

STEERING GROUP 2023



Ben Backwell, Global Wind Energy Council

Ben Backwell is the CEO of the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), the organisation that represents the private sector wind industry globally. Ben is a strategist and thought leader who has been involved in global energy markets for over 20 years, as a journalist, analyst, advisor and government affairs specialist. He is the author of "Wind Power: the struggle for a new global industry (Taylor and Francis, 2017) of which a third edition will be published in 2023 and a frequent media commentator. He sits on a number of advisory boards and committees in the renewable energy space, including the RE100, IRENA and IEA, and will be leading the wind sector's intervention at COP28 in Dubai.



Elvira López Prados, ACCIONA Energía

Elvira López Prados is the Head of the CEO Office at ACCIONA Energía, leading pure renewable-utility with c.12 GW under operation, in 20 countries in the 5 continents. The Company counts with more than 30 years of experience as one of the sector's first mover, and assets in different renewable technologies (onshore wind, solar PV, hydro, CSP, biomass, storage, green hydrogen). She manages external and internal strategic high-level communications, coordination and planning processes, while contributing to the Company's strategy through research analysis. She has previous experience in business development internationally, having served at the commercial office of the Embassy of Spain in Bangkok (Thailand), as analyst responsible for Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. In addition, she has worked in business development at Iberdrola Engineering and Construction, in connection with the analysis and identification of international energy project opportunities. She holds a dual bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Law from the University of Granada and completed advanced studies in business at INSEEC Paris. She also holds a master's degree in International Business from ICEX-CECO, subordinate to the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.



Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes, European Renewable Energies Federation

Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes is Vice President of the European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF). Has also served as the association's President in the past. EREF represents national renewable energy associations from the European Union. Prior to joining the renewable energy sector, Rainer was also a Director General and deputy secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Rainer also represents EREF as co-chair of the Coalition's Towards 100% Renewable Energy Working Group.



Máté Heisz, Global Solar Council

Máté Heisz has been member of the Board of Directors of the Global Solar Council on behalf of SolarPower Europe since 2020 and was elected to Chair for the period 2023-2024. As Director of Global Affairs at SolarPower Europe, he oversees the association's work on emerging and overseas markets, international supply chains, quality and innovation. Before joining SolarPower Europe, Máté Heisz worked as a Renewable Energy Advisor at the German international cooperation GIZ in Tunisia. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the Free University of Berlin and a Master's degree in Economics from the Corvinus University of Budapest. He speaks English, German, French and Hungarian.



Ibtissem Hammi, ENEL GREEN POWER SPA

Ibtissem Hammi is the Head of Regulatory Affairs in Enel Green power, the global leader in renewable energy with more than 54 GW of installed capacity, and a global presence counting 31 countries in the 5 continents. Ibtissem has a Degree in International Management, followed by a postgraduate program in International Affairs. She has spent 15 years in various companies of the Enel Group, where she was in charge of Business Development for the Gas and LNG activities of the company and matured a deep knowledge of the energy landscape in emerging markets. In 2017 she joined Enel Green Power to manage the Institutional Affairs for Africa, Asia and Oceania region. Ibtissem was recently appointed Head of Regulatory Affairs for Africa, Asia and Oceania Area for Enel Green Power. Advocating for a de-risked environment for investments in renewable energy is a core part of her job. She has an extensive experience in international relations, governmental affairs and she spent most of her life in multicultural contexts and speaks fluently several foreign languages.



Rana Adib, REN21

Rana ADIB is the Executive Director of REN21. Here, leads and engages with a broad network of members and organisations (governments, industry association, science and academia as well as international organisations and NGOs) to accelerate the shift to renewable energies. She designs and direct strategies that support and enhance REN21’s activities and operations. Previously, Rana was REN21’s Research Coordinator developing the international expert community and leading the REN21 *Renewables Global Status Report* series to become an international reference. Prior to REN21, Rana worked in private industry and applied research in the areas of renewable energy, energy access, and waste management. She has over 20 years’ experience in the energy sector.



Rabia Ferroukhi, International Renewable Energy Agency

Rabia Ferroukhi is Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre at IRENA. She has worked at IRENA since 2011 and brings over 20 years of experience in the fields of energy, development and environment. She has previously headed IRENA’s Policy Unit, which works on a range of renewable energy policy and regulatory issues including market design, target-setting, socioeconomic benefits and integrated resource management. Earlier, Rabia worked in both the public and private sectors, including with governments in the Middle East and North Africa, energy companies in the Mediterranean and Gulf regions, and international institutions. Rabia holds an MSc in Applied Economics and a PhD in Economics from the American University in Washington, DC.



Lena Dente, World Future Council

Lena has experience in the civic and private sector having worked with energy sector stakeholders to help make progress on the energy transition, with philanthropists to help them achieve more impact, as a sustainability and ESG-focused content creator and with various public and private sector leaders to move from dialogue to climate action. Her career path includes time at the World Economic Forum, the World Energy Council, UBS and as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow in Berlin. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Studies from DePauw University in Indiana and a Master’s Degree in International Security Policy from Georgetown University’s Graduate School of Foreign Service. Most recently she completed further studies in sustainability at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.



Monica Oliphant, World Wind Energy Association

Monica Oliphant worked 18 years for a South Australian electricity utility as a Principal Research Scientist with a background in Physics. She was President of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) 2008/09 and is active in the IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) Coalition for Action and for many years represented ISES on the World Wind Energy Association Board. She is now a VP on this Board. Monica is Patron of crowd funding initiative CORENA – Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia and is a member of other energy related and social service committees. Monica received an Order of Australia (AO) in 2015 and was 2016 Senior South Australian of the Year. In 2018 she received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of South Australia.