

Abu Dhabi, 20 April 2026

## **Thirty-first IRENA Council and related meetings**

### **INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **Reports on Collaborative Frameworks**

In response to Members' requests from the tenth to twelfth sessions of the Assembly on several technologies and other themes for which they wished the Agency to facilitate targeted collaboration tailored to the associated opportunities and challenges, IRENA's Collaborative Frameworks have been established to promote engagement, facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, and enrich programmatic output. Mindful of the work already undertaken by the Agency, the wealth of knowledge and expertise that exists within the Membership and the advantages that may be reaped through wider global cooperation with other entities, the work of the Collaborative Frameworks continues to evolve to highlight the Agency's commitment to enhancing Member engagement and fostering ownership of programmatic output, while enabling peer-to-peer collaboration and exchange of national experiences, challenges, and solutions, including with stakeholders, where appropriate.

To date, eight Collaborative Frameworks have been established on relevant themes that reflect growing interest amongst the Membership for deeper insight into specific topics and technologies that are critical to accelerate the energy transition across countries, regions and the world. These include Critical Materials for the Energy Transition, Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems, Geopolitics of Energy Transformation, Green Hydrogen, Hydropower, Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions, Ocean Energy/Offshore Renewables, and Project Facilitation to Support on-the-ground Energy Transition.

The Collaborative Frameworks serve as effective vehicles for dialogue, cooperation and coordinated action for the benefit of the global renewable energy transformation, and have successfully held several meetings to date, guided by their scope of work as agreed by their respective members. To ensure a Member-driven approach to the activities, each Collaborative Framework is Co-Facilitated by two IRENA Members who are elected to serve for a term of one to two years. The Co-Facilitators steer the meetings and discussions held under the respective Collaborative Frameworks.

The following reports on the Collaborative Frameworks, presented to the thirty-ninth meeting of the Council, provide an update on the latest developments and activities of the Collaborative Frameworks. Members may wish to provide feedback on these activities during their interventions at the thirty-first Council and related meetings on 21-22 May 2026.

## Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions

The meeting held on 9 December 2025 marked the third thematic dialogue of the Collaborative Framework focusing on strategies for benefit sharing, social inclusion, and public engagement in the energy transition. Co-facilitated by Spain and Sierra Leone, the meeting brought together over 70 participants from government, international organisations, research institutions, civil society and the private sector, and explored how policies, institutions, and participatory approaches can help ensure that social and economic benefits are shared equitably.

Scene-setting remarks by the IRENA Secretariat stressed that the transition is not only a technological transformation but also one that shapes livelihoods, employment, and social outcomes. While renewable energy employment continues to grow globally, social inclusion and equitable benefit sharing remain a challenge. Meaningful public engagement and inclusive governance were identified as essential foundations for just and equitable transitions.

Discussions on approaches emphasised the importance of policy frameworks that integrate social and economic objectives alongside energy goals. Expanding access to affordable and reliable energy was highlighted as a core pillar of just energy transitions, particularly when linked to productive uses and local economic development. Workforce development, reskilling, and job creation were also identified as important for ensuring that transition benefits are widely shared.

Public engagement and inclusive decision-making emerged as a major theme. Participants highlighted the importance of early and continuous engagement with communities, based on two-way communication and genuine opportunities to influence decisions. Experiences shared showed that benefit-sharing arrangements and local investments can help build trust and social acceptance for renewable energy projects. Community-driven planning and locally anchored energy strategies were seen as effective ways to align national transition goals with local priorities. Participants highlighted the role of cross-border electricity trade and shared infrastructure in promoting more balanced development, noting persistent imbalances in global RE investments, and stressed the importance of mobilising finance and technical support through international cooperation.

The next virtual meeting of the Collaborative Framework on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions (CF-JIET) will take place on Tuesday, 5 May 2026.

Consultations under IRENA's [Collaborative Framework for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions](#) have highlighted the need for a greater understanding of effective governance arrangements and just transition planning approaches. This includes strategies and tools for equitable benefit and burden sharing, workable approaches to public engagement, and empowerment of underrepresented groups, along with suitable financing mechanisms and international cooperation. In response, the Co-Facilitators, Spain and Sierra Leone, are convening a series of thematic peer-to-peer and multi-stakeholder exchanges focused on the areas identified.

Local value creation and (re)industrialisation have consistently been emphasised as core components of just energy transition efforts. By linking the shift to sustainable energy with job creation, building new industries, as well as domestic supply chains, governments can help ensure that the transition generates broad-based economic benefits and thus secures public support. Across countries, ensuring that the benefits of the transition are equitably distributed requires coordinated policies at multiple levels. At the national level, governments can deploy industrial strategies, skills development initiatives, and other policy tools to build domestic capabilities and capture greater value from the transition. Regional cooperation can help create larger markets, support shared infrastructure, and enable the development of integrated value chains. At the international level, structural inequities in trade, finance, and technology access that limit many countries' ability to benefit fully from the transition need to be addressed.

Against this background, the next meeting to be held on 5 May 2026 will offer a platform for peer-to-peer and multi-stakeholder exchange among country representatives, experts, and stakeholders on lessons learned from advancing strategies to support sustainable industrialisation and inclusive value chain development. It will seek to capture insights from current efforts that can inform both national strategies and international cooperation initiatives. It also offers an opportunity to consider the role of industrial and energy policies for building long-term economic resilience in light of the current energy crisis.

## **Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation**

The meeting of the Collaborative Framework on Project Facilitation (CFPF) was convened on 17 February 2026 to review progress on IRENA's project facilitation initiatives and exchange insights on strengthening project bankability and financing mechanisms. The session brought together Members, development finance institutions, and technical partners to advance coordinated efforts in mobilizing capital for renewable energy deployment.

Members elected Malta and Zimbabwe as the new Co-Facilitators of the CF for a two-year term. Outgoing Co-Facilitators emphasized the importance of maintaining a trusted dialogue platform focused on practical project facilitation challenges and financing matchmaking through IRENA's flagship platforms, the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform.

IRENA acknowledged the continued engagement of Members in advancing renewable energy project facilitation efforts under the Collaborative Framework, and emphasized that the Framework has evolved into a trusted platform for technical dialogue, practical problem-solving, and financing matchmaking. IRENA delivered a presentation outlining its project facilitation architecture and financing tools designed to improve project bankability and mobilize capital, and shared key bankability lessons from projects in Nigeria and Brazil. Successful projects were characterized by strong feasibility studies, secured Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), committed developer equity, early permitting, risk mitigation measures, and alignment with national policies. IRENA introduced its Project Diagnostic Toolkit, aimed at supporting governments in prioritizing high-impact renewable energy projects through closer bilateral collaboration, strengthened techno-economic analysis and improved data aggregation.

Members emphasized that project facilitation efforts remain ongoing and require sustained engagement and contributions from all and requested that the newly appointed Co-Facilitators collaborate closely with the Secretariat to ensure that country priorities are duly reflected and advanced. Members highlighted the tangible impact of IRENA's Project Facilitation and Support work, citing successful interventions in Kenya, Brazil, Sierra Leone, and Jordan as illustrative examples of effective support in advancing renewable energy projects.

Delegations called for active Member participation in Investment Forums and encouraged greater engagement with IRENA's CIP and ETAF platforms to address persistent financing challenges and further stressed the importance of transforming identified challenges into actionable opportunities through structured and concrete interaction between countries and financiers.

Members reaffirmed that the core objective of the Collaborative Framework is to provide a platform for IRENA Members to exchange best practices and lessons learned, drawing on diverse national experiences and emphasized that the effectiveness of the Framework is strengthened through engagement with stakeholders beyond Members, noting that broader participation enriches discussions and enhances practical outcomes.

Members emphasized that the CF has the potential to serve as a practical instrument that supports countries in moving from ambition to implementation through concrete, project-focused cooperation and underlined the importance of ensuring that the CFPF remains inclusive and delivers tangible value, particularly for developing countries facing structural financing and implementation challenges.

Members shared the experience in collaborating with IRENA and the United Nations Environment Programme on a major initiative in Ukraine aimed at developing a new sustainable energy model. The Ukraine initiative was described as a “living laboratory” for designing new forms of international collaboration architecture. They proposed extending this structured and interconnected model to additional renewable energy technologies, including hydropower and geothermal energy, and expressed readiness to explore further collaboration among interested Members.

The Co-Facilitators emphasized IRENA’s important role in supporting project preparation, strengthening bankability, and connecting governments, developers, and financiers. Key barriers to successful project implementation were identified, including the challenge of aligning ambition with financing realities, limited access to pre-development finance, the effectiveness of project preparation facilities, and perceived risks that constrain capital mobilization. The Co-Facilitators also emphasized that Members can make meaningful contributions by initiating project-level discussions with IRENA to develop robust and bankable project pipelines and address national priorities in connection to global efforts to accelerate renewable energy project implementation.

### **Collaborative Framework on Enhancing Dialogue on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems**

The Collaborative Framework on High Shares of Renewables in Energy Systems serves as a common forum for dialogue, experience-sharing, and technical exchange among Members and key relevant stakeholders addressing the complex challenges of integrating high shares of renewable energy into power systems. The global transition to net zero is facing a critical bottleneck at the grid connection stage, with at least 3,000 GW of projects (half in advanced stages) awaiting integration.

Growing grid congestion continues to slow the integration of new clean energy assets, while slow and fragmented anticipatory grid expansion planning prevents infrastructure from keeping pace with rapidly increasing renewable deployment. Advancing renewable energy capacity remains significantly constrained by a range of systemic challenges that span policy, planning, regulation, and technical readiness.

The virtual meeting to be held on 18 May 2026 will focus on Workstream on Integrated Energy System Planning with focus on Unlocking Stranded GWs and will provide a platform for IRENA members, utilities and industry stakeholders to share experiences on measures that unlock stranded GW assets. It will seek to explore how energy planning can better enable use of existing and built out of new grid infrastructure with energy storage for largescale renewable integration. It also offers an opportunity to exchange best practices on innovative operational solutions such as use of capacity maps, AI applications, digital tools, and data driven market design that supports policy and investment decisions. The meeting will examine how regulatory frameworks can encourage anticipatory investments in grid expansion and technologies that enhance existing infrastructure.