Hosting the 2024 International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC): Selection guidelines and process

History

Initiated at the renewables2004 conference in Bonn, the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) is a high-level political conference series dedicated to renewable energy policy worldwide. Focusing exclusively on the renewable energy sector, the IREC is hosted by a government biennially and convened by REN21.

Past IREC hosts include:
• South Korea (2019)
• Mexico (2017)
• South Africa (2015)
• Abu Dhabi (2013)
• India (2010)
• United States (2008)
• China (2005)
• Germany (2004)

What the IREC Aims to Achieve

The IREC is a common multi-stakeholder platform for government, private sector and civil society leaders to jointly address the goal of advancing renewable energy. It is international in scope and thus is expected to be wide reaching in terms of the content and participation.

Purpose of the event

The IREC brings together an audience who embraces collectively the overarching principle that renewables play a central role for a sustainable, clean and healthy environment. The IREC offers participants a unique opportunity to dialogue on the advancement of renewable energy and positions the discussion on the triad of people, planet and profit. Discussions are centred on cross-cutting themes of the power, transport, heating and cooling end-use sectors.

Selection Criteria

Legal

- The "host" is defined as a national government or a legal entity that represents the national government
- The host country is a member of REN21[1]

Finance

- The host will secure financial underwriting to host the IREC, including a minimum of €250,000 for REN21 Secretariat support[2]

---

[1] Information about how to become a REN21 member can be found here: https://www.ren21.net/your-network/the-ren21-members/

[2] Countries are not required to provide these funds themselves but should be able to mobilise funds (from donors or others) to cover this cost.

Operations and outreach
- Ability/willingness of the host to exercise regional leadership
- Willingness/capability of the host to attract political leaders from the region and globally to the conference
- Willingness/capability to work with and attract civil society organisations
- Commitment to involve regional and international media

Infrastructure
- Conference venue has the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a 1,500-2,000-person conference;
- The venue is in the vicinity of a central airport hub
- The host and /or host country can assist with a simplified visa process to support inclusive participation, i.e. international attendance

Commitments
- The host has taken concrete action to promote a renewable energy agenda at the national level
- The host ensures national level political support for hosting the IREC
- The host will secure the participation of all sectors: government, industry, civil society, academia, etc., and is diverse, e.g. industrialised and developing countries, women and men, youth leaders.

Other criteria
- A national election cycle is not anticipated during the two-year IREC planning process
- The proposed IREC is not on the same continent as the immediately preceding IREC (see list above)

Application Process

The application process has **three steps**:

1) Respond to Call for Proposals (CfP)
Interested host countries are invited to submit a proposal in response to the CfP posted on the REN21 website.

Called a *conference bid document*, this document should be no more than 10 pages in length and should respond to the criteria outlined above. It is important that the *conference bid document* also outline ideas for the main themes programme, highlight the role of the host

in advancing renewable energy and give a proposed outline for overall organisation between the host and REN21 (refer to IREC Host Guidelines for division of responsibilities).

2) Evaluation of Proposal
All *conference bid documents* will be assessed against the criteria, ranked and evaluated by the Secretariat and REN21 Bureau. The top three, short-listed applicants will be invited to present their proposal. Short-listed candidates will be informed via email.

3) Presentation of Proposal
Short-listed applicants will be invited to "pitch"[3] their proposal (virtually) at a REN21 Steering Committee meeting. Committee members will be invited to ask questions. Depending on the Committee's assessment a scoping call or mission may be carried out before the final decision is made.

Final Decision
The final decision for selection of the IREC host is based on the following distribution:
- How well the conference bid document meets the defined criteria   50%
- Quality and clarity of conference bid document   25%
- Presentation and responses   25%

The successful applicant will be notified by email.

Timeline
1. **30 September 2022:** Deadline for proposals
2. **4 November 2022**: Short-listed candidates informed
3. **Mid-end Nov 2022:** Proposal "pitch" at REN21 Steering Committee meeting

---

[3] "Pitch" refers to presenting the concept and content of the proposal document.