

Ministerial Roundtable 'After COP 21: Concerted action towards RE deployment'

Sixth session of the Assembly – 16 January 2016

The Paris Agreement: a milestone for climate action

1. On 12 December 2015, the global community adopted an unprecedented international agreement to limit global warming with the commitment to decisive, inclusive and coordinated action on climate change. The Paris Agreement sets the scene for reshaping the global economy as all nations strive to curb carbon emissions and bolster their climate resilience. The Agreement establishes long-term vision for the deep reduction of global emissions and the imperative of decarbonizing energy, which accounts for two thirds of emissions today.

2. The Paris Agreement provides a framework for international cooperation and sends a clear signal to all stakeholders to raise their ambition. It commits all countries to act on climate change, taking into consideration their specific priorities, circumstances, responsibilities and capabilities. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by countries are the at the center stage of this new international framework, to be periodically reviewed with a view to raising the level of ambition.

3. COP21 was also the stage for non-state stakeholders such as businesses, cities, investors, and NGOs to announce their actions to fight climate change. At the final count, over 10,000 commitments were made, contributing to the tangible optimism surrounding the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

4. This Agreement, bolstered by the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will impact the deployment of renewable energy in scale and reach. Together, they provide a coherent and integrated global agenda for the coming years and a pathway to overcoming climate change and ensuring sustainable development, the two pressing challenges of our times.

Renewable Energy in the post-COP21 period: seizing the opportunity

5. The Paris Agreement is a watershed for the global energy transition. Renewable energy has made remarkable progress in the last decade. Its strong business case makes it an immediate, viable and affordable solution to the challenge of climate change. IRENA's REmap 2030, a roadmap for doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, shows that renewable energy, coupled with energy efficiency, can meet the world's rising energy demand, while setting the world on a pathway to limiting global warming to under 2 degrees Celsius. IRENA estimates that doubling the share of renewable energy requires 500 billion per annum in the period up to 2020, and up to 900 billion from 2021 to 2030 (REthinking Energy, 2015).



6. Nearly 190 countries outlined their current plans and strategies to reducing emissions and adapting to rising temperatures in their NDCs and a vast majority refer to energy transformation as a key component of their contributions. This signals an immense opportunity to achieve emission reductions at scale, while meeting developmental objectives. To seize this opportunity, the targets, plans and investments must be translated into national policies and implementation strategies.

7. Many countries have put forward ambitious plans to increase renewable energy for power generation. Combined, the renewable energy plans of Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico and the United States will result in an increase from approximately 9,000 TWh in 2012 to 20,000 TWh in 2030 (WRI, 2015). Morocco announced a target of 52% renewable energy by 2030 and Bangladesh plans to increase the wind generation capacity by 400 MW and 100 MW of utility-scale solar power. These trends are seen worldwide, from oil producing economies to Small Island Developing States, countries are raising their renewable energy ambition.

8. In addition, a number of promising initiatives, when realized, will buttress the national efforts on climate change. The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) provides a strong political umbrella for the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, which will serve as operational tools to meet AREI's ambition of realizing 300GW of renewable energy by 2030. Technology focused alliances, such as the Global Geothermal Alliance, International Solar Alliance, Mission Innovation and others will also play an important role in enabling countries to harness the full potential of renewable energy resources at their disposal. The movement on 100% Renewables is growing with over 600 cities have committing to this target, and an increasing number of companies joining the RE100 initiative.

9. The Paris Agreement can provide an important impetus to enhance the efforts to achieve and surpass a global doubling of the share of renewables in the global energy mix. Leadership at all levels is critical to achieve this. The 6th session of the Assembly is a timely opportunity to move the Paris Agreement to the next phase, setting the global renewable energy agenda and establishing a blueprint for action to set the world on a path to a sustainable energy future.

Issues for discussion

- What are the immediate actions that can be taken to sustain the momentum of the Paris Agreement?
- What are they key areas where renewable energy can significantly influence, in a short to medium term, the climate and development agendas?
- How can IRENA support the renewable energy action in preparation for COP22 in Morocco?
- How can IRENA support countries in the implementation of NDCs, building on its core programmatic strengths and global membership?



10 January 2016

Programme (circulated separately):

Moderator: Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA	
15.30-15.35	Introductory Remarks Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA
15.35-15.45	The Paris Agreement: A new era for climate action Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
15.45- 16.15	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining the momentum from Paris building on the agenda of solutions • Regional and international cooperation to accelerate the renewable energy transition and drive ambitious climate action <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France • Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Morocco • Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Minister of Environment, Peru (tbc) • Miguel Arias Canete, European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, European Commission
16.15-17.45	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key areas where renewable energy can significantly influence, in a short to medium term, the climate and development agendas? • How IRENA can support the renewable energy action in context of implementation of NDCs, including in the lead up to COP22 in Morocco?
17.45-18.00	Closing Remarks from Session Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA