

IRENA Pacific Leaders Meeting,
Abu Dhabi,
13 January 2012

ABU DHABI COMMUNIQUÉ ON ACCELERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY UPTAKE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

We, the Leaders and representatives of the Pacific island countries and territories, gathered on the eve of the second Assembly of IRENA in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 13 January 2012. We considered the work undertaken by IRENA in the region in 2011, the findings and recommendations of the IRENA workshop on Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment in Islands that took place in Sydney, 26-28 October 2011, and the proposed IRENA activities in the region as stipulated in the Work Programme and Budget for 2012.

We face significant economic and social challenges, including those arising from climate change, energy volatility price and supply, and energy insecurity stemming from the reliance on imported fossil fuels. We acknowledge the need to make rapid progress in the diversification of sources of energy by accelerating the use of domestic renewable energy sources as an essential element of a safer and more prosperous future. We also recognise the immense potential that rests in our abundant indigenous renewable energy sources, which is currently underutilised.

Realising this potential will require:

- Precise and detailed analysis of energy potentials in the region.
- Integration of high shares of renewable energy into island grids, and cost effective energy storage solutions.
- Strengthened human and technological capacity for the deployment, operation and maintenance of the renewable energy technologies, in a sustainable manner.
- An environment that supports increased investment, and active and sustained involvement of the private sector.
- Strengthened national and regional policy frameworks to ensure an environment that enables the transition to sustainable renewable energy systems.
- Recognition of the diverse circumstances within the region which require innovative solutions to address technology and financing gaps.

CONSIDERING THE ABOVE, WE HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING:

- i. We welcome the activities of IRENA in the Pacific region, as the key inter-governmental agency for renewable energy, and support its mandate to accelerate the global adoption of renewable energy by working jointly on establishing an enabling environment for renewable energy deployment in the Pacific region, considering the need to:
 - a. align the IRENA activities on bilateral basis dealing directly with national agencies;
 - b. ensure that IRENA's activities complement and build upon the work already undertaken in the region.
- ii. As a crucial first step to better understand the opportunities and challenges in our countries and the region, we will engage with IRENA to map the "Renewable Energy Readiness" of the Pacific Island countries and territories to ascertain the status of renewable energy opportunities and identify pathways to close gaps.
- iii. We will support IRENA in the implementation of its activities in the Pacific region, including in:
 - a. Creating a platform to provide easily accessible, up to date and accurate information on renewable energy technologies suitable for the conditions of the Pacific;
 - b. Involving utilities in assessing grid stability issues in order to better understand the constraints and identify solutions that can ensure utility system stability in the Pacific environment;
 - c. Fostering a sustainable renewable energy market development in the region through policy advice, technology cooperation, education and training and supporting innovative approaches to mobilising funding for renewables investment;
 - d. Undertaking capacity building initiatives, with the particular focus on strengthening public institutions;
 - e. Assessing renewable energy resource potentials and relevant technologies with the view to identifying those suitable for the Pacific environment;
 - f. Assessing the renewable energy, land use, and water resources nexus; and
 - g. Integrating IRENA activities into a coherent roadmap for the Pacific Islands.
- iv. We will extend full cooperation and support to IRENA in carrying forward its mandate of accelerating the use and adoption of renewable energy, and in assisting the Pacific island countries in realising their potential to transition to a renewables-based energy future.

In Abu Dhabi, 13 January 2012