

Draft Minutes of the REN21 General Assembly & 16th Steering Committee Meeting

Stellenbosch/South Africa, 7 October 2015

List of Participants

SC Members

First name	Last Name	Affiliation	SC membership category
Stefan	Gsänger	WWEA	Industry association
Rainer	Hinrichs-Rahlwes	EREF	Industry association
Heinz	Kopetz	WBA	Industry association
Ernesto	Macias	ARE	Industry association
Marietta	Sander	IGA	Industry association
Steve	Sawyer	GWEC	Industry association
Richard	Taylor	IHA	Industry association
Marcel	Alers	UNDP	International organisation
Reynold	Duncan	World Bank	International organisation
Mahama	Kappiah	ECREEE	International organisation
Pradeep	Monga	UNIDO	International organisation
Asami	Miketa	IRENA	International organisation
Cédric	Philibert	IEA	International organisation
Mark	Radka	UNEP	International organisation
David	Hales		Member at Large
Arthouros	Zervos		Member at large
Ali	Al Shafar	United Arab Emirates	National government
Andrew	Nissen	US Department of State	National government
Daniel	Noll	US Department of Energy	National government
Marisa	Olano	IDAE (Spain)	National government
Carlos Alberto	Ribeiro Reis	Brazil	National government
Tania	Rödiger-Vorwerk	Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation of Germany	National government
Martin	Schöpe	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany	National government
Irene	Giner-Reichl	GFSE	NGO
Tetsunari	Iida	ISEP	NGO
Tomas	Kåberger	JREF	NGO
Anna	Leidreiter	WFC	NGO
Emily	Rochon	Greenpeace International	NGO
Rafael	Senga	WWF	NGO

Ibrahim	Togola	Mali Folkecenter/CURES	NGO
Kevin	Nassiep	South African National Energy Development Institute	Science & Academia
Dave	Renné	ISES	Science & Academia

Observers

Doug	Arent	NREL	Science & Academia
Mike	Enskat	GIZ	National government
Jörn	Rauhut	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany	National government
Vera	Rodenhoff	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	National government
Philipp	Wittrock	GIZ	National government
Mika	Ohbayashi	JREF	NGO
Denise	Lundall	SANEDI	Science & Academia
Karen	Surridge-Talbot	SANEDI	Science & Academia

REN21 Secretariat

Rana	Adib
Martin	Hullin
Christine	Lins
Hannah	Murdock
Janet	Sawin
Laura	Williamson

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Opening and Welcome

Mr. Kevin Nassiep (SANEDI) opened the meeting, which took place 7 October in Stellenbosch/South Africa and back-to-back with the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) (held 4-7 October). Mr. Nassiep referred to a successful SAIREC, which attracted more than 3,600 registered participants from 82 countries and contributed to the global debate on renewables and raised the profile of renewable energy developments in the region and specifically in South Africa. The floor was then given to REN21 Chair Arthouros Zervos.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Previous SC Meeting

Steering Committee (SC) Chair Arthouros Zervos welcomed attendees, and facilitated a tour-de-table of the participants. The General Assembly adopted the agenda without any amendments as well as the minutes from the 2015 SC Meeting.

2. Update on Work Plan 2015 Execution and Approval of Audited Accounts 2014

- **Work plan 2015 execution**

REN21 Executive Secretary Christine Lins took the General Assembly through the work plan 2015 execution. The execution of the work plan is on track apart from the production of a new Global Futures Report which was not started due to budgetary limitations.

Between January and early October 2015, two REN21 reports were issued: the *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* (GSR) and the *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*. REN21 also facilitated the development of the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC).

The *Renewables 2015 Global Status Report* was launched 18 June, 2015 in Vienna as part of the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF). The 18 June launch was not a single event but rather a suite of different activities carried out within the Vienna Energy Forum. Six events were held 18-20 June: an exclusive, sneak preview at the German Mission to the UN, an international webinar, two high-level panel discussions within the VEF, a REN21 side event as well as the hosting of a VEF opening session. REN21 also had an information booth at the VEF where its publications were distributed.

Additional regional presentations were also given on the GSR notably at the Asia Clean Energy Forum, Manila/Philippines, at the Embassy of Austria Beijing/China, as part of the Eco Forum Global Guiyang/China, during the First Conference on Energy for Development in the CPLP Lisbon/Portugal and in Tokyo/Japan with the Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF) and Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP). The press release was distributed in 9 languages, resulting in media cover in over 910 on-line stories across 47 countries in 17 different languages. Following the launch, six thematic webinars were held in cooperation with the Clean Energy Solutions Centre.

The *Key Findings* was translated in various language versions. The 2015 edition appeared in English, French, Spanish, Persian, and Chinese.

The accompanying revamped Renewables Interactive Map was launched alongside the 2015 GSR. As part of the ongoing data collaborations of REN21 the Renewables Interactive map can now also be accessed from IRENA's REsource portal. The new Map allows REN21's data to be incorporated into other information portals. It also allows for building data linkages with other renewable energy organisations as well as those outside of the traditional renewable energy sphere, e.g. those working on energy access, climate, development etc.

The REN21 website was also revamped, providing users with an updated and clean interface and displaying REN21 products clustered by its six product lines.

From 4-7 October over 3,600 participants from 82 countries participated at SAIREC, held in Cape Town, South Africa. High-level segments, interactive sessions and side events made up the three day event during which the REN21/UNIDO *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report* was launched. A side event was held to demonstrate the role of the regional centers and the importance of establishing a robust data baseline. Each delegate received a copy of the report in his/her delegate's bag. IRENA's *REMap 2030 for Africa* and the IEA's *Renewable Energy Medium-Term Market Report* were also highlighted as part of SAIREC. These events were complemented by an exhibition space including a REN21 networking area as well as an eco-mobility exhibit and 25 site visits. Funding for SAIREC was provided by BMZ, the Austrian Development Agency provided travel support for conference speakers from developing countries.

A second regional report, *UN ECE Renewable Energy Status Report*, is being developed and is slated for release December 2015. Work on a third regional report on East Africa was delayed but has begun. It will be launched first half of 2016.

Outreach efforts over the course of 2015 and up to the time of the SC meeting included more than 15 high-level events, engaging with a wide variety of participants on the status of renewables and the role of policy in ensuring renewable uptake. Over 30 presentations were given highlighting key findings of different REN21 reports. Outreach in the form of articles and Opinion editorial continues to be limited due to staffing constraints.

REN21 continued to extend its cooperation with other organisations, notably forming partnerships with RIAB (Renewables Industry Advisory Board of the IEA) as well as with the Covenant of Mayors. REN21 has been granted observer status by the UNFCCC. REN21 also pursued its close cooperation with IRENA, IEA and SE4All.

Over the course of 2015, the Secretariat broadened REN21's funding base raising nearly 430,000 € of contributions coming mainly from ECREEE, UNIDO, UNEP and OFID.

Members noted with appreciation the work of the Secretariat, particularly the success of SAIREC. Both UNEP and NREL stressed the value of REN21 beyond an information resource, highlighting the value of an international renewables network organisation and citing areas of on-going cooperation. The German government noted with appreciation the evolution and continuing development of the GSR as well as the Secretariat's work at diversifying its financial base. It requested that a new Global Futures Report, drawing on the network, be produced. UNIDO stated its satisfaction with on-going cooperation with REN21 and reiterated its intention to continue working with REN21 on the preparation of further regional reports and to cooperate with REN21 at its next Renewables Academy to bring member of the regional centers to participate in network building activities. In response to limited time and resources to produce outreach material, GEWC suggested that members share articles with the REN21 Secretariat for use in outreach activities.

- **Audited accounts 2014**

The 2014 accounts were presented. 2014 marks the first full financial year of REN21 as a legal entity meaning that all expenses and revenues are noted. The Secretariat called attention to the difference between 2013 and 2014 budget levels, noting that the 2013 accounts included only half a year of operation costs as the first half of 2013 was still covered by GIZ.

The audited accounts were approved unanimously by the General Assembly. The suggestion to establish an audit committee was tabled.

3. Discussion of REN21 Strategy & Workplan 2016-2018 incl. next IREC host

The Secretariat gave an overview of REN21 strategy and workplan 2016-2018.

Proposed activities for the 2016-2018 strategy are structured around carrying out the following activities.

- Assessing and developing REN21's strengths
- Ensuring continuity
- Extending REN21's collaboration
- Increasing media work/presence
- Enlarging the REN21 network by e.g. corporate members, utilities, consumer associations, local level representatives, etc.

For the period 2016-2018, the following goals, objectives and deliverables were proposed. They build on the achievements of the previous three years (2013-2016) and take into account the evolution of renewables and corresponding institutional set-up.

Goal 1: Expand the REN21 network and strengthen collaboration with key actors

Over the next three years, REN21 will strengthen the multi-stakeholder character of the REN21 network by including complementary stakeholder groups (e.g. utilities, consumer organisations, corporations, city representatives etc.) as well as build up its collaboration with key network partners such as IEA, IRENA, SE4All, UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank, etc.

REN21 will continue to sharpen its key assets – especially the multi-stakeholder network, the GSR, the preparatory work for the IRECs and the REN21 Renewables Academy – to ensure that these are given a long-term existence in an increasingly competitive environment and making the best use possible of the additional value created.

Goal 2: Leverage REN21's multi-stakeholder network base to provide up-to-date unbiased information on renewable energy worldwide

Using its multi-stakeholder base and working in collaboration with other key actors such as the IEA, IRENA and SE4All, REN21 will continue to collect high-quality information on renewable energy which reflects diverse viewpoints from both private and public sector actors. Collectively this information raises awareness of and enables a global transition to renewable energy, helping to mitigate climate change, secure energy, create business opportunities, secure energy access and alleviate poverty.

Goal 3: Initiate focused debates on key-issues enabling transition to renewable energy

Create platforms for exchange of information views on a renewable energy transition worldwide in order to initiate change

• Discussion and Feedback

The General Assembly's support for the three-year work programme was positive. The German government clearly indicated it that it remains fully committed to REN21 and will continue to financially contribute to the network. Participants reiterated that REN21 fills an important role given its independence from any particular stakeholder group and thus is seen as a trusted source of information. It was noted that it is vital that this independence be maintained. Collecting good data

continues to be a challenge, especially in developing countries and primarily because REN21 works in areas (distributed renewables, at the regional level, interface between RE and EE) where data is dispersed or currently not available.

The GSR and the IRECs were noted as the jewels in the REN21 “crown” and a call was made to strengthen these activities. Discussion was held about formalising the IREC application process. A suggestion was made that the hosting government should be asked to develop a position paper to outline its aspirations for the IREC and identify mechanisms to influence decision making in the region so as to ensure continuation once the IREC is over. The Secretariat noted that too formal a process can hinder an open discussion with interested governments. There has been some preliminary interest in hosting IREC 2107 expressed by several institutions in Latin and South America (Chile, Mexico, Brazil) but so far no concrete application has reached the Secretariat. It was suggested that OLADE and ECLAC be brought into the discussion process.

The General Assembly unanimously agreed to hold the IREC 2017 in Latin America. A suggestion to reserve a seat on the Steering Committee (government stakeholder group) for the upcoming IREC host also received unanimous support. The SC also agreed to hold IRECs on a biennial basis and suggested to define hosts longer in advance in order to allow for longer-term planning, e.g. already starting the search for the IREC 2019 host now in order to be able to announce the host country in 2017.

In addition to the IRECs events such as the Renewables Academy provide a platform for all stakeholders to participate and exchange. It was acknowledged that with the evolving landscape, SE4All and the new SDGs that it will be important to see how REN21 can best contribute. REN21’s role as an NGO that looks at both renewable energy and associated energy efficiency can make it a valuable contributor to SE4All.

A call was made to increase outreach activities to SMEs and civil society as part of REN21’s data collection process particularly at the regional report level. REN21’s mandate to use both formal and informal data makes it well placed to do this. Engaging with consumers and sub-national governments (city, states) was also noted as important.

A question was raised regarding the development of the 100% RE campaign and REN21’s position. REN21 is not a member of this campaign but does support it. Producing a Global Future Report on the macro-economic impact of 100% RE was noted as being a good way of contributing to the campaign. WWF expressed its willingness to help REN21 with this work.

Noting the successful 2014 Renewables Academy, members provided suggestions for the 2016 Academy including the inclusion of regional banks, UNIDO RE and EE centres, discussion about renewables, resilience and job creation in developing countries, access to energy.

4. Election of REN21 Steering Committee 2016-2018

The proposed quota for the composition of the REN21 Steering Committee for 2016-2018 was presented and unanimously adopted by the General Assembly as detailed below:

SC Categories	Proposed quotas
National governments	10
International organisations	10
Industry associations	10
NGOs	10
Science & Academia	5
Members at large	5
Total	50

All members of REN21 are eligible for a seat on the Steering Committee. Before elections took place, the following was stated:

- Government: USA and South Africa registered their interest in becoming members and serving on the Steering Committee
- Science & Academia: NREL presented its candidature to become member in the Science & Academia category as well as to serve on the Steering Committee

The General Assembly welcomed the US and South African governments as well as NREL as new members of REN21.

