

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

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Brussels, 22 November 2022

Related documents: CC 771

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Report by the Secretary General on the activities in 2022

The Energy Charter Conference at its 33rd Statutory Meeting held on 22 November 2022 **took note** of the attached Report by the Secretary-General on the activities in 2022.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES IN 2022

This report (following article 35.3 of the Energy Charter Treaty) provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Energy Charter Secretariat in 2022.

Introduction

1. I would like to thank the Chairmanship of Mongolia for its support and guidance throughout the year. A special appreciation to the Chairs of the Energy Charter Conference, former and current Ministers of Energy of Mongolia, His Excellency Mr Nansal Tavinbekh and His Excellency Mr Choijilsuren Battogtokh. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Hakob Vardanyan, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia and Vice-Chair of the Conference, Mr Sherzod Khodjaev, Deputy Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan and Vice-Chair of the Conference, and Mr Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren, the Vice-Minister of Energy of Mongolia and Vice-Chair of the Conference, for their commitment throughout the year.
2. I thank all those involved with the Subsidiary Groups of the Conference, particularly those delegates who gave their time and effort to act as Chairs and Vice-Chairs: Chair of the Strategy Group - Mr Elshan Abdulazimov (Azerbaijan) and the former Chair, Mr. Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan); Chair of the Implementation Group and the Working Group on Governance Issues - Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan); Chair of the Budget Committee - Mr Christian Bühlmann (Switzerland); Chair of the Modernisation Group – Mr Lukas Stifter (Austria); Vice-Chairs of the Implementation Group - Mr Johan Vetlesen (Norway) and Mr Aziz Khamidov (Uzbekistan); Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Governance Issues - Mr Towfick Sufian (Yemen); Vice-Chairs of the Modernisation Group – Mr Akiyoshi Kawabata (Japan), Mr Elshan Abdulazimov (Azerbaijan) and Mr Felix Imhof (Switzerland). Their input was vital to achieving the objectives of the Energy Charter Conference and advancing the Energy Charter Process. I thank Mr Rafael Cayuela, Chair of the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP), for his commitment and efficient coordination of the IAP activities.

Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)

3. The Modernisation Group held six negotiation rounds in 2022: 18-21 January 2022, 1-4 March 2022, 19-22 April 2022, 16-20 May 2022, 8-10 and 14 June 2022 and 23 June 2022. After the last negotiation round on 23 June 2022, the Energy Charter Conference confirmed the agreement in principle on the modernisation of the ECT at its ad hoc meeting of 24 June 2022.
4. In addition, following the legal scrubbing, consistency check and editorial revision done by the delegations and the Secretariat, the Modernisation Group held a meeting on 29 July 2022 to confirm the draft text communicated to the Contracting Parties on 12 August 2022. On 20 September 2022, the Modernisation Group met to discuss procedural issues. The Modernisation Group also held an informal online meeting on transit issues on 8 April 2022.
5. Legal Affairs of the Secretariat provided legal and technical support to the Modernisation Group and the delegations.
6. On 20 October 2022, the Legal Affairs represented the Secretariat on a panel on the modernisation of the ECT at the Investment Treaty Arbitration Conference organised by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in Prague, Czech Republic. Legal Affairs also contributed to the panel on the latest developments in the drafting of fair and equitable treatment (FET) clauses in international investment agreements during the 2022 Paris Arbitration Week in Paris, France, in March 2022.

Conflict Resolution Centre

7. Legal Affairs of the Secretariat continued providing neutral, independent legal advice and assistance in dispute resolution under the ECT under the auspices of **the Conflict Resolution Centre**, as well as access to the *travaux préparatoires* of the ECT.
8. The Conflict Resolution Centre continued providing training for investment mediators as well as contributing to other events on investment dispute prevention and management. On 11-14 March 2022, the Secretariat, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) successfully conducted the Seventh Investor-State Mediation Training for mediators and government representatives. On 14-15 June 2022, Legal Affairs presented the activities of the Conflict Resolution Centre at the Regional Conference on Investments and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the Energy Sector in Tbilisi, Georgia.
9. The Secretariat finalised the work on the joint paper with the World Bank entitled “Enabling Foreign Direct Investment in the Renewable Energy Sector: Reducing Regulatory Risks and Preventing Conflicts” and proceeded to its online publication.
10. The Secretariat invited the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, both signatories to the 1991 European Energy Charter, to consider referring to the Energy Charter Early Warning Mechanism (EWM) as a tool for early settlement, communication and evaluation to protect the security of energy infrastructure and avoid or overcome an emergency situation in the energy sector.

