

Additional meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 29 January 2026

REPORT

OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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**Report of the additional meeting of the Council
of the International Renewable Energy Agency**

1. The additional meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held in Abu Dhabi on 29 January 2026, in hybrid format. The meeting was attended by 18 Council members: Bangladesh, Canada, Commonwealth of Dominica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, Spain, Togo, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe, as well as 8 Council alternates: China, Costa Rica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also in attendance were delegations of 41 other IRENA Members.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

2. The Chair of the thirtieth meeting of the Council, Costa Rica, represented by H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Arab Emirates, opened the meeting.

3. Addressing the Council H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández expressed gratitude to the United Arab Emirates, as Host Country, for its generosity, grace, and leadership. He highlighted the pleasure of having worked with the leadership of the United Arab Emirates over the years, including H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber, H.E. Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, H.E. Dr Mariam Almheiri, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi, and H.E. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany, and expressed his gratitude to them. He recognised the important initiatives of the United Arab Emirates, including the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance under H.E. Mr Suhail Al Mazrouei, which would convene its first roundtable during the World Government Summit in February 2026. He highlighted that Costa Rica will be a founding member of this Alliance, as it was with the Mangrove Alliance. In this context, he expressed that Costa Rica looks forward to continuing bilateral collaboration within the scope of various initiatives of the UAE.

4. H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández thanked Cyprus, as Vice-Chair of the Council meetings in 2025, noting that Costa Rica and Cyprus approached the management of the Council meetings as Co-Chairs rather than as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. He stated that the support provided by Cyprus was fundamental, and acknowledged that while the year presented challenges, the role of Cyprus in the journey was of great importance.

5. H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández recognised the European Union and its Member States, and in particular the Government of Spain, for its generous voluntary contribution to Latin America. In this regard, he extended his gratitude to H.E. Mr Emilio Pin Godos, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Spain to the United Arab Emirates. He further expressed special gratitude to the 2025 Council members from the Latin America and Caribbean regional Group, and recognised the outstanding and important work of Antigua and Barbuda, by thanking H.E. Mr Gilbert Boustany, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Arab Emirates. He further recognised the valuable work of Mexico, represented by H.E. Mr Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of Mexico to the United Arab Emirates, in the process of informal discussions with Members on topics of mutual interest.

6. Acknowledging the 2026 Council members of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group, H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández expressed gratitude to H.E. Mr Gerardo Pérez, Ambassador of El Salvador to the United Arab Emirates, and to the Government of President Nayib Bukele, for his outstanding contribution and leadership in the area of renewable energy. He conveyed his appreciation to H.E. Mr Avondale Paul, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United Arab Emirates, and to his Government, noting his important contributions and leadership in representing the CARICOM region. He highlighted the important work of the Dominican Republic, as President of the sixteenth session of the Assembly, and commended the contributions of H.E. Mr Renso Herrera, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United Arab Emirates.

7. H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández highlighted that IRENA, while a solid and mature Agency, in some ways, the Agency is coming of age and beginning to assert itself, perhaps in a way that was not initially foreseen. He expressed the view that, as part of its self-search, the Agency should seek to understand how to complement its initial scope with its current global reach. He acknowledged the complexity of this task, especially in the context of the current financial constraints and geopolitical challenges, underlining that these are part of the reality that is presented.

8. He expressed hope that IRENA can continue building up and serving each and every area of the globe represented at the Agency, without exception. He further expressed the hope for a strengthened presence and interest of the Agency in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for greater inclusion of the region in the programming of the Agency.

9. He congratulated the incoming members of the Director-General Selection Committee, noting their important role. He further highlighted the important contributions of Council members, including China and India, and noted the vital role played by the United States of America in the Agency. He thanked the Director-General and the Secretariat for the support provided to him as Chair of the Council.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of work

a. Election of officials

10. H.E. Mr Francisco Chacón Hernández recalled that according to Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Council shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members, with due regard to equitable geographical representation. He further recalled that, at its twenty-ninth meeting in September 2025, the Council was informed that in line with geographic representation and rotation, members of the Asia and the Pacific Group of the Council in 2026 would be eligible for the Chairmanship of the Council in 2026, and members of the Africa Group of the Council in 2026 would be eligible for the Vice-Chairmanship.

