

Thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA
23 – 24 May 2017, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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

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

1. The thirteenth meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 23 and 24 May 2017. The meeting was attended by the following Council members: Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Sudan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe; as well as nine alternates: Bangladesh, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, France, Malaysia, Panama, the Philippines, Spain and Uruguay. Also in attendance were delegations of 59 other IRENA Members and other countries.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the twelfth meeting of the Council of IRENA, Ethiopia, opened the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

3. **The Council elected by acclamation China, represented by Mr. Li Fanrong, Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration, as Chair; and Colombia, represented by Ms. Ruty Paola Ortiz Jara, Deputy Minister of Energy, as Vice-Chair of the thirteenth meeting of the Council.**

4. **The Chair appointed Norway as Rapporteur of the thirteenth meeting of the Council.**

b. Adoption of the agenda (C/13/1)

5. The Chair introduced the 'Provisional Agenda' (C/13/L.1).

6. **The Council considered and adopted the Agenda for its thirteenth meeting (C/13/1).**

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (C/13/2; C/13/CRP/1)

7. The Director-General of IRENA, Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, welcomed delegations to the thirteenth meeting of the Council. He presented his Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 and emphasised the importance of this juncture, in which IRENA is developing its next Work Programme in parallel with the next Medium-Term Strategy. He reflected on his most recent missions to Vienna for the UN Energy Forum, Beijing for the Belt-and-Road-Forum, and Vancouver for the Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum, underlining that renewable energy was at the centre stage of discussions at these important meetings. He also mentioned his recent missions to Saudi Arabia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Russian Federation, noting that their ambitious renewable energy deployment plans reflect that the energy transition is now truly global.

8. The Director-General provided an overview of IRENA's recent activities and publications. Among other things, he pointed to the report "*Renewable Energy Capacity Statistics 2017*", which shows that renewable generation capacity additions reached a record 161 GW in 2016, continuing to outpace conventional sources of energy. The launch of "*Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN*" (a REmap analysis) and "*Renewables Readiness Assessment: The Philippines*" were referred to as examples of IRENA's active engagement with its Members and regional partners. He also highlighted the report "*Perspectives for the Energy Transition*", developed in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to inform the G20 discussions under German Presidency. The report emphasises the centrality of the energy sector to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and highlights that renewables and energy efficiency would meet 90% of emission reductions needed by 2050. He underlined the importance of the "*2017 Annual Review of Renewable Energy Jobs*", which shows that renewable energy deployment translates into new jobs with renewables employment growing to 9.8 million people worldwide in 2016, and jobs increasing by 1.1 per cent over 2015. He said that falling costs and enabling policies have steadily driven up investment and employment in renewable energy worldwide, and stressed that employment creation is increasingly recognised as a central component of the global energy transition. The Director-General pointed to the continued growth in IRENA's membership and expressed his appreciation to Members for their continued support to the work of the Agency.

9. The Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), Mr. Martin Schöpe of Germany informed the Council that the PSC discussed three selected programmatic activities that are also reflected in the Progress Report, namely Auctions, Renewables Readiness Assessments, and Renewable Energy Standards and Quality Assurance. Mr. Schöpe reported on the Committee's satisfaction with the approach of focused discussions on programmatic activities and informed the Council of the PSC's recommendations on each of these three topics, which are contained in document C/13/CRP/1 in Annex 2 of this report.

10. Delegations commended IRENA on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 and for establishing itself as the global hub and voice of renewables. IRENA's engagement with G7, G20, the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) was welcomed. Several delegations recognised the unique standing of IRENA, with its global membership, as a networking platform for renewable energy where Members stand to benefit from existing knowledge on policy, renewable energy technology innovation, sector know-how and best practices.

11. The increasing coverage and high quality of IRENA's work and analysis were recognised by several delegations. Delegations welcomed IRENA's close cooperation with other international organisations, with some specifically noting the efforts undertaken by the Agency in the development of "*Perspectives for the Energy Transition: Investment Needs for a Low-Carbon Energy System*", completed in cooperation with IEA.

12. A number of delegations commended IRENA for its efforts in extending support to Members through existing project development programmes and activities, including through the IRENA Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility, and underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation with other entities like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the World Bank (WB). Delegations also expressed appreciation for initiatives such as the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA), and IRENA's lead studies, reports and tools, such as the Roadmap for a Renewable Energy Future (REmap), Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA), REsource and the Global Atlas. Delegations recognised IRENA's work on capacity building and its regional initiatives in Africa and the Pacific Island Nations. The Agency was called upon by delegations to continue its analytical work on policy recommendations, and to explore opportunities for increased capacity building and training.

13. Several delegations welcomed the Agency's continued focus on decentralised energy solutions and modern energy access. One delegation emphasised the importance of the upcoming publication on battery storage and costs, while several delegations welcomed and expressed gratitude for IRENA's work on auctions and encouraged further work in this respect.

14. With a focus on the Agency's achievements and credibility, one delegation highlighted the need for Members to provide additional voluntary contributions to allow the Agency to implement the approved Work Programme. This was followed by a query from two delegations on the status of the unfunded activities in the matrix and the prioritisation process of these activities.

15. The Director-General thanked all delegations for their comments and congratulated Members for the progress achieved nationally in terms of growing renewable energy capacity additions. He noted the importance of the work on policy frameworks and the concrete advice provided by IRENA in this respect. He underlined the significance of further analysis of the impact of renewable energy on the economy and employment. He emphasised the centrality of innovation, adding that IRENA will enhance its work on innovation in both technology and policy. He also highlighted the importance of energy access and off-grid renewable energy solutions to which the Agency will give more prominence in its future work. The Director-General commented on the new developments brought about by the surge of renewables worldwide and their geopolitical implications. He added that several Members had expressed the need for a better understanding of such developments.

