

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 15-16 January 2022

**REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|         | <b>Document Title</b>   | <b>Document Number</b> | <b>Page</b> |
|---------|---|------------------------|-------------|
|         | <b>Report of the twelfth session of the Assembly of IRENA</b>           | A/12/SR/1              | 2           |
| Annex 1 | <b>Agenda</b>   | A/12/1                 | 34          |
| Annex 2 | <b>List of observers at the twelfth session of the Assembly</b>         | A/12/2                 | 36          |
| Annex 3 | <b>Decision on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023</b> | A/12/DC/1/Rev.1        | 40          |
| Annex 4 | <b>Decision on Staff Tenure Policy – General Service staff</b>          | A/12/DC/2              | 42          |
| Annex 5 | <b>Report of the Credentials Committee</b>                              | A/12/5                 | 44          |
| Annex 6 | <b>List of Participants</b>   | A/12/INF/5             | 46          |

**Report of the twelfth session of the Assembly  
of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The twelfth session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held via a live virtual platform from 15-16 January 2022 with related meetings held on 13-14 January 2022. There were over 1115 registered participants to the twelfth session of the Assembly, including 90 Heads of Government and Ministers, from 147 countries and the European Union, together with representatives from almost 175 organisations.

2. The President of the eleventh session of the Assembly, Spain, represented by H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, declared open the twelfth session of the Assembly and reflected on the rise of the renewable energy solutions around the world and the challenges presented by the global health crisis to the people and countries worldwide. H.E. Ms Ribera emphasised that the lessons learned from the pandemic included the importance of urgency for action, the necessity to prioritise health and safety, and to provide solutions in unexpected circumstances. She thanked the Vice-Presidents of the eleventh session of the Assembly - Albania, Costa Rica, Ghana and India-for their contributions throughout the year and thanked the Membership for the trust placed upon the bureau.

3. H.E. Ms Ribera explained that throughout the course of the year, there was a global recognition of the central role of the energy transition in achieving climate and development imperatives, welfare and access to modern forms of energy for all, to build a sustainable, resilient, equitable, and just future for shared prosperity. She highlighted this as an important milestone for the global community and particularly IRENA Members, who have maintained a strong conviction in IRENA's mission and continue to work closely with the Agency, its Membership and different stakeholders to solidify IRENA's status as the intergovernmental organisation for the energy transition and principal platform for international cooperation on renewable energy. Recognising intensified efforts to achieve transformative impacts on lives and livelihoods with particular attention on the most vulnerable communities, including women and children, she relayed that the commitment to accelerate the energy transition at national, regional, and global levels requires continued attention to the social impact to leave no one behind. H.E. Ms Ribera reflected on the key initiatives highlighted at the eleventh session of the Assembly, which included the need to facilitate just transitions, understand energy access, and the constant imperative to leave no one behind; the shared interest and responsibility across all levels to strengthen cooperation and remove barriers for a swift transition into a new energy era; the sense of urgency to step onto and across the commitment to a 1.5-degree pathway; and the need to give prominence to the cost of inaction in policymaking discussions and decisions, and she concluded that many of the current turbulences are due to the difficulties of speed of pace, for which fast and smooth action is needed.

4. H.E. Ms Ribera noted that such messages remain at the forefront of global discussions, initiatives, and outcomes, including the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy and the COP 26 on Climate Change, and she cited the World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO), launched at the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition in June 2021, as a valuable guiding instrument driving the transition from understanding the requirements to embarking on a clear pathway of action. She noted that the IRENA Membership has the advantage of being at an advanced position in the realisation of the challenges and opportunities, and she mentioned that the barriers ahead require attention to meet imperatives and establish a clear path of action for sustainability and resilience. She underscored that aside from targets and goals, an all-inclusive action on the ground is what is necessary, with the second World Energy Transition Day having poised discussions to take steps to move from commitment to action in the coming decade. She further noted the palpable urgency of the 1.5-degree pathway which, although challenging, has many opportunities

and benefits that need to be embraced with particular attention given to most vulnerable groups. Quoting IRENA's 2020 renewable capacity statistics, she relayed the impressive increase of almost 50% from the previous year with 260 GW of renewable energy capacity being installed worldwide that were realised during unprecedented uncertainty, thus indicating that larger and faster steps can be taken to accelerate the energy transition in a manner that is just, balanced, inclusive, ambitious, consistent with the scientific consensus and aligned with the needs of the planet and its people.

5. H.E. Ms Ribera advised on the need for development of existing available tools and for investment in future needs, and she encouraged Members to seize opportunities presented by the twelfth session of the Assembly, IRENA's support and diverse Membership, and synergies with global stakeholders and initiatives to set objectives, take decisive action, and work together with the determination to advance in a climate consistent, neutral, 100% renewable future. In this regard, she encouraged Members to leap ahead into the 1.5-degree pathway by continuing to work towards a future for all-inclusive access to sustainable, clean energy whilst also recognising the existence of multiple paths of action in line with the specific challenges, priorities, and comparative advantages of different regions and countries, with each path sharing equal importance, to create a better world for current and future generations. She underscored the diversity of actions to ensure a just transition that will embody the wide-ranging benefits of job creation, welfare gains, technological advancement, innovation, finance, investment, employment, cross sector cooperation, international collaboration, and that will ultimately place people and the planet at the heart of collective prosperity.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work**

### **a. Election of officials**

6. The outgoing President proposed that the Assembly elect El Salvador, represented by H.E. Ms Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as President of the twelfth session.

**7. The Assembly elected by acclamation El Salvador, represented by H.E. Ms Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as President of the twelfth session of the Assembly.**

8. The Assembly had, at its eleventh session, designated Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Greece as Vice-Presidents.

9. **The Assembly elected by acclamation as Vice-Presidents of its twelfth session:**

- **Antigua and Barbuda, represented by H.E. Mr Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health and Wellness;**
- **Bangladesh, represented by H.E. Mr Nasrul Hamid, State Minister of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources;**
- **Egypt, represented by H.E. Dr Mohamed Shaker El-Markabi, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy; and**
- **Greece, represented by Ms Alexandra Sdoukou, Secretary-General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy.**

10. The President informed the Assembly that she had proposed **Malaysia** to act as Rapporteur of its twelfth session.

**11. On the basis of the President's proposal, Malaysia, represented by Ms Noor Afifah Abdul Razak, Deputy Secretary-General for Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, was appointed as Rapporteur of the twelfth session of the Assembly.**

### **b. Adoption of the agenda**

12. The President of the twelfth session of the Assembly introduced the provisional agenda (A/12/L.1) and advised that owing to the necessary change in the format of the session from in-person to virtual, due to continuing global developments, including last-minute flight cancellations and additional formalities resulting from pandemic exigencies, the Ministerial meetings<sup>1</sup> under agenda items 7, 8, and 9 would be convened at a later date, taking into account the calendar of events and other planned initiatives.

**13. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (A/12/L.1) on the understanding that the Ministerial meetings be convened at a later date and their outcomes reported to the Membership.**

### **c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee**

14. The President proposed to the Assembly that, following the expressions of interest received by 12 January 2022, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Ghana, Peru, Portugal, and the United Arab Emirates are designated as members of the Credentials Committee.

**15. The Assembly appointed the nine countries as members of the Credentials Committee.**

### **d. Participation of Observers**

16. The President introduced the document 'Draft List of applicants for observer status at the twelfth session of the Assembly' (A/12/L.2).

**17. The Assembly considered the matter and granted observer status for its twelfth session to entities included in the list of applicants (A/12/L.2).**

### **Agenda Item 3: Host Country and other opening remarks**

18. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms Alexandra Hill Tinoco, thanked Members on behalf of El Salvador's President, H.E. Mr Nayib Bukele, for entrusting them with the privilege and responsibility to preside over the twelfth session of the Assembly and she conveyed El Salvador's promotion of a profound national transformation that includes energy as one of the priorities. She noted the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress and applauded Members on their acceptance of the enormous commitment to create a safer and greener world for generations to come. In this regard, she conveyed solidarity in efforts associated with the pandemic, offered her respects to families affected, and affirmed the impacts of climate change on all countries, particularly the vulnerable areas. She recalled that IRENA, which was created to provide a platform for international cooperation, exchange of policies, technologies, and resources and knowledge around renewable energies, now has 167 Members and has the credibility, ability, and capability to create synergies and bring about positive transformation worldwide, promote international policies to encourage efficient, accessible, and low cost energy, and to combat the effect of climate change and global warming. She stated that the Assembly will continue to search for ways to improve the living conditions and ability of everyone to overcome challenges and develop the deliverance of prosperity for all.

19. In her overview of El Salvador's commitments, targets and ambitions, the President mentioned the increased national installed capacity by 67% and noted that 80% of the country's energy is renewable, with solar energy, photovoltaic, wind and natural gas as well as other green energies assisting the move from traditional energy sources and the reduction in the environmental impact

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<sup>1</sup> Respectively titled: Ministerial meeting on Flexible Grids for Smart Electrification - Pathways for Energy System Integration and End-use Decarbonisation, Ministerial Roundtable on the Geopolitics of Hydrogen, and Ministerial meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transition Investments and Finance: The Role of Local Financial Institutions.

that would otherwise jeopardise the future of the country. She relayed that El Salvador continues to promote both private and public services and that there are historical changes in national laws forthcoming to ensure that electricity really is a public service. She further mentioned the construction of their 'Bitcoin City' to materialise the creation of energy sustainable cities using the alternative of geothermal energy to eliminate the dependency on oil and coal as El Salvador is committed to creating a carbon neutral economy. She expressed El Salvador's commitment to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and willingness to share experiences with IRENA Members and partners in this regard. The President acknowledged IRENA's ongoing work, and expressed her appreciation to the Director-General, the outgoing Presidency, and to the Ministers and delegates for their continued commitment and hard work for the good of humanity and people.

20. Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations saluted the Assembly's theme on 'Energy Transition: From Commitment to Action. He highlighted the opportunities for progress created at the High-Level Dialogue on Energy and COP 26 but advised that promises must be translated into meaningful change in peoples' lives. He affirmed that IRENA is well positioned to support countries, especially the most vulnerable, in this effort through the creation of energy transition pathways to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Noting that further and faster efforts to close the energy access gap are needed to keep the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement alive, he conveyed that the Assembly gathers Ministers of energy and other vital stakeholders in the energy landscape together and offers a unique opportunity to shape the global energy discourse and to drive investments towards an inclusive and job-rich recovery, including by investing in reskilling programmes for the expanding green economy. Mr Guterres reiterated that what is needed is a tripling of renewable energy capacity this decade, a phase out of coal in OECD nations by 2030, and 2040 for the rest of the world, and cutting the price of carbon and ending fossil fuel subsidies, and to ensure support for the just transition. He called upon all governments, public and private finance institutions, and the private sector with the technological knowledge to form coalitions in support of the energy transitions of developing countries as all the technological and financial solutions and tools are available, and he noted that the investment in a renewable energy future will support the pandemic recovery and build resilient societies and sustainable and inclusive economies. He encouraged the movement of the world from commitments to urgent action be maintained to ensure a better future for all.

21. H.E. Ms Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), congratulated the President of the Assembly, extended her thanks to the outgoing President, and expressed her appreciation to Director-General Mr Francesco La Camera and IRENA's staff for their continued efforts. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic emphasised the need of full collective, meaningful action amongst the international community as reflected in the renewables space, the fight against climate change, and the new momentum of pledges towards real, effective action. She mentioned the Host country's role in the acceleration process, with their leadership's vision and directives having long focused on enhancing efforts to adopt a more sustainable approach.

22. In her overview of the UAE's commitments, H.E. Ms Almheiri relayed that the 'Net Zero by 2050' strategic initiative was launched in October 2021, for which the UAE is working on a sustainable economic growth model that will leverage research, development, and innovation and act as a catalyst for job creation with the aim of supporting national economy diversification, and she underscored that renewable energy plays a fundamental role in pursuing climate neutrality. She advised that the UAE has more than 2.8 GW of solar PV capacity with 2 GW to become operational with the inauguration of the Al Dhafra project in Abu Dhabi. She mentioned that, as part of diversifying energy sources, the UAE is developing alternative, more sustainable sources that includes blue and green hydrogen and she further mentioned that the UAE launched a roadmap to achieve better hydrogen development during COP26.

23. H.E. Ms Almheiri emphasised that the delivery of an inclusive energy transition will be critical to advancing climate efforts, which is where IRENA's expertise in energy transition and devising adequate plans are vital. Her overview also included the announcement of the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) platform in cooperation with IRENA to collect USD 1 billion for the acceleration of the transformation, and the UAE's commitment to provide USD 400 million as support funding to the platform. She stated that major energy companies are adopting effective approaches to advance the energy transition and that a strategic partnership agreement was signed between the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) with Mubadala to own shares in Masdar and develop the world's largest portfolio of renewable investments. She underscored the UAE's proud role in the energy transition and climate action and anticipates that COP 28 in 2023, when the UAE will serve as host, will focus on the global stock take, measuring progress and action needed to stay within the 1.5-degree limit. She encouraged everyone to work towards COP 28 to stress that renewable energy is an important part of the process to face the climate change. She commended IRENA's exceptional successes, in cooperation with the Membership, and looks forward to more achievements towards sustainable development and a sustainable future.

