



The statement delivered at the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum
on 4 April 2018

Statement
Second Asian and the Pacific Energy Forum
3-5 April 2018, Bangkok

*Excellencies,
Distinguishes Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen;*

On behalf of IRENA, I wish to thank our colleagues from UNESCAP for their invitation to the Forum and the presented opportunity to address you today.

As we are going through a time of profound change in the world of energy, we are witnessing how renewables are moving to the centre-stage of the global energy landscape and are now competitive with conventional energy sources in many places around the world. Massive cost reductions, coupled with technology innovation and enabling policies, have paved the way for record capacity additions and large investments.

Since 2009, solar PV module costs have fallen by more than 80%, while wind turbine prices have dropped by 38% within the same time frame. We expect the cost declines to continue, with the cost of solar PV dropping by a further 60 % over the next decade and the costs of offshore wind and CSP dropping by 35% and 45% respectively. Our recent *Electricity Storage and Renewables* report finds that, by 2030, installed costs of battery storage systems could fall by 50%-65%, and utility-scale low cost storage will dramatically change the landscape of energy.

The ongoing transformation in the global energy landscape is also reflected in the enabling policies of countries, with more than 175 countries having adopted renewable energy targets, compared to just 43 in 2005. Today, renewables are outpacing capacity additions from all other sources combined, and represent more than half of the capacity additions in the global power sector since 2011.

Across the globe, countries are picking on these developments and are raising their ambitions, and the Asia-Pacific region is at the forefront of this transformation. Recently, China announced its intention to invest USD 361 billion in renewable power generation by 2020, and also cancelling plans to build more than 100 coal plants. India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022, and is making rapid progress in this direction. Singapore, despite its limited renewable energy resources, is planning to raise installed solar power capacity to 350 MW by 2020 and to 1 GW beyond that year. In the Philippines, the deployment of renewables has witnessed a considerable acceleration in the recent years, with the country setting an ambitious target of 15.3 gigawatts from renewables by 2030 – a near tripling of 2010's figure. Indonesia has set to achieve a 23% renewable energy use target by 2025, and 31% by 2050. The list is long, and these are only a few examples of how the Asia-Pacific region has been contributing to the global renewable energy transition.

To support the renewable energy deployment ambitions of countries in Asia and the Pacific, IRENA has conducted several country-specific assessments, notably Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand; as well as Kiribati, Fiji, Marshall Islands, and Vanuatu in the Pacific. IRENA has also prepared a report on National Energy Roadmaps for Islands, covering Kiribati, the Maldives, and Nauru, among other Island states. Each report is prepared in close collaboration with the government of the partner country

and is tailored to address their most pressing challenges in the face of renewable energy development. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with countries in the region, and Renewable Readiness Assessments for Bhutan and Azerbaijan have just been initiated, and the one for Pakistan will be released next week in Islamabad. Deepening our country support at the sub-national level, IRENA recently signed a co-operation agreement with the People's Government of Hebei Province, China to provide a renewable energy roadmap that will support their ambition to deliver a low-carbon Winter Olympics in 2022.

On a regional level, last year, IRENA co-chaired the First Dialogue between the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM), which resulted in the adoption of a joint statement that outlines a bold agenda for cooperation between our two organisations. IRENA's Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN report, carried out in cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), was a first step in this direction. In order to further solidify our joint efforts in the region, we are currently discussing co-operation areas which may include, amongst others, energy planning, assessments of social and economic benefits and roadmaps for accelerated RE deployment, training and capacity building, and project facilitation.

Also last year, countries of Central Asia region and IRENA released the Astana Communiqué on accelerating renewable energy deployment in the region. The Communiqué was released in the framework of the Energy Ministerial, Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy, at the Astana EXPO-2017. Countries identified the following areas for IRENA collaboration to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy in the region: resource assessments, integration of variable renewable energy into power grids, policies and regulations for renewable energy deployment, renewable energy statistics and data collection, project facilitation, and awareness raising. IRENA will work closely with countries of the region as well as partners and stakeholders to support ongoing work to advance renewable energy development in Central Asia.

IRENA is also deepening its collaboration with other international and regional organizations from the Asia Pacific region, including the International Solar Alliance and SAARC Energy Centre Islamabad. A Joint Declaration between ISA and IRENA was signed during the founding conference of ISA last month in Delhi.

Distinguished Delegates;

To conclude, regional high-level meetings such as this Forum are critical platforms for enhancing cooperation and providing strong impetus to collaborative efforts. As always, IRENA remains committed to working closely with UNESCAP and other partners, to support the cause of renewables in countries of the Asia-Pacific region, for transitioning towards a more sustainable energy future.

Thank you for your attention.