

Twenty-second meeting of the Council  
Abu Dhabi, 26-27 October 2021

## **Note by the Director-General**

### **Arrangements for the twelfth session of the IRENA Assembly**

#### **I. Background**

In light of prevailing circumstances and with a view to taking gradual steps in making practical arrangements for the conduct of the twelfth 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 exploring the possibility of convening the upcoming Assembly session in a hybrid format (part in-person and part virtual configuration). These arrangements will be guided by global health requirements, including with regard to how meetings will be conducted, the number of attendees, and an up-to-date understanding of risks posed by the pandemic and the need to take measures as appropriate.

This present Note outlines the proposed arrangements for convening the twelfth 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. This Note also includes two annexes, which contain further details on convening the twelfth session of the Assembly in a hybrid format.

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

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

#### **II. Date, timing and proposed format**

At its eleventh session, the Assembly decided to hold its twelfth session on 15-16 January 2022 in Abu Dhabi. In this regard, it is proposed to convene the upcoming Assembly session, as initially envisaged on 15-16 January 2022 from 10.00 to 18.00 Gulf Standard Time (GST), at the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

As part of our continued engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, it is also proposed that an additional day dedicated to Stakeholder meetings is convened in a virtual format. The Stakeholder Engagement Day will include, inter alia, the 2022 Legislators Forum, the Public-Private Dialogue and the 2022 Youth Forum. These meetings are proposed take place on 13 January 2022 from 10.00 to 17.30 (GST).

The twelfth session of the Assembly will include consideration of mandated issues as well as Ministerial and High-level sessions. In addition, several High-level events will be scheduled on the pre-Assembly day on 14 January 2022.

**III. The twelfth session of the Assembly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Energy Transition Day – Moving from Commitments to Implementation in the Decade of Action**

The twelfth 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 to shift the energy transition to the next level, in the context of moving from Commitments to Implementation in the Decade of Action, 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.

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 the geopolitics of hydrogen, finance and investment needs for the energy transition, policy frameworks to ensure a just and inclusive transition, renewable energy in end-use sectors and latest developments globally on sources such as geothermal energy, 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, 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 achieve a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and just future based on renewables. Annex 2 presents a proposed overview of the twelfth session of the Assembly and related meetings.

**IV. 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 twelfth session will be ensured (See Annex 1: Topics for consideration at the twelfth session of the Assembly).

The Secretariat will ensure that arrangements for the twelfth session of the Assembly, in hybrid format, are put in place, as during in-person meetings, to ensure adherence to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, sessional documentation of the twelfth 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 twelfth session of the Assembly in a hybrid format (part in-person and part virtual configuration) and with a view to maintaining the highest level of participation, inclusiveness and transparency, the Secretariat will ensure that the necessary logistical arrangements are put in place to accommodate both in-person and virtual participation.

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.

V. **Additional considerations**

**Member interventions**

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 zones constraints, prior commitments or technical challenges for those that may choose to participate virtually, it is proposed that special arrangements be made for the delivery of Member statements by delegations.

**Health and safety requirements**

For in-person participation at the venue of the Assembly, the latest health and safety measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic will be considered in the planning and arrangements for the twelfth session of the Assembly. In particular, the latest gathering regulations in the UAE will be observed and further details will be provided on the number of representatives for Members, States in Accession, Observers, Media, as well as for other attendees.

Given the evolution of global circumstances and associated measures, the Secretariat will circulate the prevailing health and safety requirements for in-person participation at the twelfth session of the Assembly, including the UAE regulations of requiring a valid negative PCR test taken within 48 hours for accessing the Assembly venue. Related travel and quarantine regulations will be made available to assist timely planning for in-person participation.

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

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

## **Annex 1**

### **Topics for consideration at the twelfth session of the Assembly**

- Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021
- Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023
- Ministerial and High-level Sessions (Topics/themes to be confirmed)
- Report of the Council Chair on the work of the Council in 2021
- Administrative and Institutional matters:
  - Report of the Credentials Committee
  - Report of the Director-General on Staff Tenure
  - Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2020 and Status of the Implementation of audit recommendations
  - Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund
  - 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA
  - Report of the Ethics Officer
  - Notification to the Membership pursuant to Article XLB of the IRENA Statute
  - Arrangements for the thirteenth session of the Assembly

## Annex 2

## Proposed overview of the twelfth session of the Assembly and related meetings

Thursday, 13 January 2022 Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Day	Friday, 14 January 2022 Pre-Assembly Day	Saturday, 15 January 2022		Sunday, 16 January 2022
Legislators Forum	Ministerial & High-level Sessions	Official Opening of the 12th Assembly High-level Statements Presentation of the Annual Report, Proposed Work Programme and Budget and Member Interventions		Member Interventions (cont.)
				Ministerial & High-level Sessions
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH
Public-Private Dialogue Youth Forum	Ministerial & High-level Sessions	Member Interventions (cont.)	Ministerial & High-level Sessions	Ministerial & High-level Sessions
				Administrative and Institutional Matters AoB-Closing