

Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific



Adopted at the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum
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Vladivostok, Russian Federation



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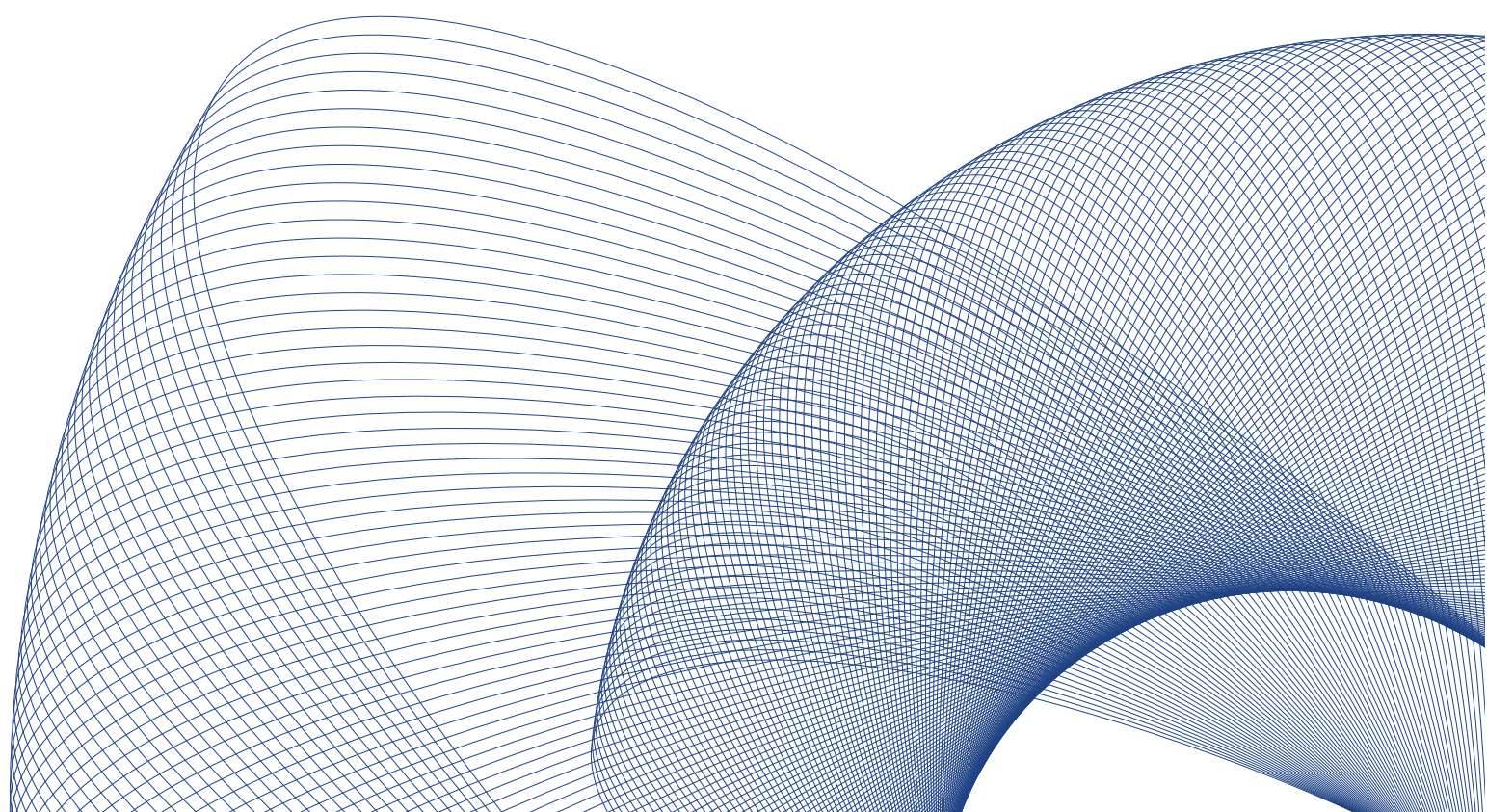
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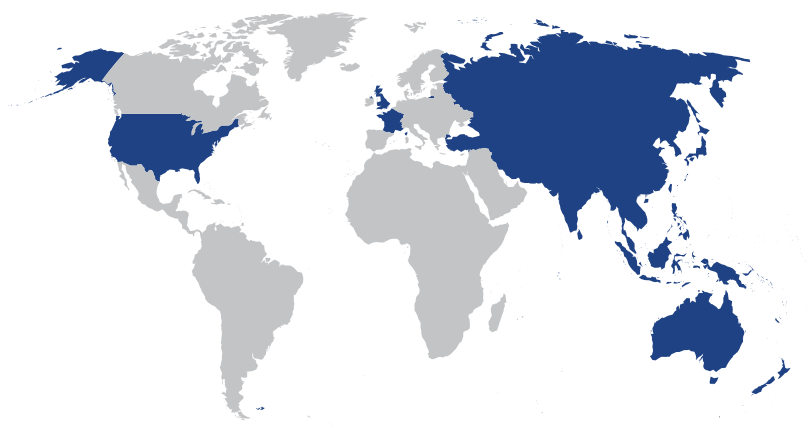


ESCAP Member States

ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region and is committed to providing a multilateral platform to its 53 member States and 9 associate members. ESCAP promotes regional cooperation to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development.

