

INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Fourteenth meeting of the Council
Abu Dhabi, 28 - 29 November 2017

Context: Pursuant to decision C/3/DC/3, the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC) met to review and inform the Council on the *Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019* (C/14/L.4) and the *Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022* (C/14/L.3). To reflect on the implementation of the Work Programme and Budget 2016-2017, the PSC discussed two selected programmatic activities, that are also contained in the *Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017* (C/14/2).

Outcome: A set of views and comments captured by the Chair in his summary below to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 28 and 29 November 2017.

Outcome of the Programme and Strategy Committee Meeting Chair's Summary

Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022 and Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019

The Director-General introduced the Draft Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022, which defines the Agency's direction for the next five years, and the Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, which outlines the implementation focus for 2018-2019.

- The PSC welcomed the documents introduced by the Director-General, and recognised the inclusive process of their development which helped ensure balance of views and requirements of all Members.
- The PSC emphasised the importance of the agility of the Agency so that its programmatic activities can adapt to the rapidly changing energy landscape. It also noted the need for a close collaboration with international organisations and other actors in the field to benefit from respective comparative advantages and to avoid duplication.
- The PSC welcomed the plans to proactively utilise the expertise that exists within the membership. It also encouraged IRENA to use its convening power to facilitate common action and impact on the ground.
- The PSC highlighted the importance of the systematic evaluation of IRENA's programmatic outputs to ensure their continuous relevance and impact.
- The PSC stressed the importance of strategic partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to extend IRENA's impact in a more cost-effective manner, thereby ensuring sustainability of the effort. It encouraged the Agency to seek avenues for further cooperation and engagement with the private sector considering their indispensable role in the transformation of the global energy system.

- The PSC recognised the need to keep under review the role IRENA can play in the transformation of the global energy system, given its near universal membership, the sustainable development and climate imperatives, and the emerging need to address resilience and adaptation. In this context, the Agency's resource limitations were highlighted as well as the need to prioritise programmatic activities.

Annual Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017

The PSC discussed two programmatic activities based on an update by the Secretariat, and provided feedback and guidance for the way forward. These included discussions on renewable energy in end-use sectors and on the Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility.

- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on renewable energy in end-use sectors and stressed the importance of addressing both technology and policy aspects. It encouraged IRENA to undertake analyses of country-specific potentials for direct and indirect contributions of renewable energy to the end-use sectors. It was noted that greater policy alignment was required across sectors, as well as between renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency. Given that urban settings are playing a key role in the intersection of power and end-use, the PSC asked for further analysis on the subject.
- The PSC welcomed IRENA's work on the Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility to foster entrepreneurship in renewable energy, including with SMEs and business associations. The PSC highlighted the link between the Facility and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribution to energy access.
- Recognizing the cost-competitiveness of renewables and shift towards market-based policy instruments, the PSC emphasised the importance of enabling policy frameworks to mobilise private sector investments in renewable energy, including by mitigating investment risk. The PSC underlined the need for capacity building for governments, including for implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The PSC highlighted the need for close collaboration between the public and private sector to implement renewable energy projects at scale. In this respect, access to project finance was particularly noted, such as through the IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility.

Any other business

No issues were reported under this item.