Legal Support

11. Legal Affairs of the Secretariat kept providing **legal support** on the implementation of the ECT and other legal matters to the Secretariat, the Conference, its subsidiary bodies, and the delegations when requested.

Industry Advisory Panel

12. The Secretariat continued to support the activities of the **Industry Advisory Panel (IAP)**, based on its revised Terms of Reference and the renewed mandate up to 2024. IAP consists of 68 members from 33 countries. On 14 September 2022, the IAP released a statement concerning the agreement in principle of the ECT modernisation. In its statement, the IAP also called for developing and implementing more coherent, comprehensive, coordinated, and caring energy policies and targeted measures worldwide, and acknowledged the need for global mobilisation of unprecedentedly large but rationally spread investment in energy security, energy efficiency and renewable energy sub-sectors.
13. Secretary-General Mr Guy Lentz and Mr Rafael Cayuela, the IAP Chair, maintained close cooperation and regular contact throughout the year, including one face-to-face and several online meetings. These discussions resulted in shaping the new structure and development paths of the IAP.
14. On 7 June 2022, the IAP Chair participated in the Strategy Group meeting to brief on recent developments and joint activities of the IAP and the Secretariat, to present plans for restructuring and revitalising the Panel, and expanding its function and activities. The IAP Chair also elaborated on key directions of the Panel's draft mid-term strategy.

15. The message of the IAP Chair, welcoming the fifth edition of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) report, was included in this flagship publication of the Secretariat. In this message, the IAP Chair provided his feedback and presented the industry's view on the new version of the EIRA publication, which is based on the revised and updated methodology.
16. With support from the Secretariat, the IAP started its transformation and restructuring process. The Panel developed and finalised its mid-term strategy, which will be implemented starting in 2023. The new strategy assumes substantial commitment by its members, the geographic expansion of the membership, the introduction of new executive positions, and the provision of a broader range of research and analytical services within and outside various task forces that would be involved in preparing position, and occasional papers. The IAP also conducts peer reviews of the publications prepared by the Secretariat, such as the joint paper with the World Bank.
17. The IAP meeting, to be hosted by Marcogaz, is planned to take place on 6 December 2022.
18. The Secretariat initiated a series of meetings with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and discussed the possibilities for organising joint events. The two organisations have agreed to hold a joint **IRENA-IAP** meeting at the beginning of 2023. The meeting will focus on industrial strategies and technological solutions for achieving carbon emissions and reduction, in order to meet the goal of the Paris Agreement, of limiting the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5 °C above the pre-industrial levels.

Foundations Partnership Network

19. The Secretariat developed the concept note for the **Foundations Partnership Network (FPN)** and presented it at the Working Group on Government Issues meeting on 16 May 2022. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to revise the document based on comments and suggestions and prepare the draft terms of reference for the FPN. The Secretariat modified the concept note and presented the revised version and the ToR at the meeting of the Working Group on 19 September 2022. On 10 October 2022, the Conference approved the establishment of the **Foundations Partnership Network (FPN)**. The purpose of the FPN is to strengthen the analytical and research capacities and enhancing the relevant expertise of the Secretariat ECS in the areas of energy investment (including renewable energy production, transmission and storage, energy efficiency, carbon dioxide reduction and capture, green financing, and others at the forefront of the clean energy transition).
20. The Secretariat prepared the preliminary list of potential members of the FPN and initiated communication with the most prominent and active organisations. On 5 September 2022, the Secretary-General Mr Guy Lentz, and the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms Atsuko Hirose, held an online meeting with Ms. Ann Mettler, the Vice President, Europe, of Breakthrough Energy, which is a network of entities and initiatives established in 2015 by Bill Gates and a coalition of private investors. The parties presented the main streams of their work and discussed the possible collaboration between the two organisations.

Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA)

21. On 2 May 2022, the Energy Charter Conference (Conference) adopted CCDEC 202203, approving the revised scope and methodology of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). CCDEC 202203 also requested the Secretariat to develop the EIRA report from 2022 to 2024 based on the new scope and methodology. Following this, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) developed the EIRA report for 2022. Since the scope of EIRA has increased

substantially, at the Secretariat's request, the Implementation Group agreed to limit the number of participating countries, comprised of Members and Observers to the Conference, to twenty in 2022. The geographical reach of EIRA spans countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. Seventeen countries participating this year were also assessed in EIRA 2021, while one country (Georgia) returned to the assessment from 2020. Apart from these, two countries are taking part in EIRA for the first time.

22. Among other things, EIRA's updated scope assesses whether countries are taking legal and regulatory measures to decarbonise high-emission sectors, reduce macroeconomic green house gas (GHG) emissions, adapt to climate-neutral energy systems, and coordinate clean energy generation with grid infrastructure development. EIRA 2022 will be launched on 6 December 2022 in Brussels, in conjunction with the IAP meeting. More than 100 contributors have been involved in the development of the publication, all on a pro bono basis.

Engagement with ECOWAS-AGoSE funded project on EIRA

23. On 28 February 2022, the Secretariat and the Ministry of Petroleum & Energy (MoPE) of **The Gambia** opened a three-day national stakeholder workshop in Banjul, The Gambia. The workshop was organised with support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission through the EU-funded “improving the energy sector governance in West Africa”(AGoSE) project. The Secretariat presented the EIRA Extended Profile of 2021 of ECOWAS – The Gambia to the Permanent Secretary of the MoPE, highlighting The Gambian energy sector's key strengths and areas where improvement was needed to mobilise green investments. The representative of the Delegation of the EU to The Gambia expressed appreciation for EIRA and elaborated on projects that complement the findings in EIRA.
24. Following the workshop, the Secretariat team met with the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, the Director-General of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority of The Gambia, and the Chief Executive Officer of The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency. The high-level representatives congratulated the Secretariat and the MoPE on the successful launch of the EIRA Extended Profile and informed the Secretariat of ongoing activities to implement the recommendations provided through EIRA
25. On 3 March 2022, the Secretariat and the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of **Senegal** (MoPE) opened a two-day national stakeholder workshop in Dakar, Senegal with support from the ECOWAS Commission through the EU-funded AGoSE project to improve energy governance in West Africa. In line with discussions which centred on key challenges and opportunities in Senegal's energy sector, the Secretariat informed stakeholders of the benefits and contribution of EIRA to the investment landscape of Senegal and the ECOWAS Member States, elaborated on the outlook of Senegal's power sector and provided recommendations to increase renewable power generation and investments in decarbonisation technologies.
26. In July 2022, the Energy Commission of **Nigeria** (ECN) and the Secretariat opened the National Energy Summit of Nigeria. The Summit's theme was 'Green Economy and Sustainable Energy Development in Nigeria: Investment Opportunities and Challenges'. The Secretariat presented to stakeholders the key findings and recommendations of Nigeria's EIRA Extended Profiles 2020 (financed through a voluntary contribution by the Federal Government of Nigeria) and 2021 (under the ECOWAS-EU AGoSE project).

Engagement with other international organisations on EIRA

27. The Secretariat and IRENA started discussions in early 2022 on a joint project concerning **EIRA and IRENA's Renewable Readiness Assessment**. The organisations have analysed the

complementarities of these reports and the utility of a joint report that can help finance clean energy investments in developing countries. IRENA has communicated its willingness to collaborate with the Secretariat on these two publications. It has also provided information on its current work on improving the bankability of renewable energy projects and the upcoming Renewable Readiness Assessments to which EIRA can potentially contribute. The Secretariat and IRENA are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate potential joint projects.

Transit and Energy Security

28. The discussions on transit and the recently added energy security topics continued and in year 2022 the work in these areas concentrated on the legal and regulatory environment for hydrogen. The initial work product looked at the general notions of hydrogen, its role in the energy security paradigm, current achievements in national supra-national strategies, rules and regulations, and their application to the classical provisions governing energy flow such as transit, access to infrastructure, tariffs and network management within the ECT constituency and beyond. This work, which opened up a few previously unexplored and novel subareas of interest, will continue in 2023, with a tailor-made approach to new transit provisions in the modernised Treaty.
29. The transit and energy official was also engaged in providing support to the continuing negotiations on modernisation of the Treaty in part where they concerned the transit provisions, by contributing to developing a compromise proposal.

