



Renewable Energy Forum

Apia, Samoa 30 August 2014

Outcomes and Recommendations

The Renewable Energy Forum, held in Apia on 30 August 2014, prior to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, discussed the role of renewable energy in the sustainable development of SIDS. The Forum started with a high-level dialogue with SIDS Leaders and Ministers outlining the opportunities and challenges for the deployment of renewable energy. They conveyed a unified and strong message of renewables being key to sustainable development of SIDS, emphasised political commitment, the will to act, and the challenge of implementation. They stressed that the SIDS Conference and the SG's Climate Summit present a unique opportunity to build momentum and accelerate action in renewable energy in SIDS. The High-Level panel reiterated the three core principles of SE4ALL of universal access, increased renewable energy and energy efficiency as being relevant to SIDS. Participants welcomed the timeliness of IRENA's SIDS Lighthouses initiative and emphasised the need for IRENA and other partners' engagement and support.

By sharing experiences and project insights, participants acknowledged that renewable sources can provide sustainable energy solutions for SIDS and contribute to energy security, economic prosperity and sustainable development, as well as strengthen climate mitigation and resilience efforts. Forum participants agreed that, as the share of renewables in SIDS' energy systems increase, a structured, holistic approach that takes into account medium and long-term requirements and impacts is required. Participants stressed that an essential underpinning of all efforts is human and institutional capacity, and access to financing.

The Forum highlighted key issues spanning the national, regional and global context:

- “Many partners, one goal” approach is necessary to successfully transition to a sustainable energy future, as SIDS are too small for multiple approaches.
- SIDS need to be the lead in developing respective strategies, goals and roadmaps for renewable energy deployment, tailored to their individual circumstances, and with measurable targets to facilitate implementation.



- Enabling policy frameworks, as well as accountability and good governance, are required to incentivise stakeholders to invest in renewable energy solutions in SIDS.
- Regional exchanges and SIDS-to-SIDS cooperation focused on lessons learned and project insights will increase local skills, and provide guidance on best practice and innovative solutions.
- Opportunities for pooling human capacity at the regional level should be encouraged, wherever feasible.
- Partnerships that join political leadership, technical expertise, financing, and community involvement are paramount to the successful deployment of renewable energy technologies and transformation of the energy sector.
- Finding financial solutions that address limited economies of scale, high national debt, and high capital costs, and come at the necessary speed are essential to deployment of renewables in SIDS.
- Successful initiatives that bring together SIDS and a range of private and public stakeholders to make specific, measurable and time bound commitments to deployment of renewables should be encouraged.
- SIDS can provide invaluable lessons for integrating a greater share of renewables in electricity grids, or in providing innovative off-grid solutions, both of which can be deployed in non-SIDS settings.
- The time is right: declining technology costs, the need to decarbonise energy to address climate change, clear examples of success, better business models and available investment have created a momentum of opportunity that must be seized.