Governance

Note: subject to annual review and updates

13 November 2025

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1   Introduction

Utilities for Net Zero Alliance ("UNEZA" and also referred to as the "Alliance") consists of its members (utilities companies and technology companies operating within the utilities value chain), institutional partners and ecosystem support partners.

The UNEZA is the international platform for cooperation among entities operating within the power utilities ecosystem, to address and overcome common barriers to the realisation of net zero ambitions and more near-term emissions reduction targets. Through it, shaping dynamic new partnerships, and forging effective channels for dialogue with key public and private stakeholders.

The companies adopting this 'UAE Declaration of Action' agree to work collaboratively under UNEZA in a unique and deliberate framework for cooperation, under the coordination of the International Renewable Energy Agency as Secretariat, endorsed by the UN High-Level Climate Champions and supported by the partners.

2   Members, institutional partners and ecosystem support partners

UNEZA is open for members and ecosystem support partners that share the common principles of the UAE Declaration of Action and that are willing cooperate to realize the Roadmap and Plan of action.

UNEZA members include utilities and technology providers engaged in the business of producing, transmitting or distributing power, with a common ambition to advance the low-carbon transition towards net zero.

Institutional partners provide strategic guidance to the work of the Alliance and facilitate work among the members and ecosystem support partners, providing decision making support where appropriate.

Ecosystem support partners include relevant international initiatives, institutional partners and non-governmental and industry bodies willing to cooperate and support the Alliance. Ecosystem support partners shall support the Alliance by sharing knowledge, best practices and lead supporting specific initiatives as defined in the Plan of action. Collaboration with a broad range of ecosystem partners will support the Alliance with diverse expertise, technical and strategic advice. Except where ecosystem support partners are invited to be members of the Steering Group, they do not have decision-making authority on behalf of UNEZA.

Alliance members are encouraged to:

- support development and implementation UNEZA Roadmap and Plan of action;

- contribute to the initiatives and events outlined in the Plan of action;

- share public company information as a basis for the joint performance indicators (targets) as per the Plan of action;

- actively communicate about their membership in the Alliance in appropriate ways, such as through the display of the Alliance logo on the Member's website in accordance with section 10 below.

3 Membership application and withdrawal process

Any entity wishing to become a member of the Alliance shall submit a membership application form to UNEZA Secretariat, as available on the Alliance's website. The entity shall also undertake to support the Alliance vision and mission and to comply with this document.

Upon receipt of the application form, UNEZA Secretariat shall review the application on organisation/company's ambitions and engagement towards net zero to be in the context of UAE Declaration of Action, and communicate a recommendation to the Steering Group for its decision.

A member may discontinue its participation in the Alliance at any time by providing 30 days prior written notice to the Secretariat.

4 Secretariat

The role of IRENA in the Alliance, in acting as the Secretariat is as follows:

- host of the Secretariat of the Alliance, convene and manage membership, and guide membership towards collective ambitions to coordinate and facilitate its activities in close dialogue and coordination with the members and partners;

- hold a permanent seat in the Steering Group;

- coordinate the meetings of the Steering Group and coordinate the Annual Strategy Meeting and the quarterly meetings;

- collect proposals from members and bring them to the attention of the Steering Group, together with its recommendations thereon;

- collect applications to join the Alliance and present these to the Steering Group, together with its recommendations thereon;

- coordinates the contributions of the Alliance relevant to IRENA's work;

- track and update the Steering Group on the deliverables of UNEZA;

- as a depositary of knowledge, may provide technical knowledge and global best practices, lead or contribute to specific activities of the Alliance, depending on the availability of resources and in accordance with IRENA's respective Work Programme and other applicable rules, regulations and policies. The Alliance activities led or contributed to by IRENA are expected to be funded through voluntary contributions to IRENA which could be provided by IRENA's Members and/or members of the Alliance.

5 Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs are selected among members of the Alliance will sit in the Steering Group for the duration of 2 years, on a rotational basis. They represent the Alliance and have representative functions, also externally e.g. for communication purposes.

The Steering Group serves as the executive body of the Alliance to support and oversee the operation of the Alliance. The Steering Group is comprised from the co-chairs and the institutional partners. IRENA, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, and Co-Chairs (TAQA, SSE, Hitachi Energy and CEMIG).

The Steering Group provides guidance for the implementation of Alliance activities. The Steering Group is responsible for:

- deciding on membership of the Alliance;
- establishment of new Working Groups; and retaining oversight over their progress.