Energy Efficiency, Climate & Renewable Energy

30. The Secretariat conducted the following activities in 2022 in connection with in-depth reviews of the energy efficiency policies of the Contracting Parties:
 - In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (the report is published in Eng and Rus);
 - Peer-Review mission to Mongolia (as a part of the In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of Mongolia) – 26-30 September 2022.
31. The Task Force, established as a part of Activity "**Cooperation for Restoring the Ukrainian Energy Infrastructure**" accomplished the following in 2022:
 - Three reports on "Ukrainian Energy Sector Evaluation and Damage Assessment" (two more reports are expected to be developed by the end of the year);
 - Creation of the Coordination Matrix of activities related to the restoration of the Ukrainian energy infrastructure (the document is regularly updated and reviewed);
 - Two Coordination Meetings with the participation of representatives from the Ukrainian Ministries, foreign governments, international organisations, NGOs and think tanks (one or two more Coordination meetings are expected to be conducted by the end of the year);
 - Report on "Key Legislative Changes Addressing the Negative Impact of the War and the Energy Crisis Related to the Damaged Energy Infrastructure In Ukraine" (two more reports are expected to be developed by the end of the year) ;
 - Webinar "Legal Tool For Protection Of Ukrainian Energy Companies From Russian Military Hostilities" in October 2022;

- Contribution to the development of the Ukraine Recovery Plan and providing recommendations to the Government of Ukraine on the post-war recovery and synchronisation of energy strategies;
- Presentation of the results of the Task Force at the Renewable Investment Conference (Tbilisi, Georgia 26-28 October 2022); and
- Contribution to the Ukraine Energy Security Forum (Kyiv, Ukraine & Online – planned for 21-25 November).

CONsolidation-EXpansion-Outreach (CONEXO) Policy-related activities in 2022

32. Adopted by the Energy Charter Conference in 2012, the CONEXO policy has aimed to enlarge and externalise the Energy Charter process since that time. However, in December 2019 the Energy Charter Conference decided to institute a pause on new country accessions to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which has resulted in the overriding majority of CONEXO related activities of the Secretariat being put on hold. This has applied to most activities under Budget Part 1, although some activities under Budget Part 2 have continued, particularly those related to the cooperation with ECOWAS and the voluntary contribution from Nigeria. The majority of the Secretariat's work related to CONEXO during 2022 (as was the case during 2020-21) has subsequently focused on maintaining contacts with the Observer countries and preparing documents for the finalisation of the review of the CONEXO policy, as stipulated in the Conclusions of the Review of the ECT under Article 34 (7) in 2019.
33. Following some discussion on the pause on ECT accession in the Strategy Group in February 2022, Delegations endorsed some limited CONEXO 'priority activities' to be possibly developed by the Secretariat during the year ahead. As was the case during 2020-21, these activities largely focused especially on ECT accession front-runner countries in West Africa, both through the ECOWAS cooperation at a West African regional level and with individual countries in the ECOWAS sub-region.
34. In line with CONEXO activities, in 2018, part of the 11th European Development Fund was allocated to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) under the AGoSE-AO Programme. In 2019, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) was contracted by the ECOWAS Commission to implement technical assistance -projects under the AGoSE Programme. Following its effective implementation in the initial period and in 2022, the AGoSE-AO project has been extended for another two years (2022-2024) as agreed between the European Union Delegation in Nigeria and the ECOWAS Commission, and the ECOWAS Commission has expressed its willingness to continue cooperation with the Secretariat under the AGoSE-AO project.
35. The CONEXO-related activities of the Secretariat during 2022 have also included a mission to Jordan, to liaise with the government the Jordanian Chairmanship for 2024, as well as to explore prospects for future ECT expansion-related activities in the MENA) region. The Secretariat's expansion team has also worked closely with the investment colleagues, particularly in the area of cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank with reference to extended-EIRA profiles of some of the Bank's member countries. Worth mentioning also is the personal initiative and outreach activities of the Secretary General, who has conducted meetings with the Brussels-based Ambassadors and other senior officials of Energy Charter Conference Observers, including the UAE, Iran and Indonesia.

