

Declaration of the Abu Dhabi International Renewable Energy Conference

17 January 2013

1. As the Ministers and Government Representatives participating in the Abu Dhabi International Renewable Energy Conference 2013 (ADIREC), with the active engagement and support of business and civil society leaders, we acknowledge the many benefits provided by renewable energy and encourage its growing prominence in our energy portfolios, recognizing in particular its ability to enhance energy security and sustainable development; enable clean energy access and alleviate poverty, especially for communities and individuals with limited access to modern energy services; create economic and job opportunities; improve air and water quality; and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Held this year as part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the world's largest annual sustainable energy event, ADIREC is the fifth IREC, building upon successful outcomes in Delhi in 2010 (DIREC), Washington in 2008 (WIREC), Beijing in 2005, and Bonn in 2004.
2. In the past five years, despite global economic challenges, the renewable energy sector has continued its robust growth across both developing and developed countries, for instance, accounting for almost half of annual electric capacity additions in recent years. Moreover, global investments in renewables have grown by a factor of five to about US \$250 billion annually since the Bonn IREC, driving rapid cost reductions for many renewable energy technologies, in particular for solar power, with simultaneous improvements in policy, resource assessment, and project expertise. Renewable energy technologies will accordingly continue to become more competitive in the future.
3. The growth in renewable energy has been largely driven by enabling policy frameworks. By early 2013, more than 120 countries, more than half of these being developing countries, had some type of target and/or promotional policy related to renewable energy, and 159 countries and the European Union had signed or ratified the statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency, declaring their support for the rapid and sustainable deployment of renewable energy.
4. At the same time, however, renewable energy's share in the world's primary energy supply remains limited and its adoption uneven. The world has tapped only a small amount of the vast supply of renewable energy resources. We support undertaking increased efforts to accelerate the upward trend of renewable energy deployment, further technology development, capacity-building, information exchange, and supportive policy

and regulatory frameworks, with a view to mobilizing large-scale private investment. We also support the better integration of environmental and social externalities in energy prices and planning, leveling the playing field among energy sources.

5. Deploying renewable energy to enable universal access to modern energy services remains a central priority. Depending on the energy source in question (electricity for lighting, modern cooking fuel, etc.), anywhere between 1.4 billion and 2.7 billion people lack modern energy services. Renewable energy can meet this challenge in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable manner that underpins many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We welcome the focus that the Rio+20 Earth Summit brought to sustainable energy, and believe that this focus should be reflected in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under development during 2013.
6. We similarly welcome the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and will continue to pursue its combined goals of providing access to modern energy services for all, doubling the share of renewable energy, and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.
7. We support the unanimous declaration by the UN General Assembly designating 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. We underscore the importance of energy to sustainable development and the need for increased use of renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources.
8. We moreover warmly welcome the formal establishment and expansion of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), headquartered in Abu Dhabi. IRENA will be a major force in promoting renewable energy technologies worldwide. We call on governments to support IRENA's growth, to draw on its expertise, and to enhance its effectiveness by encouraging other national and international bodies to work together with it.
9. We recognize that consistent and sustained government policies can and do have a favorable impact on technology development, greatly enabling the virtuous cycle of cost reductions through economies of scale leading to greater market expansion. We therefore welcome the initiative of IRENA and the International Energy Agency to catalogue the supportive frameworks, procurement policies, and affordable long-term finance facilities that are driving the increased uptake of renewable energy globally. We further welcome the collaboration between IRENA and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) on collection of streamlined renewable energy data globally, and we encourage further policy development and best practice sharing. The integration and mainstreaming of renewable energy into national sustainable development strategies for

poverty reduction, agriculture, education, health and family welfare will additionally provide opportunities for scaling-up.

10. We further recognize that public funds are instrumental in supporting renewable energy, as well as leveraging and incentivizing large-scale private investment in renewable energy through, for example, guarantees, risk-sharing, buying-down interest, etc. In addition to bilateral support and multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank Group, funding for climate change mitigation, inter alia through the Green Climate Fund and the Financial Mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), can and should play a major role in advancing renewable energy.
11. We urge cooperative international action to strengthen human and institutional capacities in developing countries, stressing the importance of IRENA as the leading global intergovernmental platform for international cooperation and noting the role of such universities as Masdar Institute, which are designed to foster world-class technical talent in developing countries. Long-term strategies for capacity building are required for policy analysis and technology assessment, supporting development of technologies and related skills in sourcing, marketing, installing, operating, maintaining, and serving renewable energy equipment and in the sharing of best practices.
12. As a focus of international cooperation, we reaffirm the importance of research, development and deployment (RD&D) investments, diffusion of technology, and data exchange, in order to drive more cost-effective and advanced energy technologies.
13. We also note the critical role of accurate resource assessment in reducing renewable energy costs and deployment risks, and we encourage countries, the private sector, and research institutions to participate in the global renewable energy atlas, IRENA's public tool that emerged under the Clean Energy Ministerial.
14. ADIREC is the first International Renewable Energy Conference in the Middle East. We welcome the significant investments that have been made in this region to advance renewable energy, including through large-scale infrastructure and a growing RD&D capability, and we support future substantial investments in them. We also welcome the confluence of clean energy and water events at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week as a signal of the central role that renewable energy is now playing in the region, and a recognition of the growing importance of the water-energy nexus both regionally and globally. We recognize that water and energy are mutually dependent resources, and that sustainable management of one requires consideration of the other. We urge policymakers and resource managers to

take comprehensive and interdisciplinary approaches to the dual management of water and energy and encourage international cooperation in this regard, especially in relation to renewable energy.

15. We note with appreciation the role of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a global hub for clean energy cooperation, convening stakeholders and motivating deployment through both institutional (IRENA; the regional headquarters of the Global Green Growth Institute; Masdar Institute, the Middle East's first clean energy university and premier research center; and a growing portfolio of renewable energy development assistance projects, including a \$350 million facility of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development with IRENA, among others) and dialogue-focused (Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Dubai Global Energy Forum, the Sustainable Energy for All launch, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, among others) platforms. We especially welcome and commend the annual Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week as a key mechanism to maintain global and regional momentum and public-private partnerships for renewable energy deployment.
16. We express our sincere and deep appreciation and thanks to the people and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for successfully organizing this conference and for their hospitality and generosity.