16. The Director-General noted that due to economic realities today it is difficult to expect a continuous increase in growth of assessed contributions, and therefore, the majority of any future growth in the Agency's budget in the foreseeable future will most likely come from voluntary contributions. He underlined the importance of ensuring that such contributions are being aligned with IRENA's priorities agreed to by Members in the Assembly, in the context of the Work Programme and Budget. He informed the Council that the references to unfunded activities constitute a way of maintaining the ambition and prioritising IRENA's activities. The Director-General suggested that in the future the Work Programme will address potential voluntary contributions and their use.

17. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017', contained in document C/13/2.

Agenda Item 4: Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019
(C/13/3; C/13/CRP/1)

18. In his introduction of the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019, the Director-General stressed the importance of Member feedback received to date. He noted that IRENA also reached out to the private sector and civil society stakeholders, through the Coalition for Action, for their views. While recognising the unique circumstances of each Member, the Director-General stressed the important role of IRENA as an inclusive global platform for international cooperation to accelerate the global energy transition.

19. The Director-General underscored that the scope of areas where IRENA can contribute had grown exponentially over the last years. He noted that, given IRENA's near-universal membership, the Agency must define priorities and activities that reflect a balance of diverse needs, while applying IRENA's limited resources in a way that can ensure maximum impact. The Director-General explained that the programmatic focus of the next biennium had been framed under new headings to draw out the actions needed to achieve global, regional and country objectives. He pointed to substantive considerations to which the next Work Programme must respond, including: different pathways and the roles that renewables can play in planning at the country and regional levels; the business case for renewables;

the economic and societal benefits of renewables; the role of renewables in realising the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; innovation in renewable energy technologies and policies and markets; developing renewable energy solutions for end-use sectors; mobilising renewable energy finance at the necessary scale; and forging collaborative partnerships that facilitate increased renewables cooperation and sharing of experiences among Members.

20. The Director-General underlined that IRENA must continue to build on its technical excellence as it supports Members over the next biennium while further developing its ability to monitor trends, recognise new needs, and anticipate changes in the renewables sector. He noted that partnerships and collaboration with other international organisations remain important, along with a continued agile structure that allows the Agency to adapt to changing needs. The Director-General emphasised that effectiveness and impact would underpin all programmatic activities, and pointed to the more systematic assessment of results that will be integrated into the programmatic activities to help measure the Agency's effectiveness and impact, as called for by Members.

21. The Director-General underlined that the Agency must secure a sustainable balance between the core budget, voluntary contributions and other resources. He noted that, in recognition of the global economic and financial situation, and the challenges faced by Members in this regard, no increase in core budget is anticipated for the coming biennium. He indicated that, aligned with practice to date, budget levels would reflect new Members contributions, in addition to accounting for inflation and full staffing costs. In the context of increased potential for voluntary contributions, he highlighted that the Agency recently became eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA), which could help mobilise development finance for eligible activities. The Director-General proposed to follow previous practice on the development of the Work Programme and Budget to provide for additional input from Members before the fourteenth meeting of the Council. He noted that the Secretariat would circulate the draft Work Programme and Budget six weeks before the next Council, and should there be any changes to the draft, the Secretariat would re-circulate it two weeks before the meeting.

22. The PSC Chair reported on the Committee meeting held the day before the Council, and highlighted the Committee's recommendations on the matter, which are contained in document C/13/CRP/1 in Annex 2 of this report.

23. Delegations welcomed the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019 and reiterated their support for the programmatic direction and priorities laid out therein. Multiple delegations confirmed that IRENA has an important part to play in the fields of innovation and climate change, the transformation of the global energy system, the development of renewable energy in end-use sectors, the mobilisation of renewable energy finance, the facilitation of access to modern energy services, the transformation of energy for economic development and growth, the sharing of experiences and best practice between countries and regions, and in private sector engagement. Delegations also stressed IRENA's comparative advantage in gathering, generating and disseminating renewable energy knowledge, and monitoring, assessing and anticipating trends and needs. Several delegations noted that IRENA had become a leading voice in the renewable energy global discourse, which should be effectively used in the years to come. A number of delegations underlined IRENA's important role in assisting countries with the realisation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

24. A number of delegations emphasised the importance of developing partnerships to engage in joint action, such as in the areas of regional capacity building and training. Some delegations expressed support for IRENA's collaboration with other international fora, such as IEA, CEM, G7, G20 and UNFCCC particularly in the framework of COP. A number of delegations commended IRENA for its engagement with the private sector, including through the Coalition for Action and the CEM Corporate Sourcing of Renewables campaign, and encouraged IRENA to continue to facilitate engagement between Members and the private sector.

25. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the continuation of existing programmatic activities, including on the Global Geothermal Alliance, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, standards and certifications, grid integration, cities, bioenergy, innovation, storage, mini-grids and advancing renewables in end-use sectors. A number of delegations thanked IRENA for its assistance in the implementation of national and regional initiatives, and its continued regional focus. A delegation commended IRENA for prioritising monitoring and for introducing a more systematic assessment of results of programmatic activities. A number of delegations echoed the DG's intention to continue to prioritise areas of comparative advantage and planning a greater focus on fewer but higher impact topics. One delegation suggested prioritising projects that give the greatest impact in terms of deployed renewable energy.

