

IRENA Coalition for Action: Annual Strategy Meeting, 16 January 2018 Meeting Report

Background

The second Coalition for Action Annual Strategy Meeting took place on 16 January 2018 in conjunction with the eighth IRENA Assembly and the World Future Energy Summit (WFES).

27 Coalition member organisations and in total 35 representatives gathered at the IRENA Headquarters in Abu Dhabi for a full-day meeting to discuss past, current and future activities and to agree on the Steering Group for 2018 (An overview of participants can be found in Annex 1)

The meeting started with a “tour de table” where all participants introduced themselves and highlighted their views on Coalition activities in 2017 and their expectations ahead. The overall feedback received was positive and members expressed strong commitment for 2018.

Overview on Coalition for Action in 2017

After the introduction, an overview of the various work streams and key deliverables in 2017 was presented with key highlights noted below:

1) Coalition membership evolution and IRENA engagement (presented by Henning Wuester, IRENA)

- The Coalition has grown substantially over the last year – from 54 members in January 2017 to 75 members in January 2018. The membership is distributed as follows: 28 civil society members, 21 private sector members, 15 industry association members, with remaining members from research associations and international organisations.
- Following last year’s Annual Strategy Meeting, a Coalition Structure Document was developed outlining the strategic direction, vision & mission and governance structure of the Coalition.
- Coalition members have been increasingly involved in IRENA’s programmatic activities as peer-reviewers, speakers, etc. In 2017, Coalition members also provided input to the preparation of the IRENA Work Programme for 2018-2019 and the Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022.

2) Business and Investors Group (presented by Bruce Douglas, Global Solar Council)

- In 2017, the Group was co-chaired by the Global Solar Council (GSC) and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- Key deliverables based on the Group’s work in 2017: a white paper on the *Scaling up of renewable energy investment in emerging markets: challenges, risks and solutions* presented and discussed in a Public-Private Dialogue at the eighth IRENA pre-Assembly Day as well as in a joint IEA RIAB / IRENA Coalition side event at the WFES.

- On behalf of the Coalition for Action, outcomes and conclusions from the Public-Private Dialogue were reported back to the IRENA Assembly by Steve Sawyer, co-Chair of the Business and Investors Group. Main conclusions and key takeaways highlighted in the report were:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Standardised contract templates are an important tool to reducing transactions and in allowing for the aggregation of projects to create larger financial deals.
 - Non-discriminatory market access is needed, allowing for both private and community based investors to engage effectively in the energy transition.
 - The importance of maximising socio-economic benefits at all levels, especially the local community level including local job creation.
 - Last but not least, there is strong support for long-term and effective carbon pricing and the removal of existing subsidies to fossil fuels.

3) Community Energy sub-Group to the Business and Investors Group (presented by Stefan Gsänger, WWEA)

- In 2017, the Group was chaired by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA).
- Key deliverables based on the Group's work in 2017: a white paper on *Community energy: broadening of renewables ownership* presented and discussed in the Public-Private Dialogue at the eight IRENA pre-Assembly Day together with the white paper on "*Scaling up renewable energy investment..*". Conclusions were incorporated in the report back to the Assembly as outlined above.

4) Communications Group (presented by Tim Hurst, IRENA)

- In 2017, the Group was chaired by the Climate Action Network (CAN) with support from IRENA.
- Key deliverables were two joint communication campaigns, targeting G20 with messages on socio-economic benefits and COP23 with messages on renewables as the key solution to reach climate targets. The campaigns saw approximately 2600 social media posts (G20) and 3600 social media posts (COP23). The joint communication campaigns were developed by smaller communications action groups and shared with all Coalition members in the form of communications kits including social media cards, suggested tweets and master messaging documents.
- An additional deliverable has been the amplification of Coalition member messages through some 20 shared media kits in 2017.

Coalition activities for 2018

Prior to the Annual Strategy Meeting, a call for Working Group proposals was circulated to all Coalition members and a total of six proposals were submitted. In the Annual Strategy Meeting, proposals were presented and discussed first in plenary and then in smaller breakout groups. Notes highlighting main outcomes from the breakout group discussions can be found in Annex 2 of this summary report.

The proposed continuation of the Business and Investors Group was only discussed in plenary since several group members had to leave the Annual Strategy Meeting in the afternoon. Building on the work initiated in 2017, Business and Investors Group chairs introduced, in plenary, the idea to focus its activities in 2018 to a selected number of developing countries. Considering this focus, it was decided that the Business and Investors Group would be merged with the proposed Finance and Bankability Risks in Africa Group. Several participants expressed interest to engage in the Business and Investors Group and it was decided that clear deliverables and a work plan for 2018 shall be further elaborated and agreed upon in its first meeting, expected to take place in February.

After breakout sessions and the reporting back from those, it was decided to move forward with the below Working Groups and Group chairs in 2018. In addition to merging the Finance and Bankability Risks in Africa with the Business and Investors Group as highlighted above, it was decided that the proposed Working Group on the Just Energy Transition would be merged with the Community Energy sub-Group.

