

**Panel: Regional Cooperation on Renewable Energy in Central Asia**

**Organizers:** IRENA, UNECE

**Target group:** National and regional stakeholders from Central Asia.

Countries of Central Asia possess large potential of renewable energy and have been increasingly involved in renewable energy dialogue over the past few years. While they are taking positive steps to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, there is a need for additional efforts in the region to strengthen the enabling environments through dedicated policies and regulatory frameworks to catalyse, among others, private sector investments as well as raise awareness about the benefits of renewable energy deployment.

Regional collaboration is instrumental in facing challenges and addressing barriers hindering accelerated uptake of renewables in Central Asia. Therefore, IRENA has initiated a regional consultative process to discuss the challenges and opportunities in this regard and identify the areas of priority action in addressing them. Two round of consultations took place: in Baku, Azerbaijan in October 2016 and in Abu Dhabi, UAE in April 2017. In addition, the Agency conducted a regional gap analysis study to identify and analyse the major obstacles hindering more accelerated renewable energy deployment in the region and map out the current and planned programmes implemented by development partners to support the uptake of renewables.

This consultative process will lead to the elaboration of a regional Action Plan for guiding IRENA's future support to the region in the upcoming years. The Action Plan will be implemented through close collaboration with a wide range of national, regional and international partners. The Communique on Accelerating the Uptake of Renewables in Central Asia will be released at the Energy Ministerial Conference “Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy” on 11 June.

In this context, the session will provide the opportunity to exchange views on how to implement IRENA's Action Plan and will bring together experts from countries of the region and key regional stakeholders to discuss and analyse the priorities for more accelerated development of renewables in Central Asia.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Resource person</b>
09.00-09.30	Welcoming Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mohamed El-Farnawany, Director, Strategic Management &amp; Executive Direction, Commissioner for Astana EXPO-2017, IRENA</li> <li>- Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE (tbc)</li> </ul>
09:30-10:00	Presentation of the Action Plan for Central Asia. This session will provide the outcomes from the Ministerial Meeting and present the Action Plan and Communique for the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer, IRENA</li> </ul>
10:00-11.15	Panel Discussion – Implementing the Action Plan for Central Asia. Panellists will discuss implementation of the Action Plan, priorities, activities and partnerships to support deployment of renewables in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nazir Ramazanov, Advisor to Chairman, State Company on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources, Azerbaijan</li> <li>- Ainur Sospanova, Director</li> </ul>

	<p>Questions and Answers</p>	<p>of the Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kybanych Bekov, Head of the strategic planning, National Energy Holding, Kyrgyzstan (tbc)</li> <li>- Abdunabi Sharipov, Leading Specialist of Economics &amp; Forecast Department, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan (tbc)</li> <li>- Aida Sitdikova, Director of Energy and Natural Resources, Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia, EBRD</li> <li>- Gianluca Sambucini, UNECE</li> <li>- Michael Curtis, Deputy Director, Economic Development Office, USAID</li> <li>- UNDP (tbc)</li> </ul>
<p>11:15– 11:30</p>	<p>Conclusions and way Forward</p>	<p>IRENA</p>