24. The Director-General welcomed delegates and participants and congratulated the President, noting that there will be a Ministerial meeting on the Global Geothermal Alliance in El Salvador in 2022. He congratulated the Vice-Presidents on their role for the twelfth Assembly and he expressed his gratitude to the outgoing President and Vice-Presidents for their leadership and support in 2021. He regretted that present circumstances did not permit an in-person meeting of the Assembly in Abu Dhabi and expects IRENA's global family to meet in person in the future. He highlighted that the special occasion of the annual Assembly provides much-needed political impetus and direction to efforts which is signified by the attendance of over a thousand participants worldwide to the twelfth session of the Assembly. He conveyed that the Assembly is a large family united in a conviction that Members are on the cusp of a transformational time - a new era where renewable energy is the engine of tomorrow's economy - and a positive prospect at a time of mounting challenges. He reiterated that the theme of the twelfth session of the Assembly, is 'Energy Transition: From Commitment to Action', which carries a special significance as it is crystal clear that business as usual can no longer continue if we are to live in a world that is safe, resilient, and prosperous for all. He stressed the palpable urgency to progress with the energy transition through the achievement of development goal pathways upon which the evasion of the climate crisis is dependent.

25. Director-General La Camera reflected on the immense focus on energy in 2021, including the UN SDGs, High-Level Dialogue on Energy, and COP 26 in Glasgow which were followed by the twelfth session of the Assembly as the first global, intergovernmental meeting in 2022. He noted the onus on the Assembly to set the stage for concrete steps to be taken towards achieving the significant commitments made in order to further the energy transition worldwide. He emphasised his belief that the twelfth session of the Assembly will convey the message that IRENA and its Members are ready to act to get on a path that leads to resilience, equity, and shared prosperity.

**26. The Assembly received, with appreciation, and took note of the welcoming remarks.**

### **Agenda Item 4: High-level plenary on the outcomes of COP26 and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy (A/12/BN/1)**

27. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Ms Alexandra Hill Tinoco, presided over the deliberations under this agenda item. After introducing this agenda item, she invited introductory remarks from the Director-General, Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations and The Rt Hon Gregory Hands, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, United Kingdom, followed by a moderated panel discussion. Speakers included H.E. Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President on the European Green

Deal, European Commission; H.E. Ms Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission; H.E. Mr Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda; H.E. Mr Ahmed Mohina, Senior Undersecretary of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt; and Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP, H.E. Mr Tomas Anker Christensen, Climate Ambassador, Denmark also provided an intervention.

28. The President provided a context by stating that the impact of climate change is being felt in countries and regions around the world, thus, increasing the call for decisive and immediate action. She stressed that the long-awaited COP26 in Glasgow, convened by the UNFCCC, has confirmed that countries worldwide share the same sense of urgency for climate action, as manifested in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which after five years have been revised and for the most part, reflect a greater ambition to tackle climate change. She clarified though that these commitments are not enough to reach the path towards limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees by 2050.

29. The President noted that the Glasgow Climate Pact lays the foundation for 2022 to be a year of significant changes, with in-depth commitments to radically contribute to the decarbonisation of economies across regions. She underscored that the transitioning of energy systems towards renewable, clean energy is inevitable and called for implementing concrete actions to realise them in the short and medium term. She also highlighted that financing the development of climate action projects, and the energy efficiency agendas will be vital to achieving an environmentally friendly transition, and directly contributing to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals and a just and equitable future.

30. The President underlined that IRENA has delivered work globally and has provided essential support for the revision and improvement of NDCs to help guide governments towards long-term energy planning to achieve a carbon-neutral future. She pointed out that her own country, El Salvador, has benefited from the Agency's support and will continue collaborating closely to realise the international commitments.

31. She then stated that the Assembly will take stock of the energy-related outcomes of COP26 and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy and identify concrete actions to accelerate the energy transition. She stressed that 2015 presented a turning point in global history through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, whereas in 2021, the global community witnessed and participated in important global efforts for an energy transition, namely COP26 and the High-Level Dialogue. Therefore, the IRENA Assembly provides an ideal platform to discuss the way forward and shift quickly and urgently from commitment to action, which aligns with the theme of the twelfth Session of the Assembly.

32. The Director-General noted that the global focus that the energy transition received last year was welcome and needed in equal measure, with significant commitments made in Energy Compacts and COP26 that brought about a range of partnerships and strategies for concerted action.

33. The Director-General then underlined two important developments of 2021; first, net-zero commitments emerged worldwide, changing the narrative around climate change, and second, renewable energy firmly occupied a centre stage in the solutions agenda. He added that none of this happened by accident but resulted from decades of work by governments, organisations, activists and citizens. The ten years of IRENA's existence is also a chronicle of this path. He stressed that when the Agency was established, less than 100 countries considered renewables part of their energy strategy; yet, today, every net-zero commitment includes renewable energy, not only as a mitigation and resilience tool but also as a means for economic development and social inclusion.

34. Emphasising that IRENA extensively supported the global efforts in 2021, the Director-General referred to the Energy Transitions theme of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, co-led by IRENA, UNEP and UNESCAP. He noted IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook helped shape the Roadmap that came out of the Dialogue and noted that IRENA participates in over ten Energy Compacts. Similarly, IRENA worked closely with the UK, as President of COP26, on their energy priorities, and continues to lead the energy track of the UNFCCC Climate Action. He then underlined the collaboration with many countries on the preparation of their NDCs, in close cooperation with NDC Partnership and UNDP.

35. The Director-General continued that a lot remains to be done, emphasising that even if every commitment made at the Dialogue and COP is fulfilled, SDG7 and the Paris Agreement will not be achieved. He stressed that progress remains uneven, with renewable technologies yet to power countries worldwide and make inroads into the end-use sectors, such as direct heat, buildings and transport. In addition, he stressed that the investment for projects, infrastructure and policies is still lacking at the necessary scale and that the transition needs to be accelerated and meet multiple objectives in a just, inclusive, and systemic manner.

36. Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, stated that the world faces yet again a multitude of challenges at the beginning of 2022, ranging from another wave of COVID-19, in large part due to vaccine inequity, and a worsening climate and sustainable energy crisis that must be solved with people at the centre. She noted that the High-Level Dialogue and COP26 have led the global community to step up with ambitious commitments and pledges to deliver on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

37. Ms Mohammed highlighted that the Dialogue delivered more than two hundred Energy Compacts, reflecting actions and finance commitments throughout 2030, and the Global Energy Roadmap included essential milestones for the global energy transition and for climate action to translate these commitments into action. She then underlined the need for decisive progress to close the energy access gap by 2030 and ensure access to clean, renewable energy for the 760 million people who currently live without electricity, and for the 2.6 billion who still rely on harmful fuels for cooking. She also called on OECD nations to rapidly transition to decarbonised energy systems by phasing out coal by 2030 and the rest of the world by 2040. Thirdly, she stressed the importance of tripling global investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2030, shifting fossil fuel subsidies to renewables through carbon pricing, and ensuring a just and inclusive transition to a net-zero future. Ms. Mohammed also underscored that COP26 recognised the importance of the energy transition and phasing down unabated coal, making the need for an accelerated, just, and inclusive energy transition even more central to the global climate agenda.

38. She then highlighted two urgent priorities to ensure the global commitments will result in action this year. She first referred to the call by the Secretary-General for the creation of coalitions of public and private finance to provide packages of support to rapidly scale up investments in countries that request assistance with their energy transition. Second, she called on world leaders to integrate a just and inclusive energy transition into every aspect of national policies.

39. The Rt Hon Gregory Hands, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, highlighted IRENA's contribution to the renewables agenda in the success of COP26, pointing out that solar and wind are now the cheapest sources of new electricity generation in most markets and costs continue to fall. He then stressed that almost two hundred countries came together to form the Glasgow Climate Pact amidst fractured global politics because they understood the scale of the common threat. The Pact is at the top end of what the UK COP Presidency had hoped to achieve, including commitments on coal and progress on fossil fuel subsidies. He added that major announcements were made in critical areas such as deforestation and power generation.

40. Minister Hands underlined the importance of not being complacent and the need to deliver on promises and increase ambition, and called on the global community to come together and turn commitments into action, creating international and domestic pathways to net zero, and implementing clear policies to achieve them. The United Kingdom will implement a ground-breaking net-zero strategy, published in October 2021, reform funding models for energy such as nuclear as it can generate cheap, clean power, and prioritise international cooperation to maximise shared learning and accelerate global innovation and deployment. Implementing the Breakthrough Agenda will also be a priority. In closing, he expressed appreciation that IRENA will be involved in assessing global progress against the Glasgow Breakthroughs and identifying the cooperation priorities to keep innovation and deployment on track.

41. The moderator, Ms Becky Anderson, set the scene by noting that 2021 was an important year in the global efforts on energy transition, and the message heard repeatedly was to act now and transform the global energy landscape. She noted that the meeting would consider the immediate steps that can be taken to move from the commitments that emerged in 2021 towards practical and concrete progress in 2022 and beyond.

42. There was general consensus among speakers that renewables, especially solar and wind, have become the cheapest energy option, which calls for massive investments as well as raising awareness on their ability to replace fossil fuels. The role of natural gas as a transitional fuel was also discussed.

43. It was also agreed that the current fossil fuel-based energy systems are neither resilient nor equitable, further accentuating the need for a rapid transition to renewables, especially in light of the current high energy prices. The success of the energy transition will depend on leadership and political will as well as sharing of experiences and best practices. The pandemic offered an excellent opportunity to accelerate the energy transition through policy reforms, stop fossil fuel subsidies, and create an enabling environment for investments. IRENA's greatest strengths - the ability to capture and build on the possibilities renewables offer and understanding trends - can further assist countries in correcting energy market distortions caused by the fossil fuel paradigm.

44. Furthermore, it was stressed that the energy transition needs to include the livelihoods of people in all sectors, and necessary measures should be put in place to this end. IRENA's expertise in energy transition and the related socio-economic benefits, job potential, and just transition can be valuable to countries, when formulating and revising strategies to this end.

45. It was also agreed that the private sector has a significant role to play in the energy transition by undertaking bankable green projects and supporting initiatives. It is important to encourage such initiatives in Africa and beyond to demonstrate that they are good for people and the planet but also profitable. A high number of multi-stakeholder initiatives were indeed launched, in cooperation with the private sector, at COP26 such as the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance that aims to help countries align their oil and gas profiles with the Paris Agreement and set end dates for licenses.

46. Speakers also made specific points with regard to progress in the implementation of development and climate goals of vulnerable groups of countries. Several speakers, for example, stressed that the climate and energy agenda relate to sustainable development and pointed out that despite Africa's population growth, urbanisation and abundance of natural resources, 600 million people lack access to electricity and 900 million lack access to clean cooking. While significant work is undertaken in Africa to accelerate energy access by utilising new technologies, it remains critical to strengthen partnerships and increase investments in the continent. The increasing demand for hydrogen and ammonia has the potential to create opportunities and new markets in Africa, with enormous local potential and new networks of energy relationships to de-risk them. IRENA's recently launched *Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Regions* report is valuable input and tool for policymakers to this end.

47. Some speakers also highlighted that the consequences of the climate crisis are mostly felt by developing countries and regions, which did not cause it. Small Island Developing States (SIDS), for example, face critical energy transition challenges such as the prohibitive cost of technologies to implement mitigation and adaptation actions, the possible dumping of oil and soon to be obsolete technology by larger countries and their vulnerability to natural disasters. SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) also find it challenging to secure investments. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted tourism in SIDS - a vital source of income - and increased existing debt, thus further aggravating the economies.

48. Some speakers mentioned that wealthy and highly emitting countries should enhance their mitigation efforts to ensure compliance with the 1.5°C goal and update their NDCs as well as redirect some of the fossil subsidies to SIDS and LDCs, through adaptation and mitigation grants. Honouring the USD 100 billion in climate finance towards lower-income countries and creating the financial means to help SIDS transform into 100% renewable energy economies, with electricity and mobility, would be also a game changer. Furthermore, IRENA has a key role to play in assisting these vulnerable countries develop robust energy transition programmes.

49. COP26 recognised the need for special treatment for vulnerable countries. The Glasgow Climate Pact also includes language on stopping coal and fossil fuel subsidies, and the need to create a large-scale energy system transformation. Going forward, it is imperative to ensure that COP27 is another landmark meeting leading to accelerated, harmonised, and complementary actions to help the world address the financial and technical challenges in implementing energy transition programmes.

50. In summarising the discussion, the President reiterated the key messages to act urgently, raise ambition and accelerate action by capitalising on universal solutions in new technologies, investments, voluntary commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity building.

51. In concluding the agenda item, the President commented that there are many opportunities to accelerate delivery and create support mechanisms and services for countries to foster energy transitions and implementation of energy-related goals. She also stressed the need to strengthen political commitment to achieving these goals and promote green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through sustainable and decarbonised energy solutions.

**52. The Assembly considered and took note of the discussions.**

### **Launch of the Geopolitics of Hydrogen Report**

53. Ms Melinda Crane, Journalist and Political Commentator moderated this event. In her opening remarks, she reiterated the considerable mention of hydrogen in the preceding High-level meeting and highlighted the profound impact of hydrogen and its potential to reshape energy markets, trade flows, and political as well as economic relations between countries and regions.