11. He further recalled that, at its thirtieth meeting in October 2025, the Council designated the United Arab Emirates as Chair, and Togo as Vice-Chair of the Council.

12. The Council elected by acclamation the United Arab Emirates, represented by H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates as Chair, and Togo, represented by H.E. Mr Robert Koffi Messan Eklo, Minister Delegate in charge of Energy and Mineral Resources of Togo, as Vice-Chair of the additional meeting of the Council.

13. **As proposed by the Chair, Spain, represented by Mr Hugo Lucas Porta, Director of Knowledge, New Business Models and Competitiveness at the Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE), Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain, was appointed as Rapporteur of the additional meeting of the Council, in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.**

14. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi in her opening remarks expressed that it is a great moment for the United Arab Emirates, and for her personally, to Chair the Council meeting. She reiterated her sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Costa Rica, and to the outgoing Vice-Chair, Cyprus, for their excellent leadership during the Council meetings in 2025, expressing that their guidance and commitment have been greatly appreciated. She stated that the United Arab Emirates looks forward to working closely with Togo, as Vice-Chair, as well as with Council members, alternates, and the broader IRENA Membership.

15. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi highlighted that 2026 represents an important and dynamic year for IRENA. It is a pivotal moment for the global energy transition, and while trends in renewable energy deployment continue to move upward, political headwinds are also strengthening – emerging geopolitical realities and shifting dynamics within the energy sector are pulling the world in a new and sometimes unexpected direction. In this context, she stated that Members are presented with the opportunity to reflect on how they want IRENA to position itself as a meaningful and influential actor within these evolving realities.

16. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi further highlighted that IRENA itself is undergoing a period of transition as the Agency prepares for the appointment of a new Director-General, who may bring new perspectives and priorities. She stated that, at the same time, the Agency is responding to budgetary constraints and a broader environment of reduced support for international organisations. She underlined that these transitions require everyone to be both prudent and forward-looking.

17. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi noted that Members are connected by the shared ambition to ensure that IRENA navigates this complex period of change while emerging stronger, more connected, and guided by a bold and credible vision of renewable energy. In this context, she recalled that the Assembly, at its sixteenth session, entrusted the Council with important mandates to continually strengthen the Agency's work, including the establishment of the Oversight Audit Committee, enhancements to transparency and reporting, and the finalisation of the Rules of Procedure for the IRENA Council Disciplinary Committee.

18. She stated that, at the same time, the launch of the process of developing the Medium-term Strategy for 2028-2032 presents a timely opportunity to reflect on and re-think the strategic direction of the Agency. She underlined that this would require strategic vision and careful consideration to ensure IRENA's continued relevance amid the uncertainty and rapidly evolving narratives around the energy transition. In this context, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi proposed that, as part of the Medium-term Strategy 2028-2032 process, a Member-driven dialogue is initiated to align the organisational structure of IRENA with its strategic direction and long-term vision, ensuring that the Agency is truly fit-for-purpose to deliver its mandate over the coming decades. She informed that she would be reaching out to some delegations to explore how such discussions could be structured. She further emphasised that these discussions should be led by Members while drawing, as appropriate, on expertise and insights from across the membership, and from relevant stakeholders in this domain, to reflect the perspectives of the broader constituency.

19. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi noted that IRENA has long been recognised as the global voice of renewables and for this reason, strategic communication that ensures key messages emerging from IRENA's analyses reach decision-makers, stakeholders, and the wider energy community will remain essential. She welcomed dedicated discussions on how to define and strengthen this approach as the Agency prepares to shift gears, noting that a Member-driven process that brings these elements together will not only inform future Work Programmes and Budgets, but also provide an opportunity to further transform IRENA into an Agency that continues to shape global discourse on renewables and the energy transition well into the next decades.

