

## Concept note for the Policy Dialogue on Energy for Sustainable Development

17-19 December 2013

Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

### **Background and objectives:**

With the completion of the Rio+20 in 2012, energy is gaining momentum in re-positioning itself as a critical and fundamental priority for sustainable development. Globally, the Decade on Sustainable Energy for All as adopted by the General Assembly in 2012 will commence in 2014 and the Secretary-General's initiative will support the implementation of the Decade. Within the framework of the Post-2015 development agenda, sustainable energy is proposed to be one of the goals with various targets.

Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted the Ministerial Declaration and the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific at the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) on 30 May 2013 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation. The Plan of Action envisions the realization of an Asia and the Pacific region where sustainable energy for all is a reality; enhanced energy security is present from regional to household levels; an energy future of equity, diversification and access to all is secured; and the share of cleaner energies in the overall energy mix is increased.

Other mandates given to the secretariat from the Commission include Resolution 68/11 Energy Connectivity for Enhanced Energy Security, which requests the secretariat to identify policy options in consultation with member States in promoting an integrated regional power grid termed the Asian Energy Highway (AEH). And, of course, a number of other international/regional/subregional cooperation arrangements and initiatives need to be concurrently implemented. Building strategies to synergize and complement activities for effectiveness and efficiency in the work of energy at all levels will be essential.

The region has rich experience in moving forward the sustainable energy agenda at national and regional levels. Asia and the Pacific have been building strategies towards synergizing activities through lessons learned from the experiences of various national and regional partners. The ESCAP secretariat, as requested by the member States in the APEF Ministerial Declaration, will continue to "facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices and the development and implementation of all energy-related initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing energy access and energy security, diversifying energy sources and promoting the sustainable use of energy in the region" In line with this mandate, the secretariat will organize the first annual Policy Dialogue with the following objectives:

1. Increase understanding and strengthen linkages between global initiatives, including SE4ALL, and the APEF Plan of Action;
2. Identify strategies facilitating the implementation of the APEF Plan of Action (including discussion and agreement on the concept of the APEF Review and

- Assessment Mechanism), and issues in seeking approval by the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission;
3. Identify policy options to promote regional connectivity, including the Asian Energy Highway, for the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission.

### **Annual Policy Dialogue:**

At APEF, member States requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to play a facilitative and supportive role to member States during the implementation of the Plan of Action. ESCAP Secretariat intends to hold the Policy Dialogue on an annual basis in collaboration with member States and partners. This dialogue will aim to ensure country-driven processes in identifying common challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the ministers attending APEF. As stated in the Ministerial Declaration, ESCAP Secretariat intends to provide a regular forum for member States and partners in order to facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices and the development and implementation of energy-related initiatives and projects, including the mobilization of financial resources.

### **Participation Guidelines:**

Note: While the Policy Dialogue is not an intergovernmental meeting, participants from member States have been nominated through the seat of governments.

#### ***A. Interventions in Sessions 1~3***

Nominated participants from member States and all participants from UN agencies, partners and regional and subregional organizations are expected to provide their views during:

Session 1: Regional-Global Linkages: Decade on SE4All (2014-2024) and APEF Plan of Action (2014-2018),

Session 2: Moving forward with the APEF Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action, and

Session 3: Focus on the Asian Energy Highway Concept.

The interventions could be formulated in response to the **discussion questions** in the attached programme under each session. Please keep interventions concise to enable an interactive discussion with the panelists and all participants. Also, please refer to the concept notes for session 2 and 3, to be circulated to all participants, closer to the meeting.

#### ***B. Presentations in Session 4: Member States' Good Practices in Enhancing Energy Security and Working Towards the Realization of Sustainable Development***

Nominated participants are expected to share information from their country in Session 5.

- (1) Please complete the **Survey Monkey questionnaire, choosing up to 3 action areas from the list provided** (i.e. APEF Plan of Action, Chapter II on “Areas for action”, A through O and Chapter III on “Areas of action for subregions” – listed in the attached programme). Please submit answers by **29 November** in order for the Secretariat to plan the session accordingly.

- (2) Please **prepare a presentation for each action area chosen**, i.e. separate Powerpoint slides for each action area, whether 1, 2 or 3 areas. For each presentation, the speaker will be given **no more than 5 minutes each**, roughly 3-5 slides. Please adhere to the allocated time.
- (3) Please send to the Secretariat an **advance copy of your presentation by 10 December**.

### ***C. Overall active participation in discussions***

Nominated participants from member States and all participants from UN agencies, partners and regional and subregional organizations are expected to actively participate throughout the three days' discussions. Please note that in addition to the specific sessions mentioned above, there will be a multi-partner session involving UN-Energy Asia-Pacific and regional and global organizations. Please see the attached programme for more details.

For any questions about the programme and/your participation, please contact the Secretariat at [apef@un.org](mailto:apef@un.org). Please send your presentation slides to this same email address.

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