54. The Director-General referenced the seminal work done on the geopolitics of the energy transformation by IRENA's Global Commission, which noted that, given the complex and dynamic nature of the transition, it is difficult to predict precisely how the events will unfold. He underlined that the report being launched today is a clear example of this unpredictability. The current focus on hydrogen has emerged as a result of the growing number of government targets for net-zero, where hydrogen is seen as a critical solution for harder to abate sectors, and the falling costs of technology opening up new decarbonisation solutions. The Director-General presented key insights from the report, including:

- Many countries and regions have a hydrogen strategy, and the numbers are growing along with dedicated resources. By August 2021, Governments allocated at least USD 65 billion to support hydrogen;

- Existing or planned trade routes will be different from the hydrocarbon-based energy relationships of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These new economic ties are likely to impact political dynamics as well;
- Geopolitical shifts are closely linked to the renewable revolution. While there are many factors that come into play, countries with an abundance of low-cost renewable power could potentially become producers of green hydrogen;
- The emergence of new producers would diversify the pool of hydrogen suppliers, improving energy security for all. As a manufactured product, the hydrogen business will be more competitive and will not generate returns comparable to those of oil and gas today;
- Hydrogen is an attractive option for countries that depend on oil and gas exports to diversify their economies and leverage their energy infrastructure, a skilled workforce and existing energy trade relations.

55. The Director-General also touched upon other important considerations, such as the use of critical materials that will need to follow the principle of efficiency, recycle and reuse, as well as the broader impacts on the use of water for hydrogen production that may affect locations already under stress. He emphasised the many uncertainties around hydrogen development and underlined the need to set the right priorities for its use and align with global sustainable development goals. He stressed the need for international cooperation to develop a transparent market with coherent standards that will contribute to climate change efforts meaningfully, and a reminder that hydrogen development and deployment strategies should not be pursued in isolation as part of the wider energy transition. He concluded by saying that IRENA will continue to examine the geopolitical implications of the ongoing energy transition.

56. H.E. Dr Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Germany remarked on the opportunities of hydrogen for decarbonisation and the importance of having pledges followed up by concrete policies to realise greenhouse gas reduction goals. She informed participants that the new German Government has doubled the ambition in hydrogen development against the targets in the national hydrogen strategy from 2020. She underlined the need to create large scale alternatives, such as efficient heating systems, new mobility concepts, and smart grids, that are both green and just, and urged for investment in sustainable energy and technology.

57. She highlighted the fact that climate change and energy transition will have profound geopolitical and security implications which will require early consideration of the effects on foreign policy to mitigate security and economic risk from changes in global energy markets. Minister Lührmann mentioned Germany's hydrogen diplomacy offices that are promoting dialogues with fossil fuel exporters about the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition. To establish a well-functioning hydrogen market, Minister Lührmann stressed the importance of binding international standards and agreements to address issues such as market access, connectivity and fair competition. She noted also the demand for technology cooperation so as to avoid a decarbonisation divide between developed and developing countries.

58. Minister Lührmann observed that the report findings note that most of the benefits for strengthened energy independence and resilience will stem from green hydrogen. Germany as the Co-Facilitator of the Collaborative Framework on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation actively supported IRENA's report from the very beginning and concluded that now is the time to take the next step on hydrogen.

59. H.E. Mr Suhail Mohamed Al-Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates opened his remarks by noting the UAE's support of IRENA's critical work on geopolitics and the energy transition for more than a decade. He noted that the UAE was a founder and member of the Global Commission on the geopolitics of the energy transformation. In the capacity of Co-Facilitator of IRENA's Collaborative Framework on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, UAE took on the request from IRENA Members to conduct an in-depth analysis on the impact of hydrogen on the current and future geopolitical environment. Minister

Al-Mazrouei iterated that the global energy transition will disrupt the current energy systems on a grand scale, which will challenge the resilience of economies. Hydrogen will open up a range of new opportunities and challenge the traditional energy pathway that will define sustainable development for years to come. He highlighted that the UAE is ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of hydrogen and announced the country's aims to decarbonise the energy and industrial systems. This includes developing a blue and green hydrogen economy, where hydrogen is one of the central pathways to achieving net zero by 2050 as announced in October 2021. Minister Al-Mazrouei also drew attention to UAE's Hydrogen Leadership Roadmap announced at COP26 that is designed to support domestic industries through blue and green hydrogen production and use. The Roadmap seeks to leverage UAE's knowledge and experience of the hydrocarbon economy to become a global hydrogen exporter and further diversify the economy. He concluded by noting the critical role of hydrogen and IRENA's report as a tool for implementing an inclusive energy transition that works for everyone.

60. Part of the event included a recorded discussion between the Director-General and Dr Daniel Yergin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning energy expert, on the findings of the report. During the conversation, Mr La Camera remarked at the pace of development in green hydrogen, which, according to some companies could become competitive in 2025, and asked Dr Yergin his thoughts on the geopolitical impacts of this change. Dr Yergin noted that the previous hydrogen boom focused on transportation, while the current interest has arisen from multiple factors, including policy driving the need to decarbonise the industrial sector, current industry capabilities which can be transferred to hydrogen, and the potential to switch from natural gas to hydrogen using existing infrastructure. He highlighted that a hydrogen energy business does not yet exist, but there is a clear agenda, and a critical number of participants and producers looking for a market. He noted that the IRENA report addresses these issues, including indicating the way forward. It should be noted that the IHS Markit view underlines blue hydrogen playing a bigger role for a longer period of time – which calls for development of the carbon capture industry.

61. Dr Yergin underlined the varying timeframes being modelled for hydrogen, which the Director-General commented was also a strong focus of IRENA. Dr Yergin noted that IRENA's report is a starting point which should be benchmarked over the next couple of years to understand how quick it is to mobilise industrial engineering capabilities to bring an integrated change. Dr Yergin's new book focuses on existing infrastructure that can be repurposed for hydrogen to create networks, and sees hydrogen develop into a global trade similar to the LNG market. The discussion concluded with Dr Yergin's remarks that there are different possible pathways, and that we are at the beginning of a new hydrogen era.

62. In closing, Ms Crane underlined one of the key messages from the report - Governments have a unique opportunity to proactively shape the advent of hydrogen and international cooperation will be essential to effectively navigate the unknowns, mitigate risks and overcome obstacles in the years ahead.

**63. The Assembly welcomed the launch of the Geopolitics of Hydrogen Report.**

**Agenda Item 5: Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021 (A/12/3; A/12/INF/2)**

**Agenda item 6: Report of the Director-General - Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (A/12/4; A/12/4/Rev.1; A/12/DC/L.1/Rev.1)**

64. The Director-General introduced the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2020-2021 and the Report of the Director-General - Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 by highlighting that the world is trying to make sense of the unexpected events of 2021 and their impact. These events constantly remind us of our co-dependency, calling for cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration to deal with them.

65. The Director-General highlighted that despite the recent positive developments to tackle the climate crisis such as the commitments by 130 countries to net zero strategies by mid-century and by thousands of businesses to fight climate change, there is an urgency to move fast with operationalising them. He underlined that the realisation of the development and climate goals depends on progress with the energy transition in the coming years and urged the world community to speed up the deployment and scaling up of available solutions, while fostering innovation. The Director-General noted that renewables stand out as affordable, available solutions for a range of policy objectives. He also stressed that their fast deployment, pursued in tandem and holistically with unmatched levels of international cooperation, will be essential in achieving health, development, and climate priorities globally.

66. He stressed that despite the challenges in the past two years, IRENA has risen to the challenge by adapting to change in innovative, inclusive, and programmatic ways. For example, responding to Members' requests, IRENA established a series of Collaborative Frameworks to promote closer peer to peer collaboration and knowledge exchange. He added that the Frameworks are more than a dynamic, inclusive, and action-focused platform for international cooperation as they are becoming the Agency's way of working. In addition, collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, has been enhanced.

67. The Director-General relayed that IRENA's analytical and technical work remains the foundation of its work. Referring to the first *World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO)*, launched in 2021, he stressed that IRENA showed how emissions could rapidly be reduced in line with the 1.5-degree goal while ensuring the transition is just, leaving no one behind. IRENA's analysis offers a path for decarbonising all energy uses, with electrification and energy efficiency as primary drivers enabled by renewables, green hydrogen, and sustainable, modern bioenergy. He continued that the WETO also outlines several pre-requisites and demonstrates how the policy, finance, and socio-economic dimensions are intertwined with the technology pathway to help countries minimise risk and reap the benefits of the energy transition.

68. Reflecting on jobs, the Director-General stressed that IRENA's narrative of renewable jobs has always been compelling, but it is especially significant today as it shows the renewables' immediate positive impact on multiple challenges. IRENA's latest *Renewable Energy and Jobs-Annual Review 2021*, prepared in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, revealed that despite the pandemic, the total number of people employed in the renewable energy sector rose by 500,000 to 12 million in 2020.

69. The Director-General stressed that IRENA's primary mission is to empower Members with the knowledge and tools to translate the opportunities that the transitions offer into policies, strategies, and results. He underlined that while the pandemic challenged the Agency's ability to drive action on the ground, IRENA used all means available to provide complete and impactful support. Regarding the NDCs, he emphasised that IRENA's support has been vital. The Agency engaged with seventy-three countries, impacting 1.8 billion people through NDC enhancement and implementation, thus, giving dynamic insight into local conditions, priorities, abilities, and needs. He also noted the importance of this foundational work for the next stage, where operational clarity and implementation of steps will drive progress.

70. The Director-General also underscored that IRENA has argued for a long time that by investing in both people and technologies, governments could make energy transition an effective tool for a resilient, equitable, and prosperous future. He pointed out that the indispensable role of renewables has now become a mainstream conviction, but going forward, we must ensure that their deployment realises their immense and wide-reaching benefits.

71. He emphasised that as WETO will become the organising framework, guiding all aspects of work, IRENA will continue to update and improve the analysis to account for the dynamism of the energy sector and stay abreast of the latest developments. He underlined that WETO goes beyond the technology pathway and provides policy, finance, and socioeconomic insight and advice. The Director-General reaffirmed that IRENA would continue to provide cutting edge knowledge especially focused on slow-moving areas such as end uses as well as on topical issues such as green hydrogen, critical materials, end of life, recycling, and reuse.

72. The Director-General reflected on the increasing need for a holistic approach to the energy transition to achieve development goals, accelerate mitigation, improve resilience, and adapt to the realities of climate change. To this end, he noted that IRENA works at the cross section of energy and areas such as health, food security, water, education, gender, and indigenous communities, while considering the broader economic, social, geopolitical implications of the shift to renewables.

73. He continued that the energy transition is a global challenge and therefore solutions must be found at many different levels. To address this, IRENA's central priority for the coming years will be to translate WETO into Regional Energy Transition Outlooks, or RETOs, starting with three regional reports - for Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia to provide pathways aligned with the regional conditions and their development and climate priorities. The Director-General highlighted that RETOs would also give a clear picture of the required policy, finance, and socio-economic aspects to help maximise benefits and manage adverse impacts, in line with IRENA's priority to ensure a just, inclusive, equitable transition. In addition, RETOs will support investment in project facilitation, especially in LDCs and SIDS.

74. The Director-General regretted that the pandemic limited project facilitation plans, and noted progress was made, nonetheless. He pointed out that the Climate Investment Platform has already over three hundred registered partners, including almost all multilateral organisations, international financing institutions, and the private sector. Over two hundred and eighty projects have been sourced by the Platform, with 120 eligible for support and some have already been matched with funding. He noted that Investments Forums would be held as soon as conditions allow.

75. He continued that a significant development has been the partnership with the host country, the United Arab Emirates, on the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAFA), launched at COP26. The Platform aims to mobilise financing for 1.5 gigawatts of renewable energy projects in developing countries, with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) joining as the Platform's first partner in providing seed funding of USD 400 million. He noted that this strong partnership builds on the success of the ADFD-IRENA Project Facility, which supported twenty-six renewable projects in developing countries.

76. The Director-General stressed that it is always challenging to reconcile the Agency's programmatic ambition with the financial reality. He stated that the last biennium was even more challenging and expressed appreciation for Members' timely contributions despite difficult economic circumstances. He also extended thanks to the UAE, host country of headquarters, and Germany, hosting the Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn, for the core non-assessed resources provided. Bearing in mind the ongoing reality of the pandemic, he proposed to keep the core budget at the same level for the next programmatic cycle, while accounting for new Member contributions in line with previous practice.

77. He expressed gratitude to all Members for providing voluntary contributions, thus, enabling the Agency to deepen and widen its knowledge and reach. He underlined the need to secure a sustainable balance between core budget, voluntary contributions, and other resources. To this end, he proposed resuming the work on the Renewable Acceleration Fund, which Members started in 2018, and to pursue a multi-donor trust fund in line with the applicable regulation. This would enable IRENA to tap into diverse funding sources and secure a stable resource base to support the successive programmatic cycles.

78. In conclusion, he noted the need to take the energy discourse to the next level and, as requested by IRENA Members, for the Agency to play a leading role in the global energy transition. He stressed that IRENA Membership is accelerating and growing, and the agenda is extensive. The Director-General's proposal for the next biennial Work Programme draws on the Agency's comparative advantage in the evolving energy landscape and sets the stage for the next phase of international cooperation for a positive change. He closed with a call to turn commitments into action and move quickly and collaboratively to rise to the challenge ahead.