20. H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi affirmed that the United Arab Emirates remains fully committed to fostering dialogue, sharing lessons learned, and working with all Members to accelerate renewable deployment, promote equity, and align collective efforts with the vision ahead. She stated that, in the face of turbulent times, it is of utmost importance that IRENA remains strong in its foundational setup, governance structures, and governing bodies, and that all Members fulfil their respective roles and responsibilities. She underlined that IRENA is an Agency that thrives through engagement, ownership, and input of its Members, and that collective commitment is essential to enable the energy transition and enhance energy security for all.

21. Noting that Members are gathered at a critical time as the process of selecting a new Director-General begins, H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak Al Shamsi called on all Members to support the work of the Director-General Selection Committee in its outreach and identifying the right candidate – one who can lead IRENA effectively in the years ahead and respond to the profound changes shaping the energy landscape.

22. The Director-General in his opening remarks welcomed Members to the additional meeting of the Council. He expressed sincere gratitude to Costa Rica and Cyprus, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council meetings in 2025, and to the United Arab Emirates and Togo, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the additional meeting of the Council.

23. He highlighted the significance of the process being undertaken to guide the appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA, noting that this is a key moment in the governance of the Agency that reflects the collective commitment of all Members to transparency, inclusivity, and excellence in leadership.

24. The Director-General emphasised that IRENA stands at a critical moment for the global energy transition, and stated that the leadership that emerges from this process will be entrusted with advancing our shared mission, strengthening international co-operation, and responding to the evolving needs of Members. He thanked all Members for their engagement and co-operation, and for working together towards a smooth and constructive process moving forward.

25. H.E. Mr Robert Koffi Messan Eklo in his opening remarks expressed deep gratitude, on behalf of Togo, to all members of the Council for the confidence shown in entrusting Togo with the responsibility to serve as Vice-Chair of the additional meeting of the Council. He stated that Togo accepts this honour with humility and with full awareness of the importance of this role.

26. H.E. Mr Robert Koffi Messan Eklo acknowledged that these are crucial times where Members will have to find a new Director-General to lead IRENA in the future, and testing times, with the decision by one of the larger contributing Members to withdraw from the Agency. He expressed the conviction that the Agency will continue to lead with collective willingness, collective strength, and collective energy to drive countries, continents, and people towards the energy transition and decarbonisation objectives – and that together, Members will be able to achieve these goals.

27. H.E. Mr Robert Koffi Messan Eklo emphasised that Togo is committed to supporting IRENA's mandate fully, including in its role as Vice-Chair, underlining the utmost urgency to advance the global energy transition and achieve net zero emissions. He highlighted that the Agency's work is crucial for climate-vulnerable countries such as Togo, which have not played a large part in emissions but are experiencing the consequences of global warming due to the increase in greenhouse gases resulting from sector-based activities.

28. Noting that IRENA is the primary organisation working on these issues, he stated that while technological solutions exist and are advancing, global emissions continue to rise, with an increasingly devastating impact on countries, requiring quick and decisive actions. On behalf of the Government of Togo, H.E. Mr Robert Koffi Messan Eklo affirmed that Togo will do its utmost best to advance the work of the Agency. He confirmed that, as Vice-Chair, his office remains available for all Members, to ensure that deliberations are smooth, inclusive, and highly relevant for common goals, for the success of the Council meeting, and for the credibility of Members' joint decisions.

b. Adoption of the agenda

29. The Chair introduced the Provisional Agenda (C/AD/L.1).

30. The Council considered and adopted the Agenda for its additional meeting (C/AD/1).

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee (DGSC)

31. The Chair recalled that on 18 September 2025, members of the Council in 2026 were invited to indicate their interest to become members or alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee by 15 October 2025. The Chair further recalled that on 10 January 2026, Cyprus, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the thirtieth Council, informed the Council of the list of members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee.

32. The Chair outlined that the Assembly, at its sixteenth session on 12 January 2026, took note of the Report of the Chair of the Council on this matter. She further outlined that the Assembly also adopted the Decision on the Process and Timelines for the Selection and Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA (A/16/DC/9) and took note of the Working Modalities and Timelines of the Director-General Selection Committee (A/16/18/Rev.1).

33. The Chair thanked Costa Rica and Cyprus, in their capacity as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council in 2025, for their dedication and efforts on this matter. She also thanked the Vice-Presidents of the fifteenth session of the Assembly for their efforts in working with their respective regional Groups and finalising the list of members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee.

34. The Chair stated that the list of designated members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee is as follows:

- a. Africa regional Group: Egypt and Kenya as members, and Zimbabwe as alternate;
- b. Asia and the Pacific regional Group: Japan and the United Arab Emirates as members, and India as alternate;
- c. Europe and Others regional Group: Denmark and Germany as members, and Spain as alternate;
- d. Latin America and the Caribbean regional Group: Commonwealth of Dominica and the Dominican Republic as members, and El Salvador as alternate.

35. The Council agreed to appoint these members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee.

36. The Chair informed the Council that a communication was sent to the members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee (DGSC), inviting them to indicate the names of their designated representatives to the DGSC, together with one alternate. She stated that once the names of each DGSC member and alternate is received, she will inform the Membership accordingly.

37. The Chair impressed upon the DGSC the importance of ensuring that the work of the DGSC is guided by the IRENA Statute; the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and of the Council of IRENA and its addendum (A/5/5); the Working Modalities and Timelines of the Director-General Selection Committee (A/16/18/Rev.1); and the Decision on the Process and Timelines for the Selection and Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA (A/16/DC/9).

38. The Chair noted that the Decision on the Process and Timelines for the Selection and Appointment of the next Director-General of IRENA (A/16/DC/9), among other things, requests the Chair and Vice-Chair of the DGSC to conduct a review of the process and lessons learned to strengthen future selection and appointment processes, for consideration by the Council in 2028.

39. The Chair further recalled that paragraph 7 of the addendum to document A/5/5 mentions that, in order to provide effective assistance to the Council, the Committee appoints its Chair and Vice-Chair. In this context, she stated that she looks forward to receiving feedback from the DGSC on the appointment of its Chair and Vice-Chair from its members, in line with transparency. She informed that this will be shared with the Council and the IRENA Membership.

40. A delegation acknowledged the leadership of the United Arab Emirates in ensuring a timely completion of the process. The delegation confirmed that it had received the communication regarding the nomination of the designated representatives to the DGSC and requested clarification on whether other advisors could also be included as part of the nomination, given the possibilities of needing their support, particularly from a legal perspective. The delegation further suggested considering the possibility of nominating more than one alternate representative to the DGSC.

41. The Chair informed the delegation that both suggestions could be included as part of its response to the communication that was transmitted, for discussion among the members of the DGSC as they define the modalities of the work of the Committee moving forward.

42. The Chair congratulated the newly appointed members and alternates of the DGSC and wished them success in their work. She invited the Membership to give its full support to the members and alternates of the DGSC, and requested that all efforts are made to initiate the work of the DGSC as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

43. The Chair recalled that the thirty-first meeting of the Council will be held in May 2026. She further recalled that, under Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council is required to designate the Chair and Vice-Chair of its next meeting at the end of each meeting.

44. Following a proposal made by a Member and endorsed by another Member, the Council considered and designated the United Arab Emirates as Chair, and Togo as Vice-Chair of its thirty-first meeting.

45. On behalf of Togo and the United Arab Emirates, the Chair thanked Members for the confidence placed in them to guide the work of the Council. She stated that they look forward to working closely with all Members in preparation for the upcoming Council meeting.

