

21st IRENA Council Meeting
25-26 May 2021

INDIA STATEMENT

by
Ambassador Pavan Kapoor

Thank you Chair.

I would like to start by extending my congratulations to Japan and Zimbabwe for their selection as Chair and Vice Chair of the 21st Council meeting.

2. I would also like to commend the Director-General, Francesco La Camera and staff of IRENA for their regular contributions these last months, despite the ongoing pandemic. We appreciate the presence and the role of the DG at important meetings including the MENA Dialogue held last month, along with US SPEC John Kerry. There is no doubt that the work done by IRENA at the policy and implementation level has greatly supported our collective fight against climate change. In addition, IRENA has also played a significant role in bringing renewables into the mainstream.

3. Chair, we followed the discussions held at the Programme and Strategy Committee as well as the Administration and the Finance Committee last week and welcome the Chair's summary of those meetings received over the last couple of days. We welcome the proposed work on the Medium-term Strategy 2023-2027 and the envisaged establishment of the MTS Working Team. On the issue of the Staff Tenure Policy, while we understand the need for continuing discussions, we would like to point out that whatever final decision is arrived at for the Professional Staff, should also ensure that the turnover of such Staff happens in a staggered manner, rather than *en masse*. This would be critical for the proper functioning of the Agency.

4. Chair, the impact of the COVID pandemic on the economy and society has not deterred India from its climate commitments. India's sustainability goals are targeted at minimizing the climate impact, while giving our people and the economy, enough space to develop. The Government of India is working to launch a National Hydrogen Energy Mission (NHEM) in 2021-22 for generating green hydrogen. Major activities envisaged under this Mission include, creating volumes and infrastructure; demonstrations in niche applications (including for transport, industry); and putting in place a robust framework for standards and regulations for hydrogen technologies.

5. I am also pleased to inform you that India has been selected as a Global Champion under the theme of Energy Transition for the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Energy scheduled in September 2021, to which DG Camera and his other colleagues referred to earlier today.

6. Chair, by its very nature, climate change is a common threat, and can only be addressed through our collective efforts. In this context, India is always willing to play its part as a responsible member of the International community. Last month, Prime Minister Modi attended the Leaders Summit on Climate Change hosted by US President Biden, where he summarized India's efforts as follows, and I quote:

“Our ambitious renewable energy target of 450 GW by 2030 shows our commitment. Despite our development challenges, we have taken many bold steps on clean energy, energy efficiency, deforestation, and biodiversity. That is why we are among the few countries whose NDCs are 2 degree Celsius compatible.” Unquote

7. Chair, like IRENA, other multilateral institutions including the International Solar Alliance, headquartered in New Delhi, is also actively involved in the promotion of renewable energy sources in order to make our planet a safer place for future generations. Under the International Solar Alliance, India has been playing a leading role in bringing solar power into the mainstream, as an affordable and reliable source of energy for humanity. This has also been reflected in the recently released report of Ernst & Young's, 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index', where, this year, India has moved up one spot, to the third position.

8. In conclusion, Chair, let me reiterate that India understands the importance of collective efforts in fighting climate change, and as a Council member, we strongly support IRENA's efforts to play its important role in steering the global discussion on renewables.

Thank you.

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