

## Statement of Outcome of the Workshop to the IRENA Council

Most of the Pacific islands are almost entirely dependent upon oil for power generation, transport, and other energy services. Typical power supply costs are in the range of USD 0.3-0.6 per kWh, even higher for remote islands due to high transport costs. Renewables can, if correctly deployed and sustainably managed, diversify the energy mix of these countries and territories, particularly as it relates to electricity generation.

In 2012 IRENA intends to contribute its efforts to accelerate the deployment of sustainable renewable energy systems in the Pacific region. IRENA partnered with the Government of Australia and the World Bank to hold a Workshop on *Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment on Islands with Emphasis on the Pacific Islands* that took place from 26-28 October 2011 in Sydney. Around 60 representatives and experts from Pacific island countries and territories and other small island developing countries, development partners, inter-governmental regional organizations, industry, and coordination agencies came together to share experiences, and to provide guidance on how IRENA can contribute best to support existing efforts.

The meeting noted that any effort must be conscious of the geographical, economic and social diversity within the region. Participants also noted the importance of action being tailored and responsive to island specific circumstances, as well as avoiding the duplication with existing efforts by the numerous stakeholders active in the region.

Workshop participants brought a wealth of knowledge regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with accelerating the deployment of sustainable renewable energy systems in the region. A number of workshop presentations provided examples of projects already underway to increase the use of renewable technologies. The examples presented at the workshop contained important lessons on the wide range of issues and possible solutions that must be addressed to ensure the sustained and long term deployment of renewable energy is achieved in the region.

The workshop identified the following key steps IRENA should take to undertake its work in the Pacific in 2012 in line with its statute:

- IRENA should design its activities to align with the national and regional energy frameworks and relevant sectors in the Pacific region that have emerged over the past decade and take a lead role in actively engaging the key development partners responsible for supporting activity across the region, including all key development partners represented in the “Energizing the Pacific” initiative.
- Moreover, IRENA should take advantage of the expertise existing in regional organizations and programmes as well as locally engaged private sector experts and industry when engaging in activities in the Pacific region. IRENA should also seek to build upon the projects that have already been developed and tested in the region, and help tailor those activities that have already been proven to work accordingly.
- IRENA can develop tailored advice on all technical aspects in renewable energy including accessing affordable and reliable renewable and storage technologies, including parts and

components, which have the technical characteristics to withstand island conditions and be suitable for maintenance with the limited technical skills available in the islands.

- IRENA can provide advice and support to help the private sector, particularly local entrepreneurs, develop viable business models and expand the energy market management capacity for utilities including accessing IPPs and PPAs.
- IRENA can serve as a one-stop-shop for the region by collecting and sharing information on renewable energy technologies, and the development projects in the Pacific region and elsewhere in the world.
- Capacity building is a challenge of specific importance for the region. IRENA can support the development of tailor made programmes, based on its international experience.
- IRENA can support regular and systematic training activities and vocational programs within the industry which help build and maintain capacity in the region. This training could be modelled on the Pacific Renewable Energy Training Initiative (PRETI) approach which has been endorsed by PIC energy departments.
- IRENA can support and partner with the ongoing efforts in assessing the renewable energy potentials of the region, hence assessing the renewable energy readiness of the Pacific countries for accessing their technologies with the largest potentials.
- IRENA recognizes the transport sector represents a significant share of the energy balance of most Pacific countries, and large gains can be performed in this area, which will benefit the transport of people, goods and materials with possible significant impacts on trade, innovation and cultural development.
- IRENA also recognizes that the losses and lack of efficiency in energy production and energy consumption, should be addressed as a priority.

A more detailed summary of the proceedings will be published and serve as input for a Pacific leaders meeting in Abu Dhabi in January 2012 in the margin of the second IRENA assembly.