26. Within the framework of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019, two delegations recommended a cross-sectoral approach when considering the potential of the deployment of renewables in buildings, industry, and transport, as well as other sectors, such as agriculture, water, health, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). One delegation requested to include an overview of the Agency's activities that support national NDC implementation. Another delegation suggested establishing a city coordination platform, with model cities as pilot projects, with an energy index or city energy transition index. A delegation proposed that the Agency looks into ways to facilitate access to affordable renewables technologies for developing countries and to create a technology and patent pool for developing countries to enable this. One delegation encouraged IRENA to strengthen its work on systemic and technical innovation, and generate guidance on how to govern an energy transition applicable for all aspects of the energy sector. Two delegations supported the necessity to have long-term planning scenarios that go beyond 2020, with a time horizon of 2030 and 2050.

27. Some delegations encouraged IRENA to emphasise additional priorities in the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019, such as the energy nexus and public engagement. Regarding public engagement, one delegation suggested to analyse and promote local acceptance of renewable energy technologies.

28. Some delegations noted the parallel development of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019 and the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and stressed the need to align the two in direction and terminology. One delegation noted its preference to keep the discussions on the Work Programme and Budget and Medium-term Strategy separately to allow for new priorities to be selected biennially.

29. Several delegations noted the need to tailor the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019 to the financial resources available, and to select the most consequential activities considering the limited resources. Two delegations noted the need for a Zero Nominal Growth approach, while one delegation expressed concern about the effect that such an approach would have on the future activities of the Agency. One delegation encouraged Members to contribute to core non-assessed resources to support the main functions of the Agency. Currently, the United Arab Emirates and Germany contribute to this category of funding. Other delegations supported the call for additional contributions. A number of delegations suggested considering additional sources of funding, such as private sector foundations, climate finance institutions, and public funding schemes, or through joining forces with other donors active in the field.

30. One delegation stressed that IRENA Members possess a wealth of knowledge and can contribute to the programmatic work through the systematic peer-to-peer sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices. Several delegations supported this approach. Some delegations suggested that, due to its strong convening power, IRENA could build a network of experts, comprising, for example, government experts, energy companies, energy technology manufacturers and consumers, to facilitate the dissemination and application of IRENA's findings.

31. The Director-General thanked Members for their input into the evolving thinking process for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019. He noted that there are different perspectives on programmatic priorities given the membership diversity and that IRENA will work to strike an optimal balance in articulating its programme of work. The Director-General underlined the need to remain flexible and focused on priorities. He emphasised the need to diversify the Agency's resource base, and allow IRENA to maximise impact and deliver concrete results.

32. The Director-General recognised the pivotal role of subnational actors, and particularly cities, in the global energy transition. He pointed to the opportunities for supporting cities as they collaborate on their renewable energy and energy efficiency objectives. In this regard, he underscored that IRENA would assess how it can be most effective in its cities work, while also considering existing platforms that operate in this space. The Director-General highlighted the need to continue developing statistical and empirical frameworks that inform the Agency's policy recommendations, particularly in the end-use sectors where the majority of the energy transition will unfold. He emphasised that measurable frameworks must underpin the activities and actions in IRENA's programmatic framework. The Director-General also highlighted the importance of developing strong messaging on the energy transition. He underlined that public support is key for the energy transition, and IRENA will continue to analyse and draw attention to the multiple benefits of renewable energy applications.

33. The Director-General noted the key role that well-functioning regional markets play in renewables development. He highlighted the numerous opportunities for the Agency to support renewables within Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals. He emphasised that innovation, energy access and mini-grids, micro-grids and standalone systems, renewable energy grid integration, and key initiatives such as the Global Geothermal Alliance and SIDS Lighthouses would remain integral to IRENA's future work. He highlighted the importance of facilitating the exchange of experiences, as well as stronger collaboration with the private sector, and pointed to renewable energy skills and training as critical elements of the Agency's future work.

34. The Council took note of the 'Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019', contained in document C/13/3.

Agenda item 5: Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 (C/13/4; C/13/CRP/1)

35. The Director-General introduced the session by recalling the process for the preparation of the Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2022, in particular, the inter-sessional discussions undertaken by Members and facilitated by the delegation of the United States of America. He highlighted the four strategic pillars encompassed in the mission statement. This statement highlights that IRENA should play a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy systems as a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation, a source of advice for countries, a global voice for renewable energy, and a network hub to develop collaborative partnerships with stakeholders. He explained that the renewable energy institutional landscape is rapidly growing and that IRENA should define where it is best placed to lead and where it should contribute to the work of others. In this regard, he encouraged Members to contribute their insights, expertise and guidance to the development of the MTS.

36. The United States of America, in its capacity as facilitator of the consultative MTS Working Team, reported on the work to date, emphasising that the next strategy needs to reflect changes that are taking place in the energy sector, and consider new issues and new stakeholders. He stressed that IRENA had gained legitimacy and authority through its information, data and analytical work. He added that this work needs to be strengthened to maintain IRENA as a state-of-the-art knowledge base and repository of global best practices and experiences.

37. The PSC Chair reported on the Committee meeting which took place the day before the meeting of the Council and highlighted the Committee's recommendations on the matter, contained in the related report (C/13/CRP/1) and constitutes Annex 2 of this report.

38. In the discussion that followed, delegations expressed their support for the draft MTS framework document. Some delegations pointed out that the new MTS should remain flexible for IRENA to adapt continuously to the ever-changing global context. Several delegations emphasised that IRENA should continue to support countries in the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and play an active role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 7.