Detailed Engagement with Observer countries in Africa and potential accession to ECT

36. **NIGERIA:** As referred to above in reference to the EIRA activities, in July 2022, the Energy Commission of **Nigeria** (ECN) and the Secretariat opened the National Energy Summit of Nigeria, under the theme of 'Green Economy and Sustainable Energy Development in Nigeria: Investment Opportunities and Challenges'. The Secretariat presented to stakeholders step by step accession process to the ECT, and Nigeria's current status and prospect for becoming a full contracting party to the ECT in the future. The key findings and recommendations of Nigeria's EIRA Extended Profile 2020 (financed through a voluntary contribution by the Federal Government of Nigeria) and 2021 (under the ECOWAS-EU AGoSE project) were also presented.
37. The high level workshop also discussed Nigeria's policy planning for the energy sector until 2050, the complementarities between the country's ongoing international investment agreement reform and the ECT modernisation process, and measures needed to achieve Nigeria's social, economic and climate change goals.
38. Following the Summit, the ECS team led by the Secretary General, Mr. Guy Lentz, met with high-level ministerial and government representatives of various ministries and agencies in Abuja. Several outstanding issues were discussed during the meeting included the future role of renewable energies in Africa and the importance of a comprehensive and differentiated approach to the energy transition.
39. The Secretary General emphasised the need to promote a positive investment climate in Nigeria and the role that the modernised ECT can play in supporting the strategy of the Federal Government towards sustainable investments, and laid down the key principles of the modernised ECT as a tailor-made international investment Treaty able to accommodate national energy priorities and create a solid legal framework providing legal certainty for investors. The key part played by private investments and the need to address the challenges of tomorrow through a solid regulatory framework and strengthened international cooperation, as well as the continuation of the joint ECOWAS-ECS-AGoSE collaboration for the year 2022-2024, which aims at improving energy governance in West Africa, were also discussed.
40. The Secretary General also assured Nigerian ministers and all high level officials met, of full support of the Secretariat in developing a close partnership between Europe and Nigeria after they expressed Nigeria's interest and readiness in acceding to the ECT in the shortest possible time.
41. The Secretary General and his team met with the following high level officials during the July 2022 National Energy Summit in Abuja, Nigeria: (1) **Prof. Bala Eli Jidere**, DG/CEO, Energy Commission of Nigeria; (2) **Mr. Emeka R. Offor**, Acting Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission; (3) **H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama**, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria; (4) **H.E. Mr. Obinna Chiedu Onuwu**, Ambassador of Nigeria to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union (5) **Mr. Mohammed H. Abdullahi**, Hon. Federal Minister of Environment, (6) **Mrs. Beatrice Jedly-Agba**, Permanent Secretary, acting on behalf of Mr. Abubakar Malami, Hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; (7) **Mrs Monilola Udoh**, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; (8) **Senator Mrs Uche Ekwunife**, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology; (9) **Mr. Dabire Bayaornibe**, Director of Energy, ECOWAS Commission, and **Mr. Arkadius Koumoin**, Programme Officer in Energy, ECOWAS Commission
42. It is important to note here that the Attorney General of the Federation of Nigeria, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, **Mrs. Beatrice Jedly-Agba**, stressed the importance of a solid legal, regulatory and institutional framework which the ECT will be able to offer and the benefits that a full membership to the ECT will constitute for Nigeria.

