

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between**  
**the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**  
**and**  
**the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**

**WHEREAS** the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter referred to as “UNECE”) is mandated to carry out a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (“SE4ALL”) initiative of the UN Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector;

**WHEREAS** the International Renewable Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as “IRENA”) is mandated to promote the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy;

**WHEREAS** the UNECE has, among the objectives of its Sustainable Energy subprogramme, to focus on activities that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region;

**CONSIDERING** that it is within their common interest to enhance their cooperation;

**DESIRING** to establish a mutually-beneficial cooperation and in the spirit of collaboration;

**NOW THEREFORE**, UNECE and IRENA (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”), each represented by their respective Executive Head, have entered into the present Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”).

**Article I**  
**Purpose**

1.1. The purpose of this MoU is to provide a general framework for cooperation between the Parties governing collaborative efforts on projects and activities, pursuant to which the Parties may identify areas of common interest and priorities.

1.2 In recognition of and with respect for each other's respective mandates, competencies and objectives, the Parties commit themselves to cooperating on the basis of exchange of relevant information, expertise and viewpoints in order to realize potential synergies, enhance public dialogue and endeavour to implement common activities, as set forth in Article II below.

## **Article II** **Areas of Cooperation**

The possible areas of cooperation identified by the Parties are listed below. Additional areas may be subsequently agreed upon by the Parties.

2.1 Facilitation of intergovernmental dialogue on renewable energy, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix and to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all.

2.2 Exchange of know-how and best practice amongst relevant experts to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This will include information on tools and mechanisms for renewable energy investments, capacity building, and support for policy and regulatory reform.

2.3 Promotion in the area of standards to support renewable energy technology.

2.4 In support of the SE4ALL initiative, facilitation of an expert discussion on a possible roadmap for the ECE region for achieving the goal of doubling the share of renewables by 2030, as well as highlighting obstacles, gaps and opportunities at national, subregional and regional level, and potential for cooperation.

2.5 Promotion and analysis of renewable technology costs; identifying and engaging potential members for the IRENA Renewable Costing Alliance in the ECE region.

2.6 In support of IRENA's work on regional clean energy corridors, and the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, explore potentials for further renewable energy resource development and exchange of know-how and best practices for market opening and financing to attract investment in renewable resources.

## **Article III** **Implementation**

3.1 The Parties agree to carry out their respective responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of this MoU. The Parties agree to join efforts and to maintain a close working relationship in order to achieve the objectives of collaboration under the present MoU.

3.2 Specific activities in the above-mentioned areas of cooperation will be negotiated, agreed upon, and approved on the basis of the Parties' respective work programmes. Activities will be jointly designed as projects.

3.3 As applicable, each project shall contain the terms and conditions for its implementation, including, but not limited to, clear deliverables, time frames and funding arrangements, specified in a separate project document to be agreed upon and signed by both Parties.

3.4 Project documents may be modified at any time by written agreement of the Parties through their MoU Focal Points designated in Article IV.

3.5 The Parties shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect the interests of the other Party and shall fulfil their commitments with fullest regard for the terms and conditions of this MoU and the objectives of the International Renewable Energy Agency and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

3.6 This MoU does not create any resource or administrative liability for either Party.

#### **Article IV** **MoU Focal Points**

4.1 The Parties have designated MoU Focal Points, as indicated below, to plan and develop activities under this MoU and ensure its proper implementation:

UNECE:

Mrs. Stefanie Held  
Secretary of the Committee on Sustainable Energy  
Sustainable Energy Division  
Tel.: +41 22 9172462  
Fax: +41 22 9170038  
Email: [stefanie.held@unece.org](mailto:stefanie.held@unece.org)

IRENA:

Mr. Dolf Gielen  
Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre, IITC  
International Renewable Energy Agency  
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3,  
53175 Bonn,  
Germany  
Tel : +49 (0) 228 391 79085  
Email: [DGielen@irena.org](mailto:DGielen@irena.org)

#### **Article V** **Intellectual Property rights**

5.1 The Parties agree that there will be no joint intellectual property rights.

5.2 Entitlement to all intellectual property rights, including but not limited to, patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to materials produced and published by either of the Parties pursuant to the provisions of the present MoU shall be agreed upon in advance in writing by both Parties.

#### **Article VI** **Reporting requirements**

6.1 The Parties shall keep each other informed of all relevant activities pertaining to this collaboration and shall hold consultations as appropriate, in order to evaluate the progress in the implementation of this MoU and to revise and develop new plans for current or prospective activities.

## **Article VII** **General Provisions**

**7.1 Entry into force and duration:** This MoU shall enter into force upon signature by both Parties and will remain in effect for a period of 3 years. This MoU will be automatically renewed at the end of the term for a successive period of three years unless terminated by the Parties in accordance with the provisions specified in 7.3.

**7.2 Amendments:** This MoU may be amended only by written agreement of both Parties.

**7.3 Termination:** This MoU may be terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties or by either Party providing ninety days advance written notice to the other. In any such event, the Parties shall take all necessary actions as required to promptly and in an orderly manner terminate any on-going activities or projects carried out under this MoU in a cost-effective manner.

**7.4 Settlement of disputes:** Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall be settled by amicable and good-faith consultations and negotiations between the Parties.

**7.5 Privileges and immunities:** Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to be a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNECE or IRENA, including their respective Secretariats.

**7.6** Unless expressly authorised in writing by the other Party, neither Party shall in any manner whatsoever, use the name, emblem or official seal of the other Party in connection with its business or otherwise.

**7.7** The Parties are recognized to be legally separate and independent of each other. Neither Party has the authority to act on behalf of the other, unless specifically agreed upon.

## **Article VIII** **Notices**

**8.1** Any notices required by this MoU shall be given in writing and delivered to the following addresses:

8.1.1

Executive Officer

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Palais des Nations

8-14, Avenue de la Paix

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Attention: Ms. Leslie Cleland

Fax: + 41 22 917 00 81

E-mail: [leslie.cleland@unece.org](mailto:leslie.cleland@unece.org)

8.1.2

International Renewable Energy Agency  
Director of Administration and Management Services  
CI Tower, Khalidiyah (32<sup>nd</sup>) Street  
P.O. Box 236  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Tel.: +971 2 417 9935  
Email: [Admin&MgmtSupport@irena.org](mailto:Admin&MgmtSupport@irena.org)

or at such other address as may be designated in accordance with the terms of this notice provision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed this MoU in two (2) originals in the English language on the date set forth below:

**For IRENA**

**For UNECE**

Signature: -----

Signature: -----

Adnan Z. Amin  
Director-General

Christian Friis Bach  
Executive Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_