6   Working Group

Working groups may be proposed to the Steering Group by a member with the aim of leading on the development and execution of a particular activity within the Plan of action. Such proposals will be evaluated and subsequently endorsed by the Steering Group should they serve the execution of an item in the Plan of action.

A working group should involve the participation of a minimum of three members / partners and any member may join any existing working group at any point.

Each Working Group should include a 'lead' entity whose role is to provide structure and direction to the group, in order to advance a particular initiative within the Plan of action, and report back on progress to the Steering Group. The Leads might also subcontract delivery of actions to external consultants. In such case any related expenses shall be covered by the Leads and support members and partners on a voluntary basis.

7   Deliverables

Specific deliverables (events, workshops, reports, position papers, technical papers, studies, tools, etc.) will be delivered by UNEZA members and partners under the Plan of action.

The deliverables could be produced by Leads with support from the members and partners.

The deliverables could be produced by Working Group(s) with support from the committed members and partners who joined Working Group.

Where strategic deliverables are concerned, for example, Roadmap with joint indicators/targets, Plan of action, High Level Statements, the Steering Group shall ensure broad consultation with all members.

8   Implementation modalities

Alliance members are not required to contribute a membership fee;

Alliance members may support IRENA in its function as the Secretariat of the Alliance by providing, if required, staffing either through loan of experts, personnel, knowledge, logistical support or other resources, financial and otherwise;

Four types of meetings will take place: 1) high level in person meeting with representation of company CEO / DG / Board Member and Governments (usually IRENA Assembly and/or COP), 2) quarterly online meetings of all members and partners, 3) calls organized by Leads to advance realization of specific actions; 4) Steering Group meetings to address operational and strategic matters.

9 Monitoring and evaluation criteria

The Steering Group will monitor the progress of the Alliance activities through a set of monitoring and evaluation criteria. The criteria might be defined and updated by the Steering Group as required.

The first set of monitoring criteria includes the following:

- successful meetings (minimum 4 members and partners) that have meaningful conversations, shared experiences, best practices, presented UNEZA deliverables and key messages;

- implementation of Roadmap and Plan of action with specific deliverables;

An annual survey among the members and partners will be conducted to update the Plan of action and collect feedback for monitoring and evaluation of the Alliance activities.

10 Permitted use of the Alliance name and logo

Each member of the Alliance is encouraged to use the established name and emblem (logo) of the Alliance on its website, on the condition that these are employed solely for identifying the entity as being a member of the Alliance. Any other use of the name and emblem (logo) of the Alliance, including on communication materials or other documents produced in relation to the Member's activities with respect to the Alliance, shall be subject to the express consent of the Steering Group.

Any request for such use shall be submitted in writing to the Steering Group through IRENA. UNEZA Secretariat.

The member acknowledges and undertakes that:

- any permitted use of the name and emblem (logo) of the Alliance does not entail any legal or financial obligation for the Alliance or IRENA;

- the member shall hold harmless and defend IRENA, the Alliance, and their respective members against any action that may be brought against them as a result of the use by the Alliance member of the name or emblem (logo) of the Alliance;

- the name and emblem (logo) of the Alliance shall not be used for commercial transactions or in connection with objectives or activities not directly associated with the Alliance membership, or in a way to imply or suggest endorsement or promotion of the Alliance Member's projects, products or activities or any other unrelated activity;

- the Alliance's logo shall be used unaltered and used in accordance with the Brand Guidelines of UNEZA;

- The logos of the members and partners are displayed at UNEZA website.nothing in this document shall be construed as the granting of any right by IRENA of the use of the IRENA name, abbreviation, or emblem (logo) by any Alliance member, which shall be subject to the express written authorisation of IRENA; and the right that has been granted herein to each member to use the Alliance's name and logo may be withdrawn at any time at the sole discretion of the Steering Group including but not limited to any use of the name or logo of the Alliance that is in breach of this document.

11 Alliance resources

IRENA's resources for the Alliance consist solely of staff time commitments and basic operating costs as approved in its biannual Work Programme.

Each member of the Alliance may, at its discretion, undertake to contribute resources to the Alliance subject to the regulations, rules and procedures of the member. Any costs directly incurred by a member arising from its participation in the Alliance are to be borne by the member that incurs to them.

12 Amendments

The logos of the members and partners in the section 2 can be updated any time.

This document may be amended if a need arises.