79. The President H.E. Ms Alexandra Hill Tinoco, El Salvador, invited Members to make their statements.

80. Delegations congratulated the Director-General for his leadership and guidance and the IRENA Secretariat for adapting its work methods and delivering the Work Programme, despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for organising the Assembly in a virtual format. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the partnership with IRENA and thanked the Agency for the support provided.

81. Delegations welcomed the *Annual Report of the Director-General*. Delegations underlined the importance of high-quality analytical work to assist policymakers in seizing the opportunity to shape resilient energy systems for a sustainable future, in the context of the post-COVID recovery process. One delegation underlined that empirical and analytical work should be at the core of the Agency's work. Another delegation noted that the Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Regions focuses on the benefits of the energy transition and suggested expanding this analysis to include financial cost.

82. Several delegations welcomed the *Proposed Work Program and Budget 2022-2023*. One delegation welcomed greater focus on promoting renewable energy sources for sectors such as transport, construction, and industry and asked for additional work on decarbonising the gas sector and the use of biomethane. Another delegation urged IRENA to continue to deliver reliable socio-economic analysis and analysis on the job creation potential of renewables, which is central for building the case for energy transition as a key to net zero and climate resilient future. A delegation underlined the vital role of renewables in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and all forms of pollution and urged for the adoption of measures encouraging the generation of energy from renewable sources and improving energy efficiency to meet the Paris Agreement.

83. Several delegations welcomed the ongoing discussion on the *Medium-Term Strategy 2023-2027*. One delegation called for identifying ways for IRENA to differentiate itself by continuing to provide leadership through well-founded reports, analysis, and data, while also positively affecting decarbonisation policies, and called on discussions to focus on mobilisation of private capital. Some delegations underlined the importance of public and private partnerships to mobilise finance, share best practices and expertise and bring about a multiplier effect to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change. One delegation suggested aligning Collaborative Frameworks, IRENA's Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027 and their programming to the commitments highlighted in the Glasgow Climate Change Pact.

84. Some delegations welcomed the *World Energy Transitions Outlook* as it provides coherent framework for a just, equitable, and inclusive transition.

85. Some delegations welcomed the *Regional Energy Transition Outlooks* as an efficient and constructive analysis that will serve the diverse priorities, abilities, and needs of Members. One delegation also called on the Secretariat to remain in contact with the country focal points at all levels of engagement to keep track of specific country developments, avoid duplication of requests and ensure the relevance of programs to countries' needs.

86. One delegation expressed support for IRENA's desire to promote multilateralism and international cooperation in its meetings, which combined with multilingualism will strengthen Member participation and support impact by making IRENA's work more accessible. The delegation also urged IRENA to strengthen its communication and dissemination of information to improve IRENA's visibility and provide inspiration and confidence in the future, especially in light of the current energy prices crisis.

87. Another delegation congratulated IRENA for the monitoring and evaluation efforts as they demonstrate impact of the Agency's work, and can therefore encourage Members to contribute to the work, including financially. One delegation expressed interest in IRENA's modelling tool to provide quantitative evolution of sector coupling opportunities, especially in the largest cities.

88. Some delegations welcomed the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, congratulated IRENA for its contribution to it and reiterated their commitment to a just, inclusive and equitable energy transition. Some delegations welcomed the creative and cross-cutting Compact on Renewable Energy in Peacekeeping and one announced that it is joining it.

89. Some delegations underlined that efforts to contain the pandemic and the ensuing global economic and energy crises should be used as an opportunity to build back better, improve collaboration and press ahead with decarbonisation efforts to realise a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. One delegation mentioned the need to assist countries to ensure a just and inclusive energy transition, diversify their economies, and reduce inefficient subsidies.

90. Some delegations underlined that the energy transition would boost economic growth and create a sustainable and green future, but it requires robust infrastructure, advanced technology and innovation, and adequate financing and knowledge sharing through enhanced collaboration. Delegations stressed the importance of increased regional cooperation to create a conducive environment for the achievement of sustainable development through technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and enhanced regional markets. One delegation brought attention to energy security challenges that persist and will evolve with the energy transition, and that affordable and reliable energy supply will be critical to maintaining market stability.

91. To achieve green transition, one delegation recalled that Africa is rich in natural resources and the largest arable area in the world, and underscored that for economic prosperity, proper long-term planning and strategy; enhanced, refined, and joint projects; and support from developed countries through adequate resource mobilisation, and technology transfer are needed. The delegation also highlighted the role of women in the process. Two delegations stated that developing countries, especially African, should develop their indigenous hydrocarbon energy resources as these assets hold the prospects to end energy poverty, promote industrialisation and accompanying economic transformation.

92. Some delegations called on developed countries to provide climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to developing countries, especially African countries and SIDS, in support of their energy transition. One delegation highlighted that it is essential to empower SIDS by capacity building, technological exchange, and project facilitation to grow the potential urgently.

93. Delegations reflected on their national policies to enhance the deployment of renewable energy and promote energy access, energy efficiency, electric mobility, energy storage, carbon sequestration, water desalination and smart grid as well as the regulatory and policy frameworks to attract investments. Delegations also referred to their goals to increase the share of variable renewable sources in their power mix, and one delegation mentioned the national program to transform consumers into prosumers, while reducing emissions. One delegation underscored that energy sector integration and the electrification of hard to decarbonise sectors should be at the core of the energy strategy for climate neutrality.

94. Several delegations mentioned their plans to phase out coal by 2030 with one noting its 2024 timeline. One delegation referred to the national decision to end new licenses and exploration of oil and gas. Some delegations discussed the domestic use of biofuels, while others the role of natural gas or nuclear energy as part of their energy mix.

95. One delegation called for ensuring a truly sustainable path through transparent and fair governance of critical mineral resource supply chains. Another delegation stressed that IRENA is well-positioned to address new technologies and pressing challenges, and can play a key role in understanding and improving critical mineral supply chains for renewables, analysing new clean energy technology solutions, market structures, and planning protocols. The delegation referred to the Energy Resource Governance Initiative by the USA State Department, a multilateral effort to help build responsible, transparent, and resilient supply chains for clean energy minerals, and the plan to step up engagement with IRENA and Members on this topic in 2022. Another delegation referred to the country's vast untapped lithium deposits and called for partnerships to develop the e-vehicle value chain, including manufacturing of lithium ion batteries.

96. Following the launch of the report "Geopolitics of Energy Transformation: The Hydrogen Factor", delegations discussed their national hydrogen strategies and roadmaps to develop a hydrogen economy. One delegation underscored the potential of hydrogen to influence the geopolitical trends of the 21st century and support the energy transition of hard-to-abate industries, and sectors beyond electrification. One delegation underlined that while there is no single path toward decarbonisation, the global energy transitions should focus on disseminating technologies and know-how to optimise the balance of domestic energy supply and demand, utilising fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia and establishing an international supply chain for these fuels.

97. Delegations welcomed the Collaborative Frameworks as a valuable platform to assist countries on their energy transition pathway. One delegation stressed that enhanced interactions and cooperation would increase IRENA's expertise and thus, the Agency's visibility and delivery of projects.

98. One delegation welcomed the focus of the Collaborative Framework on a Just and Inclusive Transition on jobs and livelihoods in 2022 and another delegation reiterated its interest and commitment to the Collaborative Framework on Ocean Energy/ Offshore Renewables.

99. Some delegations welcomed the Collaborative Framework on Hydropower that culminated in the World Hydropower Congress, hosted by Costa Rica, and the San Jose declaration on sustainable hydropower, and mentioned the upcoming conference on developing hydropower in countries with limited finance, to be co-hosted by IRENA and Switzerland in autumn 2022. Some delegations also called for greater engagement of IRENA in hydropower, underlined the role of hydropower in increasing energy access and enabling the integration of higher shares of renewables.

100. Some delegations thanked IRENA for its contribution to the G20 meeting. One delegation mentioned that energy transition, global health and digital economic transformation are some of the main priorities under Indonesia's G20 Presidency and welcomed IRENA's support.

101. Some delegations expressed support for IRENA's continued work in project facilitation such as the Climate Investment Platform, applauded the launch of IRENA's Energy Transition Accelerator Financing platform and the seed funding provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. One delegation invited IRENA to partner in hosting an in-person regional investment roundtable meeting, once circumstances allow.

102. Some delegations underlined that IRENA has an opportunity to promote partnerships to de-risk projects and thus lower financing costs, a key impediment to achieving deployment at scale. Another delegation proposed that IRENA support countries to secure low-cost financing for

renewable energy projects through capacity building for developers in formulating bankable renewable energy projects and the organisation of Investment Forums. One delegation looked forward to the next edition of IRENA's *Global Landscape of Renewable Finance* report.

103. Several delegations referred to their national emissions reduction ambitions and net zero strategies, and in this regard, welcomed the COP26 outcomes and the Glasgow Climate Pact. They urged for their speedy implementation and reiterated the urgency for collective action to decarbonise the energy sector. One delegation reiterated the importance of major emitters to reduce carbon emissions.

104. Some delegations also congratulated IRENA for its contribution to COP26 and the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change, and several delegations also called on IRENA to assist Members, including through policy development and technical assistance, to realise climate goals.

105. One delegation underlined that IRENA will be at the centre of the energy transition movement and in delivering the Glasgow breakthroughs as we move from COP26 to COP27. Another delegation pointed out that while reference was made for the first time at COP26 on energy efficiency and phasing out coal, no reference has been made on renewables thus far and expressed hope that this will materialise at COP28 with IRENA's support.

106. Several delegations highlighted their climate goals as presented in the updated NDCs launched at COP26. One delegation expressed gratitude to IRENA for the support provided on the revision of their NDCs, in partnership with the UNDP Climate Promise Initiative and the NDC partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package. The delegation noted that NDC commitments now encompass all sectors of the economy rather than just the energy sector as was the case in the initial NDCs of 2015.

107. One delegation welcomed the Partnership Agreement signed with IRENA during COP26, while another referred to the cooperation with IRENA to transition rural, remote, and indigenous communities, relying on diesel, to renewable energy solutions, as launched at COP26. The delegation invited Members to join this initiative.

108. One delegation stressed that carbon pricing can become a credible policy by allowing industry players to internalise the costs of the transition, if it is just, inclusive and robust and enables a level playing field and called on IRENA for further support in putting a value on sustainable development, and supporting a coalition of the middle intensity trap.

109. One delegation welcomed the Green Grid initiative, building on the One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative, and another noted the partnership to decarbonise South Africa's economy, and the Clean Energy Demand Initiative.

**110. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the Annual report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021 (A/12/3).**

**111. The Assembly considered the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 (A/12/4 and A/12/4/Rev.1) and adopted the related draft decision (A/12 DC/L.1/Rev.1).**

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**Agenda Item 7: Ministerial Meeting on Flexible Grids for Smart Electrification - Pathways for Energy System Integration and End-use Decarbonisation (A/12/BN/2)**

112. The Ministerial meeting under this agenda item would be convened at a later date, taking into account the calendar of events and other planned initiatives, and the outcome reported to the Membership.

**Agenda Item 8: Ministerial Meeting on the Geopolitics of Hydrogen (A/12/BN/3)**

113. The Ministerial meeting under this agenda item would be convened at a later date, taking into account the calendar of events and other planned initiatives, and the outcome reported to the Membership.

**Agenda Item 9: Ministerial Meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transition Investments and Finance: The Role of Local Financial Institutions (A/12/BN/4)**

114. The Ministerial meeting under this agenda item would be convened at a later date, taking into account the calendar of events and other planned initiatives, and the outcome reported to the Membership.

**Agenda Item 10: Reports from Ministerial Meetings and other events**

115. The President invited the presentation of the reports from the Ministerial, High-Level and Stakeholder meetings that were held on 13 and 14 January 2022 and other meetings held in the context of IRENA's engagement with Members and stakeholders.

***Report from the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition***

116. On behalf of Spain, President of the eleventh Assembly, Mr Joan Groizard, Director-General of the Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy reported on the discussions of the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition established at the eleventh session of the Assembly. He informed that the Forum serves as a vision-building forum for IRENA Members to discuss collective aspirations for the energy transition with key stakeholders and he mentioned that the inaugural meeting of the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition took place on 30 June 2021 in a virtual format, and included the participation of Ministers, High-level representatives, and distinguished delegates across IRENA's Membership. He reported that IRENA's synergies with global partners with the intention to strengthen the nexus between climate and energy saw the participation of Ms Patricia Espinoza, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC and Mr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, and in addition to the Vice-Presidents of the eleventh session of the Assembly (Albania, Costa Rica, Ghana, and India), the Forum also welcomed the participation of Antigua and Barbuda as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, Italy as the current G20 Presidency, Indonesia as the incoming G20 Presidency, Germany as the incoming G7 Presidency, and the UAE, which has recently been announced as the host of COP 28.

117. Mr Groizard reported that the first special edition of the Forum coincided with the release of the complete edition of IRENA's WETO 2021, which comprises ambitious content including the 1.5-degree energy transition scenario, an analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of the pathway, and recommendations on policies and financing sources for its achievement. He further reported on the discussions and outcomes of this meeting, which included a High-level discussion on the relation between science and raising ambition in light of ongoing processes and exploring actions to accelerate a just, inclusive, and systemic energy transition. Mr Groizard reported that the panel welcomed the WETO as a landmark report that synergises findings and recommendations towards an energy pathway that is aligned with the IPCC's special report on the 1.5-degree goal, the Paris

Agreement on climate change, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and they noted that such linkages were highlighted as particularly crucial whilst countries chart the diverse plans of action to achieve a just, inclusive, and systemic transition for their citizens, in line with their NDCs and long-term low emission development strategies. He advised that the panel reiterated the commitment to place the energy transition at the heart of recovery efforts in a post-COVID situation. He further advised that the panel noted the cross-sectoral benefits in economic, environmental, societal, welfare, and developmental terms, and that they described their decarbonisation targets, experiences, achievements, and vision for their energy transitions.

