

Twelfth session of the IRENA Assembly

High-Level Meeting Actions to accelerate NDC Implementation and to strengthen Climate Resilience in Small Island Developing States

14 January 2022, 16:30 – 18:00, Room A1
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

With the recent conclusion of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP) in which the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) highlighted the need to accelerate climate action and strengthen climate resilience, and more commitment from developed countries to stay well below the 1.5 degrees target is needed to contribute to the achievement of their commitments to the Paris Agreement that is imperative to their survival. Furthermore, the accelerated uptake of renewables will reduce heavy dependence on fossil fuels as well as the risks of impacts from volatile international markets. Immediate actions facilitated through strong partnerships such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)-coordinated SIDS Lighthouses Initiative can also contribute to mitigation and adaptation solutions for energy, food and water security nexus through knowledge transfer, capacity building and developing enabling policy and regulatory frameworks. However, investment in energy transition remains the key that will unlock the renewable energy uptake and energy efficiency interventions and play a critical role in abating the extreme effects of climate change.

Furthermore, IRENA and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), through an Energy Compact, have committed to supporting all SIDS towards achieving a total installed capacity of 10 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy by 2030. Whilst SIDS have the political will and leadership, the support of the international community for technology transfer, financing, and capacity will help SIDS achieve this goal within the given timeframe. According to IRENA's analysis on the first round of submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) analysis, 16 billion USD is needed to achieve the NDC targets that were submitted in the first round. AOSIS further estimates that this would increase twentyfold given the higher ambitious targets that was submitted in the second round of NDCs to get all SIDS to 90% renewable energy by 2040.

Most of the SIDS have put in place energy roadmaps that have provided a path towards 100% renewable energy, but are still constrained in accessing the financial support to implement it, thus the importance of fostering dialogue amongst key stakeholders to identify and accessing the right support to achieve its goal. The setting up of the Climate Investment Platform (CIP), the recent launch of the Energy Transition Accelerator Facility (ETAf) and many others will complement SIDS enabling environment to invest in energy transition efforts.

SIDS economies have also been severely crippled by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been visible in the tourism and health sectors, as well as other essential services. Thus, the importance of integrating and strengthening sectoral resilience through the energy transition to cushion future impacts.



Objectives

The objectives of the High-Level Meeting are as follows:

- Providing SIDS and development partners an opportunity to enhance dialogue and identify specific needs to accelerate energy transition efforts;
- Highlighting energy transition interventions that are contributing to strengthening SIDS climate resilience to the effects of climate change and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Strengthening partnerships and coordinated approach in supporting SIDS energy transition efforts.

Guiding Questions

- With the existential threats to SIDS, brought about by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, how are national governments accelerating energy transition and building resilience? In this regard, what are the national priorities and programmes?
- Whilst the progress on climate action through energy transition is significant, more work needs to be done. What resources are needed for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures for SIDS to fulfil their NDC commitments to the Paris Agreement?
- Given the special circumstances and needs of SIDS and the importance of keeping within 1.5°C to stay alive, what would be the roles and contributions of development partners, private sector, philanthropic organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to address these challenges?

Associated Publications

- [SIDS Lighthouses Initiative: Progress and way forward, January 2021](#)
- [Climate Action with Energy Transition: Enhancing and Implementing Nationally Determined Contributions](#)
- [IRENA Member Countries Statistical Profiles](#)

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