

12 December 2025

Arab Energy Club Meeting, Abu Dhabi

Venue: Irena Headquarters, Masdar City

Draft Agenda

Energy Transitions and Market Realities in the MENA Region

09:00-09:45 Opening Session

Welcome Remarks: Dr Carole Nakhle, President Arab Energy Club

Keynote Address: Ambassador Antonio Bernardini, IRENA Chief of Staff

Mr Jassim Al-Shirawi, Secretary General, IEF

09:45-11:00 Session 1

Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals Trends in the MENA Region

Discussion Topics:

- Oil and gas demand forecasts from OPEC, IEA, EIA and industry
- The role of MENA oil and gas producers in a transitioning world
- Focus on gas investments in MENA to meet soaring demand, LNG imports
- Balancing investment in hydrocarbons with net-zero commitments
- Impact of global trade shifts and geopolitical risks on demand patterns
- The petrochemicals sector as a driver of oil demand growth, prospects

Moderator: Mrs Dyala Sabbagh

Presenters

- Mr Youssef Salem, CFO Adnoc Drilling

Presentation/discussion to be followed by comments/questions by members.

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Session 2

Renewable Energy, Electrification and Storage Solutions

Discussion Topics:

- Grid modernization and integration of solar, wind and nuclear power
- Advances in utility-scale battery storage; hydrogen as an energy vector
- Saudi Arabia and UAE advance battery storage initiatives
- Investment and finance models for large-scale electrification projects
- Nuclear power and prospects for wider adoption in the GCC/MENA region

Moderator: Dr Adnan Shihabeldin

Presenters

- Mr Amro Elshurafa, Executive Director of the Utilities and Renewables Program, KAPSARC.

Roundtable discussion/comments by members.

12:15-13:30 Session 3

Critical Minerals and Green Industrialization

Discussion Topics:

- Regional developments in renewable energy and green industrialization
- Critical minerals and resources potential in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula
- The greening of hard-to-abate industries and sectors
- Policy frameworks to attract investment and enable local processing of critical minerals
- China's role in the green industrialization in the MENA region.

Moderator: Mr Ahmed Badr, Irena

Presenters

- Dr Abdulla Alabassi, Director Energy and Environment Program, Derasat
- Mr Moustafa Bayoumi, Research Fellow at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy

Roundtable discussion/comments by members.

13:30-14:00 Lunch at IRENA HQ

14:00-15:15 Session 4

Beyond Pledges: The GCC's Real-World Decarbonization Progress

Discussion Topics:

- GCC Climate Pledges and net-zero strategies

- Latest developments in CCUS, Direct Air Capture projects
 - Status of voluntary and compliance carbon markets in the region
 - Decarbonization within hydrocarbon-centered political economies
 - Risks in moving to low carbon energy'
- **Moderator:** Dr Manal Abdel-Samad
 - **Presenter:** Ms Li Chen Sim, Assistant Professor at Khalifa University

Roundtable discussion/comments by members.

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:00 Closing Remarks & Next Steps

- Summary of key takeaways from each session
- Roadmap for continued collaboration
- Closing remarks by Chair

16:00-16:15 Closed session for members only