

Sixteenth session of the IRENA Assembly and Related meetings

10 January 2026 (Pre-Assembly Day)
11 to 12 January 2026 (16th IRENA Assembly)
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Executive Overview

Message from the Director-General of IRENA

It is my honour and great pleasure to welcome you to the sixteenth session of the IRENA Assembly which will take place on 11 and 12 January 2026, and the related meetings which will be held on 10 January 2026.

As the supreme decision-making organ of IRENA, the Assembly, comprising 171 [Members](#), has been recognised as a strategic global platform for inclusive and diverse discussions on all facets of the energy transition.

Discussions at the sixteenth session of the Assembly will revolve around the theme ‘Powering Humanity: Renewable Energy for Shared Prosperity’, with a focus on assessing progress in the global energy transition, discussing innovative policies and technologies in renewable energy, strengthening international co-operation for accelerated renewable energy deployment, and exploring financing mechanisms for sustainable energy projects.

This Executive Overview has been prepared to assist participants in navigating the Assembly and its related meetings, and in identifying unique opportunities to engage in topics of interest and relevance.

I look forward to welcoming you to the sixteenth session of the Assembly in Abu Dhabi.

Francesco La Camera

Plenary Sessions and Ministerial Roundtables

Opening of the Assembly session – 6th World Energy Transition Day

11 January 2026, 10:00 to 10:30, Plenary Hall

The opening of the 16th session of the IRENA Assembly will take place on 11 January 2026 at 10:00 GST, with High-level statements including by the Presidency of the Assembly, the Host Country, the Director-General as well as by other High-level guests.

High-level Dialogue on Reimagining Energy Futures: Bold Visions for Shared Prosperity

11 January 2026, 10:30 to 12:00, Plenary Hall ([Background note](#))

This High-level Dialogue will provide a platform for leaders to articulate positive visions for the energy future. High-level leaders will have an opportunity to discuss strategies to further build momentum for rapid and equitable renewable energy deployment and explore how the energy transition can fully realise its potential as a catalyst for inclusive development and structural transformation globally. The session will also seek to identify international co-operation priorities to accelerate progress on SDG7 by 2030 and ensuring a just energy transition.

Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025, Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027 – Mid-term Evaluation, and Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027

11 January 2026, 12:00 to 13:00, Plenary Hall

The Director-General will present the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and the Work Programme Self-Assessment for 2024-2025, as well as the Mid-term Evaluation of the Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027.

The Director-General will also present the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027, for adoption by the Assembly.



Following the Director-General's presentations, Members will have the opportunity to make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes.

General Member Statements and Member Interventions

11 January 2026, 14:30 to 18:00, Plenary Hall ([Template for written statements](#))

Delegations wishing to share their national statements on experiences, priority actions and challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy, and exchange views on issues related to the energy transition in the coming decade and beyond, are invited to **register in the Speakers List** by sending a request noting the name and the title of the speaker to Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “IRENA 16th Assembly: Speakers List”. The requests will be considered observing international protocol precedence and the principle of “first come, first served”.

A preliminary Speakers List based on requests received will be circulated prior to the opening of the 16th session of the Assembly. Delegations are also invited to **submit written statements** to the Secretariat in advance of delivery. A template for written statements is available at this [link](#).

Full official written statements will be made available to the Membership on the [REmember Portal](#) and included as part of the official records of the session.

Ministerial Roundtable on Geothermal Heat and Power: Building a Resilient Energy Backbone

11 January 2026, 14:45 to 16:15, Room A1 ([Background note](#))

This Ministerial Roundtable aims to set a shared vision for promoting geothermal power and heat solutions aligned with energy security, climate and socio-economic development goals. Governments and industry will have the opportunity to engage in interactive discussion, exchange views on effective ways to address policy, regulatory and finance challenges and forge the necessary partnerships to accelerate geothermal development.



Delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Roundtable by sending in their request to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “IRENA 16th Assembly: Ministerial Roundtable on Geothermal Heat and Power”.

Ministerial Roundtable on Green Industrialization

11 January 2026, 16:30 to 18:00, Room A1 ([Background note](#))

This Ministerial Roundtable will convene Ministers and decision makers from the public and private sectors to chart a strategic path forward for leveraging green industrialization as a catalyst for the global energy transition. The discussion will center on practical strategies to mobilize public and private investment, strengthen mechanisms for project preparation, de-risking, and investment matchmaking, and accelerate the development of bankable projects. The Roundtable will also underscore the growing role of renewable-powered manufacturing and clean technologies in driving the transition.



