

Annual Report 2017





REN21

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Message from REN21 | 2017

It is with great pleasure that we present an overview of REN21's activities in 2017. The year's highlight was the Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC). Conference sessions were built around a systems approach to renewable energy, where the generation and use of renewable energy are looked at from a cross-cutting perspective. Universal energy access, socio-economic co-benefits and empowerment of marginalised social groups were prioritised and the role of supporting, balancing supply and demand measures, and sector coupling were stressed. A particular focus was placed on ensuring a balance between female and male speakers.

Broadening the discussion beyond that of renewable energy and energy efficiency was a central theme of REN21's work in 2017. REN21's dynamic, multi-stakeholder network was crucial to this process, providing information, guidance and critically reviewing inputs. By year's end REN21 had collaborated on reports with the World Bank, the G20, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT).

The value of this network is nowhere better illustrated than in the production of REN21's *Renewables Global Status Report* (GSR). Over 800 experts participated in this year's production. The result is nothing less than a compelling story about renewable energy growth in all parts of the world. In an attempt to put the findings of the GSR 2017 in the broader context of the global energy transition, the REN21 Secretariat produced a new publication: *Advancing the Global Renewable Energy Transition: Highlights of the REN21 Renewables 2017 Global Status Report in Perspective* (Highlights 2017). In addition to summarising the GSR 2017's key points, Highlights 2017 presents the year's overarching trends and developments in a broader context.

Another of this year's achievements was the release of the *Renewables 100% Global Futures Report: Great debates towards a 100% renewable energy future*. The report was designed to spur debate about the opportunities and challenges of a 100% renewable energy future. Together with the GSR 2017 these reports collectively illustrate the distance between where we are now and what needs to happen if an energy transition with renewables is to be achieved.

The above are just a few examples that demonstrate REN21's unique place in the renewables arena. By working across key stakeholder groups, REN21 connects the dots between the private and public sector and maps out ways to drive the energy transition with renewables. We are a collaborative network, open to organisations that are committed to advancing the energy transition with renewable energy and energy efficiency. If REN21's activities appeal to you, consider joining this dynamic multi-stakeholder network!




Arthouros Zervos
Chair




Christine Lins
Executive Secretary

REN21 Secretariat

REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, is a multi-stakeholder network on renewable energy. Its Secretariat, based at UN Environment in Paris, France, implements the strategy agreed by REN21's Steering Committee. The Secretariat facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy which is then made publically available through REN21's publications, presentations, discussions and debates.

The REN21 Secretariat is composed of the following team members:

Christine Lins, Executive Secretary

Rana Adib, Research Coordinator

Martin Hullin, Project Manager (until June 2017)

Hannah E. Murdock, Project Manager & Analyst

Katharina Satzinger, Project Assistant & Office Manager

Laura E. Williamson, Communication & Outreach Manager

Lea Ranalder, MEXIREC Consultant (July – September 2017)

Interns

Linh Nguyen, Intern (September 2016 – February 2017)

Satrio Prillianto, Intern (October 2016 – March 2017)

Isobel Edwards, Intern (February – July 2017)

Lewis Ashworth, Intern (March – September 2017)

Mimi Lie, Intern (August 2017 – February 2018)

Archita Misra, Intern (August 2017 – February 2018)

REN21 Members 2017

By end of 2017, REN21 counted 64 organisations and governments as its members.

Industry Associations

Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)
American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)
Associação Portuguesa de Energias Renováveis (APREN)
Association for Renewable Energy of Lusophone Countries (ALER)
Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)
Clean Energy Council (CEC)
European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF)
Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)
Global Solar Council (GSC)
Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
Indian Renewable Energy Federation (IREF)
International Geothermal Association (IGA)
International Hydropower Association (IHA)
Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4MED)
World Bioenergy Association (WBA)
World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

International Organisations

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APEREC)
ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
European Commission (EC)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Energy Agency (IEA)
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
UN Environment (UNEP)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Bank (WB)

NGOs

Climate Action Network (CAN)
Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
Fundación Energías Renovables (FER)
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC)
Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)
Greenpeace International
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia
Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)
Mali Folkecenter (MFC)
Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
Renewable Energy Institute (REI)
World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE)
World Future Council (WFC)
World Resources Institute (WRI)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Members at large

Michael Eckhart
Mohamed El-Ashry
David Hales
Kirsty Hamilton
Peter Rae

National Governments

Afghanistan
Brazil
Denmark
Germany
India
Norway
South Africa
Spain
United Arab Emirates
United States of America

Science and Academia

Fundación Bariloche (FB)
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Chair

Arthouros Zervos
National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Executive Secretary

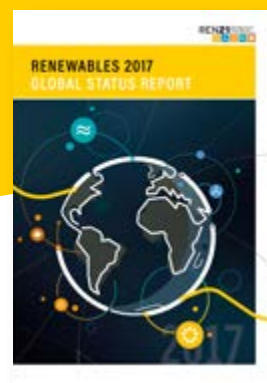
Christine Lins
REN21

Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century. REN21

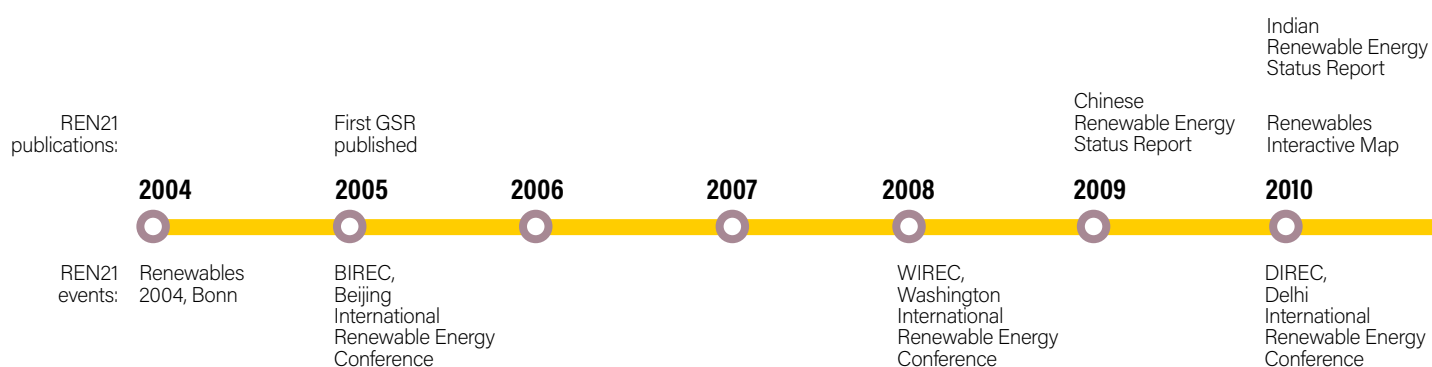
is the global renewable energy policy multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors. REN21's goal is to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy development and joint action towards a rapid global transition to renewable energy.

REN21 brings together governments, non-governmental organisations, research and academic institutions, international organisations and industry to learn from one another and build on successes that advance renewable energy. To assist policy decision-making, REN21 provides high-quality information, catalyses discussion and debate, and supports the development of thematic networks.

REN21 facilitates the collection of comprehensive and timely information on renewable energy. This information reflects diverse viewpoints from both private and public sector actors, serving to dispel myths about renewable energy and to catalyse policy change. It does this through six product lines:



*Global Status Report:
yearly publication since 2005*



REN21 products

Renewables Global Status Report (GSR)

First released in 2005, REN21's *Renewables Global Status Report* (GSR) has grown to become a truly collaborative effort, drawing on an international network of over 800 authors, contributors and reviewers. Today it is the most frequently referenced report on renewable energy market, industry and policy trends.

Regional Reports

These reports detail the renewable energy developments of a particular region; their production also supports regional data collection processes and informed decision making.

Renewables Interactive Map

The Renewables Interactive Map is a research tool for tracking the development of renewable energy worldwide. It complements the perspectives and findings of REN21's Global and Regional Status Reports by providing infographics from the reports as well as offering detailed, exportable data packs.

Global Futures Reports (GFR)

REN21 produces reports that illustrate the credible possibilities for the future of renewables within particular thematic areas.

Renewables Academy

The REN21 Renewables Academy provides an opportunity for lively exchange among the growing community of REN21 contributors. It offers a venue to brainstorm on future-orientated policy solutions and allows participants to actively contribute on issues central to a renewable energy transition.

International Renewable Energy Conferences (IREC)

The International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) is a high-level political conference series. Dedicated exclusively to the renewable energy sector, the biennial IREC is hosted by a national government and convened by REN21.



Regional Reports



www.ren21.net/map



Global Futures Reports



REN21 Renewables Academy



International Renewable Energy Conferences

Global Status Report on Local Renewable Energy Policies

2011

2012

Global Futures Report
MENA Renewable Energy Status Report

2013

ADIREC, Abu Dhabi International Renewable Energy Conference

ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report

2014

First REN21 Renewables Academy, Bonn

SADC and UNECE Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Reports
Renewables Interactive Map revamp

2015

SAIREC, South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference

EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report

2016

First GSR Microsite

Renewables 100% Global Futures Report
UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report
Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [em]Power[ment]

2017

MEXIREC, Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference

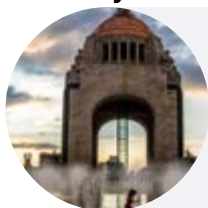
REN21 Activities: Key milestones and events in 2017

January 2017



Attendance at IRENA Assembly and World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates

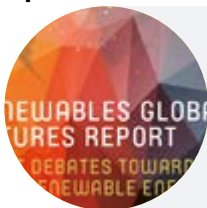
February 2017



First organisational meeting for Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC), Mexico City/Mexico

Presentation at Opening Plenary of Mexico Wind Power Exhibition and Congress, Mexico City/Mexico

April 2017



Launch of *Renewables Global Futures Report: Great debates towards 100% renewable energy* at SEforALL Forum, New York/USA

Panel discussion at G7 Energy Ministerial Meeting, Berlin/Germany

May 2017



June 2017



Sneak preview of *Renewables 2017 Global Status Report* (GSR 2017) at Intersolar, Munich/Germany

Launch of GSR 2017 at 8th Clean Energy Ministerial, Beijing/China



Release of *Advancing the Global Renewable Energy Transition: Highlights of the REN21 Renewables 2017 Global Status Report in perspective* (Highlights 2017) in Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish



Keynote address at WEMC International Conference on Energy and Meteorology, Bari/Italy

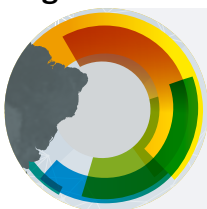
Second organisational meeting for MEXIREC, Mexico City/Mexico

Keynote presentation at 16th World Wind Energy Conference, Malmö/Sweden

CNN interview on *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017*



August 2017



Co-chair of Energy Transition Seminar, European Forum Alpbach, Alpbach/Austria

Finalisation of *Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [Em]power[ment]: LAC and Caribbean*

September 2017

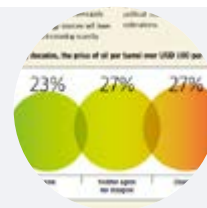


October 2017



Keynote presentation at Renewable Energy Institute, Tokyo/Japan

Press and media outreach on *Global Futures Report 2017*, Tokyo/Japan



November 2017



REN21 hosts renewable energy events at climate talks (COP23), Bonn/Germany

Release of *Minigrid Policy Toolkit* in Portuguese

December 2017



March 2017



Moderation of ministerial panels at Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, Berlin/Germany



REN21 becomes an accredited observer to the Green Climate Fund



Moderated sessions and chaired high-level panel at Vienna Energy Forum, Vienna/Austria

Opening Session presentation at Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean: 5th Anniversary Conference, Rome/Italy

Release of World Bank's *State of Electricity Access Report 2017 (SEAR)* in which REN21 wrote the "Clean Energy and Electricity Access" chapter



REN21 Executive Secretary featured in GineersNow



Launch of GSR 2017 microsite

Regional release of Highlights 2017 at:

- Smart Energies Expo & Summit, Paris/France
- Colombian Renewable Energy Conference, Cartagena/Columbia
- EU-Russia Climate Diplomacy Conference, Moscow/Russia



Launch of *UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017* at Ministerial Conference and the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana/Kazakhstan

July 2017



South Asian release of GSR 2017 at CEEW/Shakti Foundation Renewable Energy Dialogue, New Delhi/India



NREL and REN21 host GSR 2017 thematic webinars across the globe



Co-hosting of 8th International Renewable Energy Conference, MEXIREC, Mexico City/ Mexico

Selection of the Republic of Korea to be IREC 2019 host

Launch of *Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [Em]power[ment]: LAC and Caribbean*, Mexico City/Mexico

REN21 Steering Committee and GSR 2018 Strategic Planning Meetings, Mexico City/ Mexico

Release of Highlights 2017 in Vietnamese

Development of educational material for Massive Open Online Course for the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Madrid/Spain



Launch of 2017 edition, *1 Gigaton Report*, Geneva/Switzerland

Release of GSR 2017 in Korean

Release of Highlights 2017 in Farsi and Japanese



→ 2018

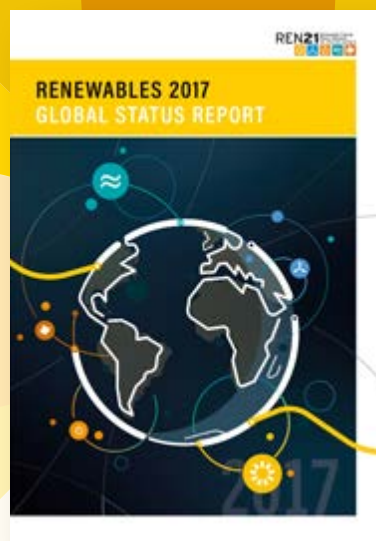
**Providing High Quality Information on Renewables:
Good decisions are based on reliable information**

REN21 Renewables 2017 Global Status Report

The 2017 edition of *REN21's Renewables 2017 Global Status Report* (GSR 2017) reveals a global energy transition well under way, with record new additions of installed renewable energy capacity, rapidly falling costs, particularly for solar PV and wind power, and the decoupling of economic growth and energy related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the third year running.

In an attempt to put the findings of the GSR 2017 in the broader context of the global energy transition, the REN21 Secretariat produced *Advancing the Global Renewable Energy Transition: Highlights of the REN21 Renewables 2017 Global Status Report in Perspective* (Highlights 2017).

Using the meticulously documented data found in the GSR 2017, Highlights 2017 presents the overarching trends and developments from 2017 so that policy makers and others can more easily understand the significance of the latest renewable energy developments. It outlines what is happening to drive the energy transition and details why it is not happening fast enough or as fast as is possible. Based on the positive feedback received, the Secretariat will develop this complementary publication further in 2018.



