

KUWAIT DECLARATION and CONFERENCE OUTCOME
of the
6th Middle East & North Africa Renewable Energy Conference
(MENAREC 6, Kuwait, April 4-6, 2016)

Ministers, heads of delegations and representatives of governments, national, regional and international organizations from the countries of the MENA region and partner countries participated in the 6th edition of MENAREC held in Kuwait April 4-6, 2016 on the principal theme “**Renewable Innovations towards Sustainable Energy**”;

Participants welcome the recommendations of various regional and international events held to facilitate cooperation on the transformation of energy sectors over the past decade, particularly the previous five editions of MENAREC: MENAREC 1 in Sanaa in 2004, MENAREC 2 in Amman in 2005, MENAREC 3 in Cairo in 2006, MENAREC 4 in Damascus in 2007 and MENAREC 5 in Marrakech in 2012;

Participants recalled the **Paris Agreement** and its recommendations to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to rapidly cut emissions on a global scale to achieve this. Participants agreed upon the need to significantly decarbonise the energy sector through the accelerated deployment of renewable energy;

Participants recognised that **doubling renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030** can, as estimated by IRENA, boost global GDP by 1.1 percent, equating to USD 1.3 trillion of investment and generating more than 24 million jobs globally; and provide half the emission reductions needed to limit temperature rise to 2°C, while energy efficiency can provide the remainder;

Participants underline the **high potential of renewable energy in the MENA region** and the exploitation of this potential can contribute to a secure energy supply for meeting the strong growth in energy demand. Achieving renewable energy targets in the GCC alone (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE) can, as estimated by IRENA, result in a cumulative reduction of 2.5 billion barrels of oil demand between 2015 and 2030 and 16 per cent in water withdrawals by 2030;

Acknowledging the progress made since the 5th edition of MENAREC and encourage further dialogue and cooperation within the MENA region in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, participants recommended in particular to:

- speed up the pace of diversification of energy resources, initiated in recent years by countries in the MENA region, in accelerating the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency, including industry, transport and buildings, and move towards sustainable built and smart cities;
- improve human and institutional capabilities and the implementation of coherent national and regional strategies, creating better enabling frameworks for small, medium and large renewable energy projects in the MENA region;
- further develop and strengthen enabling policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, including energy pricing, to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, while involving the private sector more effectively through mechanisms such as Public-Private Partnerships;

- accelerate the mobilization of private and public renewable energy financial resources; increasing the engagement of regional and international funds including the Arab funds and international financial institutions; to optimize their technical assistance to facilitate access to innovative funding mechanisms and risk mitigation facilities; and to encourage trilateral cooperation fostering successful funding models;
- strengthen grid infrastructure and technical, regulatory and market frameworks for cross-border electricity trade in the MENA region and to explore the possibility to export renewable energy beyond the region;
- build a structured industrial approach in the MENA region, including harmonized quality standards, that can contribute to the development of the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors and provide new employment opportunities, while benefiting from synergies and scaling effects;
- encourage the governments of the MENA countries to actively involve all relevant stakeholders, including legislators, private sector, academia, local authorities, NGOs and civil society;
- increase the implementation of awareness-raising and education programs on renewable energy and energy efficiency by the countries of the MENA region, the regional and international organizations, the private sector, NGOs and media;
- strengthen the regional and international research, transfer of clean technologies, know-how and expertise to and between the countries of the MENA region; through improving networks and innovative cooperation involving local, regional and national stakeholders as well as technical and professional organizations.

Participants welcome the success of this conference and its positive results that offer promising prospects for strengthening cooperation in the MENA region in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency;

Participants underline the importance of the upcoming 22nd session of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 22)** to the UNFCCC, to be hosted on November 7-18, 2016 by the Kingdom of Morocco, offering the MENA region an important chance to address the specific challenges and opportunities for the regional energy transition;

Participants agreed upon the need for continuous regional cooperation, creating further synergies with all relevant fora, such as the Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ARFREE);

Participants express gratitude to the **Government of Kuwait, KISR in particular**, for the warm welcome, the good organization and smooth conduct of the conference, including its exhibition, and to IRENA, the League of Arab States, UNESCWA, RCREEE, the Government of Germany and other key partners for their support in organizing the conference.

We welcome the proposal made by the **Republic of Tunisia to host MENAREC 7 in 2018.**

Kuwait City, April 6, 2016