

**Report back from the Public-Private Dialogue at the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**by**

**Steve Sawyer on behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action**

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Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the IRENA Coalition for Action, it is my pleasure to report back from yesterday's stimulating discussions at the first Public-Private Dialogue in the IRENA Assembly setting. Before doing so, I would like to thank IRENA and its member states for providing this opportunity for non-state actors to share our experiences and recommendations.

In 2017, the Coalition expanded to 75 members including private sector entities, industry associations, civil society and research organisations. Recognizing that investment levels in renewable energy are still far from what is needed to decarbonize the energy sector, the Coalition has focused its joint efforts during the last year to the topic of scaling up of renewable energy investment – both private and community based.

Through its Business and Investors Group (chaired by GWEC and GSC) and its sub-Group on Community Energy (chaired by WWEA), the Coalition just launched two white papers: one on the scaling up of investment in emerging markets and another one on community energy and the broadening of renewable energy ownership. The papers were discussed in yesterday's public-private dialogue dedicated to the same topic.

In the discussion, there was a broad consensus among the various stakeholders in the room that there is no lack of capital in the marketplace for good projects; there is, however, a lack of bankable projects (compounded by political and market barriers) to attract investment and scale up renewables to meet the Paris target and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Based on this broad consensus, allow me to highlight a few takeaways from yesterday's dialogue:

- 1) Political will, clear targets and a long-term policy framework that ensures a broad and just participation in the energy transformation, are crucial to successfully scale up investment.
- 2) Public finance institutions need to move away from direct financing to focus on risk mitigation including off-taker guarantees and currency risk hedging mechanisms, which in turn is critical to reduce financial costs.
- 3) Standardized contract templates are an important tool to reducing transactions and in allowing for the aggregation of projects to create larger financial deals.

- 4) Non-discriminatory market access is needed, allowing for both private and community based investors to engage effectively in the energy transition.
- 5) The importance of maximizing socio-economic benefits at all levels, especially the local community level including local job creation.
- 6) Last but not least, there is strong support for long-term and effective carbon pricing and the removal of existing subsidies to fossil fuels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We find ourselves in a time where investing in renewable energy has never made more sense. With the last decade's remarkable cost reductions and maturing policy landscape, renewable energy is now the most cost-competitive source of energy in many parts of the world. As we move forward with the energy transformation, the need to cooperate in identifying and sharing experience and good practices will only continue to grow.

Yesterday's Public-Private Dialogue was indeed successful and we see it as a starting point for further collaboration and another similar dialogue at the time of the next year's Assembly.

From the Coalition for Action's side, we stand ready to work with you all in accelerating the efforts needed in transitioning to a sustainable energy future of which your participation and the scaling up of investment is an integral part.

Thank you.