43. **Mrs Jedly-Agba** also assured the Secretary General and Prof. Bala of the full support of the Ministry in acceding to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and of the determination of Nigeria to meet all the accession requirements under a reasonable timeline. With that aim in mind, an inter-ministerial committee will also be established under the initiative of the Ministry of Justice to join efforts and complete the remaining steps/chapters of Nigeria's ECT accession process in becoming a full contracting party.
44. In a debriefing meeting at the Energy Commission of Nigeria after the National Energy Summit and the bilateral meetings, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Energy Commission of Nigeria, **Prof. Bala Eli Jidere** thanked the Secretary General and the Secretariat team for the collaboration in organising the Summit, which was well-attended and succeeded in promoting a clearer path for Nigeria towards acceding to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).
45. **Prof. Bala** also expressed his satisfaction with the results of the bilateral meetings held at the different ministries and the National Assembly and stated his hope that the Summit and the accession to the ECT will attract more investments in the Nigerian energy sector. Prof. Bala also stressed the willingness of Nigeria to tackle head-on the challenges triggered by climate change and the determination of the country to achieve the goal of net-zero emissions.
46. **THE GAMBIA:** In February 2022, the Secretariat conducted a mission to The Gambia and Senegal for a three and two days National Stakeholders Workshops respectively, to provide support for the countries' ECT accession prospects. These workshops were co-organised with support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission through the EU-funded AGoSE project to improve energy governance in West Africa. The EIRA extended profile of Gambia which was sponsored through the ECOWAS-EU-AGoSE Project was also presented to the Gambian government during the Gambian workshop.
47. Following the workshop, the Secretariat met with the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, the Director-General of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority of The Gambia, and the Chief Executive Officer of The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency. The high-level representatives congratulated the Secretariat on successful workshop and launching of the EIRA Extended Profile of ECOWAS-The Gambia 2021, and expressed support and optimism for accession to the ECT in the future and for ECS's work with The Gambia as an Observer to the Conference
48. **SENEGAL:** On 3 March 2022, the Secretariat and the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of Senegal (MoPE) opened a two-day national stakeholder workshop in Dakar with support from the ECOWAS Commission through the EU-funded AGoSE project to improve energy governance in West Africa. The discussions centred on the key challenges and opportunities in Senegal's energy sector, the ECT accession reports on energy efficiency, investment, and harmonisation of laws. The Secretariat informed stakeholders of the pathways and step by step process of accession to the ECT as a full contracting party and its benefits for Senegal. The contribution of EIRA to the investment landscape of Senegal and the ECOWAS Member States as participants were also highlighted. The government of Senegal expressed support and optimism for the country's accession to the ECT after all internal procedures are completed.
49. **ESWATINI:** It should be added further that the Secretariat has continued to provide active support to the Kingdom of Eswatini in its ongoing efforts to ratify the ECT. The Kingdom was already invited by the Conference to accede to the ECT in late 2018 and is therefore not affected by the Conference decision of December 2019 to pause new accessions. The Secretariat's expansion and legal affairs experts have maintained close contact with the government of Eswatini during 2022 and as of late 2022, the ECT dossier was due to be presented by the energy ministry to the Parliament of Eswatini and it is not unrealistic that the Kingdom it may

take a decision to ratify the ECT shortly. The Secretariat will continue to maintain close contact with officials from the Kingdom's energy ministry, and monitor developments closely, since it will likely be the case that the Kingdom's possible ratification of the ECT will need to be reconciled with the modernised Treaty.

Administrative and other matters

50. In 2022, **FINAD** continued its administrative and financial support functions, covering inter alia implementation of the 2022 budget, including usual and routine daily operations, management of human resources, implementation of the program of work, follow-up on the collection of contributions, as well as revision of the 2022 budget and preparation of the 2023 budget.
51. During the year, FINAD also prepared and organised four regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting of the Budget Committee on 28 February, 26 April (extraordinary), 30 May, 23 September and 24 October 2022. In addition to the regular administrative and financial matters, FINAD supported the Budget Committee in continuing and concluding the implementation of the decisions of the Conference following the Review based on Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty in 2019. In particular, following activities were concluded in 2022:
 - the revision to the Financial Rules and its Implementing Instructions (approved by the Conference as of 21 March 2022); and
 - a new Risk Management Protocol (approved by the Conference on 20 September 2022).
52. The Secretariat continued its efforts in saving and optimising the currently available financial and human resources with a view to finding viable solutions to eventually return to a sustainable budget, without relying on draws from the General Reserve Fund. The Secretariat welcomed the voluntary contributions from the European Commission and Türkiye for the new activity, "Cooperation for Restoring the Ukrainian Energy Infrastructure".
53. The new Head of Administration and External Activities Unit assumed her post as of 1 November 2022.
54. The **Knowledge Centre** continued to provide capacity building, awareness-raising and public outreach. In 2022, the Knowledge Center organised an online lecture on the Energy CT for the students of Groningen University, contributed to the UN ESCAP capacity-building activities in Northeast Asia, and facilitated knowledge sharing by participating in external workshops and seminars.
55. The Secretariat's public website has been revised to improve the organisation's visibility and visitor engagement. Several technical proposals have been discussed with different agencies to update the website's structure, revisit the content and make it more user-friendly; this work will continue in 2023, subject to the availability of funds.