

Twenty-fourth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 27-28 October 2022

Note by the Director-General

Arrangements for the thirteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

Background

In light of prevailing circumstances and with a view to making practical arrangements for the conduct of the thirteenth session of the Assembly in an inclusive and transparent manner while safeguarding the health and safety of delegations and personnel, the Director-General, in consultation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities as well as the Council bureau, is proposing that the session be convened in-person. These arrangements will be guided by global as well as health requirements of Abu Dhabi, and the need to take measures as appropriate.

This Note outlines the proposed arrangements for convening the thirteenth session of the Assembly and for the participation of IRENA Members and States in Accession as well as key partners, in line with prevailing health and safety regulations. It also includes two annexes, which contain further details on convening the thirteenth session of the Assembly.

Following the Council's consideration, the Director-General would further elaborate the arrangements for the thirteenth session of the Assembly and share them with the Membership.

The Council will be invited to consider the proposed arrangements for convening the upcoming thirteenth session of the Assembly and provide guidance, as appropriate.

Date, timing and proposed format

At its twelfth session, the Assembly decided to hold its thirteenth session on 14-15 January 2023 in Abu Dhabi. In this regard, it is proposed to convene the upcoming Assembly session, as decided by the Assembly on 14-15 January 2023, with in-person participation, from 10.00 to 18.00 Gulf Standard Time (GST), at the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The thirteenth session of the Assembly will include consideration of mandated issues as well as Ministerial and High-level sessions. In addition, several High-level and Stakeholder events will be scheduled on the pre-Assembly day on 13 January 2023.

In order to enhance transparency and inclusiveness as well as to reduce potential challenges faced by the Membership in terms of health and safety measures, time zone constraints, prior commitments or technical challenges for those that may register to participate virtually, it is proposed that special arrangements be made for the delivery of Member statements by delegations.

C/24/9

The thirteenth session of the Assembly – Third World Energy Transition Day – The Global Stocktake

The thirteenth session of the Assembly and related meetings will present a timely opportunity for the Membership, partners and stakeholders to engage in inclusive and diverse discussions on actions implemented and progress made in accelerating the energy transition, also in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and how IRENA may support Members in their ambition to create enabling frameworks, attract investments, and accelerate the energy transition at the speed required by climate, energy and development imperatives.

The Global Stocktake is used to monitor implementation and evaluate the collective progress made in achieving the Paris Agreement goals. Marking the 3rd World Energy Transition Day, the thirteenth session of the Assembly will gather global leaders and energy decision-makers to take stock of operational plans and policies and highlight the concerted action undertaken to implement the energy transition across countries, regions, and the world.

To this end, the convening of several Ministerial and High-level sessions is proposed to facilitate interaction among decision-makers at the highest level, to inform the future work of the Agency. These sessions will both inspire and inform decision-makers on pressing issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond, such as critical material supply and management, the water-energy-food nexus, enabling frameworks to accelerate progress towards decarbonisation targets, finance and investment needs for the energy transition, and latest developments globally on decentralised renewable energy solutions, amongst others. A Ministerial event on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will also be convened to allow for an exchange of perspectives among countries that are most impacted by climate change.

As in previous years, the Assembly will serve as an inclusive platform for the Membership to engage with other stakeholders and strengthen international cooperation and collaboration in support of a rapid global energy transition in the decade of action. The Legislators Forum, the Public-Private Dialogue and the Youth Forum will continue to provide opportunities for further insights and discussions with and among actors that are vital to our collective ambition to accelerate adaptation and mitigation actions and achieve a just and inclusive future based on renewables. Annex 2 presents a generic overview of the thirteenth session of the Assembly and related meetings. Updated information on arrangements will be provided to the Council at its twenty-fourth meeting.

General Principles and modalities

The Assembly is IRENA's ultimate decision-making authority and as such it is important to ensure a broad and high level of participation, inclusiveness and transparency during its upcoming session.

The consideration of issues and mandates for the thirteenth session will be ensured (See Annex 1: Topics for consideration at the thirteenth session of the Assembly). as well as adherence to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

The Secretariat will also ensure that arrangements for an in-person session of the Assembly are put in place, including the observance of all UAE Covid health and safety measures.

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, sessional documentation of the thirteenth session of the Assembly will be circulated no later than 30 days in advance of the session.

In keeping with the standard requirement for the thirteen session and with a view to maintaining the highest level of participation, inclusiveness and transparency, the Secretariat will ensure that the necessary logistical and technical arrangements are put in place to accommodate participants registered to attend the session virtually.

Taking into account various time zones, the Secretariat will also put in place mechanisms, including guidelines and a dedicated page for the proceedings of the Assembly as well as for presentations, to ensure that access to all information is given to Members prior to and during meetings.

Additional considerations

Health and safety requirements

Given the evolution of global circumstances and associated measures, the Secretariat will circulate in advance the prevailing health and safety requirements for in-person participation at the thirteenth session of the Assembly, including the UAE regulations for accessing the Assembly venue. Related travel regulations will be made available to assist timely planning for in-person participation.

Annex 1: Topics for consideration at the thirteenth session of the Assembly.

Annex 2: Proposed overview of the thirteenth session of the Assembly and related meetings.

Annex 1

Topics for consideration at the thirteenth session of the Assembly

- Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023
- Draft Medium-Term Strategy 2023-2027
- Ministerial and High-level Sessions (Topics/themes to be confirmed)
- Report of the Council Chair on the work of the Council in 2022
- Administrative and Institutional matters:
 - Report of the Credentials Committee
 - Report of the Director-General on Staff Tenure Policy
 - Report of the Director-General - Secondment of Personnel and related matters
 - Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2021 and Status of the Implementation of External Audit Recommendations
 - Report of the Director-General - Indicative IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2023
 - Report of the Director-General - Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund
 - 2021 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA and Appointment of Management Board members
 - Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest
 - Council membership for 2023-2024
- Recommendation of the twenty-third Council meeting on the renewal of the incumbent Director-General in accordance with Article XI.B of the IRENA Statute
- Arrangements for the fourteenth session of the Assembly

Annex 2

Proposed overview of the thirteenth session of the Assembly and related meetings

Friday, 13 January 2023 Pre-Assembly Day		Saturday, 14 January 2023 3rd WORLD ENERGY TRANSITION DAY		Sunday, 15 January 2023 Assembly Day
Ministerial and High-Level sessions	Stakeholder meetings	Official Opening of the 13th Assembly High-Level Statements High-Level Session on the Global Stocktake		Ministerial and High-Level sessions
LUNCH AND SIDE EVENTS		LUNCH AND SIDE EVENTS		LUNCH AND SIDE EVENTS
Ministerial and High-Level sessions	Stakeholder meetings	Presentation of the Annual Report, Draft Medium-term Strategy 2023 - 2027 and General Member Statements	Ministerial and High-Level sessions	Ministerial and High-Level sessions
				Administrative and Institutional Matters Recommendation of 23rd Council in accordance with Article XI.B of the IRENA Statute Arrangements for the 14th Assembly AoB-Closing
Assembly Reception				