Delegations are requested to confirm the intervention of their Minister or Head of Delegation at the Ministerial Roundtable by sending in their request to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org, indicating in the subject line “IRENA 16th Assembly: Ministerial Roundtable on Green Industrialization”.

Ministerial Dialogue on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Accelerating the Energy Transition

12 January 2026, 10:00 to 11:30, Plenary Hall ([Background note](#))

This Ministerial Dialogue will convene High-level representatives to discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitalisation to support the acceleration of the energy transition, while safeguarding energy affordability and security. Ministers will engage in a dialogue with the private sector to explore two self-reinforcing questions: How can AI and digitalisation best support accelerated deployment of renewables and address the complexity of power system? And how can accelerated deployment of renewables ensure that data centres are powered sustainably and cost-effectively? By sharing national experiences, the panel showcases how governments, regulators, utilities, industries and data centre providers can work together to support electricity system transformation through the use of AI and digital applications in various geographies.



Following the panel discussion, Members will have the opportunity to make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes.

Interministerial Dialogue on Renewable Energy for Agri-Food Systems

12 January 2026, 11:30 to 13:00, Plenary Hall ([Background note](#))

This Interministerial Dialogue, convened by IRENA in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will provide an opportunity to highlight the key enablers of just energy transition in the context of a transformation towards inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood systems. This strategic exchange amongst Ministers of Energy and

Agriculture will catalyse political momentum to prioritise renewable energy within national agricultural and climate strategies, and highlight emerging solutions and approaches for advancing productivity, resilience, and decarbonisation objectives.



Following the panel discussion, Members will have the opportunity to make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes.

High-level Panel on Advancing Sustainable Aviation Fuel through Partnerships and Finance

12 January 2026, 14:30 to 16:00, Plenary Hall ([Background note](#))

This High-level Panel will bring together government representatives, international organisations, industry leaders, and financiers to discuss how Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) can be rapidly scaled to support global decarbonisation efforts. The session will explore policy frameworks, technology readiness, industry demand signals, and financing solutions needed to accelerate SAF deployment, with particular attention to opportunities in emerging and developing economies. It will also highlight the newly launched Fininvest@ETAF as a channel to support project preparation and investment facilitation. The session aims to identify priority actions and strengthen co-operation across governments and the aviation value chain to move from ambition to implementation.



Following the panel discussion, Members will have the opportunity to make interventions from the floor within an allotted time of three minutes.

Consideration of Administrative and Institutional matters and other mandates

12 January 2026, 16:00 to 17:30, Plenary Hall

The Chair of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth Council meetings will present the conclusions of the Council meetings on specific administrative and institutional matters, for consideration by the Assembly. The Assembly will also consider a number of mandates, as outlined in the provisional agenda included in this transmission.

High-level and Stakeholder meetings

- **Pathways for a Renewable Future across Latin America and Caribbean subregions: Regional Energy Transition Outlook for South America**

10 January 2026, 09:00 to 10:30, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

This meeting will introduce the key findings of the recently published RETO South America and explore the strategic opportunities it reveals for strengthening regional co-operation across Latin America and the Caribbean, in areas such as renewable electricity, green hydrogen, biofuels, and critical materials. It will also explore the continuation of the previous REmap network, built-up directly on the findings and recommendations of the regional energy transition studies, to facilitate focused exchanges on the priority themes identified, enabling Members to discuss practical solutions and implementation pathways. The meeting aims to foster concrete, needs-driven co-operation tailored to the specific challenges highlighted by Members.

- **2026 IRENA Legislators and Regulators Forum – Rethinking the Framework: Powering the Renewable Energy Transition**

10 January 2026, 09:30 to 11:30, Room A2 ([Concept note](#))

The 2026 IRENA Legislators and Regulators Forum will provide a platform for parliamentarians and energy regulators to exchange experiences and explore practical approaches to rethinking frameworks that enable private investment, accelerate renewable deployment, and deliver inclusive

economic benefits. Discussions will focus on identifying legislative and regulatory measures that reduce risk, enhance transparency, and attract both domestic and international capital. Participants will also examine how to balance public oversight with market flexibility, ensuring that regulation empowers innovation, competition, and consumer participation.

