

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

CCDEC 2023

19 NOT

Brussels, 30 October 2023

Related documents: CC 797, Message 2120/23

Subject: Adoption by Correspondence - Final Report of the Working Group on Governance Issues

By document CC 797 dated 11 October 2023, the Energy Charter Conference (the Conference) was invited to take note of the attached final report of the Working Group on Governance Issues.

As specified by Rule 20(b) of the Rules of Procedure concerning the adoption of decisions by correspondence, members of the Conference were informed that any delegation not in a position to approve the proposed decision should notify the Secretariat of its position in writing by no later than 30 October 2023.

Having received no objections within the specified time limit, on 30 October 2023, the Conference **took note** of the attached final report of the Working Group on Governance Issues with immediate effect.

FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Meetings and Chair

1. In 2023, the Working Group held two ordinary meetings (20 April and 19 September) and two ad hoc meetings (21 February and 13 June). All the meetings were conducted via videoconference and chaired by the Working Group's Chair, Ms. Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan).
2. At the request of Switzerland, on 19 September 2023, the Working Group addressed further reduction of the subsidiary groups of the Conference. It was concluded that the Working Group on Governance, having its mandate fulfilled (except with respect to the continuous revisions of the Staff Manual and matters related thereto), will be duly dissolved, and that the activities currently undertaken by the Strategy Group will be handled by the Implementation Group to be renamed the "Strategy and Implementation Group".
3. The Working Group continued discussing potential revisions to the Staff Manual. This activity will be subject to further discussions in 2024, considering budgetary implications and changes in the Secretariat's structure. However, as a result of the discussion on the potential reduction of the subsidiary bodies of the organisation (see previous paragraph), this activity will be managed by the Budget Committee in 2024.
4. After finalisation of the amendments to the Staff Manual, the discussion on the draft Manual on the applicability of the internal regulations and rules to Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General will be resumed.¹ Similarly to the Staff Manual, the discussion will be handled by the Budget Committee in 2024.
5. At the ad hoc meeting on 21 February 2023, and at the meeting of 20 April 2023, the Working Group recommended additional amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Energy Charter Conference to include the notion of "acting Chairmanship", to modify rules on approval by correspondence, and to foresee a provision regarding withdrawal or suspension of observer status by invitation (see decisions of the Conference in CCDECs 202303 and 202308).
6. The Working Group discussed the issue of the revised structure of the Secretariat on 20 April 2023. At the ad hoc meeting on 13 June, the Working Group discussed and finalised the draft structure of the Secretariat applicable as of 2024 and recommended it for approval by the Conference by correspondence, which was duly approved on 17 July 2023 (see CCDEC202310).
7. Review in accordance with Article 34(7) of the ECT in 2024 was discussed at the meetings of 20 April 2023 and 19 September 2023. As a result of the discussion on the potential

¹ Room Document 1 Rev of 25 February 2022 (meeting of 24 February 2022), conclusion 5.

reduction of the subsidiary bodies of the organisation, further discussions on the review are to be managed by the Strategy and Implementation Group in 2024.

Outlook

8. On 10 October 2023, the Conference approved the dissolution of the Working Group, acknowledging the successful completion of its mandate. The Working Group will be dissolved with effect from 1 January 2024 (CCDEC 2023 12). The Working Group was productive and fulfilled its objectives, while the final discussion on the Staff Manual and its application to SG and DSG is to be continued at the Budget Committee in 2024. **The Conference is invited to take note of the final report of the Working Group.**