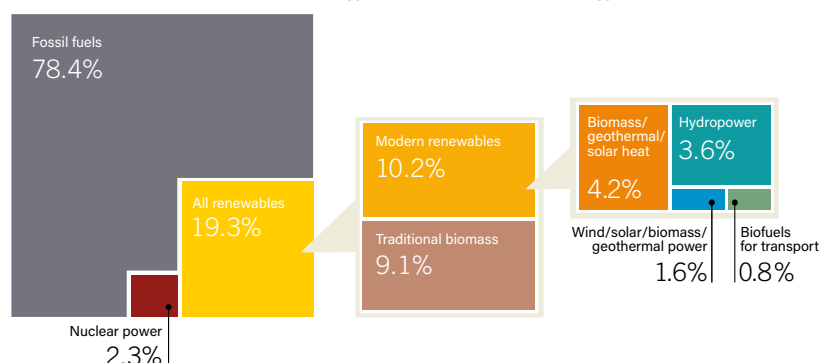
The GSR 2017 was launched 7 June at the 8th Clean Energy Ministerial in Beijing, China. Similar to past years, the launch consisted of a cluster of events including its presentation at the CEM high-level session, discussion of the report's key findings during the C3E summit, and a REN21 side event which linked the 2017 report to the 12 debates highlighted in the earlier released *Renewables Global Futures Report: Great debates towards 100% renewable energy*. A webinar "Renewables Rising: What is driving uptake?" was co-hosted with REN21 partner the Clean Energy Solutions Center and China's National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC).

"... Around the world, renewables have benefited from a cycle of falling costs spurred on by accelerated deployment, and the competitiveness of renewable power generation technologies continues to improve. The REN21 Renewables 2017 Global Status Report clearly documents this, providing decision and policy makers with timely, robust data."

Vivien Foster, Global Lead for Energy Economics, Markets & Institutions, The World Bank Group's Energy and Extractives Global Practice



FIGURE 1. Estimated Renewable Energy Share of Total Final Energy Consumption, 2015



Press outreach and a social media campaign complemented the launch. Hard copies of Highlights 2017 in Chinese and English were distributed widely. Additional GSR 2017 regional releases occurred in Cartagena, Hanoi, Moscow, New Delhi, Paris, and Tokyo. Translated versions of Highlights 2017 were produced in Farsi, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The GSR 2017 webinar series looked at cross-cutting issues such as establishing strong connections between renewable energy, energy access and energy efficiency and how certain enabling technologies can serve synergistic purposes, i.e. creating new conduits for renewable energy to reach all end-use sectors, and facilitating the successful integration of ever-growing shares of variable renewable electricity generation. The webinars were held in cooperation with REN21's partner the Clean Energy Solutions Center.

"This year's REN21 *Renewables 2017 Global Status Report* clearly demonstrates the enormous potential of renewables. Forget grid competitiveness, this is the era of "base-cost renewables", in which wind and solar are cheaper than any other source, and are therefore the default choice for new capacity... At this rate, surely a 100% renewable energy future is feasible!"

*Michael Liebreich, Advisory Board
Chairman, Bloomberg New Energy Finance*

**#RE are unstoppable w/2016 records!
Now further faster to reach climate goals
ren21.net/gsr #GSR2017 #CEM8**

<http://thndr.me/G47rG9>

GSR 2017 press releases were prepared in 13 languages:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- Farsi
- French
- German
- Greek
- Japanese
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese

GSR 2017

Outreach for the 2017 report focused on major renewable energy markets: Argentina, Chile, China, Europe, India, Japan and North America. Material was honed for each region; press material and regional briefing sheets were available in multiple languages. A particular focus was given to Mexico – and the Latin and South America regions in general – in advance of the Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC). Persistently low coverage in these regions was another reason for this year's increased focus.

Coverage appeared in 24 different languages:

- Arabic
- Bulgarian
- Chinese
- Croatian
- Dutch
- English
- Finnish
- Flemish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Thai
- Turkish
- Vietnamese



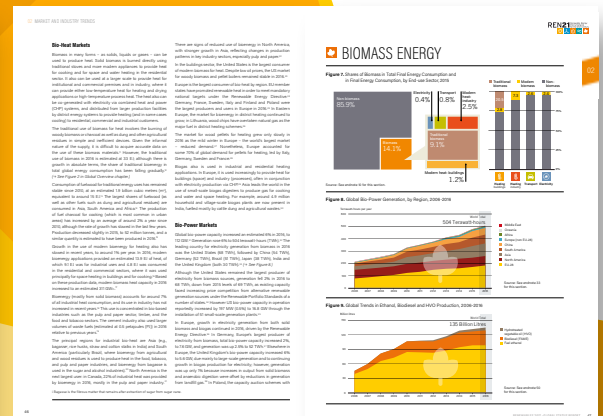
Highlights 2017 is available in:

- Chinese
- English
- Farsi
- Japanese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese

The GSR 2017 is available in English and Korean.

"... REN21's *Renewables 2017 Global Status Report* documents for the first time how enabling technologies are facilitating and advancing the deployment of renewable energy. ... Understanding the role of enabling technologies is key to ensuring high level of renewable uptake. We welcome REN21's work on this."

Paolo Frankl, Renewable Energy Division Head, International Energy Agency





GSR Microsite

"Here in Ontario, we strive to put out reports that are as beautiful and as useful as the *Renewables Global Status Report* series. This series serves as inspiration for how data should be collected and presented to document the contribution of renewables to any region's energy mix."

Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Canada

Building on the positive feedback from the 2016 release, the main entry point for this year's report was the GSR microsite. Here the full GSR report is available along with its colourful infographics. References are easily accessible – users can place their mouse over a reference and see all the sources used and access them directly via individual hyperlinks. The infographics are incorporated throughout the text and the simple navigation structure allows the reader to jump easily from chapter to chapter. The new GOOGLE translate function allows the user to translate the full content into his/her native language.