- **From Planning to Power: Energy Communities for Energy Transitions**

10 January 2026, 09:00 to 10:30, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This meeting will showcase the piloting of the Strategic Energy Access Planning Support (SEAPS) framework in Senegal by presenting high-level insights from the Programme. Insights will also be presented from IRENA's analytical work on energy access, based on the SEAPS framework. Discussions will feature practical applications of rural electrification planning frameworks integrated to energy planning strategies, facilitate knowledge exchange on community-centred approaches, identify critical success factors to unlock investment on inclusive energy transitions, and strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration.

- **REPowering for Tripling: Advancing Wind Energy**

10 January 2026, 11:00 to 12:30, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

This roundtable will bring together policymakers and industry leaders to explore how repowering can accelerate wind energy expansion in line with the 2030 tripling target. Discussions will focus on upgrading ageing legacy fleets with modern turbines, enhancing grid interconnection, reinforcing supply chains and establishing regulatory stability that attracts long-term investment while maintaining environmental and social integrity. Participants will be invited to share national approaches, policy innovations and investment models that can accelerate repowering and promote international alignment on regulatory frameworks, examining how countries and industry can align implementation to maximise the contribution of repowering to the tripling target.

- **High-level Consultation Towards the Review of SDG7 at the HLPF 2026: Tripling Renewables in Support of the Agenda 2030 and Beyond**

10 January 2026, 11:45 to 13:00, Room A2 ([Concept note](#))

This High-level consultation, organised by IRENA in collaboration with UN-DESA, will facilitate discussions on the achievements and challenges in substantially increasing the share of renewables and realising SDG7 more broadly, and to consider potential implications for the future discussions on a post-2030 framework. It will focus on identifying key actions and collaboration required to mobilise for a final push towards the achievement of SDG7 by 2030. The High-level consultation will bring together leadership from government, private sector and civil society to facilitate an inclusive and substantive dialogue, gathering diverse perspectives as part of the preparatory process that will directly inform the official review process of SDG 7 at the High-level Political Forum in 2026.

- **Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP) – From Planning to Investment: High-Level Policymakers and Finance Leaders Roundtable**

10 January 2026, 10:45 to 12:15, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This High-level Roundtable will convene policymakers and finance leaders to launch the operational phase of the GCEP, initiating discussions on the 2026 work plan and evaluating the role of aligned regulatory and planning frameworks in attracting the capital needed to secure a cost-effective energy transition. Discussions will highlight specific regulatory and institutional approaches that transform long-term planning outputs into credible, bankable project pipelines, and facilitate insights on transmission grid financing to provide a platform for policymakers and finance leaders to signal how their institutions will operationalise the planning-to-investment agenda.

- **SIDS Ministerial: Investment Pathways, Regional Approaches and Partnerships for the Energy Transition**

10 January 2026, 14:30 to 16:00, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

Convened under the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI), the SIDS Ministerial will provide a platform for SIDS Ministers, regional organisations, development partners and private sector actors to explore how investment and collaboration can accelerate progress toward secure, resilient energy systems. Discussions will highlight practical approaches to mobilising finance, strengthening infrastructure resilience, enhancing supply chains, expanding energy access, and advancing regional co-operation to achieve shared energy and climate objectives. The Ministerial will facilitate discussions on practical areas of collaboration where IRENA, together with its SIDS LHI and UNEZA initiatives, along with key partners can drive tangible action, facilitate continued dialogue, deliver targeted technical support, and mobilise partnerships and investment to scale up and replicate successful solutions across SIDS regions.

- **Call to Action on Skilling for the Energy Transition**

10 January 2026, 14:30 to 16:00, Room A2 ([Concept note](#))

The Call to Action on Skilling for the Energy Transition aims to accelerate international co-operation on education and workforce development for a sustainable energy future by building an enhanced awareness of the global skills landscape and inspiring ambitious action, including through four priority actions to accelerate skill development. This meeting will showcase the measures and commitments contributed to the Call to Action by governments, industry, education and training providers, civil society, international organisations and other stakeholders; promote collaborative efforts to replicate and scale-up promising initiatives while leveraging collective expertise; and encourage additional stakeholders to join the Call to Action.

