

## **New Zealand joins the International Renewable Energy Agency**

New Zealand's Acting Energy Minister Hekia Parata has welcomed the country's membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency. "By joining this new organisation New Zealand has the opportunity to contribute to international efforts to increase the deployment of renewable energy technologies and drive down their costs," says Parata. The IRENA, which is based in Abu Dhabi, will work in close collaboration with other international bodies including the International Energy Agency. It will have a strong focus on capacity building in developing countries, including Pacific Island states. New Zealand ratified the IRENA statute in January 2011 and was accepted as a member in April 2011. The IRENA Statute became binding from May 1.

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