According to election procedures details in the REN21 statutes and by-laws, nominees from each category were selected by members from the respective categories meeting in caucus. The caucuses met during lunch and presented a set of nominations of the category caucus.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the presented slate for REN21 Steering Committee 2016 – 2018:

Name		Category	Quota for SC
1	Brazil	National Government	10 spots available
2	Germany	National Government	
3	India	National Government	
4	Norway	National Government	
5	Spain	National Government	
6	South Africa	National Government	
7	United Arab Emirates	National Government	
8	United States of America	National Government	
9	Denmark	National Government	
10	IREC 2017 host		
Name		Category	Quota for SC
1	ADB – Asian Development Bank	International Organisations	10 spots available
2	European Commission	International Organisations	
3	GEF – Global Environmental Facility	International Organisations	
4	IEA – International Energy Agency	International Organisations	
5	IRENA – International Renewable Energy Agency	International Organisations	
6	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme	International Organisations	
7	UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme	International Organisations	
8	UNIDO – United National Industry Development Organisation	International Organisations	

9	The World Bank	International Organisations		
10	ECREEE – ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	International Organisations		
Name			Category	Quota for SC
1	ACORE – American Council on Renewable Energy	Industry Associations	10 spots available	
2	ARE – Alliance for Rural Electrification	Industry Associations		
3	Clean Energy Council (Australia)	Industry Associations		
4	CREIA – Chinese Renewable Energy Industry Association	Industry Associations		
5	EREF – European Renewable Energy Federation	Industry Associations		
6	GWEC – Global Wind Energy Council	Industry Associations		
7	IGA – International Geothermal Association	Industry Associations		
8	IHA – International Hydropower Association	Industry Associations		
9	WBA – World Bioenergy Association	Industry Associations		
10	WWEA – World Wind Energy Association	Industry Associations		
Name			Category	Quota for SC
1	Mali Folkecenter / Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES)	NGOs	10 spots available	
2	GFSE – Global Forum for Sustainable Energy	NGOs		
3	Greenpeace	NGOs		
4	ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability	NGOs		
5	ISEP – Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)	NGOs		
6	JREF – Japan Renewable Energy Foundation	NGOs		
7	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)	NGOs		

8	WCRE – World Council for Renewable Energy	NGOs	
9	WFC - World Future Council	NGOs	
10	WWF	NGOs	
Name			Quota for SC
1	Fundacion Bariloche (Argentina)	Science & Academia	5 spots available
2	IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	Science & Academia	
3	ISES – International Solar Energy Society	Science & Academia	
4	SANEDI – South African Energy Development Institute	Science & Academia	
5	NREL - National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Science & Academia	
Name			Quota for SC
1	Mickael Eckhart	Members at Large	5 spots available
2	Mohamed El-Ashry	Members at Large	
3	David Hales	Members at Large	
4	Kirsty Hamilton	Members at Large	
5	Peter Rae	Members at Large	

5. Election of REN21 Chair

One nomination was received for the REN21 chair: Arthouros Zervos. Mr. Zervos was re-elected unanimously as Chair of REN21.

6. Election of REN21 Bureau

The following individuals presented themselves for nomination to the Bureau. Thirty-four ballots were received for seven positions and distributed as follows:

	Candidate for Bureau	Affiliation	# of votes
1	Germany	Germany	33
2	Kevin Nassiep	SANEDI	32
3	Irene Giner-Reichl	GFSE	28
4	Steve Sawyer	GWEC	26
5	Ernesto Macias-Galan	ARE	26
6	Pradeep Monga	UNIDO	26
7	Adnan Z. Amin	IRENA	24
8	Ibrahim Togola	CURES/Mali Folkecenter	22

The 2016-2017 REN21 Bureau is composed of: Germany, Kevin Nassiep, Irene Giner-Reichl, Steve Sawyer, Ernesto Macias-Galan, Pradeep Monga, Adnan Z. Amin.

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

7. Endorsement of REN21 Strategy & Workplan 2016-2018

Endorsement of the 2016-2018 REN21 Strategy and Workplan was the first order of business for the new Steering Committee. The strategy and workplan was passed unanimously with the discussed changes. Germany reiterated its final support to REN21. UNEP renewed its commitment to support REN21 with office space and IT support. This in-kind support will carry over to UNEP's new Paris offices.

The Secretariat will prepare a final copy of the Strategy and Workplan and will distribute it together with the meeting minutes.

8. Miscellaneous

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held autumn 2016, in Bonn, back-to-back with REN21 Renewables Academy.

Close of Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:45, thanking SC members for their presence and reminded them to participate in a wine-tasting session.