Social media proved to be the best vehicle for "spreading the word." A Thunderclap campaign on 7 June – announcing the availability of the report – reached over 2.6 million people; a 175% increase over 2016 numbers.

Coverage of this year's report was diverse. Two weeks after its launch, over 1,070 news and blog articles appeared in print and online. Articles were written in 24 different languages, spanning more than 70 countries. Articles appeared in the Guardian, Le Monde, Liberation, Deutsche Welle, El Mundo, The Independent, AFP, CNBC, Economic Times, L'Echo, Observador, and in numerous Chinese and Latin American journals. There was also good television coverage in Africa.

While coverage in print media was somewhat lower than in 2016, the content of the coverage was more substantial. Reporters and bloggers used the analysis found in the Highlights 2017 publication as the basis for their articles.

By year's end almost 59,400 people had used the microsite meaning a 805% increase over 2016 user rates. Much of this increase can be attributed to people being familiar with the microsite and how to use it. (The microsite was first launched in 2016.) Overall numbers of users consulting the suite of GSR 2017 webpages increased by almost 42% over 2016 numbers.

Regular information on the GSR can be found on:



1,070

on-line press stories

74

Countries covered

24

number of languages in which the release of GSR 2017 was reported

Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [Em]power[ment]: Latin America and Caribbean



This latest report looks at the interface between the tendering process and the role that communities can play in renewable energy uptake in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Community-driven renewable energy projects offer a so-far unexploited opportunity in Latin America and the Caribbean. To date, there is no evidence of utility-scale, grid-connected community-driven renewable energy projects in the region.

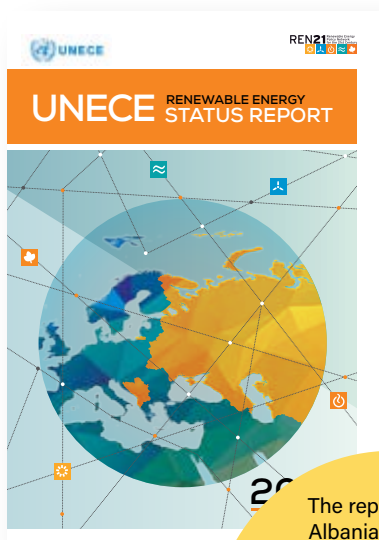
The report documents various tender processes and community renewable energy projects across the LAC region and proposes a mechanism that could be used to encourage community involvement in renewable energy tendering process.

It was launched at the Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC), 11-13 September. The report is available in English and Spanish and is available for download from the REN21 website.

"The economic benefits of renewable energy sources along with the empowerment of marginal social groups and local communities are some of the most important elements to ensure complete access to energy."

Arthouros Zervos, Chair, REN21

UNECE Renewables Energy Status Report



2017 saw the publication of a second status report on Central and Eastern Europe.

Despite comprising over 300 million inhabitants and representing 4.9% of the world's GDP, 17 UNECE countries in South and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia account for less than 0.5% or USD 0.5 billion of global renewable energy investment.

Attracting investment is a major challenge in these countries, despite numerous support schemes and policies for renewable energy. This updated report provides a comprehensive overview of the status of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets, industry, policy and regulatory frameworks, and investment activities.

The report was launched 12 June, at Ministerial Conference and the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan. The report can be downloaded from the REN21 website.

The report covers Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

"[This] report will provide useful information to policy makers of the UNECE region to undertake the necessary steps to increase the uptake of renewable energy, contributing to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7... The information gathered... will be instrumental for a constructive and informed dialogue among all stakeholders in the region"

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Renewables 100% Global Futures Report: Great debates towards a 100% renewable energy future

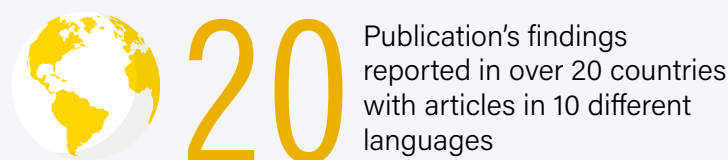
This report presents views of 114 renowned energy experts from around the world, on the feasibility and challenges of achieving a 100% renewable energy future. Their thoughts are grouped into "12 Great Debates," ranging from the future of heating and transport, the interconnection of sectors, the role of mega-cities and what utilities of the future could look like. The report, however, does not predict the future; it is designed to spur debate about the opportunities and challenges of a 100% renewable energy future.

The report was launched 4 April at the SEforALL Forum in New York. The report's key messages were discussed during a plenary session on "Knowledge into Action," where energy leaders talked about the challenges of, and opportunities for connecting centralised and decentralised systems. An afternoon working session gave panelists the time to discuss whether getting to a 100% renewables by mid-century is a pipe-dream or not.

Interviews via Facebook Live and the SDG Media Zone provided opportunities to conduct and stream interviews on the report's findings. A press briefing at UN Headquarters in New York allowed journalists to hear the key takeaways of the report and ask questions. REN21 and the Clean Energy Solutions Center held a webinar; regional coordinators who worked on the report presented regional perspectives.



GFR 2017



English- and Spanish-speaking markets were the most interested in the report.

Hello!

Hola!

