

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

CCDEC 2023

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Brussels, 20 November 2023

Related documents: CC 802

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Report by the Chair of the Strategy Group

The Energy Charter Conference at its 34th Statutory Meeting held on 20 November 2023 **took note** of the attached Report by the Chair of the Strategy Group.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE STRATEGY GROUP

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Strategy Group in 2023.

1. The Strategy Group convened twice for ordinary meetings in 2023, on 17 April and 18 September, via an online platform. Mr Elshan Abdulazimov chaired the meetings. The meetings were only open to the Members of the Charter Conference.

Discussions in the Strategy Group in 2023 were focused mainly on the implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review under Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), including the recommendations of the International Public Audit.

2. The Strategy Group discussed and finalised a few documents that have been discussed since 2020, including:
 - The document compiling Rights, Obligations, Roles, Benefits and Responsibilities of Contracting Parties, Signatories and Observers (see CCDEC 2023 06);
 - The document describing Roles at the different levels of Governance of the organisation: the Conference, the Chairmanship, the Management Committee, the Secretariat and the Subsidiary Groups (see CCDEC 2023 07);
 - The Chairmanship Handbook (see CCDEC 2023 05).
3. Delegations also discussed the **status of the CIS Electric Power Council**. In this context, and under the understanding that non-Russian/Belarus members of the CIS Electric Power Council would be allowed to join the International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) on an individual basis, the Strategy Group suggested first amending the Rules of Procedure of the Energy Charter Conference allowing suspension of the Observer status of an international organisation obtained by invitation (see CCDEC 2023 08).
4. The Strategy Group was briefed by the Jordanian Acting Chairmanship of the Conference on its priorities and the preparation for the 34th meeting of the Energy Charter Conference.
5. At its meeting on 18 September 2023, the Strategy Group initiated a strategic policy discussion focusing on the challenges of the Energy Charter Process, taking into consideration the announcements of withdrawals of some Contracting Parties and the ECT modernisation. The delegates shared their views and stressed the importance of open dialogue to address the risks and challenges faced by the Energy Charter Secretariat.

Outlook

6. On 10 October 2023, the Conference approved the dissolution of the Strategy Group, and “to transfer the activities currently undertaken by such group to the Implementation Group”, and to rename the Implementation Group as the “Strategy and Implementation

Group,” and for such Group to undertake additional functions previously handled by the Strategy Group, all effect from 1 January 2024 (CCDEC 2023 12).

- 7. The Confernce is therefor invited to take note of the Final Report of the Strategy Group.**