46. A delegation recalled that, during the sixteenth session of the Assembly, there was a pending issue that the Assembly did not formally adopt – namely, the Rules of Procedure for the IRENA Council Disciplinary Committee. The delegation requested a very clear timeline on the process. The delegation stated that, as a member of the Assembly Bureau representing the Asia and the Pacific regional Group, it is proposing a Bureau meeting following the additional meeting of the Council to start working on the issue, which involves matters such as governance and accountability, amongst others.

47. The delegation noted that the Secretariat transmitted a communication proposing 27 February 2026 as a timeline for Members to provide their feedback on the draft Rules of Procedure for the IRENA Council Disciplinary Committee. In this context, the delegation requested a very clear process to ensure that there is no further delay, so that the Council can deliver at its thirty-first meeting and submit the document to the Assembly for adoption via a silence procedure. As a member of the Asia and the Pacific regional Group, the delegation thanked the Chair for her leadership, and stated that it seeks her support in having this process in place, to ensure that the deliberations on the Rules of Procedure for the IRENA Council Disciplinary Committee is set before the thirty-first meeting of the Council.

48. On request of the Chair, the Dominican Republic, in its capacity as President of the sixteenth session of the Assembly, responded to the issue raised by the delegation and stated that it had taken note of the request and would follow up on the issue.

49. The Chair of the Council requested the Secretariat to co-ordinate with the Dominican Republic, as President of the sixteenth session of the Assembly, to take this forward.

50. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC), the Commonwealth of Dominica, represented by H.E. Mr Avondale Paul, Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, addressed the matter of the Contingency Plan for the IRENA budget, which was deliberated at various meetings of the AFC and at the thirtieth Council meeting in October 2025. The AFC Chair highlighted that this issue remains central to the financial and operational stability of IRENA. He recalled that, during discussions at the thirtieth Council meeting on the issue of pending assessed contribution payments, Members were informed that the total financial impact amounted to around USD 10 million for the biennium, or approximately USD 5 million per year. He further recalled that the Contingency Plan was proposed in this context precisely, to ensure that the Agency is able to deliver on its mission. The AFC Chair requested an update on the status of the Contingency Plan. He noted that the financial year had already started, and in this context, it is critical that the Contingency Plan is reviewed, approved, and put into effect.

51. The Director-General recalled that the Assembly agreed that the Secretariat would present a proposal at the thirty-first meeting of the Council, and stated that this proposal would be submitted in time to allow for its review and approval. The Director-General further recalled that the Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027 that was adopted by the Assembly includes the principles of a Contingency Plan.

52. The AFC Chair thanked the Director-General for the update and requested a timeline for the completion of the Contingency Plan that would allow for the AFC's review prior to being presented to the Council.

53. A delegation recalled that it had been entrusted by the Council to engage in informal consultations to address possible changes and modifications to the Rules of Procedure and working methods. In this context, the delegation invited Members to approach it at the earliest possible opportunity, and welcomed bilateral meetings with Members in this regard. The delegation referred to the proposal by the Chair for a Member-driven dialogue on the strategic direction of the Agency, and expressed the view that both of these processes could be harmonised.

54. The delegation further noted the situation facing the Agency with regard to the withdrawal of the United States of America, and highlighted that this issue should not be neglected. In this context, the delegation outlined the need for Members to consider how they see the Agency now and in the future, and what can be done to ensure that the Agency reaches its goals even without the technological, political, and financial contribution of one of its Members. The delegation stated that all of these issues should be articulated and structured, and that Members would need to also consider pending issues such as the Rules of Procedure for the IRENA Council Disciplinary Committee and other aspects ahead of the thirty-first meeting of the Council. In this context, the delegation invited Members to have a discussion with the United Arab Emirates, as Chair of the Council, on how this proposed dialogue could be structured. The delegation emphasised that all Members should engage and lead such a dialogue, while ensuring that the views of other stakeholders, including the civil society and other entities are also sought.

55. With regard to the Contingency Plan and immediate measures that need to be adopted, the delegation noted that a review of the IRENA Scale of Contributions for 2027 may be required, in light of the financial impact of the withdrawal of the United States. In this context, the delegation requested that this calculation be done as soon as possible, as any modification to the assessed contributions of Members would have to be reported in a proper form and timely manner to the relevant authorities.

