



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

Ashgabat, 18 November 2009

The Task Force on Promoting Regional Electricity Cooperation between Central and South Asia, comprising of delegations from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the CIS Electric Power Council,

Recalling the Bishkek Declaration agreed on 26 of April 2007, the Kabul Declaration, agreed on 18 November 2007, the Dushanbe Declaration agreed on 23 April 2008, and the Almaty Declaration agreed on 21 April 2009;

Stressing the necessity to develop and intensify cross-border electricity trade between Central Asian countries and with South Asia, taking into account common interests of all parties;

Understanding the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade within the Energy Charter Constituency;

Recognising the challenges in facilitating regional cooperation, cross-border power trade and creation of common electricity market in Central Asia;

Encouraged by the progress made by participating countries in the development of regional electricity projects;

Considering the need to establish a legal, regulatory and technical framework for secure and sustainable regional cross-border trade based on the principles of the Energy Charter, to encourage investments for developing adequate infrastructure;

Welcoming the work of the Energy Charter Secretariat in developing the Model Electricity Agreements for cross-border electricity projects and the Guidelines for the development of the market and system inter-operability model agreement (IMA) to be included in the model agreement for cross-border electricity transmission projects;

Emphasizing the need for completing the Model Electricity Agreements and for further elaborating on the market and system inter-operability agreement for addressing technical issues pertinent to cross-border trade in electricity to ensure secure operation of electricity systems involved in regional power trade in this region;

Recognising the need for model agreements for investments in the power sector based on the principles of the Energy Charter;

Recognising the wish to expand the geographical coverage of this Task Force to other neighbouring countries for enhanced possibilities of wider regional energy cooperation;

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

RECOMMEND:

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

Working towards reaching a joint understanding of the legal, regulatory and technical framework for power trade between Central Asian countries and with South Asia and towards the finalisation of Model Electricity Agreements;

Proposing to further elaborate on operational agreements as a supplementary part of the Model Electricity Agreements of the Energy Charter to promote sustainable and secure regional power trade and initiating the development of model investment agreements for investing in new power plant projects based on the principles of the Energy Charter;

Addressing the upcoming Energy Charter Conference in Rome to make a positive note of the Model Electricity Agreement and to recommend the further elaboration on developing a tailor-made adaptation of the inter-operability model agreements for this forum to take into account the issues pertinent to this region;

Proposing to expand the regional coverage of this Task Force and organising meetings in other parts of the Energy Charter Constituency interested in the sharing the knowledge on regional energy cooperation;

Planning to have the biannual meetings of this Task Force the spring and autumn of 2010;

Aiming towards holding a ministerial level meeting to adopt recommendations made by the participating countries at the Task Force level.