
Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition

Accelerating the Global Energy Transition: Tripling Renewables and Electrification

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 9 October 2026, 14:30 - 19:00 hrs. (AST)

Background Note

Context

The world stands at a decisive point in the energy transition. Countries are committed to tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 and to accelerating electrification, yet progress remains uneven and the financing, infrastructure and policy conditions needed to deliver these goals are not yet in place, particularly in emerging and developing economies. Closing the gap between commitment and delivery will require sustained political engagement across all regions.

This urgency is reflected in many international milestones: the COP28 UAE Consensus, which called on countries to transition away from fossil fuels and to triple renewable power capacity by 2030; the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFf), launched by the COP30 Brazilian Presidency with the support of IRENA data and analysis; the Santa Marta Conference, which opened a constructive space for governments to connect national energy planning with the multilateral climate process; and, in June 2026, the incoming COP31 Presidency of Türkiye placing electrification at the heart of its Action Agenda through a global “35% by 2035” target.

The Forum

The Dominican Republic, in its capacity as President of the IRENA Assembly, has requested IRENA to convene the Global High-Level Forum on Energy Transition in Santo Domingo on 9 October 2026, bringing together ministers and high-level representatives from across all IRENA regions to translate international commitments into action. Convened on the road to COP31 in Antalya, it is designed as a global ministerial-level dialogue, distinguished by its global framing and its focus on the enabling conditions for the transition. The four Vice-Presidents of the IRENA Assembly (Spain, Kenya, Solomon Islands and Antigua and Barbuda) are expected to play an important role in the Forum.

The Forum will also provide the occasion for the launch of PARLAC, the Partnership for Accelerating Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean, presented as a regional initiative for the delivery of global goals. Convened alongside a series of energy transition events hosted in Santo Domingo that week, including the Central America and the Caribbean Energy Transition Investment Forum, the event will connect political dialogue with concrete investment and project development opportunities.

The programme will further spotlight how the sustainable use of locally available resources, including the energy valorisation of Sargassum, can strengthen energy security and unlock investment, turning a recurrent environmental challenge in the Greater Caribbean into a source of energy diversification and economic activity.

Objectives

- Advance the global goals of tripling renewable capacity by 2030 and accelerating electrification, while building a shared understanding of the conditions needed to deliver them.
- Strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation as a means of accelerating delivery, including through the launch of PARLAC as a regional platform aligned with the global goals.
- Mobilise high-level political commitment across all IRENA regions and explore approaches to financing the transition at scale, with particular attention to emerging and developing economies.
- Highlight emerging opportunities in sustainable bioenergy and resource valorisation, including the energy valorisation of Sargassum, and the policy, financing, technical and market conditions needed to scale viable solutions.

Expected Outcomes

- Renewed global political commitment behind tripling renewables by 2030 and accelerating electrification, with momentum carried into the IRENA Assembly and wider international processes.
- Launch of PARLAC, the Partnership for Accelerating Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean, with initial expressions of support from participating Member States and partners.
- Greater recognition of renewable-based value creation from locally available resources, including sustainable bioenergy, as a route to energy security, economic diversification and local industrial development.
- Launch of the Santo Domingo Ministerial Declaration on the Sustainable Valorisation of Sargassum, advancing cooperation and the enabling conditions for its valorisation, including energy applications.

Guiding Questions

- What policy, financing and infrastructure conditions are needed to deliver the global goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030?
- Which approaches can strengthen energy and climate resilience in Small Island Developing States across all regions?
- In what ways are renewables reshaping energy security and the geopolitics of the global energy transition?
- How can the sustainable valorisation of Sargassum, particularly for energy, contribute to energy diversification and security in affected countries?