56. A delegation echoed the need for the harmonisation of processes, noting the importance of continuing and amplifying such exercises as needed. The delegation further agreed on the need for a timeframe for addressing the Contingency Plan in preparation for the thirty-first Council meeting in May 2026.

57. The Chair noted the requests made for clarity on timelines for the Secretariat to co-ordinate with the AFC, including with respect to clarifying the timeline of the Contingency Plan in light of budget constraints and the current status.

58. The Chair also noted the informal consultations that have been taking place on the Rules of Procedure and working methods, and assured Members that any further efforts will be coherent with existing efforts, to ensure optimal, effective consultations that enable the Agency to move forward with vision, whether in terms of strategic direction or of any proposed amendments to rules and procedures that will contribute to the effective work of IRENA and steer it in the right direction for the next decade.

59. The AFC Chair reiterated that discussions on the Contingency Plan have been ongoing since October 2025 and noted that May 2026 would represent five months into the financial year. He requested that, to ensure proper planning and execution, the Secretariat is given a deadline to

present a working Contingency Plan that could be reviewed and revised with adequate time given to Members, before the next Council meeting.

60. The Director-General recalled that the Assembly adopted the Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027 and agreed for the Secretariat to propose a revised budget at the next Council meeting, as appropriate. He informed that the Agency has received some voluntary contributions and requested Members to do their best to provide any kind of commitment to cover the financial gap in the lead-up to the presentation of the Contingency Plan, to enable the Secretariat to produce a conclusive proposal. He stated that the proposal for the revised budget will be shared as soon as it is ready, and that the Secretariat stands ready to engage with all Members in discussing the matter.

61. On request of the AFC Chair, the Secretariat informed that the thirty-first meeting of the Council will be held on 21 to 22 May 2026, and that the Rules of Procedure of the Council require that sessional documentation is circulated 30 days prior to the Council meeting, on 20 April 2026.

62. The Chair of the Council referred to the Decision on the Work Programme and Budget for 2026-2027 (A/16/DC/2/Rev.1) adopted by the Assembly at its sixteenth session, and highlighted that paragraph 6 of the Decision states that the Assembly “requests the Director-General to implement the Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2026-2027 in accordance with available resources, taking into account possible delays or non-payment of assessed contributions, and to prepare and maintain appropriate contingency measures to ensure uninterrupted programme delivery, and to report thereon to the Council”. The Chair noted 20 April 2026 as the latest date for the transmission of documents to the Council, for review and discussion in preparation for its thirty-first meeting in May 2026.

63. A delegation referred to the concerns raised by the AFC Chair and suggested that an AFC meeting is scheduled to further discuss expectations regarding the Contingency Plan, and how support can be provided in this regard.

64. The AFC Chair expressed concern that if the Contingency Plan is only presented within the required timeframe prior to Council meeting, by the time the AFC reviews the document, there would be a rush to address any comments and recommendations prior to the Council meeting. The AFC Chair therefore requested a draft to be prepared a few weeks before the required timeframe, to allow Members to review, collaborate and assess the current status of the budget, resulting in an informed and proper budget proposal that is then circulated to Members within the required timeframe in advance of the Council meeting.

65. The Chair recommended that the AFC Chair and the AFC have a meeting with the Secretariat to chart out a timeline that provides the flexibility to achieve what is envisioned in terms of the revision and finalisation of the proposed budget, and for this timeline to be communicated to the Council.