39. Several delegations stressed that, in the new MTS, IRENA should continue to support developing countries to realise their energy transformation, with an emphasis on rural electrification. Delegations underlined that the next MTS should adopt a cross-sectoral approach and take into account different sectors including industry, transportation, cooling and heating and others.

40. A number of delegations highlighted the significance of broadening IRENA's resource base. In this regard, several delegations encouraged the Agency to continue exploring strategic partnerships with international organisations, including financial institutions. Furthermore, numerous delegations suggested that engagement with the private sector could be considered in the course of the new MTS, with the paramount importance of remaining impartial and independent. Delegations also encouraged Members to consider multiple avenues to supporting the Agency, including seconding national staff to work at IRENA.

41. A number of delegations stressed that, to avoid duplication of effort and prudent use of resources, IRENA should work closely with other international organisations and utilise the existing structures, knowledge and expertise. Additionally, some delegations underlined that the Agency should proactively facilitate sharing of knowledge and expertise among its Members. Some delegations suggested that the Agency should expand its visibility and outreach, targeting new audiences, including the youth, and a new narrative to show how renewable energy relates and benefits everyday life.

42. In response to the interventions, the Director-General emphasised the importance of Member engagement in, and ownership of the next MTS. He explained that, while the Agency has become a hub for cooperation and collaboration, facilitating knowledge and expertise sharing among Members remains at the heart of its work. He concurred that IRENA should continue to implement a comprehensible, fresh, informative and engaging framework that is accessible to the largest constituency possible.

43. The Council took note of the 'Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022', contained in document C/13/4.

Agenda Item 6: Programmatic discussion - Perspectives for the energy transition: Investment needs for a low-carbon energy system (C/13/DN/1)

44. The Director-General opened the discussion by introducing "*Perspectives for the Energy Transition: Investment Needs for a Low-carbon Energy System*". He thanked the government of Germany, the current G20 Presidency, for having requested IRENA to develop this study in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA). He noted that the study had been well received, and had been extensively covered in international media. The Director-General stated that the study builds upon IRENA's REmap methodology and provides a scenario for decarbonising the energy sector by 2050 in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Under the scenario, energy efficiency and renewable energy would deliver 90% of the needed emissions reductions by 2050.

He noted that this would require renewables to reach beyond the power sector into end-use sectors such as buildings, industry and transport, which are the next frontier for the energy transition. He underlined that the macroeconomic findings show the net positive impact of the energy transition on economic growth and employment, which has been particularly well received, encouraging the Agency to further its work in this area.

45. The Director-General underlined that bold leadership at all levels will be needed to accelerate the energy transition and that governments have a key role to play by providing the right frameworks and incentives to private sector developers and investors. He noted that this transition represents a paradigm shift in the way that energy is produced, distributed and consumed, and a path to securing economic prosperity and social well-being for all. The Director-General concluded by stating that IRENA is both the brainchild of that paradigm shift and an instrument to help realise it through international cooperation and partnerships. He emphasised that this can materialise only with the active support and ownership of the Agency's Members.

46. The Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre, Mr. Dolf Gielen, presented various findings stemming from the report and described the elements the energy transition analysed in this study. To reach the necessary levels of renewables in the energy mix, he noted that the deployment needs to increase seven-fold from the current levels. He concluded his remarks by highlighting the need for global energy decarbonisation to meet the targets outlined in the Paris Agreement within the next four decades, stressing the importance of early action.

47. The Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, Mr. Henning Wuester, presented the economic implications of the energy transition outlined in the report. He emphasised the economic viability of the energy transition, which could lead to a 0.8% increase in global GDP in 2050, with renewables alone supporting 26 million jobs at that time, up from 9.8 million today. Mr. Wuester noted that to achieve the decarbonisation goals, investment in renewable energy should be scaled up to reach the required USD 29 trillion from 2015 to 2050. He continued his remarks by noting that despite increased investment needs, the benefits of the energy transition would exceed the costs by a factor of two to six when taking health and climate benefits into account. Mr. Wuester concluded by noting the policy implications of the energy transition and reiterated the importance of early action, deep emission cuts, energy pricing, accelerated innovation, and coordinated policy action.

48. Several delegations commended IRENA for its work on the "*Perspectives for the Energy Transition: Investment Needs for a Low-Carbon Energy System*" and called for a continuation of this work while highlighting specific areas that could benefit from expanded analysis. These included: country-level analyses to develop more operational guidelines for accelerating the energy transition; increasing analyses on end-use sectors to address the vast challenges in this area; and assessments of investment needs by sector, including cost-benefit analyses of increased renewable energy deployment. Delegations also noted the need for IRENA to research and promote innovative financing options for renewable energy project developers, through practical means, such as illustrating potential profit motives and risk reduction mechanisms to attract additional investors and by highlighting the means with which to tap into development funds for eligible projects.

49. Some delegations noted that IRENA's mandate focuses on the uptake of renewable energy and the need to support countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future. Within this framework, it was suggested that IRENA consider multiple drivers for the deployment of renewables, to avoid politicisation of its work on the energy transition. Several delegations also noted the importance of coordination at the national level with regard to engagement with international organisations to avoid duplication and the need to increase interagency collaboration to accelerate progress on the energy transition, as well as to better leverage the knowledge base available within the membership. A number of delegations also highlighted the need for increased international cooperation on innovation, at the institutional level, to lessen the burden on Members.

50. The Director-General concluded by thanking the Members for their comments, as they give a direction to the discussion. He further indicated that energy efficiency is an important issue in this context, while noting the increased focus on this by other institutions and the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts.

51. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.

