
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Tenth meeting of the Council

Abu Dhabi, 23-24 November 2015

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (C/10/2), the Review of the Medium-term Strategy (C/10/3), and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (C/10/L.4).

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 23 November 2015.

**Chair's Summary of the Outcome of the
Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting**

Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2014-2015

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work in implementing the Work Programme 2014-2015. The Secretariat briefed participants of IRENA's implementation of the biennial work programme. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC expressed gratitude for the implementation of the programme to date and noted a growing maturity of Agency and its substantive products and services.
- The PSC welcomed the outcome of the external evaluation and noted that its recommendations should be taken into account as the Agency moved forward.
- Participants emphasised that IRENA's products are used by Members for their policy-making, strengthening knowledge, and that its activities are beginning to result in investment and project implementation. Participants also welcomed the Agency's contribution to different fora, including G7, G20, Berlin *Energiewende*, China Energy Forum, the Clean Energy Ministerial, India's Reinvest, to name a few.
- The PSC highlighted the importance of IRENA's continued focus on the energy transformation that is occurring worldwide.
- The PSC underscored the need for a wide range of partnerships for coordination with entities engaged in the sector, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), and encouraged close collaboration with the private sector.
- The PSC stressed the importance of IRENA's engagement in all sources of renewable energy, including biomass, geothermal, hydro, marine, solar and wind both in power, as well as in transport and heating/cooling.
- The PSC appreciated the high quality of IRENA's publications, and suggested that these materials could be more systematically disseminated.

- The PSC expressed gratitude to those countries that have already provided support for additional programmatic work through voluntary contributions, and encouraged additional countries to make similar contributions.
- The PSC agreed that prioritising IRENA's activities according to the direct needs of countries is important to the Agency's work.

Review of the Medium-term Strategy

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the review of the Medium-term Strategy (MTS). The Secretariat presented the outcome of the review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017 in anticipation of the development of the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC agreed with the finding that the strategic vision embodied in the MTS is still valid and correct, and that it can effectively guide the work of the Agency for the remainder of the current MTS period.
- The PSC emphasised that the MTS must remain dynamic and flexible, with the Agency adapting its programmatic activities to respond in a timely manner to the changes in the energy systems worldwide.
- The PSC noted the importance of engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and non-governmental organisations, in the process of developing the next MTS.
- The PSC agreed with a recommendation that the process for developing the new MTS for 2018 onward should begin at the next Council meeting, with an informal conversation among Members to take place at the PSC.

Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the programmatic component of the Agency's Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the streamlined and focused Proposed Work Programme that clearly identifies objectives and impacts, and details activities under the established thematic areas.
- The PSC recognised the relevance of the strategic priorities underpinning the Work Programme, specifically the business case for renewables, regional action and strategic partnerships.
- The PSC noted the need to balance analytical work and country support, and underscored the importance of identifying activities that should be funded by the core budget and those that could remain subject to voluntary contributions.
- The PSC supported IRENA's advisory role in countries' programmes and policy-making, and emphasised the importance of partnering with public and private entities that can implement projects.
- The PSC highlighted that, in view of the climate imperative and countries' INDCs, it would be important to make a clear link to these issues in the next iteration of the Work Programme.
- The PSC welcomed the focus on energy system transformation that is of high relevance to all IRENA Members and, in this context, noted the importance of market transformation.
- The PSC further noted that, given the dynamic nature of the sector, IRENA needs to remain flexible to respond to upcoming changes, including those stemming from climate action.

- The PSC highlighted the importance of additional work on decentralised solutions, and the connection between renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Renewable energy and climate change

The objective of this session was to provide recommendations to the Council on the Agency's work on climate financing. The following views and comments were made by participants:

- The PSC welcomed the options presented for IRENA's engagement in climate financing: support of climate financing institutions like GCF in project evaluation and programme design; supporting partner for beneficiary countries; or an accredited implementing entity.
- The PSC encouraged IRENA to pursue all three options in parallel, as well as advising commercial investors on opportunities in the renewable energy sector.