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

Dushanbe, 23 April 2008

The Task Force on Promoting Regional Electricity Cooperation between Central and South Asia, comprising delegations from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan

Recalling the Bishkek Declaration agreed on 26 of April 2007 and the Kabul Declaration, agreed on 18 November 2007;

Stressing the necessity to develop and intensify cross-border electricity trade between Central Asian countries and with South Asia;

Understanding the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade among the states participating in this event;

Welcoming the work of organisations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank in facilitating cross-border cooperation and projects in electricity, OSCE on Management of the water and Energy Nexus in Central Asia and CIS Electric Power Council;

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 of energy and electricity in particular and to attract the investments needed to develop the infrastructure necessary for this trade;

Acknowledging the work undertaken to date by the Energy Charter Secretariat to adapt the Energy Charter’s Pipeline Model Agreements to cross-border electricity projects;

Recognising the need for further elaboration on operational agreements for a sustainable and secure regional power trade based on the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty.

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 based on the Energy Charter Treaty and towards the development of Model Agreements for electricity.

Accepting the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan to organize the next meeting of this Task Force in Tashkent in the autumn of 2008;

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