118. Mr Groizard advised that amongst the discussions, the panel emphasised the urgency to further accelerate momentum towards the energy transition, achieve climate and development targets, and get on the 1.5-degree pathway at a faster pace. He conveyed that the panel stressed the need to leverage global initiatives in various fora including COP 26 and the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy, to increase ambition to achieve net zero by 2050 through the acceleration of the phaseout of coal, and to mobilise finance and investments towards even greater penetration of renewables. Mr Groizard reported that the panel stressed the imperative to learn from the lessons of the pandemic and place an inclusive and just transition at the core of global, regional, and national efforts. Highlighting the need to move from setting long-term goals, targets and NDCs to taking actionable steps to implement policies and targets in the shorter time scale, he relayed that the panel further stressed the importance of promoting global solidarity, and extending support and partnership across regions to balance economic and environmental imperatives while removing barriers to finance and investment.

119. Mr Groizard reported that the growing importance of IRENA's role as a global voice of renewables was underscored, particularly in strengthening the nexus between energy and climate objectives and in achieving a successful global energy transition, and that the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition was recognised as a timely and instrumental platform to strengthen international cooperation and facilitate collaboration across IRENA's diverse Membership in the shared endeavour of the new energy system. He mentioned that the panel noted the analyses and foresight presented in the WETO and the clear message that success is only possible through an inclusive and just transition that leaves no one behind, which included an emphasis on the need to further develop regional approaches to the energy transition. To build momentum and ensure continued impact of the WETO, he reported that the panel called for the development of regional energy transition outlooks that will closely reflect the unique circumstances of IRENA's diverse Membership as the panel expressed the unique value of channelling and encompassing the WETO recommendations into concrete action areas that are tailored to the needs and circumstances of each region, thereby ensuring a relevant and bespoke approach towards holistic and consistent policy frameworks which embed justice, inclusion, and equity into the transition processes of respective countries in line with their NDCs and long-term low emission development strategies.

120. Mr Groizard reported that the panel underlined the commitment to take meaningful and relevant steps with the support of IRENA to build a new energy system and bring about lasting change for their countries, their regions, their people, and our planet. In concluding his report he called upon the Assembly to use this Forum, which is mandated to meet annually, as a vision-building platform for periodic reflection on the implementation of commitments, charting further cooperation and collaboration at national, regional, and international levels and for measuring the momentum of collective action in the energy transition.

### ***Report from the Ministerial Meeting on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions in Africa: Promoting Development and Industrialisation***

121. Mr Seth Agbeve Mahu, Deputy Director for Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy of Ghana, reported on the Ministerial Meeting of 14 January 2022, moderated by Hon Kandeh Yumkella, Founder and CEO, The Energy Nexus Network (TENN) and attended by Ministers and High-level representatives from the Membership, international and regional organisations, and

related stakeholders including from the private sector. He informed participants that the purpose of the Ministerial meeting was to have a discussion that combines SDG7, on universal access to sustainable modern energy services, with other SDGs, including SDG8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

101. Mr Mahu reported that the meeting saw the launch of the *Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Regions* report, developed by IRENA in collaboration with the African Development Bank. The report discusses the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition on the continent, and includes the finding that the energy transition accompanied by a holistic policy framework can help overcome structural dependencies and could raise GDP by 6.4% above the current plans, creating 26 million jobs by 2050, and significantly improve welfare. He conveyed that the report highlights the role of an African Green Deal as a collaborative tool to support the development of comprehensive policy packages underpinned by African and international cooperation and added that the event provided a platform for an exchange amongst Ministers from various parts of the continent, high-level representatives from international organisations, the development community, the private sector, and academia on the actions needed to strengthen the links between the energy transition, industrialisation, local value creation, and the broader development agenda. Mr Mahu reported that participants agreed on the tremendous opportunities offered by the energy transition and that several key priority areas were highlighted, which included the importance of planning, financing and industrial policy to overcome structural dependencies, among other factors. He highlighted that a common trait in many interventions echoing the key findings of the report was the crucial role of a comprehensive policy framework that looks beyond renewable deployment and covers aspects related to system integration and those that support structural change and just transition, including industrial policies, labour market policies, and social production schemes. A further point underscored by participants was the role of regional integration of power systems to ensure that countries can harness their respective resource endowments whilst having access to larger networks to exploit synergies between multiple renewable energy sources, demand profiles across the continent, and integrate higher shares of variable renewable energy. He conveyed that participants further stressed the importance of attracting investments at the scale and speed required, with a particular emphasis on project cooperation and de-risking support, and the role of the right regulatory environment.

102. Mr Mahu stated that throughout the discussions, participants highlighted the wide range of existing national, regional, and international initiatives and efforts to accelerate the energy transition, improve access to electricity and clean cooking, and to ensure local value creation. He noted that participants echoed the important rule of strengthening partnership and international cooperation to realise the development priorities of African countries and he reported that participants asked IRENA to continue to build on its work with a view to support a Green Deal for a just and inclusive energy transition in Africa.

***Report from the 2022 IRENA Legislators Forum - Parliamentary and regulatory actions to drive national energy transition policies: from commitment to action***

103. Mr Guy Lentz, Secretary-General of the Energy Charter reported that the seventh IRENA Legislators Forum was held via a virtual platform on 13 January 2022, with almost 50 countries represented, to discuss parliamentary and regulatory actions to drive national energy transition policies from commitment to action. He reported that the Forum renewed the commitment and political will as parliamentarians to leverage legislative oversight as well as representation functions in promoting the deployment of renewable energy and accelerating the global energy transition in line with the broad vision and objectives of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Noting that this endeavour requires robust, transparent, and predictable legislative frameworks that bolster technology deployment, give confidence to investors, enable diversification, and—of high importance— facilitate private sector participation, he reported that flexible energy systems and regulatory toolboxes should integrate provisions related to subsidies,

excision, and planning and promote the relocation of resources from fossil fuel industries to sustainable energy. He conveyed that the discussions deduced that legislators need to be at the forefront of efforts to establish renewable energy as a norm, rather than an exception. He relayed that participants of the Forum emphasised the need to set intermediary and shorter-term energy and climate objectives to guarantee incumbent accountability and monitor progress toward long-term milestones, and that participants also underlined the imperative to focus on and find solutions for issues related to energy access, distribution, transmission, maintenance, and repair of renewable energy resources and related technology, especially in LDCs, the global south, Africa, and Southeast Asia. He noted that legislators are in the unique position as bridges between constituents and national institutions, and are firm in the resolve to develop localised governance systems.

104. Mr Lentz reported that participants committed to translating national green development policies from a top-down approach to a bottom-up governance structure that builds on the knowledge, experience and needs of citizens, micro-enterprises, entrepreneurs, and municipal and local governments to ensure harmonized actions across all levels. He further reported that legislators, as representatives of constituencies, highlighted the exigency to shield consumers from price volatility through social protection programmes and public financing, and ensure that people understand the advantages of the energy transition in terms of employment and quality of life. In acknowledging the need for continued dialogue and appreciative of the work IRENA does to foster cross-border extensions of knowledge, insight and experiences, he relayed that participants called upon IRENA to implement more programmes and initiatives to develop parliamentary skills and knowledge in renewable energy, to further promote regional cooperation, to provide more data analysis, guides, and assessments to shape energy policy, and to organise smaller target-, problem- and regional specific legislative seminars. Mr Lentz stated that legislators also called upon IRENA to create an ever-growing platform that collates successful energy policy strategies and experiences from around the world to be used by parliamentarians and regulators for reference purposes, and he emphasised that participants again welcomed the IRENA Legislators Forum as an effective platform to foster sustained constructive dialogue between each other, with IRENA, and with relevant experts and associations.

### ***Report from the Public-Private Dialogue - Renewable energy and circular economy: Focus on end-of-life management of renewables***

105. Ms Silvia Piana, Head of Regulatory Affairs for Africa, Asia, and Oceania at Enel Green Power, reported on the fifth Public-Private Dialogue on behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action which has now reached over 120 members, including private companies, industry associations, civil society, and research institutes. She affirmed the importance of the international network platform for key renewable energy players to share knowledge and best practices, and to identify actions to accelerate the energy transition. She noted that it is now more important than ever to continue to deliver on the climate and sustainable development agenda with no time to waste, as the world is still mobilising efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the acceleration of renewable energy deployment despite the challenges of the pandemic is encouraging but that the increasing volume of decommissioned equipment as the energy transition accelerates demands the right measures to be put in place now. She referred to the preliminary findings from the second edition of IRENA's study on the end-of-life management of solar PV panels, which estimates that the global cumulative solar PV waste will increase from 4 million tonnes in 2030 to almost 50 million tonnes in 2040 to 200 million tonnes in 2050, representing more than 50 times of an increase between 2030 and 2050, which further demands that the energy transition and the circular economy must go hand-in-hand to ensure that global energy systems are truly sustainable, to successfully and significantly scale up renewable energy development. She mentioned that concrete enabling frameworks on circularity and the exploration of synergies across sectors must be implemented.

106. Ms Piana reported that public and private actors participating in the Dialogue agreed on the urgency to act now to manage anticipated waste volume and she highlighted three key points from the Public-Private Dialogue: that the circularity in renewables presents vast opportunities of socioeconomic benefits such as new industries, new jobs, environmental gains, considerable economic value and with this approach, waste can be eliminated and a large stock of raw materials and valuable components unlocked; that concrete actions are required to achieve full circularity across the whole value chain - although some leading associations and leading industries are already prioritising sustainability - which includes establishing sustainable measures to decommission renewables and to integrate end-of-life management consideration from the early stages of design, with innovation and technological advancements being crucial to switching to more sustainable and efficient use of materials across the lifetime of products; and that some governments are already putting circularity at the centre of their decarbonisation strategies but many countries still do not have renewable energy-specific circular economy and waste regulation. She reported that leading industry associations are calling for level playing fields and for the standardisation of regulation and legislations across sectors and across regions, and for international collaboration and cross-sector cooperation which are key to aligning efforts to advance end-of-life management and circularity. She reported that leading renewable energy associations and companies are putting circularity at the heart of their strategies and that decisive action is needed from all governments to ensure that policy framework, waste regulation, and infrastructure are fully enabling the approach. She stressed the need to act now to accelerate a truly sustainable energy transition.

#### ***Report from the 2022 IRENA Youth Forum***

107. Ms Sälma El-Gamal, a young professional from Egypt presented the report of the third IRENA Youth Forum that took place on a virtual platform on 13 January 2022 and which witnessed the gathering of over 400 young energy leaders to support youth inclusion in the public debate and discuss youth-led solutions to accelerate the energy transition and achieve climate objectives. She stated that the Forum offered the opportunity for young people globally to exchange their views and ideas with High-level representatives from international institutions and organisations. She reported that the participants identified five significant areas of necessary change: education and professional development, entrepreneurship, financing, local level support, and youth representation. She explained that education, which serves as the foundation to advance the development of necessary skills for a sustainable and clean energy transition, requires governments to guide skills training to meet the needs of their societies, for which theoretical and practical renewables and energy efficiency studies as well as various forms of training programmes must be realised. She added that governments, industries, and multilateral organisations should offer further professional development opportunities for young people in the energy sector as an essential solution to empower and build the capacity of young energy leaders, including through scholarships, mentorships, apprenticeships, internships, and entry level positions.

108. Ms El-Gamal also noted that young entrepreneurs and innovators have proven once again that they play an indispensable role in finding creative solutions for the provision of energy services in their regions and that new entrepreneurs need established businesses to pass on their experience and practical knowledge; in this regard participants at the Forum also highlighted that young entrepreneurs need support to bring their projects into the public debate and enhance youth involvement in national and regional policies. She conveyed that participants had concurred on the lack of access to funding being a major constraint to the adoption and expansion of youth-led solutions in the field of renewable energy, and that increased financial support can substantially empower young people, particularly in developing countries. Ms ElGamal mentioned that young people have also emphasised the importance to locally address climate change and the energy transition to enable them to serve as a powerful link between local communities and the national global dialogues and, with the right support systems, young energy leaders can grow their innovative capabilities and effectively implement the energy transition in correspondence with their local needs and priorities; the achievement of which, as noted by the Forum, requires equal

access to modern technology all around the world. She stated that participants added that governments must ensure young people have the possibility and the means necessary to be connected and represented at all levels as the youth should not only be heard but also integrated into decision making processes as much as possible. She noted that participants commended the pledge of the UAE to have the largest ever global youth representation at COP 28 and also commended its leadership for placing the youth at the heart of decision-making processes by mandating youth representatives in councils and boards, and that participants hope to see similar actions taken by all governments to have youth and senior decision-makers working side by side.

