

**Statement by Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the  
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to the UN HLDE  
on 24 September 2021**

Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

The current energy system is unfit for the resilient, equitable and climate-safe world we all want to live in.

Time is of the essence. We have nine years to achieve universal access and start to transition to a new energy system by design, not by disaster.

Investment in energy must double— from the current 2 trillion to 4 trillion per annum.

Investment comes with high benefits – IRENA estimates that energy jobs will almost double to 100 million by 2030.

We need private sector investment to realise this ambition.

IRENA will work to create a pipeline of bankable projects, most of all in LDCs and SIDS.

We will facilitate 100 renewable energy projects by 2030 and mobilise USD 3 billion for their financing and implementation. But we need the right strategies.

We need to translate the global 1.5C pathway to regional energy transition outlooks.

IRENA is therefore partnering with the European Union to provide clarity on investment priorities, costs and socio economics benefits, including job creation, in Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Importantly, these outlooks will offer policy options for enabling frameworks, while ensuring a just and inclusive transition.

IRENA is committed to leading the global energy transition, so that we can harness the power of modern markets and new technologies for a prosperous, just and resilient future for all.