NEWS

Press widely referenced:

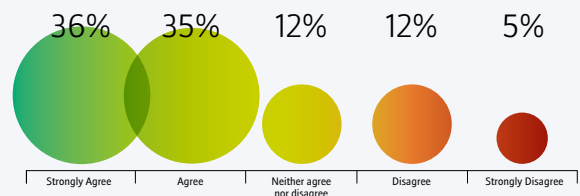
- over **70%** of the experts interviewed said that the cost of renewables would continue to fall, beating all fossil fuels within 10 years' time.
- experts felt that **100%** renewables is possible by 2050.

Coverage on social media exploded in first 24 hours of report launch:

200 original tweets generated
230 new Twitter followers



Is the transition to 100% renewables on a global level feasible and realistic?



Developing Networks and Expanding Outreach Efforts: REN21 worked with others around the world to promote renewables and build-up networks

Making the Connections

REN21's strength is its community that works collectively to spur the uptake of renewables globally and regionally. REN21 does this in a number of ways.

1. We continuously **identify new experts** to bring in new knowledge and experience.
2. We **work with partners** to ensure that the information produced is accessible in key languages.
3. We also **talk to users** to find out how we can better present information so that it is accessible and understandable in addition to being rigorously researched.
4. We **provide a platform** for exchange and co-operation that is shaped by the REN21 community.
5. And because there is so much happening on the energy transition, we **invest in forming partnerships** with others so that we can learn from one and other and build on successes.

REN21's strength comes from its network.

It is a truly collaborative network illustrated by strong stakeholder engagement. In 2017 over 330 people responded to REN21's "Expression of Interest" to engage in the production of the *Renewables 2018 Global Status Report*.

These experts represent a wide range of stakeholder groups. They voluntarily contribute their time and knowledge by submitting data, reviewing, and validating text. The result is a robust publication that brings clarity into how renewables are evolving annually. In turn, these experts are acknowledged for their contribution, further supporting them in their work in making the energy transition with renewables a reality.

Tracking **155** countries



Covering **96%** of global GDP



Representing **96%** of global population



Connecting the Dots: Moving beyond renewables

The centrality of energy in many sectors makes it important to look beyond the renewable energy sector itself. In 2017, REN21 worked directly with other sectors – such as transport, climate, and energy access – to see how renewable energy could contribute to meeting those sectors' objectives.

Of all sectors, decarbonisation of the transport sector is one of the most challenging. But given its large overall energy consumption, decarbonisation of this sector is a must if we are to meet obligations under the Paris Agreement. Over the course of 2017, REN21 worked closely with members such as Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT, industry association), GIZ (German government), IRENA (intergovernmental organisation) and Dialogo Energetico (Chilean NGO) to understand the constraints faced by the relevant players, the issues around designing integrated infrastructure and to work collaboratively to propose innovative, integrated policies. The challenge is to ensure that the discussion does not stop with the replacement of combustion-engine vehicles with electric vehicles but continues towards a systemic energy change in the transport sector.

Throughout the year, REN21 also advised SLoCaT and its Steering Committee on the development of its Transport and Climate Change Global Status Report, in which REN21 is authoring the chapter on renewable energy and transport. The report will be launched May 2018.



Other transport-related activities included providing data support and outreach to AGORA Verkehrswende and GIZ on its new publication. *Towards Decarbonising Transport Taking Stock of G20 Sectoral Ambition* summarises the mitigation policies enacted for the transport sector by G20 countries. By providing a snapshot of efforts to decarbonise transport, the report shows where more action is needed. It was launched at COP23.

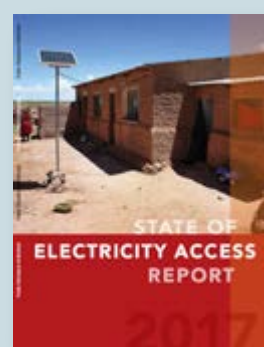


Energy production and use has a direct impact on land. In parallel, land viability is directly affected by climate change. Understanding how renewable energy can support sustainable land management and vice-versa is important to achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The climate change talks in Bonn (COP23) afforded REN21 the opportunity to start looking at this issue: REN21 collaborated with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification at its Global Renewable Energy Forum on "Why Land Matters for a Sustainable Energy Future?"

Joint events with members World Future Council, WWF and Climate Action Network–International (CAN-I) each looked at the role of renewables to the 1.5°C target. The WWF event in particular looked at the need for policy innovation to ensure energy access. The demand for, and attendance at these events attests to the growing interest of renewables as a cornerstone of climate action.

Over the course of the year, REN21 also worked on a series of publications to push the renewable energy agenda across other sectors.

REN21 wrote the clean energy and energy access chapter as part of the World Bank's *State of Electricity Access Report 2017* (SEAR), which was released in April. We also joined forces with IRENA and the IEA to collaborate on a forthcoming joint policy publication, *Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition*. The publication will provide a new classification of renewable energy policies – jointly formulated by the three institutions – to illustrate the latest policy developments around the world. It will also present background on renewable energy policies in the power, heating and cooling, and transport sectors, as well as system integration and sector coupling. Plans are to launch this joint publication in spring 2018.



And in an effort to increase uptake, the *Mini-grid Policy Toolkit*, produced by REN21, EUEI PDF, and ARE has now been translated into Portuguese by REN21 member, APREN.

