



**Ministry of Territorial Administration and
Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia**



YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FORUM

“Facilitating Energy Infrastructure for Sustainable Development”

Jointly organised by

**the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
of the Republic of Armenia**

and

the International Energy Charter

Zoom Videoconference

16 June 2021

09:00 – 12:30 (Central European Time)

11:00 – 14:30 (Yerevan Time)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Developing secure and reliable energy infrastructure is crucial for energy security, sustainable development and clean energy transition. Global energy challenges, such as climate change, scarce energy resources and energy poverty, require the energy systems to develop modern and sustainable solutions in addressing those challenges. Modern, technologically advanced and resilient energy infrastructure plays an essential role in accelerating the energy transition from traditional energy sources to clean energy to meet the growing demand worldwide.

Energy cooperation beyond the borders is crucial in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, both in ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services and mitigating climate change by reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Energy is a cross-cutting element for achieving most of the Sustainable Development Goals, whether related to the environment, economic growth, social aspects or poverty eradication.

Connectivity of energy systems, regional approaches and energy market integration is key to the successful implementation of the Agenda. Thus, Sustainable development Goal 7 calls on expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all. In the same vein, the European Green Deal, as a part of the EU's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda, stresses the importance of increased cross-border and regional cooperation to achieve the benefits of the clean energy transition at affordable prices. Strategic Programme for the Development of the Energy Sector of the Republic of Armenia adopted in January 2021 stresses the needs for maximal utilisation of the renewables, quality improvement of the energy efficiency practices and introduction and expansion of innovative and high-tech solutions for energy management.

In line with its Energy Charter Chairmanship priorities, the Government of the Republic of Armenia is working towards promoting open, competitive and non-discriminatory energy markets and facilitating regional energy cooperation and market integration. Armenia has already implemented its major infrastructure projects in electricity and gas to ensure its energy security and facilitate energy trade in the region.

Investments in the energy infrastructure to promote trade and transit are the core of the Energy Charter Treaty. Market integration and regional cooperation have continually been promoted within the Energy Charter Process as an essential step towards open and competitive energy markets. The International Energy Charter, a political declaration currently signed by over 90 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, highlights the importance of fostering mutually beneficial energy cooperation among nations for energy security and sustainability.

Scope

The Yerevan International Energy Charter Forum will address the importance of developing modern energy infrastructure in the context of energy security, sustainable development and energy transition. It will provide a platform for dialogue to discuss technical and regulatory

aspects of infrastructure projects, including issues of connectivity, market integration, digitalisation, smart grids, protection of critical energy infrastructure and cybersecurity, as well as to share knowledge and exchange of best practices and lessons learnt. The Forum will bring together high-level speakers from governments and international organisations across the Energy Charter Constituency and key international experts from the private sector, financial institutions, think tanks and academia.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09:20 Opening Remarks (Central European Time)

- **Mr. Suren Papikyan**, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Chair of the Energy Charter Conference,
- **Dr. Urban Rusnák**, Secretary-General, International Energy Charter,
- **Ms. Cristina Lobillo Borrero**, Director of Energy Policy, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission.

09:20 – 10:00 Ministerial and High-Level Statements

Moderated by **Mr. Hakob Vardanyan**, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference.

- **Mr. Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren**, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference, Deputy Minister of Energy of Mongolia,
- **Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu**, Minister for Science and Technology of Nigeria,
- **Mr. Ilir Bejtja**, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania,
- **Amb. Traian Chebeleu**, Deputy Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,
- **Mr. Maciej Czura**, Head of the Regional Representation for the South Caucasus, European Investment Bank,
- **Ms. Sylvie Bossoutrot**, Country Manager, Office of the World Bank in Armenia
- **Mr. Dimitri Gvindadze**, Head of the Resident Office, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

10:00 – 11:00 Session 1: The Role of Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure in Promoting Market Integration and Regional Cooperation

Moderated by **Mr. Hakob Vardanyan**, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference.

- EAEU Common Energy Market – **Ms. Svetlana Zaytseva**, Head of the Energy and Nuclear Policy of the Energy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission,
- Overview of Energy Infrastructure Projects in Armenia:
 - **Ms. Armenuhi Barseghyan**, Project Manager, "High Voltage Electric Networks" CJSC,
 - **Ms. Stéphanie Guihard-Brand**, Public Sector Lending Operation, European Investment Bank,
 - **Ms. Bella Andriasyan**, Senior Project Coordinator, KfW,
 - **Mr. Vardan Karapetyan**, Senior Project Officer, Asian Development Bank.
- Market liberalisation to promote transboundary electricity trade – **Dr. Marina Vardanyan**, Water, Energy and Environment Advisor, USAID/Armenia.

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:15 Session 2: Critical Energy Infrastructure, Smart Grids and Decentralised Power Systems - best practices and lessons learnt

Moderated by **Mr. Kanat Botbaev**, Knowledge Centre, Energy Charter Secretariat.

- Investing in High Quality Infrastructure – **Mr. Jun Arima**, Project Professor of the Graduate School of Public Policy, the University of Tokyo,
- Smart Grids - Prospects and Challenges – **Mr. Paul Wilczek**, Head of Distribution and Market Facilitation, Eurelectric,
- Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure – **Mr. Ivo Walinga**, Programme Officer, OSCE Energy Security Team.

12:15 – 12:30 Concluding Remarks

- **Mr. Hakob Vardanyan**, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference.