

Tenth session of the IRENA Assembly

2020 IRENA Legislators Forum

10 January 2020, 10:00 – 13:00, Room A2
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Engaging Communities in the Energy Transformation: Adoption of National Policies

Background

As important actors participating in the decision-making process in the field of energy, legislators play an increasingly significant role in supporting the uptake of renewable energy. IRENA has been engaging with key members of parliament around the world, who have an interest in renewable energy and its interlinkages with socio-economic development, technology, policy and finance.

For the past five consecutive years the Agency has hosted the IRENA Legislators Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on the sidelines of its annual Assembly session. The forum serves as a platform for a substantive dialogue amongst legislators, and between them and renewable energy experts on the acceleration of the deployment of renewables.

The 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum is taking place at a time of great opportunity as the global energy transformation continues to be driven by the dual imperatives of limiting climate change and fostering sustainable growth. Renewable energy has now emerged as a key solution to address climate change, and the most practical climate action tool.

Beyond pursuing climate goals, many governments have prioritised renewables as a driver of low-carbon economic growth, job creation and overall welfare improvement. Harnessing this path of opportunity and advancing an inclusive, fair, and economically, socially and environmentally beneficial energy transformation requires high ambition matched with decisive action on the ground.

Objectives

The 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum will take an in-depth look at achieved successes and challenges countries are still facing in the road towards a sustainable energy future.

The forum will be focused on the overall theme of parliamentary action to accelerate the energy transformation by engaging communities and promoting a fair and just transition. In line with IRENA's efforts and the goal of achieving universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 – as set forth in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the Forum will offer the opportunity to discuss the adoption of national policies that support gender empowerment, and contribute to national mitigation and adaptation efforts through the deployment of renewable energy.



The 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum will serve as a catalyst for participants to develop individualised policies centred on specific topics of national interest, pursue active engagement, and ultimately initiate concrete steps towards transformative action on the ground.

Legislators will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed topics and, together with IRENA experts and government representatives, develop proposals on how to scale up renewable energy deployment by supporting communities, recognising their role in the energy transformation.

Building on the success of the previous editions of the IRENA Public-Private Dialogue held with members of the IRENA Coalition for Action (an international network of over 80 leading renewable energy players including private sector companies, industry associations, civil society research institutes and intergovernmental organisations), participants in the 2020 IRENA Legislators Forum and government representatives are also invited to take part in the third Public-Private Dialogue that will discuss adapting market design and policies to support the integration of high-shares of variable renewable energy (VRE) into the energy system, and scaling up private sector investment to accelerate Africa's energy transition.

Guiding Questions

- How can legislators accelerate the deployment of renewable energy by engaging communities and promoting a fair and just transition?
- What are the key barriers that your country is facing in adopting national policies that support gender empowerment in the energy sector? What role can renewable energy play to overcome these barriers?
- How can legislators ensure that efforts and measures taken to establish a national legislative response are consistent with mitigation and adaptation efforts while supporting the deployment of renewable energy?

Associated Publications

- [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective](#) (2019)
- [Climate change and renewable energy](#) (2019)
- [Policies and regulations for renewable energy mini-grids](#) (2018)

For more information please contact:

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