Provisional Programme

Time	Session
14:30 - 15:00	Opening of the Global High-Level Forum - Ministers and high-level representatives from across the IRENA constituency will be invited to provide remarks on the challenges and opportunities in accelerating the clean energy transition against the backdrop of growing concerns around energy security, climate resilience, and economic development and competitiveness. • Welcome remarks – H.E. Joel Santos, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, President of the IRENA Assembly (5 min). • Opening remarks – Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA (5 min). • Remarks by Assembly Vice-Presidents – Spain, Kenya, Solomon Islands and Antigua and Barbuda (12 min = 3 mins each). • Family photo

Time	Session
15:00 - 15:45	Launch of PARLAC: Partnership for Accelerating Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean Official launch of PARLAC, including an introduction to the Partnership, its objectives, priority areas and expected outcomes for advancing the energy transition across Latin America and the Caribbean. • Presentation: PARLAC, Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA (6 min). • Presentation: Preliminary Results on the Report “Planning-to- implementation, development alignment and just energy transition insights in LAC” by Ricardo Gorini, Head of RE Roadmaps and Socioeconomics, IRENA (6 min). • Remarks by Joan Groizard, Secretary of State of Energy, Spain, PARLAC lead supporter (6 min). • Remarks by Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition, Dominican Republic. (6 min). • Expressions of support by country representatives (12 min). • Close (3 min).
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee break

Time	Session
16:00 - 18:00	High-Level Discussion: Emerging Opportunities for the Global Energy Transition Energy security and resilience, emerging opportunities in bioenergy and resource valorisation, and new sources of investment, with particular attention to the sustainable valorisation of Sargassum for energy in affected coastal and island countries. The discussion will explore the policy, financing, technical and market conditions needed to move viable solutions towards scale, including opportunities for regional cooperation and private-sector participation. Includes interventions by the Vice-Presidents of the IRENA Assembly. • Introduction to the session – Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition, Dominican Republic (MC) (2 min) • Scene-setting: Understanding the Sargassum Phenomenon – Clemens Findeisen, EuroClima Caribbean BioWaste Caribbean (12 min). • Sargassum Opportunity Showcase: from biomass to energy and value (40 min.) ○ Introduction — Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition, Dominican Republic (3 min). ○ REVALENA INTEC – Dr. Ulises Jáuregui-Haza (10 min) ○ BlueGea Group (SOS Carbon, SOS Biotech) – Mr. Eddison Herrera, Director of Engineering (10 min) ○ Sea Sweeper – Mr. David Washbrook, President and Co-Founder (10 min) • Enabling a Regional Sustainable Sargassum Industry (64 min.) ○ Introduction – Ricardo Gorini, Head of RE Roadmaps and Socioeconomics, IRENA ○ Featured Investment Spotlight Mobilizing Capital for Sargassum-to-Energy (10 minutes) – Milagros De Camps, VP of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, InterEnergy (10 min). ○ Panel discussion, Yomayra Martínó, Founder, GreEnergy ▪ Milagros De Camps – VP of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, InterEnergy ▪ José Reyes Lopez – Vice Minister – Coastal and Marine Resources ▪ Eddison Herrera – Director of Engineering, BlueGea Group (SOS Carbon, SOS Biotech) ▪ Dr. Ulises Jáuregui-Haza – Professor and Researcher, Sargassum and Climate Resilience INTEC. ▪ Jake Kheel – VP of Sustainability, Punta Cana Group
18:00 - 18:25	Coffee break

Time	Session
18:25 – 19:00	Closing of the Forum: Launch of the Santo Domingo Ministerial Declaration on the Sustainable Valorization of Sargassum. • Introduction – Betty Soto, Vice Minister of Innovation and Energy Transition, Dominican Republic • H.E. Joel Santos, Minister of Energy and Mines, Dominican Republic / President of the IRENA 16th Assembly (5 min) • Endorsing Minister (5 min) <i>TBC</i> • H.E. Víctor Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic (5 min) <i>TBC</i> • Official photograph with endorsing Ministers and Heads of Delegation.

A detailed programme, along with logistical and registration information, will be shared in due course. For further information, please contact the IRENA Secretariat.