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Other cross-sector activities in 2017 included developing material for Spain's School for Industrial Organisation (Escuela de organización industrial, EOI). EOI – along with the Institute for Sustainable Energy – invited REN21 to create two modules for a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The course was for post-graduate business students on off-grid renewable energy systems for electricity access. Over 480 students have since participated in the course.

Throughout 2017, REN21 staff also presented the status of renewables and identified new experts to complement the contributors' network. REN21 staff participated around the world in over 30 high-level events and gave more than 55 presentations. The team engaged with a wide variety of participants on the status of renewables and the role of policy in ensuring renewable uptake.

REN21 also carried out its own, direct outreach activities to raise awareness of REN21 products and services. Four newsletters detailing the activities of the Secretariat and the REN21 network were produced.

The Secretariat continued to complement REN21's outreach efforts with regular posting on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. The REN21 website remains a central part of these efforts as well as acting as an electronic archive. Over the course of 2017 there was a 13.5% increase in the number of visitors to the REN21 website and a 23% increase in pages consulted, over 2016 numbers. Pages that were consulted the most continue to be the Global Futures Report and the Global Status Report pages with an increasing number of users consulting the regional status report page.



Forming Partnerships

REN21 leverages its work by forming strategic partnerships. REN21's partnership with each of the organisations listed below brings a different area of expertise to the renewable energy debate. The result is a broad network of experts that expands beyond the traditional renewable energy community.



IADB provided funding for the translation of Highlights 2017 into Spanish thereby extending GSR coverage to Spanish-speaking countries. Copies of the translated Highlights 2017 were distributed widely at MEXIREC.



REN21 continued to contribute to the IRENA's Coalition for Action – a multi-stakeholder network. IRENA also contributed to REN21's *Renewables 2017 Global Status Report* by preparing the sidebar on jobs and costs.



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

REN21 holds observer status with the UNFCCC and participated in a number of activities at COP23.



UNIDO and REN21 signed an agreement to develop another flagship publication. This report will support SACREEE, the newly created SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. This cooperation builds on the work and success of the 2015 *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*. The new report will be released in 2018.

Over the course of 2017 REN21 continued to work closely with CAN-I, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC), Power for All, SEforALL and SLoCaT. Underlying each one of these partnership was the aim to move beyond the renewable energy community in order to facilitate the global energy transition.



REN21 strengthened its collaboration with the IEA on data exchange to ensure consistency between the IEA's *Medium-Term Renewable Energy Market Report 2017* and the REN21 *Renewables 2017 Global Status Report*. The two organisations worked closely with IRENA on the joint policy paper, *Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition*. REN21 remains a member of the IEA's Renewable Energy Industry Advisory Board (RIAB) and participated in its meetings.



For the third year in a row REN21 supported UN Environment in data collection for the emissions report under the 1 Gigaton Coalition, ensuring that energy efficiency data was provided for 197 countries. REN21 also wrote the chapter on energy efficiency and renewable energy policies in developing and emerging countries. *The 1 Gigaton Report* was launched 31 October in Geneva. UN Environment continues to support the REN21 Secretariat by providing space and logistical support. REN21 is an accredited observer to UN Environment.

Continuing to expand

REN21 welcomed three new members in 2017:

Associação
Portuguesa de
Energias Renováveis
(APREN)

Afghanistan
Government

Fundación
Renovables



Catalysing Discussion and Debate: REN21 and the Mexican government co-hosted an international conference to debate the global renewable energy transition

REN21 works to convene multi-stakeholders on renewable energy. This community came together in Mexico City mid-September under the banner of the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC). The Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC) was the 7th in this conference series, continuing the tradition of convening government and non-state actors around the development of renewable energy policy.

MEXIREC's agenda was designed to encourage a systems approach to energy where the generation and use of renewable energy are analysed from an integrated and multifaceted perspective. The conference demonstrated how this diversification is occurring, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but elsewhere in the world.

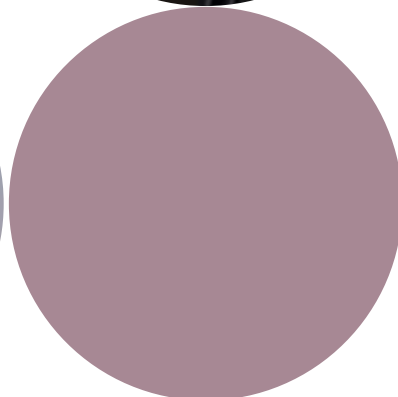
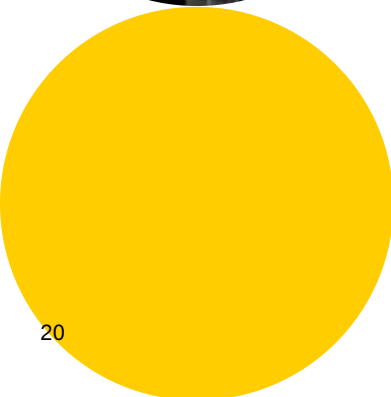
Over the course of two days, more than 1,600 delegates participated in talks and presentations that revolved around five thematic areas: Policy and Finance; Electricity Sector and Infrastructure; Heating and Cooling/Transport; Energy Access/Local Value Creation; and Technology Innovations. The presence and active participation of young professionals and women was particularly encouraging. MEXIREC ended with presentation and acceptance of the Conference Declaration.



