

# On renewable energy

1. Derived from natural resources that are abundant and continuously replenished, renewable energy is key to a safer, cleaner, and sustainable world. Sunlight, wind and water, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished.

2. Fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - on the other hand, are non-renewable resources that take hundreds of millions of years to form. Fossil fuels, when burned to produce energy, cause harmful greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide.

3. Renewable energy is gaining ground. Nearly 30 per cent of the world's electricity currently comes from renewable sources of energy today, compared to 20 per cent in 2011 (IEA and REN21). The biggest share is hydropower, followed by solar and wind, bioenergy and geothermal power (REN21).

4. Renewable electricity generation grew by about 8 per cent in 2021, reaching 8,300 TWh (about twice the amount of electricity consumed by the United States in a year) - the fastest year-on-year growth since the 1970s (IEA).

5. Renewable energy dominated investment in new power generation, accounting for an estimated 70 per cent of the US\$53 billion spent on all new generation capacity in 2021. (IEA)

6. Almost half of all renewable energy capacity is in Asia (48 per cent), followed by Europe with 21 per cent, North America with 15 per cent, and South America with 8 per cent of the global capacity. (IRENA)

7. In 2021, 12.7 million people were employed in the renewable energy sector, up from 12 million in 2020. Close to two-thirds of all jobs are in Asia. China alone accounts for

8. The photovoltaic energy sector has the biggest share of employment in the renewable energy