

Irena assembly to chart future energy course

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Abu Dhabi: The UAE will next week be at the epicentre of dialogue and collaboration to find an action plan to accelerate the global development and deployment of renewable energy, said a top official.

Dr Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber, UAE Special Envoy for Energy and Climate Change, was speaking ahead of the historic first General Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena), the intergovernmental organisation dedicated to promoting the adoption of renewable energy worldwide. The meeting will take place on April 4 to 5.

The Assembly will gather more than 90 high-level ministers, 800 delegates, business leaders and non-governmental organisations from more than 150 nations.

"In testament to the efforts of our wise and visionary leadership and as a committed member nation to Irena, the UAE is honoured to welcome such a diverse group of policymakers, business leaders and ministers. As an international centre for renewable energy innovation, our nation will provide a strong platform for open, multi-lateral dialogue and real action," Dr Al Jaber said.

Impressive

Delegates coming to Abu Dhabi will include Irena members dedicated to expanding renewable energy. To date, 148 countries and the European Union, have signed the Statute of the Agency; among them are 48 African, 38 European, 35 Asian, 17 American and 10 Australia/Oceania member states. Moreover, 64 countries and the European Union have ratified the statute for participation.

"The UAE's impressive commitment and actions to advance renewable energy around the world are directly aligned with the objectives of Irena, which make the nation an ideal international meeting ground for partnership and dialogue," said Irena Interim Director General, Adnan Ameen. "Irena and the UAE share a vision for a future of clean energy solutions that will support communities, economies and citizens around the globe."

The UAE has emerged as a global hub for renewable energy development, demonstrated through a variety of actions, including the inception of the Masdar initiative, the World Future Energy Summit, the Zayed Future Energy Prize and its involvement in the Clean Energy Ministerial. Masdar City — Abu Dhabi's sustainable, urban development — is an international centre for collaboration on clean technology and renewable energy that is attracting partnerships with businesses and academic institutions.

"The world has recognised the important role the UAE is playing in advancing innovation and the integration of renewable energy. Our nation's commitment to renewable energy adoption is a core contributor to creating a more sustainable future for the world," said Dr Al Jaber.