Agenda item 7: Programmatic discussion - Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2017
(C/13/DN/2)

52. The Director-General introduced IRENA's "*Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2017*", the fourth edition of the Agency's annual review. He underlined that renewable energy employment is an important component of the energy transition, and the importance it has for all Members. He provided an overview of the key findings of the report, which show that renewables employment has grown to 9.8 million people worldwide in 2016, with jobs increasing by 1.1 per cent over 2015. He noted that the solar PV industry is the largest renewable energy employer with 3.1 million jobs and, as in previous years, the leading renewable energy job markets are in China, Brazil, the United States, India, Germany and Japan. The Director-General underscored the significance of the growth in renewables employment, given that it stands in contrast with some other sectors of the economy.

53. The Director-General pointed to favourable policy frameworks as a key factor for job creation globally. He noted that declining costs and supportive policy frameworks resulted in record levels of solar PV installation leading to an increase in solar PV jobs. Looking forward, he underscored that IRENA estimates an accelerated scale-up of renewables, in line with global climate and development imperatives, could raise jobs to more than 24 million in 2030 and 26 million in 2050, all while achieving net positive GDP impacts. He noted that this can be achieved with technologies that are available and affordable today and that it requires strong political will and enabling environments for investments. The Director-General underlined that to harness the socioeconomic opportunities associated with the energy transition, a diverse workforce with varying skills along the renewables value chain will be needed. He emphasised that the Agency will continue expanding its work on skills and training given the importance IRENA Members are placing on the issue. He noted that renewables employment has become a pillar of the Agency's knowledge framework, and will continue to inform IRENA's broader work and support the transition to a sustainable energy future.

54. The Deputy Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC), Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, presented additional details of the report. She mentioned that the renewable energy sector continued to create jobs in stark contrast with job losses in the broader energy sector, in great part due to automatisation of processes. Ms. Ferroukhi highlighted that China, Brazil, and the United States were the leading employers and noted that jobs continued to shift towards Asian countries, which now account for 62% of renewables employment. She presented the breakdown of jobs by technology, showcasing the dynamic growth in solar PV and wind energy. Ms. Ferroukhi introduced IRENA's new studies on *Leveraging Local Capacity for Onshore Wind* and *for Solar PV*, which provide a detailed breakdown of the skills, material and resources required along the different segments of the value chain. She noted this information could help decision makers in designing education and training policies to support the renewable energy labour markets.

55. Ms. Ferroukhi elaborated two thematic focusses of the "*Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2017*" report: large hydropower jobs and the gender dimension. For the third year, IRENA carried out an estimate of large hydropower employment, indicating 1.5 million direct jobs in 2016, down 7% from last year. The gender dimension of renewable energy employment was illustrated by the findings of a joint survey conducted with Clean Energy Business Council and Bloomberg New Energy Finance in the Middle East and North Africa region. The survey identified key barriers to entry in the

job market for women, as well as actions to address gender discrimination in clean energy labour markets. Actions included: mentorship and training, support for parenting, fair and transparent processes, and targets for diversity. Finally, Ms. Ferroukhi highlighted that the growth in renewable energy employment is expected to remain strong, reaching 24 million jobs by 2030 following the accelerated ramp up in deployment in line with the global climate change imperatives. She noted that realising the full potential of job creation in renewable energy will require a broad range of policies, and underlined that countries need to develop the optimal policy mix that best suits their particular conditions.

56. In the ensuing discussion, there was wide support for IRENA's work on jobs, acknowledging the relevance and added value of this work stream. Several delegations pointed out that job creation is an important consideration for policy makers, and that IRENA's knowledge base on the topic plays a fundamental role in advancing the business case for renewables with this constituency. Those delegations stated that IRENA should continue to provide more in-depth analysis on aspects of employment, including skills, education and training, and the gender dimension, as well as to include a deeper focus on the differentiation between job creation in large plants and distributed renewables.

57. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken on the employment impacts along the renewable energy value chain, as it supports policy-making and the development of local renewable energy industries. One delegation indicated that the localisation of the different segments of the value chain remains a key element of their national vision in order to boost job creation and industry development, and pointed out that developing countries need the development of local capacity, which can be achieved through skills transfer, and the greater integration of local talent, services and materials in projects. Another delegation noted that jobs are not only created for manufacturing and construction, as operation and maintenance, and planning and legal preparation also play an important role.

58. A number of delegations pointed out that education and training are indispensable in providing an adequately skilled workforce for a growing renewable energy sector. They highlighted that skill shortages are already hindering deployment in many markets, and that they are likely to increase as the sector continues its rapid growth. Two delegations shared their experiences in education and training programmes for the renewable energy sector.

59. Delegations commended IRENA's analysis on the gender aspect of employment and encouraged the Agency to continue analysing this dimension of employment. They pointed out that dedicated training and education for women is key for ensuring sustainable deployment of renewables, while achieving greater gender empowerment.

60. Delegations highlighted the potential for job creation in distributed and off-grid renewable energy applications. One delegation appreciated IRENA's inclusion of large hydropower estimates in the "*Annual Review 2017*" and pointed out that further analysis could also include indirect jobs.

61. Ms. Ferroukhi recognised the potential to further expand the employment analysis. She pointed out that vocational training will be more important than high skilled education, given that a large share of occupations in this field are low or medium skilled. She highlighted that the analysis of skills, materials and equipment requirements along the value chain could assist countries in maximising their capacities for renewables deployment. She mentioned that as countries develop their renewable energy sector, they need to introduce instruments tailored to the specific technologies and country objectives. Ms. Ferroukhi concluded by stating that the Agency plans to continue to focus on the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy deployment.

62. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.

Agenda Item 8: Programmatic discussion - Adapting electricity market design to high shares of Variable Renewable Energy (C/13/DN/3)

63. The Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, Mr. Henning Wuester, opened the session by highlighting the profound changes that the power sector is undergoing as a result of the increased deployment of renewables. He underlined that the adoption of renewable technologies had been primarily driven by cost-competitiveness, technological advancement and policy support. With increasing shares of renewables, policies and regulations have to adapt with greater system flexibility. Increasingly, renewables can contribute to system reliability and resilience, reducing peak load, and turning consumers into producers of energy (prosumers). He noted that IRENA's analytical work provides recommendations for the entire power supply chain, from wholesale markets and system operations to distribution networks and end users, to support the greater integration of variable renewable energy.

64. Mr. Salvatore Vinci of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, presented the key findings of IRENA's recent report "*Adapting market design to high shares of variable renewable energy*". He provided an overview of the trends in power supply and demand over the past two decades in selected liberalised markets and highlighted the need for the power sector to be more flexible for a smooth and efficient energy transition. For the short-term market, he emphasised that market operators should be allowed to bid closer to the real time so that the output of variable renewables can be predicted more accurately and variable generation can increasingly participate in the market. He stated that the ability of renewables to contribute to grid stability should be rightly acknowledged and therefore, they should be allowed to participate in the balancing market. He also highlighted the importance of interconnections and cross-border transmission, as they increase the efficiency of the power system and allow for additional flexibility.

65. In the context of distribution networks and distributed energy resources, Mr. Vinci highlighted the fact that distribution companies should be incentivised to adopt a more active role in network planning, and the operation and implementation of smart grids. He highlighted that IRENA's analysis of liberalised markets recommends promoting self-consumption and deployment of advanced metering technologies. He underlined the importance for distribution companies to undertake new roles as market facilitators and distribution network operators. In addition, distribution companies should also interact more closely with other agents, including transmission system operators and aggregators. He concluded by highlighting the importance of examining demand response, storage, electric vehicles and digitalisation in the power sector transition.

66. Delegations welcomed IRENA's study highlighting its importance and added value in the current discourse on the energy transition. Several delegations mentioned developments in their power markets as well as planned policy schemes and regulatory frameworks to enable the higher integration of variable renewable energy. Delegations also highlighted the challenges facing the electricity sector as it needs to adapt to the evolving technological innovations while ensuring stability in national and regional electricity markets.

67. Several delegations underlined that renewable energy should be a part of the solution to the existing challenges and issues related to market integration, as renewables can provide not only clean and affordable energy but also balancing services. Two delegations referred to relevant studies and demonstrations carried out in their countries showcasing the positive role that renewables can provide to the existing grid. It was highlighted that the ageing infrastructure and increasing penetration of variables in some countries would require bold policy and regulatory measures to enhance flexibility, reliability and affordability.

68. Delegations highlighted the role of innovative technologies and the importance of policies and regulatory frameworks to promote both conventional and new investments in the sector. A number of delegations pointed out that the adoption of new and innovative technologies is indispensable in providing reliable and flexible solutions to the renewable energy sector. They specifically emphasised forecasting and grid stability tools, efficient micro and co-generation, and heating and transport sector coupling. Several delegations mentioned the role of demand-side response, storage and smart networks.

69. Decentralised renewables and the role of prosumers were given particular importance by some delegations. As changing roles of different stakeholders may bring significant challenges, the message of the IRENA study on the growing importance of cost-reflective tariffs was also reiterated. The need to leverage the existing and future regional/market interconnectors was mentioned by delegations on several occasions as it helps to provide flexibility in the system.

70. Several delegations welcomed IRENA's analysis on policy and regulatory recommendations focusing on power sector transformation and encouraged the Secretariat to continue this work. Delegations encouraged IRENA to continue identifying best practice and replicable innovative solutions and to provide information about the most efficient steps for the effective grid integration of variable renewables.

71. Mr. Henning Wuester thanked Members for the stimulating discussion on the topic and urged them to continue to share best practices and lessons learnt in this regard. The Director-General concluded the session by noting that other relevant stakeholders, such as regulators, as well as transmission and distribution system operators, should be included in future discussions to exchange experiences and information and that IRENA would facilitate this exchange.

72. The Council took note of the presentations and the discussion.

Agenda Item 9: Institutional and Administrative Matters

a. Ethics Advisory Board

73. The Chair of the Ethics Advisory Board (EAB), Fiji, reported on 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 EAB. He also recalled that, at its third session, the Assembly adopted the 'Terms of Reference for the Ethics Advisory Board' (A/3/17), which requires the EAB to report annually to the Council, as well as to conduct an assessment every four years of its Terms of Reference, the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA, as well as the activities of EAB.

74. The EAB Chair informed the Council that, during the reporting period, the EAB was not called upon to assist in any ethics matters, nor did it need to hold any consultations with the Director-General or the Ethics Officer. He also advised that, since the establishment of the EAB in January 2013, the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Advisory Board have not been tested and no issues or concerns have been identified in this document or in the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA.

75. The EAB Chair, therefore, recommended that the Council defer the assessment of the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Advisory Board, the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for IRENA, and the activities of the EAB for an additional four-year period until the twenty-first meeting of the Council in 2021.

76. The Council took note of the report of the Ethics Advisory Board and approved its recommendation.

77. The Council Chair noted that the term of the current members of the Ethics Advisory Board would come to an end at the current Council meeting.

