

2016 LEGISLATORS FORUM

SUMMARY REPORT.....



IRENA convened its first Legislators Forum to engage key actors in renewable energy policy

A TIMELY MEETING FOR LEGISLATORS

On 15 January 2016, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held its first meeting of legislators, the Legislators Forum 2016, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. 21 legislators from all over the world attended: Belgium, Costa Rica, the European Union, Germany, India, Jordan, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Togo, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. [Press release](#)

During this one-day meeting, legislators exchanged best practices and learned from the experience of each other on the deployment of renewable energy and solutions that enable countries to meet their domestic energy needs. The meeting facilitated a policy dialogue between legislators on the transformation of the global energy system. [Agenda of the Legislators' Forum](#)

Many legislators also attended the two-day IRENA Assembly on 16-17 January 2016 and received a comprehensive overview of the Agency's activities and initiatives. The sixth IRENA Assembly was the first major intergovernmental meeting after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, gathering around 1000 participants and global energy leaders from more than 150 countries. [Read more on the IRENA Newsroom](#)

SETTING THE SCENE

In his welcome address, IRENA's Director-General, Adnan Z. Amin, recalled that members of parliament were instrumental in the creation of this Agency, which is today the fastest growing Agency in the world, "a testament to the fact that we are at an extremely important point in the energy transition". He emphasized that this Forum comes at a key point in time, with the international negotiations on sustainable development and climate change, in which renewable energy takes a prominent place. [Director-General's welcome address](#)

Dr. Amal Al-Qubaisi, President of the United Arab Emirates' Federal National Council, the UAE parliament, underlined that the "role of parliamentarians will be pivotal in translating these agreements into effective and enabling legislation and policies [...] The success will depend largely on the enactment of the right legislation and the right policies that have widespread support at the grassroots level. Our responsibility as parliamentarians is to galvanize such support, enact such legislation and ensure the sustained implementation through appropriate investments." [Speech Dr. Amal Al-Qubaisi](#)

Mr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan, President of the Arab Parliament, reinforced the message: "The Arab Parliament calls for all parliamentarians in the world to work together in a global parliamentary effort to support the energy transition throughout the world and work as part of a network in the field of renewable energy." [Speech Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan](#)

ENABLING POLICY INSTRUMENTS AND SHARING OF EXPERIENCES

The IRENA Secretariat and other experts in the field introduced the current trends and dynamics in the energy sector and focused on the enabling environment for scaling up renewable energy deployment.

[Powerpoint presentation, IRENA Secretariat](#)

[Powerpoint presentation, Hans-Josef Fell Energy Watch Group](#)

These presentations led to a fruitful debate among legislators on appropriate support mechanisms to deploy renewable energy given the global consensus on the importance of renewables in addressing both the climate change challenge and sustainable development goals.

In particular, legislators discussed the effectiveness of feed-in-tariffs and auctions or tendering schemes in increasing the share of renewable energy in a country's energy mix. It was highlighted that the choice of the instrument would have an impact on electricity price and ownership structure of the energy system. However, this choice should take into consideration the level of development of the sector and the country's overall objectives. The discussion also demonstrated that priorities, given socio-economic

benefits such as job creation, industrial development and support for local communities, differed between countries on the basis of country conditions and goals.

The presentation of legislative initiatives and experiences from parliamentarians (European Union, Germany, India, Middle East and North Africa, Mauritius, Mexico, Sierra Leone and Tunisia) allowed legislators to share knowledge and best practice in renewable energy deployment.

Further reading:

- » Renewable Energy Target Setting (IRENA 2015)
- » Adapting Renewable Energy Policies and Dynamic Market Conditions (IRENA 2014)
- » Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2014 (IRENA 2015)
- » Renewable Energy Jobs – Annual Review 2015 (IRENA 2015)
- » Accelerating Off-grid Renewable Energy, IOREC 2014 Key Findings and Recommendations (IRENA 2015)
- » Renewable Energy Benefits: Measuring the Economics (IRENA 2016)



HOW IRENA CAN OFFER SUPPORT

During the discussions, legislators repeatedly underlined that up-to-date, reliable and accessible data and information on renewable energy were a crucial prerequisite for informed parliamentary debates and decision-making. It was widely recognized that IRENA as a knowledge hub for renewable energy information could serve as an important resource for legislators.

Many members of parliament emphasized the importance of identifying effective renewable energy legislation and

policy instruments and looked to IRENA for assistance in this regard.

Participants stressed that meetings such as the Legislators Forum serve as an important platform for discussion and exchange of ideas among parliamentarians from all over the world with an interest in renewable energy. Legislators therefore encouraged the Agency to enlarge its nascent network of parliamentarians and to continue holding such meetings.

[Video, How can IRENA support](#)

CONCLUSIONS OF THE LEGISLATORS FORUM IN EIGHT POINTS

The 2016 Legislators Forum identified eight key enablers supporting an accelerated deployment of renewable energy worldwide. Rosaline J. Smith, Member of Parliament of Sierra Leone and Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament, reported to the sixth session of the IRENA Assembly on the Forum's main conclusions. [Video, Conclusions from the Legislators Forum](#)

- » Capitalize on the momentum generated by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement to include climate protection into countries' Constitutions in order to strengthen its legal value.
- » Adopt broad range renewable energy legislation to ensure a stable legal framework, which is one of the key enablers for investments, and establish financial instruments at the global level to lower the cost of capital for renewable energy investment.
- » In the legislative approach, allocate as much importance to the transport and heating/cooling sectors as to the electricity sector.
- » Couple energy efficiency and renewable energy laws to maximize impact.
- » Put in place the necessary infrastructure at large: grids, mini-grids, district cooling/heating systems, etc.
- » Promote fair markets that take into account externalities of fossil fuel use, and flexible markets that can adapt to an increasing share of renewables in the energy mix.
- » Extend modelling to socio-economic benefits derived from renewables (jobs, health, trade balance, energy access, etc.).
- » Make use of Parliaments to organize stakeholders.



SAVE THE DATE
LEGISLATORS FORUM 2017
12-13 JANUARY 2017
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

If you are interested in participating, send an email now to legislators@irena.org and join us in 2017 for the second edition of the Legislators Forum.



REVIEW

FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

A PERIODIC BRIEF ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

- » **English**
- » **French**
- » **Spanish**

- » The REview for Parliamentarians compiles information generated by IRENA, which is of specific interest to legislators. Through regular dissemination of up-to-date and relevant information on renewable energy, including policies, costs, technologies, resources and socio-economic benefits, IRENA supports parliamentarians and decision makers in their efforts to increase the share of renewables in each country's energy mix in a sustainable manner.
- » The purpose of this brief is to engage with parliamentarians and offer support by sharing the latest knowledge, experience and best practices in the field of renewable energy.

RESOURCE

YOUR SOURCE
FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
INFORMATION

- » IRENA held an interactive webinar for legislators and their supporting staff to introduce [REsource](#), the renewable energy knowledge platform. This online platform enables decision makers to easily find country-specific data, create customized charts and graphs and compare countries on such metrics as renewable energy use and deployment.
- » [REsource](#) also provides renewable energy market statistics along with information on potential, policies, finance, costs, benefits, innovations, education and other topics in this rapidly evolving sector.
- » The webinar recording has been uploaded on the [IRENA](#) YouTube channel.