



Validation Workshop

Somalia Renewables Readiness Assessment

27 – 28 February 2024

Venue: Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, and IRENA Zoom Platform

Background

Somalia is on a path to stabilization and is taking important steps towards stimulating growth and development. The National Development Plan's (NDP) third pillar of "Economic Development" aims to accelerate inclusive growth across all economic sectors and acknowledges energy service provision as being crucial towards this effort. Somalia's National Energy Policy (2018) and the recently enacted Electricity Act (2023) consistently mention the need "to promote widespread production, use, and storage of renewable energy" in line with the target of achieving 100% access to universal energy services and 30% emissions reductions as articulated in the updated Nationally Determined Contributions that was submitted to UNFCCC in 2021.

There is a strong rationale for renewable energy development in Somalia. Firstly, renewable energy sources are abundant in the country, ranging from hydropower and geothermal to solar and wind resources. The high wind and solar resources are of particular use for reducing the high dependency on fossil-fuels based electricity generation which has been aggravating the country's fiscal balance of trade. Moreover, renewable energy can strongly contribute to both climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Although climate mitigation may not be a priority, mitigation measures, through the use of renewable energy, can help strengthen the resilience of the livestock, agriculture, and fishing sectors which Somalia heavily relies on as the main economic activities, generating just over 60% of GDP and 70% of export revenues.

In this regard, The Federal Republic of Somalia represented by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has embarked on a Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) to comprehensively appraise the key conditions for the development and deployment of renewable energy and identify short and medium-term actions to accelerate energy transition efforts. The RRA process is designed to support countries achieve national development objectives by strengthening the business case for renewable energy, helping to attract investment and addressing complex, cross-cutting social and economic questions.

As part of this process, an Expert Consultation Workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry and IRENA on the 13th and 14th of November 2023 in Mogadishu. During the workshop, IRENA experts and stakeholders in Somalia examined critical challenges associated with scaling up RE and also identified key actions to overcome these challenges. The outcomes of the discussions provided critical inputs for the preparations of the draft RRA report.



Objective

To continue the constructive exchange and to consolidate the recommendations identified throughout the RRA process, IRENA and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources are organizing the RRA Validation Workshop. Participants will include governmental agencies, energy experts, development partners, and international and regional organisations. The outcomes of this workshop will feed into the final RRA report.

Format

Over the course of two days, different sessions will be held as part of the Validation Workshop. All sessions will be conducted in a hybrid format. IRENA’s Team, local coordinator, and international consultants together with the energy stakeholders in Somalia will be gathered in one location. Each discussion session will begin with a presentation by IRENA team members (officials and/or consultants), followed by an open discussion moderated by National representatives.

Workshop Agenda

Day 1:

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and morning coffee
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Welcome remarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>H.E Jama Taqal Abbas, Minister of Energy and Water Resources.</i> - <i>Tarig Ahmed, Regional Programme officer – MENA, IRENA.</i> - <i>Scene setting presentation by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.</i> - <i>Presentation by IRENA on the RRA findings.</i> <p>Group photo.</p>
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Technical Session 1 (Setting the Framework: Key policies, regulations, and contractual framework):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation by the National Electricity Authority (Director General, Abdullahi Ahmed Dayib).</i> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Operationalizing institutions to define and implement the necessary regulatory and contractual framework. Both centralised and distributed energy markets.</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Technical Session 2 (Mobilizing the necessary resources: key challenges in attracting public and private finance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Key challenges in favoring capital-intensive, low running cost energy systems through economies of scale and series to favor low-capital cost financing.</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>



13:00- 14:00	Lunch and prayers
14:00- 15:30	<p>Technical Session 3 (Equal opportunities: Energy access and cooking in rural and urban areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Territorial and political stabilisation depend on equal access to energy services, sustainable cooking solutions differentiating between urban (Biogas, electric and sustainable charcoal as a transition instrument).</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>
15:30- 16:00	Coffee break
16:00- 16:30	<p>Wrap Up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>IRENA and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources</i>

Day 2:

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and morning coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Recap of Day 1
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Technical Session 4 (Planning and preparing: Data, training, and certification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Critical information collection, availability, and use (databases on resources, needs and projects); necessary training infrastructure and training certificates; accompanying necessary R&D and testing/equipment certification.</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Technical Session 5 (Priming the pump: EVs, hydrogen and biofuels):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Preparing for the future: exploring future technology solutions through market initiation for export and local solutions. Importance of transition solutions to allow long-term technological developments (biofuels, sustainable wood fuel/charcoal, etc.).</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>
13:00- 14:00	Lunch and Prayers
14:00- 15:30	<p>Technical Session 6 (Action plan):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation of the key findings and recommendations (IRENA).</i> <p><i>Discussing the Action plan forward including priorities, timelines, budget, and financing institutions.</i></p> <p>Group discussions</p>
15:30- 16:00	Coffee break
16:00- 16:30	<p>Closing Session: Way forward and Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>IRENA and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources</i>