In advance of the opening day MEXIREC hosted a series of side events.

Twenty-seven events took place, where organisations involved in the renewable energy sector could highlight their work, letting everyone know about their goals, future plans, and how they are bringing innovation to the table. **Participants from 69 countries** took advantage of opportunities to exchange ideas, and network.

Each of the **27**
parallel sessions
had a least
one female
panelist.





MEXIREC

In parallel a new report, *Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [Em]power[ment]: Latin America and the Caribbean* was launched. The bi-lingual report (English/Spanish) examines both the rise of tendering and community power projects in the region and proposes an accession process to reconcile the tension between maximising economic returns and social impact.

MEXIREC was the leading event of the "Dialogues for the Future of Energy, Mexico 2017" (DEMEX). It was held 11-13 September at the Expo Santa Fe Convention Center, Mexico City and co-organised by SENER and REN21 with the support of the German government. See the REN21 website for the conference report, full Declaration text, photos and much more.

A Conference Declaration is presented at the close of each IREC. The Declaration is an opportunity for the host government to propose a course of action or announce a commitment to increase the uptake of renewables in the country or region. It also summarises the outcomes of the IREC.

The MEXIREC Declaration outlines key elements to enhance the energy transition with renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean. Conference participants endorsed this Declaration, acknowledging the efforts of the Government of Mexico to keep sustainable development and energy transition with renewable energy as the central axis of its Energy Reform of the electric power sector

The delegates congratulated the host country Mexico on its commitment to strengthen sustainable development and energy transition with renewable energy as the central axis of its reform of the electric power sector. The enactment of its Energy Transition Law, which harmonises Mexico's climate change and clean energy frameworks was specifically cited. Mexico's Sustainable and Energy Efficiency Programme at the sub-national government level (PRESEM) along with the anticipated release of a national one-stop shop permitting process, to make investment in clean energy cost-effective, transparent and accountable, was also acknowledged.

The full declaration can be downloaded from REN21's website.

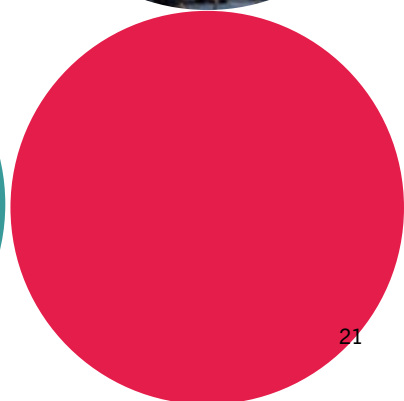


"[MEXIREC] reflects the commitment of the Mexican Government to produce 50% of clean energy by the year 2050. MEXIREC is a driving force for the usage and production of renewable energies not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but globally, satisfying our energy requirements in a clean, accessible, and sustainable manner."

Leonardo Beltrán, Deputy Director of Energy Planning and Transition, Secretaría de Energía



Mark your calendars! IREC 2019 will be held in South Korea. Korea's ambition to phase out nuclear and coal and to increase levels of renewable energy in its national energy mix were key determining factors in its selection. The conference is scheduled for 22-25 October, 2019 in Seoul.



REN21 Accounts 2016

	2015	2016
Non-Profit business		
Non-taxable income		
1. Membership fees	0	0
2. Grants	1,529,351.48	1,652,069.26
		1,652,069.26
Non-taxable expenses		
1. In-house consultants (within the Secretariat)	297,650.00	274,100.00
2. Wages and salaries	192,822.65	283,157.91
3. Travel expenses	129,352.85	71,191.75
4. Miscellaneous other expenses		
Consulting costs	750,003.02	1,048,686.17
Costs for events	0	0
Advertising and printing costs	44,653.46	66,569.28
Legal and tax consulting fees	15,784.00	10,809.43
Office supplies and telephone	9,800.56	18,281.54
Contributions and insurance	3,267.14	5,894.25
Incidental monetary transaction costs	1,857.75	3,256.95
Other expenses	59,767.47	59,245.43
		1,841,192.71
Profit/loss	24,392.55	- 189,123.45
Fund management		
Tax-free income	0.40	0.19
Organisation's profit		
Allocation of reserves for use in following year	- 24,392.95	189,123.26
Profit/loss carried forward	0.00	0.00

Future Outlook

Looking forward to 2018

REN21 will continue to advance its work with key players working to ensure an energy transition to renewables and coordinated on key messages to foster renewable energy uptake, globally. Its work in 2018 will focus on:

- driving the discussion about the future of renewable energy;
- further developing the link between renewable energy and transport;
- strengthening the REN21 community with its Renewables Academy;
- developing regional reports (Southern Africa and Asia) and corresponding networks to support data collection and cooperation;
- working closely with South Korea on the development of IREC 2019; and,
- striving to ensure the active participation of young professionals and women in the energy transition dialogue.

REN21's strength comes from its multi-stakeholder network of experts that is geographically diverse and represents a wide variety of sectors. If you are interested in being a part of this network and are committed to advancing the energy transition with renewable energy and energy efficiency, contact us and/or subscribe to the REN21 newsletter: secretariat@ren21.net.

You can also follow us on Twitter at [@REN21](https://twitter.com/REN21).

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