- 1) Business and Investors Group. Co-Chairs: Global Solar Council (GSC) and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC);
- 2) Community Energy sub-Group to the Business and Investors Group. Chair: World Wind Energy Association (WWEA);
- 3) Communications Group. Co-Chairs: Climate Action Network (CAN) and International Renewables Energy Agency (IRENA);
- 4) Towards 100% Renewable Energy. Chair: European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF).

Coalition Steering Group 2018

Prior to the Annual Strategy Meeting, a call for Steering Group nominations was circulated to all Coalition members. In total, eight nominations were submitted. In line with the Coalition Structure Document and considering the importance of diversity with an equal representation from private sector, industry associations and civil society, IRENA, after consultation with the outgoing Steering Group, presented the following proposal on the composition of the Steering Group for 2018.

- **Lasse Bruun**, Head of Global Campaign Coordination, Climate Action Network (CAN);
- **Ruggero Arico**, Head of Institutional Affairs for Europe, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Australia, Enel Green Power;
- **Stefan Degener**, Managing Director and Head of Business Development Europe & Africa, First Solar;

- **Richard Taylor**, CEO, International Hydropower Association (IHA);
- **Ibrahim Togola**, Chair Mali Folkecenter and Vice President World Wind Energy Association (WWEA);
- **Manuel Pulgar Vidal**, Leader of Global Climate & Energy Practice, World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF);
- **Henning Wuester**, Director – Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The suggested Steering Group 2018 as outlined above was approved with consensus by Coalition members in the Annual Strategy Meeting. In addition, Coalition members agreed that the Steering Group can co-opt an additional member or a replacement to increase its gender diversity, and invited members to come up with a proposal.

Annex 1:

Participant list – Coalition Annual Strategy Meeting - 16 January 2018

Name	Title	Organisation
Lasse Bruun	Head of Global Campaign Coordination	Climate Action Network
Ruggero Arico	Head of Institutional Affairs Europe, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia	ENEL Green Power
Hans-Josef Fell	President	Energy Watch Group (member in accession)
Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes	Vice President	European Renewable Energies Federation
Ben Backwell	Managing Director	FTI Consulting
Steve Sawyer	Secretary General	Global Wind Energy Council
Tetsunari Iida	Chair Person / Founder	Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP)
Shota Funya	Researcher	Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP)
Richard Taylor	Chief Executive	International Hydropower Association
Marcelo Álvarez	Coordinator / Board member	International Network for Sustainable Energy / Global Solar Council
Emma Åberg	Associate Programme Officer – Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Tim Hurst	Chief Communications Officer	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Jan Mola	Programme Assistant	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Henning Wuester	Director – Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Joanna Costello	Communications and Outreach Officer	International Solar Energy Society
David Renné	President	International Solar Energy Society
Steen Broust Nielsen	Partner	Make
Alia Saabi	Engineering Manager	Masdar
William Brent	Director, Communications and Media	Power for All
Luc Graré	Managing Director	Qway Energy
Katrin Harvey	Senior Manager, Business Development	REEEP

Tomas Kåberger	Board member	Renewable Energy Institute/Japan Renewable Energy Foundation
Theresa Schneider	Senior Project	Renewables Grid Initiative
Ana Rovzar	International relations advisor	RES4MED
Woody Woodbury	Co-Founder	Solar Head of State
James Ellsmoor	Director	Solar Head of State
Bruce Douglas	Deputy CEO / Co-Chair	Solar Power Europe / Global Solar Council
Simon Birkebaek	Project Leader	The Boston Consulting Group
Gerard J. Ostheimer	Consultant/Sustainable Bioenergy Lead	World Business Council for Sustainable Development/SE4All
Rob Van riet	Climate and Energy	World Future Council
Stefan Schurig	Senior Advisor	World Future Council
Deepak Krishnan	Manager, Energy Programme	World Resources Institute
Stefan Gsänger	Secretary General	World Wind Energy Association
Tabaré A. Currás	Advisor on Energy Economics	WWF International
Helen Carless	Communications and Education Director	WWF UAE

Annex 2:

Notes Breakout Session: Community Energy sub-Group + Just Energy Transition

Note taker: Stefan Gsänger, WWEA

Participants: the Boston Consulting Group, Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP), International Solar Energy Society (ISES), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Wind Energy Association (WWEA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

In line with the existing community energy group, it was agreed that to continue the focus on how to enable and empower communities by ownership. The proposed deliverable for this year could be a paper addressing international and multilateral donor agencies and advising on how to design support programmes and facilities which aim at fostering community energy ownership models in developing countries. Time wise, it was agreed that at least a draft should be discussed at the 2nd World Community Power Conference in November in Bamako so that the final paper would be available and can be presented during the IRENA Assembly 2019. The final paper could also be presented at the SE4All meeting in April 2019. WWF is considering hosting another related event within 2018 and WWEA will have its 3rd International Community Wind Symposium in late summer, details to be discussed.

The group had a discussion around the role and benefits of community ownership and the importance of a just energy transition (and the role community energy has to play within this). It was agreed that it makes sense to merge the proposed Working Group on the Just Energy Transition with the Community Energy sub-Group.

