

Berlin, 17 December 2008

Dear fellow PNND member,

I am pleased to announce that, following a proposal from the International Parliamentary Forum for Renewable Energies, the government of Germany will host the Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Bonn on 26 January 2008. I encourage you to act as a parliamentarian to support this initiative.

Today we are facing huge challenges: increasing energy demand, rising energy prices, unequal distribution of energy sources, depleting natural resources and global warming. All of these factors contribute to the urgent need to transform the global energy system, which primarily relies on fossil fuels, to one that uses renewable energies and energy efficient technologies. Renewable energy is one of the key solutions to the current challenges facing the world's energy future. The use of renewable energy today, however, is still limited in spite of its vast potential.

The development and international supply of fossil fuels is assisted by the International Energy Agency. The development of nuclear energy is assisted by the International Atomic Energy Agency, despite the nuclear-weapons proliferation risks from nuclear energy and the fact that nuclear energy is unable to address the challenge of climate change (See my article [Nuclear Energy: The answer to Climate Change or a recipe for weapons proliferation?](#) in PNND Notes 2008). However, there has been no international agency designed to assist the development of renewable energy.

The 2004 International Parliamentary Forum for Renewable Energies, which I had the honour of chairing and which included 300 members of parliament from 70 countries concluded that "*Promoting renewables requires new institutional measures in the field of international cooperation,*" and proposed the establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) "*To facilitate technology transfer on renewables and energy efficiency and to develop and promote policy strategies.*" The Forum further proposed that IRENA "*should be set up as an international intergovernmental organization. Membership would be voluntary, and all governments should have the opportunity to join at any time*".

51 governments represented at the Madrid Preparatory Conference for IRENA supported the draft Statute which will guide the organisation. However, their full support, and the support of other governments, is required to ensure IRENA's success.

Mandated by governments worldwide, IRENA aims at becoming the main driving force in promoting a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy on a global scale. IRENA will provide practical advice and support to governments, help them improve their regulatory frameworks and build capacity. The agency will facilitate access to all relevant information including reliable data on the potential of renewable energy, best practices, effective financial mechanisms and state-of-the-art technological expertise. IRENA's target membership includes small and large countries, both industrialised and developing.

On December 17, 2008, the German government officially invited all member countries of the United Nations that are interested in establishing IRENA to attend the Founding Conference of IRENA on 26 January 2009, in Bonn (Germany) and to become a founding member of the agency. Here, the Statute will be signed and IRENA will be established.

Since you are a member of parliament, I ask you to urge your government to take part in the Founding Conference and to sign the Statute of IRENA. To support you in this effort, I attach a model-resolution for submission in your parliament. Please feel free to use it and to adapt it to your specific needs! I also encourage you to attend the IRENA Founding Conference as a member of your country's official delegation.

I have also attached the Statute of IRENA that will be signed on 26 January 2009. For more information please visit [www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need further information on IRENA: [hermann.scheer.ma03@bundestag.de](mailto:hermann.scheer.ma03@bundestag.de) or 0049 30 227 73836

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hermann Scheer', written in a cursive style.

Hermann Scheer  
Member of the German Parliament  
Chairman of the World Renewable Energy Parliamentary Network (WREPN)  
General Chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)