78. The Council appointed Colombia, Samoa and the United Arab Emirates as members of the Ethics Advisory Board for a two-year term, ending at the seventeenth Council meeting in 2019.

b. Staff Provident Fund (C/13/5; C/13/CRP/2)

79. The Chair of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board, Mr. David Iyamah, presented the '2016 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA', as contained in document C/13/5.

80. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) reported that the AFC had considered the report, had no comment thereon and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration. He referred delegations to document C/13/CRP/2 for a full account of the Committee's deliberations.

81. The Council took note of the '2016 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA', contained in document C/13/5, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.

c. Audited Financial Statements (C/13/6; C/13/CRP/2)

82. The Director of IRENA's Administration and Management Services Division (AMS), Mr. David Iyamah, introduced the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016', as contained in document C/13/6. He informed the Council that the External Auditor submitted an unqualified audit opinion.

83. The AFC Chair reported that the AFC had considered the report and had decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration. He referred delegations to document C/13/CRP/2 for a full account of the Committee's deliberations.

84. One delegation welcomed the level of detail in the report and asked whether the increase of funds in reserve from 2015 to 2016 could be utilised for IRENA activities. The AMS Director advised that as IRENA operates with a biennial budget, with the current budget period concluding at the end of 2017, the funds from 2016 are not a budgetary surplus. He noted that, at the end of the biennium, the actual surplus balance is apportioned and distributed to Members in accordance with IRENA's Financial Regulations.

85. The Council took note with appreciation of the 'Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016', contained in document C/13/6, and decided to transmit them to the Assembly for consideration at its next session.

d. Internal Audit (C/13/7; C/13/CRP/2)

86. 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/13/7.

87. The AFC Chair reported that the AFC had considered the report and had decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration. He referred delegations to document C/13/CRP/2 for a full account of the Committee's deliberations.

88. 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/13/7.

e. Arbitration Panel (C/13/8)

89. The IRENA Associate Legal Officer, Ms. Anna Charles, introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’, contained in document C/13/8.

90. The AFC Chair reported that the AFC had considered the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration. He referred delegations to document C/13/CRP/2 for a full account of the Committee’s deliberations and its proposal to renew the Panel of six arbitrators for another term.

91. The Council took note of the ‘Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’, contained in document C/13/8, and approved the Panel of the six arbitrators referred to therein for a renewal of their term for a further two-year period.

f. Committee Membership and Chairmanship

92. The Council Chair introduced the item by noting that the Council was requested to appoint at this meeting new members of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) and elect new chairs for a two-year term.

93. 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 in committee activities, and that both committees have fully embraced this approach.

94. Following consideration of the nominations to AFC and PSC, the Council appointed Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe as members of the Administration and Finance Committee, and Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Philippines, Samoa and the United States of America as members of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

95. The Council appointed by acclamation Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee and the United States of America as Chair and Samoa as Vice-Chair of the Programme and Strategy Committee.

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

96. Following a proposal made by a Member, the Council designated China as Chair, and Colombia as Vice-Chair of the fourteenth meeting of the Council, and decided to hold its fourteenth meeting on 28 and 29 November 2017.

Agenda Item 11: Any other business

97. Fiji, as President designate of the 23rd UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP23) drew attention to the ongoing preparations for COP23, taking place from 6 to 17 November 2017 in Bonn. It invited all representatives to attend the two related preparatory meetings being held in Fiji, a High-Level Champions meeting on the Climate Action Agenda on 3 and 4 July 2017, and a pre-COP23 meeting on 17 and 18 October 2017.

Agenda Item 12: Closing of the meeting

98. The Director-General, in his closing remarks, highlighted the positive momentum for change that has surrounded the discussions at Council. He expressed gratitude to all delegations for engaging in two days of qualitative discussions and for providing guidance on the way forward for the Agency. The Director-General thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their able guidance of the meeting and congratulated them for resuming the leadership of the next Council meeting. He thanked the PSC Chair, Germany, for its active engagement in and management of the PSC meetings, and expressed anticipation of continuing this smooth cooperation in the future with the new PSC Chair, the United States of America. He also thanked the AFC Chair, Antigua and Barbuda, for its efforts and continuing leadership. He thanked Members for their support and expressed his readiness to work closely with them in the next stage of the Agency's development.

99. The Chair of the Council thanked the Director-General and encouraged the Agency to continue its good work. He stressed that the discussions had been engaging and beneficial, and noted that the discussion on the Medium-term Strategy had provided insights and a solid foundation to establish a clear direction for IRENA's future development. He thanked delegations for their active participation and expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chair, Colombia; the Rapporteur, Norway; the PSC Chair, Germany; and the AFC Chair, Antigua and Barbuda.

Thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA
23 – 24 May 2017, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

23 May 2017

Agenda of the thirteenth 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. Progress Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017**
- 4. Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019**
- 5. Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022**
- 6. Programmatic discussion**

Perspectives for the energy transition: Investment needs for a low-carbon energy system
- 7. Programmatic discussion**

Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2017
- 8. Programmatic discussion**

Adapting electricity market design to high shares of Variable Renewable Energy
- 9. Institutional and administrative matters**
 - a. Ethics Advisory Board
 - b. Staff Provident Fund
 - c. Audited Financial Statements
 - d. Internal audit
 - e. Arbitration Panel
 - f. Committee Membership and Chairmanship
- 10. Arrangements for the fourteenth meeting of the Council**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Closing of the meeting**

Thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 May 2017, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

23 May 2017

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the *Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019* (C/13/3) and the *Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022* (C/13/4). To reflect on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017, the PSC discussed three selected programmatic activities, that are also contained in the *Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017* (C/13/2).