Notes Breakout Session: Communications Group

Note taker: Tim Hurst, IRENA

Participants: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Solar Energy Society (ISES), Power for All, Renewables Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Renewables Grid Initiative, Solar Head of State, World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

In general, the Coalition Annual strategy meeting, brought with it significant interest in the activities of the communications group. Before breaking into a smaller working group, the communications strategic discussion began with a recap of 2017 activities, highlighting the year's two joint campaigns – G20 and COP23 – as well as some of the lessons learned. Meeting attendees expressed general support for the campaigns and appreciation for the simplified messages, media kits and infographics generated by the communications working group. Members also noted the high visibility of the #Renewables4Climate campaign at COP in Bonn and noted that the campaign website – www.renewables4climate.org – should be maintained as a Coalition output.

In the breakout session, Members had a fruitful discussion on what has worked and was useful in 2017, as well as what activities should be extended through 2018. The primary areas suggested for a 2018 work programme included:

- After discussion of the campaigns undertaken in 2017 in both the larger group and the smaller, breakout group, it was agreed that one of the principle activities of the Coalition communications group should remain the delivery of 2-3 joint communications campaigns at key strategic points throughout the year. There was discussion that Campaigns in 2018 should build upon the successes of the 2017 campaigns, which were primarily deployed on social media. The campaign should further aim to enlist third-party influencers to carry the messages of the campaign. Members also agreed that translation of messages into multiple languages would help spread messages wide and that Coalition Members could support with translation. While no campaign themes were discussed, there was support for maintaining #Renewables4Climate, as it has taken on a life of its own beyond the Coalition. One Member also suggested that there were advantages in decoupling renewables from climate messaging. In response, IRENA highlighted that the G20 campaign focused on the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy, making minimal references to climate. It was also suggested that the campaigns for 2018 should be decided upon as early in the year as possible so that Coalition members can align their own communications planning with Coalition messaging and campaign outputs.
- Secondary to the delivery of selected larger campaigns, there was a general agreement that the Coalition should be used to amplify other activities and deliverables of the Coalition where possible. In addition, it was agreed that campaigns or activities being conducted by individual Members of the Coalition could also be amplified through Coalition communications.
- The group expressed general support for the media brief as a useful tool to understand global and sectoral renewable energy developments. IRENA highlighted that the brief can also be used as an amplification tool by Coalition Members. They were reminded that if they wish to have a particular news item highlighted to IRENA Members, they can send the link to IRENA for potential inclusion in the daily news brief.
- Other areas of discussion included the creation of a joint calendar to highlight key activities throughout the year and the establishment and deployment of alternative means of digital communications amongst group members including potentially a Google Group or a LinkedIn Group. No decision was taken on either of these.

Notes Breakout Session: Towards 100% Renewable Energy

Note taker: Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes, EREF

Participants: Climate Action Network (CAN), European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF), Energy Watch Group (EWG), International Hydropower Association (IHA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Solar Energy Society (ISES), Renewable Energy Institute Japan, World Future Council (WFC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (bio-Energy lead)).

Suggested Outcome / Deliverables

- **Policy Paper/White Paper**
 - Short preface about urgency (climate change) and opportunities (huge cost reductions, economic and ecologic benefits) of 100% Renewables

- Short description of different approaches to 100% Renewables (consumption, production, investment and certificates, self-consumption and local production...)
- Focusing on case studies of successful policies for 100% Renewables in one, two or all sectors (electricity, heating & cooling, transport), on different levels (islands, cities, regions, countries) and from different areas (North, South, grid-connected, off-grid). Compiling experience and learning from successful cases how barriers and concerns were overcome and developing recommendations, how this can be adapted to other cases.
- **Networking Opportunities**
 - Presenting the paper at IRENA's ninth Assembly (potentially in the context of a Public-Private Dialogue including the Legislators Forum)
 - Facilitating contacts between representatives of successful policies with potentially interested institutions and private sector.

Potentially useful cases for evaluation

- **Islands**
 - El Hierro (focus on system integration: electricity and desalination), Iceland, New Zealand, Grenada, Hawaii, etc.
 - Small and large islands, with and without interconnection
- **Cities**
 - Vancouver (focus on transport)
 - Stockholm (focus on biofuels in public transport)
 - Shenzhen (focus on electricity including mobility)
 - Smaller entities, such as bioenergy villages
 - Other smaller and larger cities with focus on one, two or all sectors
- **Countries with objectives and/or policies already implemented**
 - Members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum with commitments and/or implementation of 100% Renewables
 - Uruguay
 - Costa Rica
 - Denmark (and again: Iceland, New Zealand ...)

Resources

- Crucial that Group members can dedicate resources to researching, drafting and peer-reviewing of case studies and drafting of paper.

Agreed activities / next steps

- Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes (EREF) agreed to be the chair of the Group
- Group members to send suggestions of potentially useful case studies for the White Paper including sources and other comments and suggestions to the coalition team and the group chair (deadline was not agreed upon).
- Group members shall clarify internally in their own organisations the level and nature of resources they can commit to this working group

- Based on the proposals and resources, a conference call will be arranged to discuss and decide on the groups work plan including milestones and resource allocation.