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DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Report by the Acting Secretary-General on the Activities in 2025

The Energy Charter Conference at the Statutory Session of its 36th Meeting, held on 19 December 2025, took note of the attached Report by the Acting Secretary-General on the Activities in 2025.

Keywords: Report, Energy Charter Secretariat, Secretary-General, Acting Secretary-General

REPORT BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES IN 2025

The present report is prepared pursuant to Article 35(3) of the Energy Charter Treaty to provide the Energy Charter Conference with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Energy Charter Secretariat in 2025. The Energy Charter Conference will be invited to take note of the report at its 36th Meeting on 19 December 2025.

I. Introduction

1. The Energy Charter Secretariat (Secretariat) expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Tajikistan for assuming the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference (Conference) for 2025 (CCDEC 2025 06 APP).

2. The Secretariat further expresses its appreciation to all delegates participating in the subsidiary bodies of the Conference. Their contributions were essential to fulfilling the Conference's functions and supporting the continued implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

3. The Conference appointed the serving Deputy Secretary-General to a second term on 18 September 2025 (CCDEC 2025 11 APP) and subsequently reconfirmed her status as Acting Secretary-General on 5 November 2025 (CCDEC 2025 16 APP).

II. Modernisation of the ECT and the Depositary Functions

4. On 3 December 2024, the Conference adopted and approved the decisions on the modernisation of the ECT, including the amendments to the ECT (CCDEC 2024 12 GEN), modifications and changes to its Annexes (CCDEC 2024 13 GEN), changes to the Understandings, Declarations and Decisions with respect to the ECT (CCDEC 2024 14 GEN), as well as the provisions on the entry into force and provisional application of the adopted amendments to the ECT and approved changes to its Annexes (CCDEC 2025 15 GEN).

5. In accordance with Article 42(3) of the ECT, the decisions on the modernisation of the ECT were communicated to the Government of the Portuguese Republic, the Depositary of the ECT, until 2 February 2025, which subsequently transmitted them to the Contracting Parties for ratification.

6. Since the adoption of these decisions, the Secretariat has provided both general and specific information, as well as legal assistance, regarding the "modernised" ECT to Contracting Parties requesting support in their domestic consultations and related processes.

7. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided procedural support in amending the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA), with a view to ensuring its alignment with the amendments introduced to the ECT. As a result, on 30 January 2025, the Conference adopted the amendments to the PEEREA (CCDEC 2025 01 GEN).

8. Pursuant to the Conference Decisions CCDEC 2024 16 GEN and CCDEC 2025 01 GEN, the Secretariat assumed, on an interim basis, the functions of Depositary of the ECT and of the PEEREA as of 2 February 2025, following the withdrawal of the Portuguese Republic from the ECT.

9. In its capacity as the interim Depositary of the ECT, the Secretariat oversaw the receipt of declarations submitted under paragraph 3(a) of the Conference Decision CCDEC 2024 15 GEN concerning the provisional application of the amendments adopted on 3 December 2024. Contracting Parties were afforded until 3 March 2025 to submit declarations opting out of the provisional application.

10. The following Contracting Parties opted out of the provisional application under paragraph 3(a) of Conference Decision CCDEC 2024 15 GEN: Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, and Switzerland. In addition, Austria and Romania deposited a communication in relation to paragraph 2 of the Conference Decision CCDEC CCDEC 2024 15 GEN, informing that the provisional application of the amendments is not consistent with their respective constitution, laws or regulations.

11. The provisional application of the amendments commenced on 3 September 2025.

12. On 7 August 2025, Lithuania deposited with the Secretariat its written notification of withdrawal from the ECT. Accordingly, the withdrawal of Lithuania from the ECT and PEEREA shall take effect on 8 August 2026.

13. Additionally, on 2 October 2025, the Secretariat, in its capacity as the interim Depositary, received a communication from Switzerland in relation to Article 17 of the ECT. In this communication, Switzerland informed the Depositary and the Contracting Parties that it denies the advantages of Part III of the ECT to legal entities owned or controlled by nationals of the Russian Federation and Belarus that lack substantial business activity in the Contracting Party of incorporation, as well as to investments and investors of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

14. Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat provided both general legal advice on treaty law and practice and specific legal advice to Contracting Parties regarding treaty actions, including the above-mentioned instruments, notifications and communications, thereby ensuring the proper execution of such actions.

15. The Secretariat reported on these matters to the Strategy and Implementation Group.

III. Management and Administration of the Secretariat

16. As the nine-year lease for the Secretariat's previous premises at 46 Boulevard de la Woluwe was due to expire at the end of 2025, the Secretariat initiated, early in the year, a structured search for alternative office premises. This process was undertaken with a view to relocating to more cost-effective premises and achieving significant savings, given the Secretariat's materially constrained budget.

