

Workshop: The socio-economic benefits of renewable energy

Organizers: IRENA, UNECE

Target group: Global policy makers, national stakeholders, private sector

The socio-economic benefits of renewable energy have become a key consideration in building the case for its wide deployment. Increasingly, governments see immense opportunities in the development of a renewable energy sector, with a potential to fuel economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance welfare. In its co-authored publication “*Perspectives for the Energy Transition: Investment Needs for a Low-Carbon Energy Transition*”, IRENA estimates that reducing global CO₂ emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, through significant uptake of renewables and energy efficiency measures, would boost GDP by 0.8% in 2050 and generate around 26 million jobs in the global renewable energy sector by 2050.

Among the co-benefits of renewable energy deployment, job creation has received particular attention. IRENA has built a well-recognized body of knowledge in the field with its “*Renewable Energy Jobs – Annual Reviews (2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017)*”. In its latest edition, IRENA estimates that the sector employed 9.8 million people in 2016. Employment opportunities are created in all the segments of the value chain as shown in IRENA’s series on the topic. The studies “*Renewable Energy Benefits: Leveraging Local Capacity (Solar PV, Wind, SWH)*”, show that, outside manufacturing, over 50% of jobs can be localised with considerable opportunities to leverage existing industries.

This session will explore the socio-economic benefits of transitioning to a sustainable energy future, and how these findings can apply to specific countries or regions.

Time	Content	Resource person
16:00– 16:15	<p><u>Welcoming Remarks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henning Wuester, IRENA 2. Bo Libert, UNECE 	Henning Wuester Bo Libert
16:15– 17:00	<p><u>Scene-setting presentation:</u> Key findings from IRENA’s work on Renewable Energy Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alvaro Lopez-Peña, IRENA <p><u>In-focus presentation:</u> Key findings from the report on <i>Deployment of renewable energy: The water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus approach to support the Sustainable Development Goals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bo Libert, UNECE 	Alvaro Lopez-Peña Bo Libert
17:00– 17:30	<p><u>Discussion / Q&A:</u> Participants will discuss / address questions from participants related to how countries can adopt policies to support development of the renewable energy sector and enhance value creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vyacheslav Sovetskiy (Astana Solar LLP) • Akhat Omiralin (Kazakhstan) (TBC) • Bo Libert (UNECE) • Alvaro Lopez-Pena (IRENA) 	<p>Moderator: Henning Wuester</p> <p>Speakers: Vyacheslav Sovetskiy Akhat Omiralin Bo Libert Alvaro Lopez-Peña</p>