

IRENA Innovation Week 2020

Opening Session

Monday, 5 October 2020 • 10.00 – 12.00 CEST

Concept Note

Background

Building on the IRENA Innovation Weeks in 2016 and 2018, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is hosting a third IRENA Innovation Week in 2020. This time it will be a virtual gathering of leading policy makers, innovators, developers and investors from across IRENA's diverse global membership, convened to explore how systemic, innovative, renewable solutions can support the deep decarbonisation of industry and transport sectors.

Effectively tackling climate change will require the complete decarbonisation of all sectors of the economy by the second half of this century. That will be very challenging. And particularly so in some key industry and transport sectors where viable options are currently limited. Renewables, supplemented with other options, can play a pivotal role in these sectors. However, their potential to date has often been underestimated or undervalued by both governments and industry.

IRENA Innovation Week 2020 is intended to both inspire and inform decision makers by showcasing emerging renewables-based solutions from around the world and by exploring the actions needed to fully unlock the potential of renewables in the end-use sectors.

With renewables now the most cost-effective option for new power generation in much of the world, the significantly increased use of renewable-electricity in the end-use sectors of transport, industry and buildings, is a viable and attractive option. IRENA's analysis indicates that electricity will need to provide over 40% of final energy demand in end-use sectors by 2050. Biomass, green hydrogen and synthetic-renewable-fuels will also play an important role in decarbonising key industrial sectors such as the petrochemicals, iron & steel production, as well in transport and as a potential replacement for natural gas use. IRENA's scenario shows that a five-fold increase of biofuels would be needed by 2050 and over a hundred-fold increase in hydrogen production.

Supported by insights from IRENA's analysis and work on the ground, informed by the experience of recent projects and drawing on the expertise of a diverse range of speakers and attendees, IRENA Innovation Week 2020 will explore the challenges and the emerging innovations in technology, business models and system operation that can support the decarbonisation of the end-use sectors.

Objective of the opening session

The high-level opening session will introduce the theme of the **IRENA Innovation Week 2020 'Renewable solutions for transport & industry'** by outlining its importance in the context of a global clean energy transformation. High level speakers across governments and industry will discuss what solutions are becoming available, what steps have been taken to enable the deep decarbonisation of industry and transport, particularly by leveraging the power of renewables, and what technological, policy/regulatory and economic changes can enable further progress. The session will be a starting point for 4 days of in-depth technical discussions amongst stakeholders on the promising solutions emerging as well as the current challenges and critical gaps in capabilities.

The goal of this opening session is to provide the strategic context for the later discussions as well as for attendees to acquire a better overview of the topic including a deeper understanding of what is happening, what is possible and what needs to be explored further.

Format of the opening session

The format of the session aims to be dynamic and interactive. The focus is on sharing high level perspectives on challenges, opportunities and plans/roadmaps/etc. by high level government and private sector representatives:

High-Level Opening Session

Monday, 5 October 2020

Welcome

09:30 – 09:40 | **Welcome**
 Francesco La Camera, Director General, IRENA

Fireside Chat on regional perspectives

09:40 – 10:10 | **Moderator: Frédéric Simon**, Editor – Energy & Environment, Euractiv

- H.E. Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy
- H.E. Dr. Amani Abou Zeid, Energy Commissioner, African Union

10:10 – 10:15 | Digital Break

Private sector perspective

10:10 – 10:25 | **Moderator: Frédéric Simon**, Editor – Energy & Environment, Euractiv

- Børge Brende, President, World Economic Forum

Ministerial perspective on strengthening energy & climate policy for end-use sectors

10:25 – 10:45 | **Moderator: Frédéric Simon**, Editor – Energy & Environment, Euractiv

- H.E. Kwasi Kwarteng, Minister of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK
- H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi, Minister of Climate and Environment, UAE

10:45 – 10:50 | Digital Break

Ministerial perspectives on the way ahead

10:50 – 11:15 | **Moderator: Frédéric Simon**, Editor – Energy & Environment, Euractiv

- H.E. Arifin Tasrif, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia
- H.E. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, Canada [TBC]
- H.E. Andreas Feicht, State Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

Closing remarks

11:10 – 11:30 | Francesco La Camera, Director General, IRENA