17. Following the review of several properties, the Secretariat compiled comparative, detailed information on the available options and sought a multi-year commitment from the Conference to enable the timely conclusion of a new lease well in advance of the expiry of the existing arrangement. The Secretariat relocated to the new office on 1 September 2025, avoiding any interruption to its work.

18. The Secretariat's new premises at Avenue de Tervueren 273 are located closer to central Brussels than the previous office, thereby improving accessibility for delegates and other visitors. In addition, since the relocation occurred before the end of the lease period for the higher-rent premises, the Secretariat was able to realise further cost savings during 2025.

19. At the same time, the preparation of the Budget and Programme of Work for the biennium 2026–2027 was particularly challenging in 2025, due to the entry into effect of several withdrawals from the ECT by major contributors and an overall reduction in annual contributions to less than one million. In response to this evolving context, the Secretariat proposed a number of budgetary options to the Budget Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2025, and subsequently submitted the draft biennium Budget and Programme of Work to the Budget Committee on 16 October 2025, which were approved by the Conference on 5 November 2025 (CCDEC202515-BUD; CCDEC202516-WPR).

20. In view of the reduced staffing complement and the need to further enhance operational efficiency, the Secretariat undertook an organisational restructuring in 2025. Following approval by the Conference on 1 July 2025 (CCDEC 2025 09 BUD), the new organisational structure was implemented with effect from 1 August 2025.

IV. Engagement with the Contracting Parties

21. In 2025, the Acting Secretary-General engaged extensively with Contracting Parties to reaffirm the Secretariat's commitment to cooperation in the field of energy and to keep them informed of the latest developments within the Secretariat. In this context, the Acting Secretary-General held bilateral meetings and calls with 26 representatives of Contracting Parties, including through participation in events and visits to diplomatic missions.

22. In April 2025, the Acting Secretary-General participated as a speaker at the Fourth Antalya Diplomacy Forum, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Hakan Fidan. The Acting Secretary-General made interventions in a round-table discussion on "Digital Competition in Transforming Markets," where she emphasised that the evolution of the energy systems - requiring increased digitalisation to enhance connectivity and efficiency - is aligned with the fundamental principles of the ECT, namely a rule-of-law-based, open, and competitive regime for long-term international energy cooperation. On the margins of the Forum, the Acting Secretary-General also had a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador A. Berris Ekinci.

23. Also in April 2025, the Acting Secretary-General was invited as a keynote speaker at the Turkmenistan Economy Investment Forum (TEIF) at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkmenistan. In her remarks, she recalled the purpose of the ECT to provide a legal framework for promoting long-term international energy cooperation, encompassing all matters relating to energy, and noted that the adoption of the amendments to the ECT in December 2024 makes the ECT one of the most advanced international investment treaties. The Acting Secretary-General also had a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. Batyr Amanov.

24. In May 2025, the Acting Secretary-General visited Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, to attend the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, at the invitation of the Government. During the event, she held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Energy of Tajikistan, Mr. Daler Shofakir Juma, during which she discussed, among other matters, Tajikistan's Chairmanship of the Conference. In October 2025, the Acting Secretary-General also met bilaterally with the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr. Manuchehr Safarzoda, during his visit to Brussels.

25. In June 2025, the Acting Secretary-General participated as a speaker in the opening Ministerial Plenary of the 30th anniversary of the Baku Energy Forum, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the margins of the Forum, she held bilateral meetings with: the Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov; the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Mr. Vakhtang Tsintsadze; the Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms. Iva Petrova; the Secretary of State, Ministry of Energy of Romania, Mr. Pavel Casian Nilulescu; and the State Secretary, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Moldova, Ms. Carolina Novac.

26. Also in June 2025, the Acting Secretary-General met bilaterally with the Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Asatur Vardanyan, on the margins of the International Energy Agency's 10th Global Energy Efficiency Conference.

27. In July 2025, the Acting Secretary-General hosted a bilateral meeting at the Secretariat with the Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine, Mr. Roman Andarak and the Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine, Mr. Mykola Kolisnyk.

V. Support to the Conference, its Chairmanship and Subsidiary Bodies, the Management Committee, and Consultative Bodies

Conference

28. The Secretariat provided legal support and conference services to the Conference. The Secretariat facilitated procedural aspects of the Conference's decision-making processes and organised the Extraordinary meetings of the Conference on 19 August and 9–18 September 2025, and the 36th Meeting of the Conference on 19 December 2025.

Chairmanship

29. The Secretariat worked closely with the Chairmanship of the Conference, the Republic of Tajikistan, to support the smooth conduct of the decision-making processes and the organisation of the 36th Meeting of the Conference.

Subsidiary Bodies

30. On 3 December 2024, following the adoption of the amendments to the ECT, the Modernisation Group was dissolved. Accordingly, in 2025, the Conference was supported by the following subsidiary bodies:

- Budget Committee;
- Strategy and Implementation Group; and
- Legal Advisory Committee.

