

Ref.: DG/LT/2021/O/18509

15 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the pleasure of enclosing the input of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in response to the request in your letter dated 18 November 2020. Our input highlights that the access to and deployment of renewable energy offers a variety of socio-economic benefits for short- medium- and long-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

We welcome the convening of the 2021 HLPF and ECOSOC under the theme “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. While SDG7 on energy is not under review this year, transitioning to sustainable energy is a prerequisite for reaching many other SDGs, particularly those under assessment this year.

Thanks to continuous cost reductions, innovation and enabling frameworks, renewable energy is the fastest-growing energy source and the cheapest one in most parts of the world. More than half of the renewable capacity added in 2019 achieved lower electricity costs than new coal. New solar and wind projects are undercutting the cheapest of existing coal-fired plants. IRENA estimates that globally, investments in the renewable energy transition can create additional 19 million jobs in renewables, energy efficiency and energy system flexibility over the next decade and boost GDP by an extra 1.3%. To make this happen, we need to pursue a holistic policy approach rooted in the climate-safe energy development in line with leaving no one behind.

As the world’s lead intergovernmental organisation for energy transformation and the co-lead of the Energy Transitions Track of Secretary-General’s High-Level Dialogue on Energy 2021, IRENA, with its 163 Members, will continue to lead the efforts to transform the global energy system - one that is inclusive, sustainable and equitable.

I wish to assure you of the Agency’s full support to the work of HLPF and ECOSOC under your able presidency in these difficult times.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Francesco La Camera
Director General

H.E. Mr. Munir Akram
President of the Economic and
Social Council (ECOSOC)
United Nations