109. In her concluding remarks, Ms Sälma El-Gamal conveyed that participants acknowledged and appreciated the youth engagement work that IRENA has championed, and that they urged the Agency to continue promoting the IRENA Youth Forum as an inclusive platform that encourages and continues meaningful engagement of the new generation of decision-makers. She further conveyed that participants look forward to the realisation of the youth initiatives announced by IRENA for 2022, including the launch of the Global Council on Enabling Youth Action for SDG 7 as well as the training programme for youth climate and energy leaders launched in response to the demands of the youth PreCOP26 in Milan. She mentioned that through the support of the Italian government and the activities on education and teacher training supported by the government of the UAE, the youth are on the verge of global energy transformation, and she stressed the commitment of the youth and their anticipation toward the continuous work that is central to the future of energy and its impacts on global prosperity.

### ***Report from Long-Term Energy Scenarios for Developing Energy Transitions Plan in Africa***

110. Mr Tichakunda Simbini, Energy Infrastructure Expert from the African Union Development Agency's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), reported on the outcomes of the side event held on 13 January 2022 in a virtual format. He described the long-term energy scenarios that have been deployed by many governments and used as an effective tool for energy planning around the world and explained that as the energy transition transforms global society, economies, and environments in an increasingly broader and complex manner, long-term energy scenarios serve as an even more important tool in planning towards the clean energy transition. He mentioned the examples of countries in Africa developing long-term energy scenarios as key to national master plans and that this side event was also the final session of the Africa webinar series, with the previous five sessions of the webinar series having taken place before the experiences were heard from the nine African countries that are known for good energy planning and scenario development practices. He reported that the event showcased efforts by African power pools to create a regional planning platform through coordination of planning scenarios and the development of regional power pool master plans, and discussed lessons that can be drawn moving forward to coordination at the continental level, specifically in the context of the development of the African Union's continental power system master plan (CMP), which is a key element of the African Single Electricity Market.

111. Mr Simbini conveyed that the event welcomed participants and interventions from the three regional economies communities of West, East and Southern Africa on their roles in supporting regional planning coordination, and he conveyed that participants highlighted scenarios of fundamental inputs to the regional master plans which are used by power pools to identify the infrastructure needs to guide future investment whilst also allowing the most effective use of renewable energy across the regions to create strategies for maximising the benefits. He reiterated the importance of the development of private documents to create a platform for regional level coordination as well as ownership both in technical and political levels whilst also having a robust process to ensure the sustainability of the efforts of updating these national and the regional and continental master plans. Mr Simbini stated that each power pool highlighted the importance of having a good cabinet structure, constant dialogue, and a communications strategy, and that recurring themes throughout the series included power pools and countries stressing the

importance of internalising scenario development skills, thus allowing institutions and governments to have autonomy over their scenario development process. He stressed that the effort of creating the Continental Power Systems Master Plan is highly welcomed by the power pools and regional economy communities, and that it should be based on a transparent consistent space as well as having a photomap approach.

112. In his conclusion, Mr Simbini stated that the event was organised under IRENA's Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES) Network - a platform of government energy planners, to exchange knowledge and best practices on the development and use of long-term energy scenarios in the context of the clean energy transition. He reported that the feedback at the series of events reflected an appreciation for the peer-to-peer exchange of experiences across African stakeholders and inspired other African countries to establish or improve their long-term energy practices using these long-term energy scenarios. He conveyed that many participants emphasised the edge of translating political ambition into action, and that the long-term energy scenarios are one of the most effective tools to enable the transition, with the long-term energy scenarios for the continental process master plan contributing towards the finding that it is possible to achieve a cost effective, inclusive, and just transition.

**113. The Assembly received, with appreciation, and took note of the reports provided.**

### ***Signing of Framework Agreements***

114. The President invited the Assembly to witness the signing of several Framework Agreements and she referred to the Director General's presentation of the Annual Report, which included the Agency's efforts in strengthening engagement with Members and international partners to build on linkages and further accelerate actions towards the new energy era, with such engagement being consolidated through a series of Framework Agreements.

115. The Director-General expressed his privilege at the opportunity to sign the Framework Agreements and he highlighted that IRENA continues efforts to strengthen capacity across multiple levels, including through relevant international cooperation, Private Partnership Agreements, and Framework Agreements with Member States wishing to embark on ambitious programmes with IRENA's support.

116. The Assembly witnessed the signing of Framework Agreements between IRENA and El Salvador, represented by the President of the Assembly; India, represented by Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary at the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; The Energy Community Secretariat, represented by Mr Artur Lorkowski, Director; ENEL Green Power, represented by Mr Salvatore Bernabei, Chief Executive Officer; and the International Chamber of Shipping, represented by Mr Guy Platten, Secretary General.

117. The President emphasised El Salvador's commitment as a key partner in the implementation of regional programmes in Central America and as an active player in the Global Geothermal Alliance and announced that the cooperation agreement will support El Salvador's national decarbonisation plans, boost the financing of renewable energy projects, and contribute to the national development of geothermal energy. She expressed El Salvador's hope to build regional partnerships in the shared endeavour to enhance the quality of life for people through the implementation of renewable energy projects.

118. The Director-General noted that the partnership with India creates a solid cooperation framework for joint work on supporting transformative pathways to position renewable energy at the heart of the energy transition in India as well as globally, and stated that the agreement will help India achieve its target to raise the share of non-fossils in the energy mix to 50% by 2030 with

an ultimate goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070. He explained that the agreement will deepen IRENA's cooperation with India on a number of action areas, including the facilitation of knowledge sharing from India on scaling up renewable energy and clean energy technologies, supporting India's effort of long-term energy planning, collaborating to further strengthen clean energy innovation in India, and moving towards cost effective decarbonisation through catalysing development and deployment of green hydrogen. He stated that the combined forces of IRENA and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India will work together towards the rapid deployment of renewables, boosting energy security, building energy independence and supporting climate action, and he thanked all personnel for their preparatory work on the agreement.

119. Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi announced that India hopes to benefit from IRENA's years of expertise and assistance to implement their ambitious targets, which include a declared a target of 500 GW from non-fossil sources by the year 2030 as well as ambitious targets in hydrogen emission and offshore wind, and he emphasised that a lot is to be gained from international cooperation and that India intends to make maximum use of the strategic partnership agreement.

120. H.E. Mr Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to the UAE, expressed India's privilege to be amongst those signing partnership agreements with IRENA and advised that India is on course to achieving their targets before 2030. He mentioned that India initiated the International Solar Alliance, which now has 102 signatories and that India's Prime Minister recently launched ambitious national hydrogen emission dual auxiliary plans to generate carbon free fuel from renewables, with all initiatives and policy decisions contributing to the increase of the synergies which India could achieve with IRENA. He expressed his confidence that the partnership agreement will further strengthen the joint work in moving towards a greener and cleaner world.

121. The Director-General extended his gratitude to Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi for his leadership and proactive role in supporting India's energy transition as well as his efforts in deepening India's engagement with IRENA, and he mentioned that this strengthened partnership will contribute towards the transformation of the global energy system and support climate action.

122. The Director-General stated that given India's global leadership on renewable energy, IRENA remains committed and will continue to facilitate the sharing of lessons and experience to the broader Membership and he stated that it has always been his priority to make all agreements operational and impact oriented, noting that some priority areas for action have already been identified under the framework of the partnership agreement.

123. Upon signing the agreement, Mr Indu Sekhar Chaturvedi thanked everyone involved, particularly the Deputy Director-General Ms Gauri Singh. He stated that India's commitment to the cause of renewable energy is well known, as are the commitments made in the Paris Agreement, and he advised that India would continue with the same commitment to ensure enhancement of the targets set forth by their government.

124. Noting that no country or region can achieve its decarbonisation goals in isolation, the Director-General emphasised that cooperation is the cornerstone of the energy transition and is critical to the realisation of climate and sustainable development goals. He expressed that with these principles in mind, the joint work of IRENA and Energy Community Secretariat, to be reinforced by the Agreement, will develop ways to accelerate the pace of the transition, bringing widespread socio-economic benefits to countries in the Southeast Europe region.

125. Mr Artur Lorkowski mentioned that the Energy Community Secretariat's cooperation with IRENA is well established and that with the new cooperation agreement, the two organisations will be even more equipped to support the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community in the transition to a carbon neutral energy future. He noted that together, they will help to unlock new renewables investments, including by building the capacities of local communities and citizens to implement renewable energy projects. He summarised that building on the expertise of both organisations will boost the uptake of renewable energy, including by supporting regional dialogue

on the challenges, gaps, and opportunities for scaling up deployment and strengthening cross border cooperation. He conveyed that he anticipates working together with IRENA on concrete actions to enable the green energy transition to become a reality in the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community.

126. The Director-General noted that the agreement between IRENA and ENEL Green Power can provide the necessary tools, leadership and impetus for further deployment of renewable energy solutions, with the cooperation aiming to provide a continuance platform that will enable both organisations to create synergies and utilise their resources, knowledge and experience to develop renewable energy markets and maximise investment flows into the sector. He expressed his confidence that the cooperation will enhance the role of the private sector as the key stakeholders in the global energy transition.

127. Mr Salvatore Bernabei mentioned that the partnership is an important milestone that will combine ENEL Green Power and IRENA's joint efforts to accelerate a just energy transition for all at local, national, and international levels through the development of renewable energy.

128. The Director-General stated that the agreement with the International Chamber of Shipping further strengthens numerous fruitful collaborations, and he mentioned that for the shipping sector to be decarbonised, it is fundamental to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach and encourage greater collaboration amongst private and public players. He expressed his confidence that the new partnership will support global decarbonisation efforts and is a step in the right direction.

129. Mr Guy Platten mentioned that shipping is a key enabler of world trade and moves 90% of all cargo around the world each year and is valued at USD 14 trillion, and he announced the strong ambitions of the International Chamber of Shipping towards the decarbonisation and reduction of the effects of climate change, including reaching net zero by 2050, which demands that strong collaboration of partnerships are in place. He emphasised that the partnership with IRENA is vital to realising these ambitions and collaboration towards a zero-carbon future for all.

130. The President thanked the Director-General and all the representatives from different countries, international and regional organisations for strengthening international cooperation to promote renewable based energy transitions.

**131. The Assembly applauded the signed frameworks between IRENA and El Salvador, India, the Energy Community Secretariat, ENEL Green Power, and the International Chamber of Shipping, respectively.**

#### **Agenda Item 11: Report of the Chair of the Council**

132. The president invited the Chair of the Council, Japan, represented by Mr Kikuchi Nobuyuki from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Hoshino Masashi from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, to report on the activities of the Council in 2021.

133. Mr Kikuchi Nobuyuki reported on the work of the Council since the eleventh session of the Assembly and noted that the Council's primary task is to support the work of Assembly and of IRENA in general by facilitating the consultations and the cooperation of Members in preparing for each session of the Assembly. He reported that the twenty-first meeting of the Council took place on 25-26 May 2021 (virtual format), and the twenty-second meeting took place on 26-27 October 2021 (hybrid format), and thanked the Council members for their flexibility in adjusting to the various platforms used for the meetings, expressing the Council's appreciation to the UAE for facilitating arrangements with a view to ensuring the health and safety of delegates. He recounted that reports on the outcomes of the Council meetings were circulated amongst the Membership for approval and that the Council held discussions on a number of programmatic activities of the Agency during 2021, including the Programmatic Discussion on the Energy Transition and Food Systems for Sustainable Development as well as the virtual meetings of each of the six Collaborative Frameworks being held on the side-lines of the Council meetings in 2021.

134. Mr Kikuchi recalled that the Council held discussions related to the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021, the Self-Assessment for the same period, as well as the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, and that the Council also considered the five Administrative and Institutional matters presented to the Assembly for its consideration. He reported that the Council considered the matters relating to the tenure policy for general services staff and for professional staff and above, and he affirmed that at its twenty-first and twenty-second meetings, the Council took note of the report on the tenure policy for general services staff and supported the proposal to lift the tenure policy for general service staff with a view to making a recommendation to the twelfth session of the Assembly, as contained in a draft decision A/12/DC/L.2 for consideration and adoption by the Assembly.

135. He conveyed that both Council meetings also considered the tenure policy for professional level staff and above on which through fruitful deliberations the Council agreed to create an open-ended- group to further discuss the issues associated with the direct implications of the proposals as there was a general understanding that additional information is needed, and he announced that the Open-ended group will continue to discuss the matter under the leadership of Zimbabwe, in its capacity as Facilitator of the Open-ended Group on the Tenure Policy for Professional staff and above. He summarised that the Council took note of the discussions and the proposal made regarding the tenure policy for professional staff and above and agreed to continue discussions on the matter following the provision of further information requested and preparation of a general review of other human resources matters within IRENA, taking into account the current practice of other international organisations. He affirmed that the Council agreed that the Open-ended- group, facilitated by Zimbabwe, will continue to assist the Council in preparation for further consideration of this matter at its twenty-third meeting. He informed the Assembly that the Council requested an update of the human resources management policies and issues of IRENA, including information on human resources trends, staff turnover and average number of years of service, as well as additional data to assist Members in gaining further insight as discussions on the matter progress, and that the Secretariat provided the requested information for Members' reference, as contained in document A/12/INF/4.

136. Mr Hoshino Masashi continued with the presentation of the report to the Assembly and stated that the Council took note of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2021 and the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations which reflected that no external audit recommendations were made for that period, and that the Council decided to submit it to the Assembly. He further reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund and decided to submit it to the Assembly, and advised that the present Report was updated with a completed status of the collection as of 28 November 2021. He advised that the Council took note of the 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA and decided to submit it to the Assembly.

