

Fourteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

2024 IRENA Legislators Forum Building Blocks for a Renewable Future: Accelerating Progress towards the Tripling of Renewables

16 April 2024, 11:00 – 12:30 GST
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

The urgency to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as underscored by the latest IPCC Assessment Report (AR6), has heightened the imperative for immediate and concerted action. With the energy sector being a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, achieving this goal necessitates a radical transformation in the way we produce and consume energy.

The global energy landscape stands at a pivotal moment. With the urgent need to address climate change and achieve sustainable development, the ambitious COP28 pledge to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 has set a new and critical target. In this transformative journey, Legislators stand as architects of national policies and frameworks, holding the key to translating ambition into reality.

IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023 emphasises the critical role of renewables and energy efficiency in meeting climate targets. However, current trajectories fall short of the required emission reductions, indicating the urgent need for accelerated efforts.

While current global renewable energy deployment falls short of international commitments, including the Paris Agreement, numerous challenges hinder progress. Inadequate infrastructure, fragmented policies, and skilled workforce shortages all remain substantial roadblocks. Within this landscape, Legislators wield significant influence, as they are tasked with shaping policies, establishing supportive infrastructure, and fostering the development of skills critical for navigating the complexities of the energy transition.

IRENA engages Legislators through various initiatives with the vision of driving energy transitions with the accelerated deployment of renewables. Since 2016, IRENA has been hosting the annual Legislators Forum, a platform for substantive dialogue amongst legislators and renewable energy experts on innovative solutions to advance the global energy transition by establishing an active network of renewable energy champions, and facilitating exchanges of information and best practices that will help parliamentarians to amplify their influence, whether in the executive branch, among regional and local stakeholders, or in the private sector and civil society.

Objectives

The IRENA Legislators Forum stands as a pivotal platform for Legislators to convene and engage in dialogue, sharing insights, strategies, and best practices in advancing renewable energy agendas within their respective jurisdictions.

The energy transition stands at a defining moment, propelled by the urgent need for climate action and fuelled by the ambitious COP28 pledge to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. However, translating ambition into reality demands concrete action, knowledge, and collaboration. The IRENA Legislators Forum plays a critical role in this journey, equipping lawmakers with the tools they need to drive progress and deliver on the promise of COP28. Through collaborative efforts and knowledge sharing, the 2024 edition of the IRENA Legislators Forum aims to provide legislators with the knowledge, tools, and networks needed to champion and implement impactful policies that unlock the full potential of renewables and accelerate progress towards the COP28 pledge on tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030.

A holistic approach to policy formulation is essential to meet the ambitious targets set forth. In this context, the Forum will present a timely opportunity for inclusive and diverse discussions on how Legislators can promote the adoption and implementation of policies and laws aiming at contributing to the achievement of the pledge on tripling renewables by 2030. In addition to deployment and enabling policies, structural changes are imperative to ensure a just transition towards an energy-efficient economy and renewables-based power system that benefits all. Enabling measures for renewable energy deployment must extend beyond regulations and financial incentives to include reshaping organisational structures, strengthening value chains, and prioritising education, training, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders to foster inclusivity and resilience in the transition process.

To drive this change, existing electricity infrastructure should be expanded and modernised to create a new energy system fit for renewables; Legislators are in the position of promoting specific policies aiming at expanding and modernising the energy infrastructures, boosting cross-sector infrastructure planning, increasing cross-border co-operation and develop regional power grids. Similarly, education, training, re-skilling and up-skilling should be prioritised; women and under-represented groups must be empowered; and collaboration between industry, civil society, policy makers and other key stakeholders should be encouraged.

Participants of the Legislators Forum and government representatives are also invited to participate in the seventh IRENA Public-Private Dialogue and contribute to the discussion on “Building momentum towards a 100 % Renewable energy system”. The Public-Private Dialogue, held between members of the [IRENA Coalition for Action](#) (an international network of over 140 leading renewable energy players including private sector companies, industry associations, civil society research institutes and intergovernmental organisations), will take place on 16 April 2024 at 16:00 Gulf Standard Time.

Participants of the Legislators Forum will have the opportunity to engage with various Ministerial Roundtables and events occurring alongside the fourteenth session of the IRENA Assembly. While the Assembly sessions unfold, Legislators can observe the Plenary sessions proceedings from a designated overflow room, allowing them to stay informed and engaged.

Guiding Questions

- What concrete actions can legislators take to overcome political challenges and build public support for achieving the ambitious renewable energy targets set at COP28?
- How can policy and regulatory frameworks be designed to accelerate renewable energy investments, incentivise innovation, and enable large-scale project development in support of the COP28 pledge?
- What infrastructure planning and development strategies are needed to ensure grid integration and reliable access to renewable energy, meeting the ambitious targets set at COP28?
- What strategies can address skills gaps and build a workforce equipped for the clean energy transition, ensuring the human capital available to achieve the COP28 pledge?

Associated Publications

[Tripling renewable power and doubling energy efficiency by 2030: Crucial steps towards 1.5°C](#) (2023)

[World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023: 1.5°C Pathway](#) (2023)

[Tracking SDG7: The energy progress report 2023](#) (2023)

[Low-cost finance for the energy transition](#) (2023)

[The cost of financing for renewable power](#) (2023)

[Global landscape of renewable energy finance 2023](#) (2023)

[NDCs and renewable energy targets in 2023: Tripling renewable power by 2030](#) (2023)

[Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023](#) (2023)

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