66. The Council took note of the interventions made by Members.

67. The Chair requested the Secretariat to co-ordinate a meeting with the Administration and Finance Committee to establish a clear timeline that will provide enough time for revision, amendments and enhancement of the Contingency Plan that will be presented and circulated to the Council within the required timeframe prior to the Council meeting, providing Council members adequate time to revise, reflect on and discuss, as needed, prior to a decision at the thirty-first meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting

68. The Director-General in his closing remarks affirmed that the Secretariat remains ready to meet and collaborate with all Members under the framework of the Agency and its rules. He reiterated the call to Members to make all efforts to address the existing gaps in this critical period. He informed that the Secretariat is working to present two proposals for the amended budget: one that includes a revised budget without the contribution of the United States – that is, a budget with less resources, and with the existing share of contributions by Members – and a second proposal that is in line with the budget adopted by the Assembly at its sixteenth session, but taking into account a different scale of contributions by Members, to close the gap. The Director-General underlined that the Secretariat must act in accordance with the rules.

69. He stated that the Secretariat will work on and share these proposals as quickly as possible, and in the best way possible, noting that efforts are also being made to engage other donors that might close the gap. He encouraged Members to meet with one another and with other counterparts and stakeholders that work in this area, who might be able to contribute to closing the gap, so that significant changes would not have to be made to the budget.

70. The Chair of the Council in her closing remarks stated that she looks forward to working closely with Members and Secretariat in planning the next Council meeting, and further looks forward to the Secretariat sharing, with the AFC and Members, its proposal for the Contingency Plan, with a timeline that is reflective of the needs of all Members to reflect, revise, and provide efficient feedback.

71. The Chair underlined that all Members need to be informed of the process, noting that any considerations they may want to make in terms of engaging partners, donors, or re-considering their contributions will only be done effectively and correctly if those plans are clear to everyone. She stated that she looks forward to a successful and effective process in the lead-up to the next Council meeting.

72. The Chair congratulated the appointed members of the DGSC and thanked the Council for the spirit of co-operation demonstrated throughout the process. She highlighted that the work of the DGSC will be extremely critical in shaping the next chapter of IRENA and that, in this time of profound change for the global energy system and for the Agency itself, she encourages all Members to support the DGSC fully as it carries out its mandate with transparency, inclusiveness, and shared commitment to the long-term strength and relevance of IRENA. The Chair called on the DGSC to approach this process with unity and purpose, mindful of the collective responsibility to the Membership and to the global renewable energy community.

73. The Chair declared the additional meeting of the Council closed.

Additional Council meeting
Abu Dhabi, 29 January 2026

Agenda¹

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Organisation of work**
 - a. **Election of officials**
 - b. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Appointment of members and alternates of the Director-General Selection Committee (DGSC)**
4. **Any other business**
5. **Closing of the meeting**

¹ The Agenda is supplemented, with detailed information, by the Annotated Agenda, contained in C/AD/INF/1.

Additional meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 29 January 2026

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. COUNCIL MEMBERS

BANGLADESH	Mr Tahmilur Rahman Senior Assistant Secretary Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Dhaka
CANADA	Mr Jean-Phillippe Bernier Deputy Director, Renewable Energy Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa
DENMARK	Ms Hanne Jerslid Chief Advisor Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen
DOMINICA	H.E. Mr Avondale Paul Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Dominica to the UAE, Abu Dhabi
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	H.E. Mr Renso Antonio Herrera Franco Permanent Representative to IRENA and Ambassador Embassy of Dominican Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi Mr Carlino Gonzalez Counsellor Embassy of Dominican Republic to the UAE, Abu Dhabi
EGYPT	Mr Ali Mohamed Director of Energy Research and Studies Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo Mr Khaled Saber Hassan Director of International Energy Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo Mr Mohamed Osama Head of Central Administration International Cooperation & Agreements Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Cairo

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First Secretary
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EL SALVADOR

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Permanent Representative to IRENA and Coordinator for
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General Directorate of Energy, Hydrocarbons and Mines,
San Salvador

H.E. Mr Gerardo Perez
Ambassador
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Mr Carlos Guirola
Minister-Counsellor
Embassy of El Salvador to the UAE, Abu Dhabi

GERMANY

Mr Tobias Rinke
Head of Division
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Ms Carolina Jasmine Rojas
Policy Officer
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

INDIA

Mr Asokan Amarnath
Deputy Head of Mission
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Ms Aayushi Sutaria
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