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 23 and 24 May 2017.

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

Progress Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017

The PSC discussed three programmatic activities based on an update by the Secretariat, and provided feedback and guidance for the way forward. These included Auctions, Renewables Readiness Assessments, and Renewable Energy Standards and Quality Assurance.

- The PSC welcomed the approach of focused discussion on selected programmatic activities, which allows for an in-depth reflection on issues of common interest.
- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on Auctions. The analysis shows that significant cost reduction potential exists, making onshore wind and solar PV the cheapest generation technologies in an increasing number of countries. It also highlighted a range of considerations that impact the outcome of auctions, as well as examples of the use of this policy instrument in meeting multiple objectives. Participants highlighted the importance of continuing work in this respect, considering the relevance of auctions in the evolving energy market structures. The PSC encouraged further strengthening of this stream of work, to include different technologies, such as bioenergy, and in diverse geographic settings.
- The PSC stressed the importance of the RRAs as a country-driven process facilitated by IRENA. The PSC acknowledged the need for sequenced approach, starting with the country's energy system analysis to the implementation of the recommendations. The PSC encouraged further refinement of the RRA methodology to allow for adjustments which will ensure its longevity and relevance, considering the changing priorities and in-country developments. Participants also emphasised the importance of the post-RRA action, and the engagement of all stakeholders, and bilateral or multilateral partners who are present on the ground and able to contribute to the implementation of the RRA recommendations.
- The PSC noted the importance of standards and quality assurance for the deployment of renewables at scale. While IRENA is not a standardisation or certification organisation, it can help disseminate information on the existing standards to the stakeholders benefitting from standardisation including the private sector and institutions working on certification processes. The PSC stressed the need to consider all aspects affecting the development of renewable energy along the value chain, as the Agency considers its strategic and programmatic direction for the years to come.

Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

The Secretariat introduced the Preliminary Framework for the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, which will be the basis for the articulation of the draft Work Programme and Budget.

- The PSC welcomed the Preliminary Framework which reflects the key priorities for the future work, including support for the implementation of Paris Agreement and SDGs, and continuous efforts to remain a centre of excellence on renewable energy.
- The PSC underlined the need for the strategic alignment of priorities of the Preliminary Framework with the Medium-term Strategy, which is providing a long-term outlook and direction.
- The PSC welcomed the plans to systematically measure impact and integrate evaluation aspects in the next Work Programme and Budget.
- The PSC emphasised that the ambition for the Agency must be aligned with the available resources. Participants also stressed the need to look beyond the core budget to find additional streams of funding, including ODA-eligible funding.

Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022

The Secretariat introduced the Draft Framework for the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. The United States of America, in its capacity as facilitator of the Medium-term Strategy Working Team, outlined the process of the Team's work to date. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the proposed four pillars of the MTS, which encompass the institutional focus and allow for the Agency to benefit from its comparative advantages, including global membership and expert knowledge on renewables. In this context, participants noted that easy access to the vast knowledge and expertise of IRENA's Members should be fully utilised.
- The PSC underlined the multifaceted nature of renewable energy that allows for the achievement of diverse objectives, across different sectors. Participants welcomed IRENA's work on wider application and benefits and requested that these linkages be reflected in the MTS in a holistic manner.
- The PSC encouraged a consideration of all players in the global energy landscape to ensure that IRENA's contribution optimises its comparative advantages, and avoids duplication of efforts. The PSC also noted the importance of the private sector and encouraged a greater use of the Coalition for Action and other avenues for engagement.
- The PSC recommended a dedicated discussion on diversification of the resource base, to provide more predictability across successive programmatic cycles.

Any other business

The Secretariat noted the term of the representatives to the PSC will come to an end, and that the Council needs to decide on the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSC for the coming two-year term. The Secretariat informed that Germany and the United States of America had expressed interest to serve as Chair of the PSC, and Samoa as Vice-Chair.

Thirteenth meeting of the Council of IRENA

23 – 24 May 2017, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

24 May 2017

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Administration and Finance Committee (hereafter “AFC” or “Committee”) met on 22 May 2017. It reviewed matters related to the Staff Provident Fund, Audited Financial Statements, Internal Audit, and the Arbitration Panel.

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

The following comments and recommendations were made:

1. Staff Provident Fund

- The Secretariat introduced the ‘2016 Annual Report of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA’, contained in document C/13/5.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

2. Audited Financial Statements

- The Secretariat introduced the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016’, contained in document C/13/6.
- One Participant expressed appreciation for the level of detail in the document and for the timely return of unutilised funds to Members by the Secretariat.
- The Chair of the AFC encouraged Participants with assessed contributions in arrears to pay in full and on time.
- The AFC took note of the ‘Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2016’ and decided to submit the document to the Council for its consideration.

3. Report of the Director-General on Internal Audit

- The Secretariat introduced 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/13/7.
- One Participant commended the Secretariat for the clarity in the nomenclature of the management’s comments to the Internal Audit Recommendations in the present report, as requested at the last AFC meeting (C/12/CRP/2).
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration.

4. Arbitration Panel

- The Secretariat introduced the ‘Report of the Director-General on Proposed Membership of the Arbitration Panel’, contained in document C/13/8.
- The Chair recommended that the Council approve the extension of the Arbitration Panel whose current term is ending in August 2017.
- The AFC took note of the report and decided to submit it to the Council for its consideration, including the approval of the renewal of the panel of the six arbitrators for a further two-year term.