



KABUL DECLARATION ON PROMOTING REGIONAL ELECTRICITY COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Kabul, 18 November 2007

The delegations of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan met in Bishkek on 26 April 2007 in the first meeting on Regional Electricity Cooperation between Central and South Asia organized by the Energy Charter Secretariat;

Whereas, the delegations agreed to adopt the Bishkek Declaration on Promoting Cross-Border Electricity Trade Between Central and South Asia and stressed on the importance of enhancing cooperation within the framework of the Energy Charter Treaty and agreed to establish a task force made up of national focal points, focal points in the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other stake-holders;

Having regard to the Bishkek Declaration, the Task Force comprising of delegations from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan:

Acknowledging the financial support being provided by the Government of Norway to facilitate the efforts of the Energy Charter Secretariat in promoting cooperation between Central and South Asia;

Mindful of the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating a mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade among the participants of this event;

Appreciating the work of organisations, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in facilitating cross-border cooperation and projects in electricity;

Encouraged by the progress made by Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Pakistan on the Central Asia South Asia Region Electricity Market (CASAREM) development and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 November 2007;

Recognising the need to establish a legal and technical framework for a secure and sustainable regional cross-border trade of energy and electricity in particular and to attract the investments needed to develop the infrastructure necessary for this trade;

Acknowledging the commitment of Afghanistan and Pakistan in adhering to the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty and encouraging them to expedite their accession process;

RECOMMEND:

Continuing the work of this Task Force as a forum for discussion on regional power trade including technical and legal issues pertaining to hydro power generation, transmission and trade between the countries of Central Asia and South Asia;

Proposing to the Energy Charter Conference on 7 December 2007 to further elaborate the Model Agreements of the Energy Charter by adapting them to cross-border electricity projects for facilitating a sustainable and secure regional power trade based on the Energy Charter Treaty;

Working towards reaching a joint understanding of the legal and technical framework for power trade between Central and South Asia based on the Energy Charter Treaty;

Accepting the invitation of the Government of Tajikistan to organize the next meeting of this Task Force in Dushanbe in the beginning of 2008;

Working towards holding a ministerial level meeting to concretise recommendations agreed by the participating countries at the Task Force level.