East and North-East Asia	North and Central Asia	South-East Asia	South and South-West Asia	Pacific
China* Japan* Korea, DPR* Korea, Rep.* Mongolia*	Armenia* Azerbaijan Georgia Kazakhstan* Kyrgyzstan* Russian Federation* Tajikistan* Turkmenistan Uzbekistan	Brunei Darussalam Cambodia* Indonesia* Lao PDR* Malaysia Myanmar* Philippines* Singapore Thailand Timor-Leste Viet Nam*	Afghanistan* Bangladesh* Bhutan* India* Iran, IR* Maldives* Nepal* Pakistan* Sri Lanka* Turkey	Australia Fiji* Kiribati* Marshall Islands* Micronesia, FS Nauru* New Zealand Palau* Papua New Guinea Samoa* Solomon Islands Tonga* Tuvalu* Vanuatu*

Associate Members	Non-regional Members
American Samoa Cook Islands French Polynesia Guam Hong Kong, China Macao, China New Caledonia Niue Northern Mariana Islands	France United Kingdom Netherlands United States of America*



Representatives of ESCAP members marked with an asterisk (*) attended the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.

Introduction

In accordance with Commission resolution 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, adopted in May 2011, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was convened in order to discuss — at the ministerial level — the progress achieved in the region in addressing energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development. The first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013.

To fully capture perspectives on energy security within Asia and the Pacific, and to support consensus-building toward a regional energy strategy, an extensive preparatory process was organized with the support of the Government of the Russian Federation. Five Subregional Consultation Meetings (East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, Pacific, South and South-West Asia, South-East Asia), an Expert Group Meeting and a Regional Preparatory Meeting took place over the course of 2012 and 2013, involving senior government officials, experts, representatives from regional and international organizations, United Nations partners and civil society organizations.

In organization of preparatory meetings ESCAP member States were offered to consider the concept of “enhanced energy security”. Moving beyond conventional short-term calculations of supply and demand, enhanced energy security takes a more holistic view of energy security based on a long-term perspective. In particular, seven focus areas in realizing enhanced energy security were highlighted: energy access; energy efficiency; renewable energy; energy and environment; energy economics; energy trade and investment; and energy connectivity. The Forum marked an important occasion for member States to renew their commitment to developing energy policies within the context of sustainable development and, therefore, to formulating cross-sectoral energy guidelines for ecological and inclusive growth.

Deliberations at the Forum raised the profile of energy within the sustainable development agenda, and reflected global energy priorities, placing them appropriately within the regional context, consequently, the outcome documents were adopted: Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific and the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014 – 2018.

The text of the Ministerial Declaration and the Plan of Action is offered below.

Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific:

Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific

Adopted on 30 May 2013

We, the ministers of energy and heads of delegations of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ and of Agenda 21,² and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),³

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 65/151 on the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All, 66/206 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and 67/215, in which the Assembly decided to declare the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Also recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁴ in particular paragraphs 125 to 129, which concern energy,

Further recalling Commission resolutions 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security

1 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

2 *Ibid.*, annex II.

3 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

4 General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, and 68/11 on connectivity for energy security,

Recalling that the Commission, in its resolution 67/2, requested the Executive Secretary to convene, in 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level to discuss the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development,

Recognizing the contributions and recommendations of the subregional preparatory meetings for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum convened in 2012 in all the subregions,⁵

Expressing our gratitude to the Russian Federation, the host country, for its active support of the preparatory process,

Expressing our appreciation to the United Nations bodies and agencies and the other regional and international organizations that contributed to the preparatory process and are present during the Forum,

1. *Recognize* that energy security is a key development issue and poses serious challenges to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region particularly to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
2. *Also recognize* that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific national challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;
3. *Further recognize* the priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty;
4. *Note with concern* that 1.7 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region rely mainly on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that about 700 million people in the region are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to afford them;

5 See E/ESCAP/APEF/1, para. 11.

5. *Recognize* that, although the Asia-Pacific region combines both the largest producers and consumers of energy and the importance of intraregional trade is constantly growing, the potential for full-fledged energy cooperation is far from being adequately exploited;

6. *Also recognize* that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising more rapidly than in other regions and is projected to almost double by the year 2030 and that fossil fuels remain the main source of energy for meeting that demand, and that an inevitable increase in production and use of energy in the region will enhance the role of the region in the world economy and the global energy sector;

7. *Note* that rapid population growth and high rates of urbanization in the region and consequent changes in energy consumption patterns are driving the increase in energy demand in all countries in the region;

8. *Resolve*, therefore, to enhance regional and subregional cooperation and coordination, to have a greater regional voice in energy-related international forums and participate actively in regional and global decision-making processes aimed at addressing the global challenges facing our region in particular and mankind in general;

9. *Acknowledge* the crucial importance of energy as a prerequisite to poverty eradication, ensuring sustained economic growth, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Recognize* that the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 will not be advanced and sustainable development goals will not be achieved without affordable, accessible and sustainable energy services;

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