

Amman Declaration

“High-Level Meeting on Sustainable Energy in the Middle East and North Africa: Renewables, Efficiency and Regional Cooperation”

Amman, 3 July 2013

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region accounts for large oil and natural gas reserves and significant renewable energy potential. Population growth and economic development requires energy supplies at affordable prices and a reinforcement of the existing energy infrastructure. Over the next 30 years, total investment needs in the energy sector of the MENA region are estimated at over US\$ 30 billion a year.

There are significant opportunities to improve the efficiency of the energy supply chain and energy use in the MENA countries. It is widely recognised that regional energy market integration could deliver greater benefits for the economy and for the population of the MENA countries.

Jordan, at the forefront of energy developments in the MENA region, has hosted the Amman High-Level Meeting, gathering representatives from government and international organisations, involved over recent years in the promotion and development of a coordinated approach aimed at setting up the basis for a regional energy market in the MENA region.

Participants from government, energy companies, regional and international organisations, as well as the expert community in the MENA region contributed to an active debate with a view to developing a comprehensive picture of the challenges related to renewable resources and energy efficiency. The meeting focused, in particular, on energy cooperation in the MENA Region, renewable energy policies and regulations as well as energy efficiency policies in the MENA region.

Considering the recommendations provided through various regional events and, in particular, the MENAREC meetings in Amman, Cairo, Damascus and Marrakech in 2012, the Rabat Energy Forum in 2012, the High-Level Officials Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean – Jordan – the Dead Sea, 2013,

Considering that the development of green technologies, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency will enable the countries of the MENA region to improve energy security in the countries concerned and to create new jobs in order to ensure sustainable economic development,

Considering the strong economic and social potential with renewable energy sources available in the MENA region and the technological progress realised,

Having in mind the importance of strengthening regional energy cooperation in the MENA region and considering the strategic importance of reinforcing interconnection and electricity trade, both within the region and with the adjacent regions, in particular, the EU Mediterranean region,

Having in mind the basic principles of the Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty as an efficient tool in building a political and legal framework, which will attract investments in renewable energy sources and interconnected power grids in the MENA region, providing rules for energy trade, transit and the promotion and protection of investments,

Underlining the importance of the Mediterranean Solar Plan undertaken by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, together with related initiatives such as 'Paving the Way for the MSP', DESERTEC and MEDGRID,

Considering the need for a comprehensive framework to ease the investment to be undertaken, the development of energy trade and, in particular electricity generated from renewable sources,

We recommend:

- To promote domestic energy policies within the MENA region to move towards **diversification of energy resources** with a particular concentration on **the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency**,
- To promote **intergovernmental cooperation** within the MENA region through, in particular, the United Nations-**ESCWA and EU programmes** in the energy sector, aiming at maximising the efficiency of financial contributions,
- To promote political cooperation within the MENA region through, in particular, the energy-dedicated activities of the **Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean** and of the **Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean**,
- To promote the process of updating **the 1991 Energy Charter**,
- To promote, based on, among others, the acquis and principles of the 1991 Energy Charter, the development of the **Mediterranean Energy Community**, aiming at building a long-term and reliable regional framework for energy cooperation.

We thank the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its warm hospitality in respect of the hosting of this High-Level Meeting, the Government of Germany for its financial contribution and the Energy Charter Secretariat for the efficient organisation of this meeting.

The present Declaration has been adopted in **Amman on 3 July 2013**.