institutional publication.
- The PSC further noted that Members have to recognise the Agency's limited resources in determining expectations for the coming biennium.
- The PSC recommended that in the course of the Council, Members should give an estimate of the budgetary envelope, so that the Secretariat has guidance regarding potential budgetary levels.
- The Secretariat stressed that Members' feedback in PSC and the Council is vital to the Agency's ability to articulate programmatic activities in the coming months.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change on the Road to Paris

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on climate. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's plans for the upcoming COP 21 in Paris and presented options for engagement with the climate finance institutions, namely the Green Climate Fund. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC noted that the speed of disbursement of public funds was a critical issue and that IRENA should assist in accelerating these processes. It stressed that IRENA should also assist in the

development of risk mitigation instruments to reduce costs, including those arising from changing exchange rates over time.

- The PSC stressed that IRENA, based on its comparative advantage of knowledge excellence and experience with countries, could provide advice to climate financing institutions for renewables deployment, to countries in application for such funding, or in project implementation.
- The PSC recommended that IRENA should analyse further these options to help define its optimal function, taking into account substantive and financial implications.

Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on the review of the Medium-term Strategy. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's plans for the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 in anticipation of the development of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The Secretariat presented the process for the review of Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017. In this context, the Secretariat informed of the upcoming evaluation of the agency's impact that will be provided to the Council at its 10th meeting.
- The PSC welcomed the process that had been put forward which ensures participation of Members in the review process. It also recommended that Council considers the development of the next Medium-term Strategy in the course of the biennium..

Ninth meeting of the Council of IRENA

10 – 11 June 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

11 June 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee met on 9 June 2015 to review and inform Council on matters contained in ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014’ (C/9/6), ‘The Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’ (C/9/7), ‘Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’ (C/9/4), ‘2014 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board’ (C/9/5).

Chair’s Summary of the Outcome of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting

The Secretariat provided an update on the utilisation of the Agency’s resources in the implementation of the Work Programme. It welcomed the timely provision of assessed contributions and expressed hope that remaining contributions would be provided soon. The Secretariat also informed of the increase in additional Voluntary Contributions which allowed the strengthening of the programmatic work, and expressed gratitude to Members who provided these contributions.

1. Audited Financial Statements

- The Secretariat presented the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014’ noting the unqualified audit opinion provided by the External Auditor.
- The Secretariat informed the AFC that the Auditor’s management letter is currently being finalised to incorporate management response on the five points made, namely, the future of the UAE Bid contributions; the IRENA HQ occupancy agreement; process and guidance changes related to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system; collection of outstanding contributions; and segmental reporting. It also noted that this information, together with external audit recommendations will be shared at the 10th Council meeting and at the sixth session of the Assembly.
- The AFC welcomed the consistent positive outcome of external audits since the Agency’s inception. Some Member asked about the future of the UAE bid contribution beyond 2015.
- The Secretariat stressed that the UAE bid is an important non-assessed core contribution to the Agency. It acknowledged the continuous commitment of the Host Country to the Agency, and noted that discussion on the financial arrangements beyond 2015 are ongoing.
- The Secretariat highlighted its full understanding of implications of possible changes in arrangements beyond 2015 and noted that the Council would be made aware in a timely manner should the outcome of discussions have a significant impact on the future programming.
- With respect to the implementation of the Work Programme, the AFC welcomed the utilisation of resources in accordance with the Work Programme and expressed continued interest in future budget discussions. The AFC also welcomed additional Voluntary Contributions and encouraged further diversification of the resource base.
- The AFC took note of the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2014’ and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

2. Internal Audit

- The Secretariat presented ‘The Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’.
- The Secretariat informed that in response to the query made at the eighth meeting of the Council regarding access to the internal audit reports, a review of disclosure practice of other international organisations was undertaken. The review ascertained that four organisations make the internal audit reports publicly available, ten do not disclose them and seven make them accessible to the Members, upon request, for viewing only.
- The Secretariat emphasised its commitment to full transparency and noted that internal audit reports would be available upon written request, for their viewing at IRENA Headquarters. The Secretariat will develop a procedure for this purpose which will include the protection of the confidentiality of individuals and contractors under review.
- The Secretariat also recalled that IRENA’s Financial Regulations and Procedures require internal audit findings to be fully disclosed to the external auditor, which ensures that Members would be informed of any significant findings by internal auditor.
- The AFC commended the Secretariat for its commitment to transparency in this matter and supported the proposed way forward.
- The AFC took note of ‘The Report of the Director-General on the Activities of the Internal Audit Office, and Internal Audit Recommendations and Actions Taken’ and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

3. Arbitration Panel

- The Secretariat presented the ‘Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’, noting that the term of service of the current arbitrators will end in August 2015 and that all arbitrators confirmed their willingness to continue for a further two year term.
- The AFC supported the proposal contained in the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

4. Staff Provident Fund

- A management representative of the Provident Fund Management Board presented the ‘2014 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board’.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

5. Any other business

- The Secretariat recalled the provision of Staff Regulations that limits the service of all categories of staff to seven years. It noted the importance of maintaining the balance between the staff retention and the need to obtain new skills, to ensure the continuum in the Agency’s core programmatic and support functions. The Secretariat stressed that the limit in service is affecting the investment in time and resources the Agency is making in attracting, recruiting, developing and retaining qualified staff. The Secretariat emphasised that its primary consideration remains the high performance of staff. It also noted that, with time, natural attrition is starting to occur. In this context, it expressed its concern that, as the first cohort of staff is nearing the seven year limit, the Agency faces a risk of depleting its intellectual and institutional capacity.
- The AFC acknowledged the impact of the limit in service on staff and the Agency, and recommended that options for addressing this be explored.