

SPIREC Declaration

23 February 2023

Preamble:

1. Ministers and Government Representatives, representatives from the private sector and civil society including NGOs, academia, business and industry as well as international organisations from 110 countries gathered in Spain, Madrid, 20-23 February 2023 for the Spanish International Renewable Energy Conference (SPIREC).¹
2. Participants at SPIREC recognised the ongoing validity of many of the principles enunciated in earlier IREC Declarations, most notably the importance of a global, just, equitable, distributed and inclusive energy transition; the catalytic role of sustainable energy to reach all SDGs; the crucial role of citizens and communities; the transformative opportunity of advancing gender equality through energy efficiency and renewable energy; need to stimulate innovation and frame markets with a view of generating the desired sustainability outcomes. Key conclusions from SPIREC panels and discussions are contained in the Conference Report.
3. Based on the ever more undoubtable scientific evidence of the progression of climate change, SPIREC participants were united by a sense of urgency to speed up the delivery of renewables and by the need to ensure secure, stable and affordable energy supply globally.
4. Given climate related catastrophes occurring globally and the need to ensure secure, stable and affordable energy supply globally. SPIREC participation united with a sense of urgency to position renewable energy as the solution to accelerate the shift to renewables.
5. SPIREC participants agreed that shifting from an incremental uptake of renewables to a transformational change and acceleration is crucial. Moreover, considering the increasing need for energy security exacerbated with the Russian cut of oil and gas exports, participants pointed out that renewable energy is now an even higher and urgent need.
6. SPIREC participants acknowledged that the current polycrisis is highly disruptive; at the same time, they saw that it creates opportunities for change. The downsides of fossil fuel-based economies have become clearer. The key role of renewable energy as economic driver and driver for energy security is now increasingly recognised by a broader diversity of players, which creates a momentum for building shared answers in a more integrated and effective way.

¹ SPIREC, the 9th meeting in the series of the International Renewable Energy Conferences (IRECs), builds upon successful outcomes of KIREC 2019 (Seoul/Korea), MEXIREC 2017 (Mexico City/Mexico), SAIREC 2015 (Cape Town/South Africa), ADIREC 2013 (Abu Dhabi/UAE), DIREC 2010 (Delhi/India), WIREC 2008 (Washington DC/US), BIREC 2005 (Beijing/China) and renewables 2004 (Bonn/Germany).

7. SPIREC participants acknowledged that shifting to a renewables-based energy system must build on energy saving, energy efficiency, renewable energy supply, infrastructure (including storage) and digitalisation.
8. In addition, SPIREC participants underlined the necessity of increasing the use of renewables in industry, buildings and transport, paired with a parallel reduction in the use of fossil fuel energy, and the evolution of “business as usual”.
9. SPIREC participants also acknowledged that any change must build on an integrated approach putting people into the centre and securing public support for the acceleration of the transformation.
10. SPIREC participants recognised that renewable energy has the potential to build value chains, stimulate local economic development and create jobs. The transition requires massively scaling-up renewables, industrial development, building up manufacturing and the skilling of people (in manufacturing, deployment, finance etc) to ensure that we collectively move beyond “business as usual”. In terms of investment, existing patterns and industry sectors need to be adapted, building stock needs to be modernised.
11. SPIREC participants signalled the importance of the implication of the local communities to decisively advance towards a 100% renewable future. Creation of local jobs along with other positive impacts for the local communities are crucial for an effective renewable energy implementation.
12. However, SPIREC participant raised their concerns that the necessary efforts to accelerate the shift to renewable energy are currently insufficient and need to be reinforced by targeted and increased investments. In particular, they highlighted that the response to short term and geopolitical concerns should be aligned with the opportunities that renewable energy for development can bring for all.
13. SPIREC participants highlighted the need to build a new and inclusive energy order around renewables: securing energy supply and the supply of materials and technology; developing infrastructure; and strengthening global, regional and local supply chains, building on just and inclusive governance structures, social and gender equity from the outset.

Political Commitment

1. SPIREC participants are committed to broadening the conversations, decisions, policies and strategies on advancing sustainable energy beyond the usual stakeholder groups, to break down silos, foster innovation, and create an enabling environment for structural transformation to happen.
2. SPIREC participants are committed to working towards ensuring broad societal support for renewable energy through knowledge, dialogue, communication, and developing the supporting policy frameworks.
3. SPIREC participants commit to jointly strengthen narratives around the value of renewables to society so as to firmly position renewables in the public debate.

4. The COVID 19 pandemic and the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have resulted in a huge disruption in the energy markets. All the participants and the host country, SPAIN commit themselves to strengthening efforts to ensure that energy security is based not only on renewable but also indigenous resources to accelerate the energy transition.

Outcomes

1. To create a continuous drum beat for renewables, SPIREC participants agreed to build on the momentum created by the converging occasions of SPIREC, the SDG7 review, the COP28 and AUSIREC 2024. SPIREC participants proposed to make 2023 the *Year of Renewables: From SPIREC to AUSIREC* endeavouring to accelerate the energy transition, increase renewable generate capacity, with the objective to inspire, mobilise, and create societal support for the energy transition.
2. Various groupings of SPIREC participants agreed to move forward on developing continuous nexus dialogues to bring together stakeholders from different sectors and encourage the integration of sectoral policies and strategies.
3. UNDP, in collaboration with the REN21 multistakeholder community, agreed to develop a *Renewable Energy for Development Academy* to shape the narrative of renewable energy as an enabler for sustainable development. The objective is to support developing countries with capacity building and trainings that showcase multi-sectoral approaches for advancing energy in productive use/economic development, thus demonstrating the fundamental business case of renewable energy for all countries.
 - Decisionmakers from sustainable mobility and renewable energy sectors discussed convening a continuous dialogue on the renewables transport nexus.
 - Decisionmakers from energy efficiency and renewable energy discussed about how to build up and convene a continuous dialogue to strategically link efficiency and renewable energy, making it a priority to strengthen developing country multi-stakeholder voices.
4. In this context, scaling up communication around renewables is critical. SPIREC participants agreed to explore developing an integrated narrative to raise the overall profile of the value of renewable energy in having a secure energy supply, robust economies and societies. Energy for development, or energy for productive use concepts can be a useful framework for joint engagement.
5. The Government of Spain (host of SPIREC 2023) and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Government of South Australia and the Clean Energy Council (hosts of AUSIREC 2024), committed to work together with the REN21 multi-stakeholder community to strengthen the IREC process.
6. Participants expressed special thanks to the Government of Spain and REN21 for the excellent preparation and execution of the Conference and the warm hospitality extended by the Spanish authorities to all participants.