- **Innovation Landscape for Sustainable Development Powered by Renewables**

10 January 2026, 14:30 to 16:00, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This meeting will feature the launch of the *Innovation Landscape for Sustainable Development Powered by Renewables* report, bringing together policymakers and innovators to discuss how renewable solutions enable the energy transition and unlock sustainable development through a holistic approach that balances immediate economic needs with long-term sustainability and development goals. Discussions will draw on perspectives from Members and experts where such innovations are already being applied, focusing on key innovations and strategic priorities that enable renewable energy solutions to foster economic growth, energy security, and drive a just energy transition.

- **High-level Public-Private Dialogue – Key Enablers for the Energy Transition: Grids and Storage**

10 January 2026, 16:30 to 18:00, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

This roundtable will bring together global leaders from government, industry, and finance to examine the enabling conditions for scaling grids and storage responsibly, balancing system reliability with innovation and investment. The dialogue will focus on ways to align public policy, market design, and private capital flows to accelerate grid and storage deployment as part of the global drive to triple renewable capacity and expand flexibility by 2030. Government representatives and industry executives will exchange experiences on national initiatives, identify regulatory reforms and financing approaches that remove barriers, and outline coordinated follow-up actions within the UAE Consensus and Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge.

- **2026 IRENA Youth Forum – Youth Innovation and Digital Solutions: From AI to Access in Renewable Energy**

10 January 2026, 16:30 to 18:00, Room A2 ([Concept note](#))

The eighth edition of the IRENA Youth Forum will highlight how youth can utilise cutting-edge digital tools from AI applications to energy access solutions to accelerate the global energy transition. The Forum will be guided by a theme and priority topics co-defined with the IRENA Youth Council, reflecting the evolving priorities of the energy landscape in line with IRENA's programmatic work and the global stocktake trajectory.

- **Mobilising Finance for Clean Cooking**

10 January 2026, 16:30 to 18:00, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This meeting will present the findings of IRENA's forthcoming report on *Tracking Financial Support across 100 Clean Cooking Access-Deficit Countries*. Discussions will focus on how all financial sector actors – domestic and international, public and private – can play a collective role in scaling up finance and investments for clean cooking and delivering on the SDG7 agenda. The meeting will also facilitate the sharing of country experiences on strategies used to increase financial flows towards clean cooking sectors.

Side Events

- **Enabling Synergies between Solar PV Projects and the Local Environment**

10 January 2026, 12:45 to 14:00, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

This event will discuss potential interactions between solar PV projects and the local environment, including negative impacts and positive co-benefits. It will convene policymakers, experts and industry stakeholders from the energy sector and conservation organisations to share their insights on current opportunities, major barriers to the adoption of sustainable practices, and existing policy tools. IRENA will share the findings of the latest report on the *Local environmental impacts and benefits of large-scale solar PV projects*, jointly developed in partnership with IUCN and China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute.

- **Africa's Regional Energy Transition Outlooks: Preliminary Insights and Regional Pathways**

10 January 2026, 12:30 to 14:00, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This event will provide an opportunity to reflect on preliminary findings, share perspectives on regional strategic priorities, and shape the next phase of work as the Regional Energy Transition Outlooks (RETOs) covering the five African regions move toward finalisation. It will also explore the continuation of the previous REmap network, built-up directly on the findings and recommendations of the regional energy transition studies, to facilitate focused exchanges on the priority themes identified, enabling Members to discuss practical solutions and implementation pathways.

- **High-Level Dialogue on Accelerating Electrification: Pathways for Renewables, Grids, and Industry**

11 January 2026, 13:00 to 14:30, Room A1 ([Concept note](#))

This High-level event, convened by the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) and Alliance for Industry Decarbonization (AFID), will provide a platform for policymakers, utilities and industrial companies, equipment producers, technology companies, and international partners to engage in strategic discussions on the electrification challenges, with focus on policy frameworks, financing, technological deployment, and system flexibility.

- **Renewable energy auctions for risk mitigation and allocation**

11 January 2026, 13:00 to 14:30, Room A2 ([Concept note](#))

This interactive event, held in collaboration with partners of the Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI), will convene governments and development partners to explore how renewable energy auctions can be structured to balance investor confidence, consumer affordability, and broader development objectives. Key findings from IRENA and SRMI's forthcoming report, *Renewable Energy Auctions: Strategic risk mitigation and allocation for tailored design*, will also be presented.

- **Energy Transitions Across the Mediterranean**

11 January 2026, 13:00 to 14:30, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

This roundtable event will convene policymakers, financiers, and system operators to identify how to align capital flows with the urgent need for infrastructure readiness. It will explore how to finance the dual requirements of long-term cross-border interconnection and immediate grid modernisation, ensuring the Mediterranean grid is resilient, flexible, and capable of anchoring a secure regional energy transition.

- **Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) Annual Meeting**

12 January 2026, 13:00 to 14:30, Room B1 ([Concept note](#))

The GGA Annual Meeting will bring together member governments and partner institutions to review progress and lessons from GGA activities, and provide a platform to share experiences, perspectives and priorities from national contexts. It will also enable member countries and partners to guide future GGA workstreams and support to enhance geothermal deployment across key areas such as direct-use applications, policy and regulatory frameworks, finance, partnerships, and knowledge exchange.

Evening Engagements

Powering Island Futures: Women, Water & Energy at the Heart of Resilience – a Joint event of the Renewables Talk and Women in Diplomacy

10 January 2026, 18:30 to 20:30 ([Concept note](#))

This dinner event, hosted by the Embassy of Italy to the UAE and the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to IRENA, in co-operation with IRENA, will provide an opportunity for invited diplomats and officials to strengthen global commitment and contributions to the energy transition, emphasising the nexus between access to water and energy (Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 7) as fundamental drivers of human existence. Discussions will also focus on the role of women, including in building awareness and capacity across countries and communities. Participants will have the opportunity to explore potential alignment with the upcoming United Nations Water Conference, scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 December 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Assembly Dinner Reception

11 January 2026, 18:30 to 20:30, Ballroom Terrace

Participants are cordially invited to a dinner reception hosted by the Agency on the occasion of the 16th session of the Assembly.

Essential Information for Participation

Venue: The 16th session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings will be held at the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, from 10 to 12 January 2026.

Registration: Registration links have been sent to all delegations, along with an information note on organisational arrangements for the 16th session of the Assembly.

Delegations who have not yet completed their registration for the 16th session of the Assembly are kindly requested to complete their registration at the earliest, and no later than **4 January 2026**.

Visa arrangements: Delegates requiring a visa should contact LiaisonandProtocolOffice@irena.org. Please bear in mind that for visa requests received after **22 December 2025**, visa issuance cannot be guaranteed.

Badge issuance: Badges will be issued on 10-12 January 2026 from 08.00 to 17.00 in the registration area (Manhattan lounge) next to the main lobby of the venue, St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.

Credentials: All IRENA Members are kindly requested to ensure that Credential Letters for their representatives at the 16th session of the Assembly, along with the names of the alternates and advisors constituting their delegation, are submitted to the Secretariat in a proper form and in a timely manner, no later than **4 January 2026** at Credentials@irena.org. For more information, please refer to the Notification by the Director-General.

Credentials Committee: Members wishing to serve on the Credentials Committee at the sixteenth session of the Assembly are invited to submit their expressions of interest to the Secretariat at Secretariat@irena.org no later than **26 December 2025**.

Agenda and sessional documentation: The provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Assembly as well as the annotations and background notes for the various discussions are included in this transmission and will also be made available on the IRENA Meeting Application and the Member portal '[REmember](#)', for Focal Points officially designated to IRENA.

Should you require access to '[REmember](#)', please contact REmember@irena.org.

Related Matters

Bilateral meetings: Subject to availability of space and services, every effort will be made to accommodate bilateral meetings. Requests should be sent to Bilateral@irena.org, indicating in the subject line "*IRENA Assembly – Bilateral meeting request*".

Requests for bilateral meetings with the Director-General should be addressed to the Office of the Director-General at ODG@irena.org.

Interpretation: Simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided during the Assembly session.

Live streaming: In the interest of enhancing transparency and inclusiveness, open sessions and meetings of the Assembly will be live streamed on the IRENA website.

Queries: Questions relating to the Assembly, including on registration and organisational arrangements, should be referred to the Secretariat at Assembly@irena.org. For queries relating to visa arrangements, please contact IRENA Protocol at LiaisonandProtocolOffice@irena.org.