

IRENA–Latin America High-Level Consultation  
on Accelerating Regional Renewable Energy Uptake  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
16 January 2015

## ABU DHABI COMMUNIQUÉ ON ACCELERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY UPTAKE IN LATIN AMERICA

Heads of Delegation to the Fifth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay, met in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 16 January 2015, to discuss the challenges in Latin America’s transformation to a sustainable energy future and to identify collaboration opportunities between IRENA and the region.

The Heads of Delegation noted the region’s rising energy demand, driven by rapid economic and social development.

They recognised that Latin America possesses vast resources for hydropower, biomass, geothermal, wind and solar energy which could be harnessed to help meet regional energy needs, providing clean, domestic, cost-effective and sustainable solutions to support development. Although renewable energy already contributes significantly to the region’s primary energy supply mix, notably in the form of hydropower and bioenergy, the potential of all technology options is not fully utilised, the Heads of Delegation acknowledged.

They emphasised the key importance of accelerating renewable energy deployment to achieve strategic goals of the Latin American economies, including energy security and competitiveness, development of local economies, improvement of trade balances and job creation, as well as contributing to efforts to address climate change.

They also acknowledged the efforts of countries to overcome the challenges hindering rapid and efficient deployment of renewables in the region through effective public policies and clearly defined regulatory and administrative frameworks.

Therefore, mindful of respective national policies and priorities, the Heads of Delegation identified the following opportunities for collaboration with IRENA to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy in the region:

- Assessing the region's renewable energy resource potential;
- Energy planning to optimise the energy mix, including grid restrictions;
- Addressing the technical challenges related to high shares of renewables, including resource complementarity, energy security, energy storage, dispatchability challenges, grid stability, short-term weather forecasting and other factors;
- Assessing the effectiveness of the various policy mechanisms employed thus far to promote renewable energy deployment, both within and outside the region, particularly to facilitate investments and to reduce energy costs; and promoting exchanges of experts to disseminate experiences;
- Evaluating the social and territorial impacts of large projects; disseminating mitigation experiences.
- Supporting energy integration through market integration (in particular, harmonising regulatory frameworks) and possible technical infrastructure studies;
- Expanding energy access through off-grid photovoltaic and wind solutions; accordingly, IRENA's Third International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference should be held in the region.
- Identifying capacity building needs, including assessing gaps in human resources along the value chain (especially at the technical level) and supporting research and development (R&D) and innovation policies for renewable energy.

In addition to wind and solar energy, the Heads of Delegation identified hydropower, modern use of biomass, and geothermal energy as important sources to prioritise in Latin American-IRENA collaboration, along with the necessity to analyse renewable energy deployment in end-use sectors, such as industry and transport.

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