137. Mr Hoshino reported that the Council took note of the Report of the Ethics Officer and decided to submit it to the Assembly. He advised that there was a request for a more detailed report at the next reporting cycle, outlining strategies for outreach on ethics policies, and that the twenty-first meeting of the Council appointed Algeria, Germany, and the UAE as members of the Ethics Advisory Board for a two-year term from 2021 to 2023.

138. In closing, he acknowledged the support of Dr Gloria Magombo of Zimbabwe as Vice-Chair of the twenty-first and twenty-second meetings of the Council and Facilitator of the Open-ended group on the tenure policy for professional staff and above and he thanked members who served on the two committees of the Council for the essential work in assisting the Council to prepare for the twelfth session of the Assembly, including the United States of America and Algeria as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme Strategy Committee (PSC), and Maldives and Germany

as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC). He also thanked Norway as the Rapporteur, and all the members of the Council for their participation, commitment and active contribution to the 2021 Council meetings and expressed his gratitude to the Council for entrusting Japan as Chair of the 2021 Council meetings.

**139. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the report.**

**Agenda Item 12: Administrative and Institutional matters**

**a. Report of the Credentials Committee (A/12/5)**

140. The President of the Assembly invited the Chair of the Credentials Committee, the UAE, represented by Ms Beatrix Schmuelling, to introduce the Report of the Credentials Committee (A/12/5).

141. Ms Beatrix Schmuelling reported that the Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly in respect of the representatives registered to participate in the twelfth session of the Assembly as of 14 January 2022. She advised that the Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as of 15 January 2022 and that the Committee determined that as of 15 January 2022, the 102 Members listed in section 4 of the report had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, or were represented by the competent authority and therefore deemed to conform to the credentials requirement. She further advised that the committee noted that five Members had not submitted credentials in the proper form, and recommended that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat without delay. Ms Schmuelling reported that the committee noted that 35 Members that were registered delegation as of 14 January 2022, had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommends that a representative of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the twelfth session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials would be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

142. In concluding her report, Ms Schmuelling affirmed that the Committee reiterates its recommendation from previous reports that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of the representative, if possible, not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session. She expressed her appreciation to all Committee members for their work and thanked the Secretariat for its assistance and support.

**143. The Assembly considered and approved the Report of the Credentials Committee (A/12/5) and the recommendations contained therein.**

**b. Staff Tenure Policy (A/12/INF/4; A/12/10; A/12/DC/L.2)**

144. The President advised the Assembly that the staff tenure policy agenda item is separated into two parts and that the staff tenure policy for general service staff will be discussed first followed by the staff tenure policy for professional staff and above. She informed the Assembly that document A/12/INF/4 includes information on human resources trends, staff turnover, and average number of years of service, as well as additional data to assist Members in gaining further insight.

**i. Staff Tenure Policy – General Service staff (A/12/10; A/12/DC/L.2)**

145. The President advised the Assembly to refer to the document A/12/10, Note of the Director-General – Length of Service for Staff in the General Service Category, and the related draft decision A/12/DC/L.2, and she referred to the recommendation of the Council as reported by the Chair.

**146. The Assembly considered and took note of the Note of the Director-General (A/12/10), agreed with the recommendations made by the Council and adopted the draft decision entitled ‘Length of Service for Staff in the General Services Category’ (A/12/DC/L.2).**

**ii. Staff Tenure Policy – Professional staff and above**

147. The President advised the Assembly recalled the recommendation of the Council to continue deliberations on the matter at the twenty-third meeting of the Council with the support of the open-ended group, facilitated by Zimbabwe, on the understanding that the Council will submit recommendations to the Assembly.

**148. The Assembly considered the matter and agreed with the recommendation of the Council to continue its deliberations.**

**c. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2020 (A/12/6) and Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations (A/12/7)**

149. The President introduced the agenda item and referred to the report of the Chair of the Council on the matter.

**150. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2020 (A/12/6) and the Report of the Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations (A/12/7).**

**d. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/12/INF/3)**

151. The President introduced the agenda item and referred to the report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/12/INF/3) as well as the report of the Chair of the Council on the matter.

**152. The Assembly considered and took note of the Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund (A/12/INF/3).**

**e. 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (A/12/8)**

153. The President invited the Assembly to refer to the 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (A/12/8) as well as the report of the Chair of the Council on the matter.

**154. The Assembly considered and took note, with appreciation, of the 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA (A/12/8).**

**f. Report of the Ethics Officer (A/12/9)**

155. The President recalled the report of the Chair of the Council on the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/12/9) and the request for a more detailed report at the next reporting cycle that outlines strategies for outreach on ethic policies.

**156. The Assembly considered and took note of the Report of the Ethics Officer on the Implementation of the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest (A/12/9), including the request for a more detailed report at the next reporting cycle, outlining strategies for outreach on ethics policies.**

**g. Notification to the Membership pursuant to Article XI.B of the IRENA Statute**

157. The President referred to Article XI.B of the IRENA Statute on the notification to the Membership and in accordance with paragraph III (a) of the Addendum to document A/5/5. She notified the Assembly that the close of the twelfth session of the Assembly marks three years since the appointment of the Agency's Director-General Francesco La Camera. She indicated that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, should the incumbent Director-General decide to seek renewal of this appointment for a further term, he should make this known after the twelfth session of the Assembly.

158. In the interest of ensuring transparency of the process and to provide Members with the necessary information on the established process and procedures, she referred the Assembly to document C/22/INF/4, which provides information on the timelines and necessary administrative and procedural steps relating to the abovementioned process.

**159. The Assembly took note of the notification by the President.**

**Agenda Item 13: Arrangements for the thirteenth session of the Assembly**

160. The President noted that an expression of interest was received from India to serve as President of the thirteenth session of the Assembly.

161. The President noted that Belgium, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Zimbabwe expressed their interest and availability to serve as Vice-Presidents of the thirteenth session of the Assembly.

**162. The Assembly designated by acclamation India as President and Belgium, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Zimbabwe as Vice-Presidents of the thirteenth session of the Assembly.**

163. The President proposed 14 and 15 January 2023 as dates for the thirteenth session of the Assembly in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates which will precede the World Future Energy Summit scheduled to commence on 16 January 2023.

**164. The Assembly decided to hold its thirteenth session of the Assembly on 14-15 January 2023 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, prevailing circumstances permitting.**

### **Agenda Item 14: Any other business**

165. The President informed that at the thirteenth session of the Assembly, the Council members for the period 2023 – 2024 would be elected, and requested the Vice-Presidents of the twelfth session of the Assembly for their support in facilitating related consultations within the respective regional groups. She announced 4 March 2022 as the deadline for receipt of expressions of interest from Members wishing to serve on the Council for the next period. She advised that regional groups are expected to hold consultations based on expressions of interest received prior to the twenty-third meeting of the Council scheduled for 24–25 May 2022. She notified the Assembly that additional information on this matter will be circulated to Members in due course.

**166. The Assembly decided to set 4 March 2022 as the deadline for expressions of interest and endorsed the proposed process.**

### **Agenda Item 15: Closing of the meeting**

167. The President expressed her gratitude to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UNDP and all Ministers and delegates for their participation and contribution to the success of the Assembly. She noted that the commitments made and the valuable exchanges in the discussions will constitute important results in the energy transition and green energy use. She summarised that the twelfth session of the Assembly was a space that amassed a huge amount of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned, which enriched the exchange that contributed to the decisions made. She mentioned that the agenda included some very ambitious but necessary issues and that the messages received will continue to resonate in multilateral spaces and constitute a critical call to action worldwide to fulfil the commitments of the Paris Agreement, especially the commitment to take action to limit temperature increase to 1.5-degrees Celsius which otherwise will jeopardise the population's future development.

168. The President emphasised that 'the future is now' and she reiterated her deep admiration and appreciation for the work done by IRENA under the leadership of Director-General Francesco La Camera, and stated that the Agency's commitment to the energy transition and green energy use is a beacon that guides countries and other actors to fulfil the historic debt that is owed to planet earth. She welcomed Members to El Salvador later in the year for the Ministerial Forum on the Global Geothermal Alliance, of which El Salvador is proud to celebrate. She thanked Members for their participation, the interpreters and all those who made it possible for the convening of the twelfth session of the Assembly. She expressed her appreciation to the Vice-Presidents - Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Greece - for their contribution to the various discussions, and to the panellists, moderators, stakeholder partners and colleagues for contributing to the success of the session.

169. Director-General Francesco La Camera emphasised the ambition for the twelfth session of the Assembly to turn a shared sense of urgency into a set of concrete actions, as achieved by the deliberations and conclusions of the session. He recapped the repeated calls for strong and continued international cooperation and he advised that IRENA will work with the Presidency and the Host Country to organise an in-person session of the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition as soon as conditions permit. In closing, he expressed his gratitude to the President and Vice-Presidents for their able and efficient steering of the Assembly deliberations and he thanked the Deputy Director-General, Ms Gauri Singh, the Chief of Staff, and Directors for their continuous contributions. He acknowledged the commendable dedication and excellence of IRENA staff and he thanked them for consistently overcoming the challenges faced. He also thanked the UAE as host country and Members for their solidarity and commitment, which is essential in ensuring IRENA's ability to carry out its important mandate.

**The President declared the twelfth session of the Assembly closed.**



Twelfth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 15–16 January 2022

## Agenda

### Plenary

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Organisation of work**
  - a. Election of officials
  - b. Adoption of the agenda
  - c. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
  - d. Participation of Observers
3. **Host country and other opening remarks**
4. **High-level plenary on the outcomes of COP26 and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy**
5. **Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2020-2021**
6. **Report of the Director-General – Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023**
7. **Ministerial meeting on Flexible Grids for Smart Electrification: Pathways for Energy System Integration and End-use Decarbonisation**
8. **Ministerial Roundtable on the Geopolitics of Hydrogen**
9. **Ministerial meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transition Investments and Finance: The Role of Local Financial Institutions**
10. **Reports from Ministerial meetings and other events**
11. **Report of the Chair of the Council**

**12. Administrative and Institutional matters**

- a. Report of the Credentials Committee
- b. Staff Tenure Policy
  - i. Staff Tenure Policy – General Service staff
  - ii. Staff Tenure Policy – Professional staff and above
- c. Audited Financial Statements of IRENA for 2020 and Status of Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations
- d. Report of the Director-General on the Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions and Advances to the Working Capital Fund
- e. 2020 Annual Report of the Provident Fund Management Board on Operations of the Staff Provident Fund of IRENA
- f. Report of the Ethics Officer
- g. Notification to the Membership pursuant to Article XI.B of the IRENA Statute

**13. Arrangements for the thirteenth session of the Assembly**

**14. Any other business**

**15. Closing of the meeting**

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 15-16 January 2022

**List of applicants for observer status  
at the twelfth session of the IRENA Assembly  
as of 14 January 2022**

**IRENA Signatories / States in Accession**

1. Brazil
2. Chile
3. Malawi
4. Syrian Arab Republic
5. United Republic of Tanzania

**Non-Member States**

1. Venezuela

**Others**

1. ACCIONA Energía
2. Africa50
3. AfricAmpere
4. Africa Energy Commission
5. Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
6. African Development Bank
7. African Union
8. Agronomics
9. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
10. Alliance for Rural Electrification
11. AMALA Clean Energy Advisors
12. AMEA Power
13. ASEAN Center for Energy
14. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
15. Azelio AB
16. Boston Consulting Group
17. Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator
18. CES Global
19. China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI)
20. China University of Mining and Technology, Beijing
21. Clean Cooking Alliance

22. Clean Energy Business Council MENA
23. Clean Energy Ministerial
24. Climate Action Network International
25. Climate Institute
26. COMET
27. Commissariat aux Energies Renouvelables et à l'Efficacité Energétique
28. Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
29. Desert Technologies
30. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
31. Dii Desert Energy
32. Eastern Africa Power Pool
33. Eclareon GmbH
34. Ecologic Institute
35. ECOTEC
36. ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
37. Elsewedy Electric
38. Emirates Nature – WWF
39. ENEL Green Power
40. ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
41. Energinet
42. Energy Charter
43. Energy Community
44. ENI SpA
45. EPDA
46. EPRI
47. ETOS Solar Systems
48. EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network
49. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
50. European Heat Pump Association
51. European Network of Transmission System
52. European Renewable Energies Federation
53. Factor
54. Falck Renewables
55. Finergreen
56. French Renewable Energy Trade Association (SER)
57. German Solar Association
58. Ghent University
59. Global Solar Council
60. Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
61. Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition
62. GO15
63. Guidehouse
64. Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA)
65. H2Global Stiftung
66. HALFWAY SAS GEODEEP
67. Hivos
68. Husk Power Systems
69. Iberdrola SA
70. Iceland Renewable Energy Cluster
71. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
72. Ignite Power
73. Indonesian Renewable Energy Society

74. Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable
75. Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies
76. Institute for Sustainable Policies – Japan Community Power Association
77. Inter-American Development Bank
78. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
79. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
80. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
81. International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
82. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
83. International Energy Agency (IEA)
84. International Energy Forum
85. International Geothermal Association
86. International Hydropower Association
87. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
88. International Labour Organization
89. Iran Renewable Energy Association
90. Islamic Development Bank
91. Khalifa University
92. kiloWattsol
93. King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)
94. Kube Energy
95. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)
96. Lusophone Renewable Energy Association
97. Mainstream Renewable Power
98. MaliFolkeCenter Nyeta (MFC)
99. MASDAR
100. Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy
101. Mujeres en Energías Renovables México
102. National Renewable Energy Laboratory
103. National Solar Energy Federation of India
104. NDC Partnership Support Unit
105. Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie
106. Ocean Energy Europe
107. OMV PETROM
108. OPEC Fund for International Development
109. Ørsted
110. Pacific Community
111. PostScriptum Ventures
112. Power for All
113. Practical Action
114. PTTEP MENA Ltd. Abu Dhabi
115. Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy
116. Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
117. Regional Electricity Regulators Association of the Southern Africa Development Community
118. Renewable Energy Institute
119. Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21)
120. Renewables Grid Initiative
121. Res4Africa Foundation
122. Rocky Mountain Institute
123. Ryse Energy
124. SADC Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
125. SDB Bank PLC

126. SEforAll
127. SELCO Foundation
128. SER Colombia
129. Siemens Energy
130. Siemens Energy Middle East
131. SkyPower Global
132. SMA Solar Technology
133. Snam
134. SolarPower Europe
135. Southern African Power Pool
136. State Grid Corporation of China
137. State Grid Energy Research Institute Co., Ltd.
138. Stimson Center
139. Sunna Design
140. Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables
141. TENN
142. TotalEnergies
143. Ukrainian Wind Energy Association
144. United Nations
145. UN-Habitat
146. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
147. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
148. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
149. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
150. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA)
151. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
152. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
153. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
154. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
155. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
156. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
157. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
158. United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission Mali
159. United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS)
160. University of Energy and Natural Resources
161. University of Southampton
162. University of Technology Baghdad
163. Vasudha Foundation
164. Vestas Wind Systems
165. VITO ARABIA
166. West Indies Oil Company Ltd.
167. Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE)
168. World Bank
169. World Bioenergy Association
170. World Climate Foundation
171. World Future Council
172. World Health Organization (WHO)
173. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
174. World Wind Energy Association
175. Yansa Group

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 15-16 January 2022

## **Decision on the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023**

The Assembly,

*Reaffirming* its firm belief in the vast opportunities offered by renewable energy in meeting growing energy demand, addressing energy security, and stimulating economic growth and low-carbon development;

*Recognising* the imperative of creating a sustainable, affordable, secure and inclusive energy system to underpin global growth;

*Stressing* the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and noting the importance of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)7 on Energy in achieving this Agenda;

*Recalling* the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on limiting global warming to 1.5°C by 2050 and the need for deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030;

*Reiterating* the central role of renewable energy in the achievement of sustainable development and climate goals;

*Reaffirming* IRENA's leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy system, set out in the Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022;

*Emphasising* IRENA's central role in enabling international cooperation and in supporting countries to transform their energy systems with a greater share of renewable energy;

*Reaffirming* its determination to strengthen the role, capacity and impact of the Agency to remain responsive to the changing global environment and evolving needs of its Members;

*Welcoming* the alignment of the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 with the strategies and objectives of IRENA's Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022;

*Welcoming* also the consultations in the preparation of the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023;

*Noting* the continued increase in the Agency's membership and the resulting demand for its services;

*Bearing in mind* that new Members join the Agency periodically pursuant to Article VI of the IRENA Statute, and that the IRENA Scale of Contributions is to be adjusted to account for such new membership in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.2 to 6.4 and *having considered* the revision to the scale of assessments for the year 2022, contained in document A/12/4/Rev.1;

*Stressing* the need for a diversified resource base to allow for growth commensurate with IRENA's global role;

*Recalling* Article XII of the Statute on the budget of the International Renewable Energy Agency;

*Having considered* the Report of the Director-General on the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 contained in document A/12/4 and A/12/4/Rev.1;

*Taking into account* the views expressed by Members during the consideration of this item:

1. *Approves* the Work Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, with budgetary requirements amounting to USD 64,788 million as specified on page 30 of document A/12/4, comprising USD 44,778 million in core assessed and USD 20,010 million in core non-assessed resources;
2. *Notes with appreciation* core non-assessed contributions of USD 9.12 million from the United Arab Emirates to support the programme implementation, and USD 10.89 million from Germany for the operations of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn;
3. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2022 contained in Annex II of document A/12/4/Rev.1;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to establish partnerships and cooperative arrangements with bilateral, multilateral and international initiatives and entities to jointly implement elements of the Work Programme, as appropriate;
5. *Authorises* the Director-General to make transfers between appropriations sub-programmes pursuant to Financial Procedure 104.1 (b) up to the limit of 15 percent of the amount appropriated for the sub-programme in question.

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
Abu Dhabi, 15 – 16 January 2022

## **Decision**

### **Length of Service for Staff in the General Service Category**

The *Assembly*,

*Noting* the restrictions applicable to the length of service of staff pursuant to Staff Regulation 5.4;

*Recalling* that IRENA staff tenure policies have been under active review for several years and that, in 2017, the Assembly provided the Director-General with the authority to extend appointments of staff members recruited and serving the Agency as of 15 January 2017 for up to four years, in addition to the periods currently provided in Staff Regulations 5.4 (b) and (c) (A/7/DC/4);

*Noting* previous deliberations at the Assembly and Council in relation to the length of service for staff in the general service category, as summarized in the Note of the Director-General - Length of Service for Staff in the General Service Category;

*Mindful* of the need to maintain the requisite skillset and expertise of staff to meet the operational requirements, in the best interest of the Agency and its staff;

*Recalling* Article XI.C. of the IRENA Statute, which stipulates that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity;

*Emphasizing* that staff performance and programmatic needs shall continue to be the main considerations in the extension of staff appointments;

*Having considered* the recommendation made by the Council at its twenty-second meeting;

*Noting that* pursuant to Staff Regulation 13.1, the staff regulations may be amended by the Assembly;

*Noting further* that pursuant to Staff Regulations 13.2 and 13.3, the Director-General shall provide and enforce such staff rules as necessary for the implementation of the staff regulations, and report to the Assembly such new and/or amended staff rules:

1. *Decides* to lift restrictions on the length of service for staff in the general service category and to establish a mandatory retirement age of 65 years for all such staff;
2. *Adopts* the proposed amendments to the staff regulations required to implement the decision under (1) above, as set out in Annex I to this Decision (the “Revised Staff Regulations”);

3. *Takes note* of the amendments to the staff rules proposed by the Director-General in accordance with Staff Regulations 13.2 and 13.3 for the implementation of the Revised Staff Regulations, as set out in Annex II to this Decision (the “Revised Staff Rules”);
4. *Decides* that the Revised Staff Regulations and the Revised Staff Rules shall become effective as of the date of adoption of this Decision.
5. *Requests* the Director-General to take appropriate action to update the staff regulations and staff rules to reflect the changes thereto adopted pursuant to this Decision and to inform staff accordingly.

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
 Abu Dhabi, 15-16 January 2022

## Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At its twelfth session the Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee, consisting of the following members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Ghana, Colombia, Cuba, Peru, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates.
2. The Credentials Committee met on **15 January 2022**. The Committee elected Ms Beatrix Schmuelling, the representative of the United Arab Emirates as Chairperson.
3. The Committee examined the credentials submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in respect of the representatives registered to participate in the twelfth session of the Assembly as of 14 January 2022. The Committee had before it the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the credentials received as of 15 January 2022.
4. The Committee determined that, as of 15 January 2022, the Members listed below had submitted credentials in the form required by Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, or were represented by the competent authority and therefore deemed to conform to the credentials requirement:

Albania; Algeria; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Burkina Faso; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; Ethiopia; European Union; Fiji; Finland; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guyana; Honduras; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Latvia; Lebanon; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Mozambique; Nauru; Nepal; Netherlands (Kingdom of); New Zealand; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; San Marino; Senegal; Serbia; Seychelles; Singapore; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Tajikistan; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uganda; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uruguay; Yemen; and Zimbabwe.

5. The Committee noted that five Members had not submitted credentials in the proper form and recommends that the Assembly accepts the credentials of the representatives of these Members on the understanding that an electronic copy of their credentials in the proper form will be submitted to the IRENA Secretariat as soon as possible.

6. The Committee noted that thirty-five Members with a registered delegation as of 14 January 2022 had not submitted any credentials. The Committee recommends that the representatives of these Members be permitted to participate provisionally in the twelfth session of the Assembly on the condition that an electronic copy of their credentials will be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

7. The Committee recommends that the Assembly call upon all Members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of their representative, if possible, not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly as provided in Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, but in no event later than the opening of the session.

8. The Committee recommends that the Assembly requests the Secretariat to issue to all IRENA Members, at least three months before each session of the Assembly and as may be needed thereafter, a reminder about the requirement to submit the credentials of their representatives in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and no later than the opening of the session.

Twelfth session of the Assembly  
 Abu Dhabi, 15-16 January 2022

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### A. MEMBERS

#### ALBANIA

Mr Ergys Verdho  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Albanian Power Corporation, Tirana

#### ALGERIA

H.E. Mr Ziane Benattou  
 Minister  
 Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy, Algiers

Ms Fadila Kebir  
 Director General of Electricity  
 Ministry of Energy and Mines, Algiers

Ms Nacima Rachedi  
 Director, Energy Efficiency  
 Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy, Algiers

Mr Mourad Chikhi  
 Director  
 Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy, Algiers

Mr Mehdi Remaoun  
 Deputy Director of Cooperation in Sustainable Development  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community, Algiers

#### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Hon Molwyn Joseph  
 Minister  
 Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Saint John's

H.E. Mr Conrod Hunte  
 Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador  
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H.E. Ms Diann Black-Layne  
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H.E. Mr Brian Challenger  
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Mr Pierre-Alexandre Briemel  
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Department of Environment, Saint John's

Mr Ita Jah Simmons  
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Mr Carlos Risso Dominguez  
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Mr Alexander Eriksroed  
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Mr Fagan Abdurahmanov  
Head of Department  
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Energy Analyst  
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**BAHRAIN**

H.E. Mr Abdulhussain Mirza  
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Sustainable Energy Authority, Manama

Mr Ahmed A. Rasool Bucheery  
Office Manager  
Sustainable Energy Authority, Manama

Ms Latifa Khalifa  
PR Senior Specialist  
Sustainable Energy Authority, Manama

Mr Abduljabbar Naser  
Advisor  
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**BANGLADESH**

H.E. Mr Nasrul Hamid  
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H.E. Mr Md. Abu Zafar  
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador  
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Mr Mohammad Alauddin  
Chairman  
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority, Dhaka

Mr Muhammad Mizanur Rahman  
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Embassy of Bangladesh to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

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Mr A. T. M. Mostafa Kamal  
Additional Secretary  
Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka

Mr Md. Jahangir Alam  
Personal Officer to State Minister  
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Dhaka

**BELARUS**

H.E. Mr Vitaly Kretsky  
Deputy Chairman  
Department for Energy Efficiency, Minsk

**BELGIUM**

Mr Vladimir Shevchenok  
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Ms Marie Schippers  
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SWP Territoire Logement Patrimoine Energie, Brussels

Mr Frederic Van Peteghem  
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Embassy of Belgium to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

Ms Quirina Huet  
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**BELIZE**

Hon Rodwell Ferguson Sr.  
Minister  
Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics, Belmopan

Mr Ryan Cobb  
Energy Director  
Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities, Belmopan

**BHUTAN**

Mr Phuntsho Namgyal  
Director, Department of Renewable Energy  
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu

**BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA**

Mr Admir Softić  
Assistant Minister of the Energy Sector  
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Sarajevo

H.E. Mr Šerif Mujkanović  
Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador  
Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

Mr Awang Haji Mohd Zaki Haji Hassanol AsShari  
Acting Director  
Ministry of Energy, Bandar Seri Begawan

Mr Izma Rahem Zukhairri Abdul Zani Rahman Yahaya  
Acting Deputy Director  
Ministry of Energy, Bandar Seri Begawan

Ms Dayangku Nooraslina Pengiran Ahmad  
Special Duties Officer Grade II  
Ministry of Energy, Bandar Seri Begawan

Mr Muhd Hasbur Rahman Yahaya  
Special Duties Officer Grade II  
Ministry of Energy, Bandar Seri Begawan

Mr Abdul Matiin Haji Muhd Kasim  
Geologist  
Ministry of Energy, Bandar Seri Begawan

**BURKINA FASO**

H.E. Mr Bachir Ismael Ouedraogo  
Minister  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries, Ouagadougou

Mr Issouff Zoungrana  
Director General  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries, Ouagadougou

Mr Ismael Nacoulma  
Director General, Rural Electrification Agency,  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries, Ouagadougou

Mr Amadou Diallo  
Official  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries, Ouagadougou

Mr Franck W. Kabore  
Energy Engineer  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries, Ouagadougou

**CANADA**

Mr André Bernier  
Director General  
Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

Ms Abigail Lixfeld  
Senior Director  
Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

Mr Michael Paunescu  
Deputy Director, Renewable and Electrical Energy  
Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

Mr Jean-Philippe Bernier  
Policy Advisor, Renewable and Electrical Energy  
Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

**CENTRAL AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC**

Mr Mousa Ousman  
Director General of Energy  
Ministry of Energy Development and Hydraulics Resources, Bangui

**CHINA**

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