31. The Secretariat provided the necessary substantive, procedural and logistical support to these subsidiary bodies and their Chairpersons. In particular, the Secretariat assisted in the organisation and conduct of the following meetings:

- Budget Committee: 15 April (extraordinary), 20 May, 1 July, 16 October; and
- Strategy and Implementation Group: 13 May and 15 October.

32. All of the above meetings were held by videoconference.

Management Committee

33. In accordance with Rule 11 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat assisted in facilitating the work of the Management Committee, including providing legal support and conference services.

International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP)

34. At the end of 2025, the IAP comprised 60 members representing energy companies, international associations, intergovernmental institutions, and individuals spanning 31 countries, operating in exploration, production, generation, transmission, distribution, finance, equipment, services, technology, and consultancy. At the same time, two companies withdrew from the IAP in 2025: Edison S.p.A. (Italy) and Gas Transmission Operator GAZSYSTEM S.A. (Poland).

VI. Implementation of the ECT

Investment

35. In 2025, the Secretariat worked on the eighth edition of its flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA), featuring country profiles of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ukraine, and the Republic of Tajikistan. This activity was carried out under the purview of the Strategy and Implementation Group, which received periodic updates from the Secretariat at its meetings. The

number of profiles prepared in 2025 was substantially reduced, reflecting current staffing constraints. The Secretariat has therefore adjusted its internal planning and processes to ensure continued delivery of EIRA outputs while maintaining proportionality between available resources and the scope of work. Accordingly, publication of the eighth edition of the report is expected in early 2026.

36. Looking ahead, the Secretariat intends to review the scope and methodology adopted in 2022 to ensure that future editions: (i) focus strictly on assessment of compliance with key provisions of the ECT, particulalry Part III of the ECT; (ii) avoid duplication with other international reporting frameworks addressing climate aspirations and policy goals; and (iii) align with Articles 19 and 19bis of the modernised ECT. This review is expected to strengthen EIRA's distinct value further, reduce redundancy, and streamline the questionnaire process, thereby lowering the reporting burden on both participating governments and the Secretariat, and enabling more targeted follow-up to sustain and potentially increase participation.

37. The Secretariat also made progress in implementing its joint EIRA report with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). In 2025, a Fellow recruited through a competitive process continued substantive work on the report. The Secretariat is working in close coordination with the IsDB to collect responses to the EIRA questionnaire from participating countries, with a view to advancing to the drafting stage in the coming year.

Transit and Energy Security

38. Given the centrality of energy transit to the objectives of the ECT, and the continued importance of secure, reliable and non-discriminatory energy flows among Contracting Parties, the review and facilitation of transit-related obligations remains a core area of the Secretariat's work.

39. While the Secretariat's activities in recent years have contributed to broader visibility and engagement on energy transit issues, the Secretariat aims to further prioritise actions that directly support the implementation and monitoring of the ECT's transit provisions. Accordingly, at the Strategy and Implementation Group meeting of 15 October 2025, the Secretariat planned a discussion for the Group to consider the review and facilitation of transit-related obligations under Article 34(3)(b) of the ECT, in line with Conference Decision CCDEC 2024 20 STR.

40. In light of the interest expressed by several Contracting Parties both prior to and following the scheduled meeting of 15 October 2025, the Secretariat will revert to this matter for substantive discussion in 2026.

Energy Efficiency

41. The review and facilitation function under the PEEREA remains a principal element of its implementation framework and is essential for supporting continued compliance with its provisions. In particular, Article 10 of PEEREA mandates the Conference to establish procedures for keeping the PEEREA under review and facilitating its implementation, including reporting requirements, and for identifying areas of cooperation in accordance with Article 9.

42. The In-Depth Energy Efficiency Reviews (IDEER) constitute the main operational instrument through which this review function is implemented. At present, two IDEER reports remain under preparation: one on Mongolia and one on the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In 2025, the Secretariat advanced work on the IDEER of Jordan; however, the report remains at the drafting stage. The Secretariat intends to progress both reports further during the next biennium. Given the constrained resource environment, work on these reports will be carefully balanced against other mandated activities.

43. Looking ahead, the Secretariat intends to propose a review of the IDEER structure with a view to making it more concise and resource-efficient, and more clearly focused on monitoring implementation of PEEREA provisions while avoiding duplication with the work of other organisations. As the last comprehensive review of the IDEER format was conducted in 2015, the Secretariat considers that 2026

presents a timely opportunity to modernise and streamline the approach, ensuring continued alignment with PEEREA's core mandate, available resources, and the IDEER's distinct added value.

Dispute Prevention and Management

44. The Secretariat engaged in addressing inquiries related to dispute prevention and management. It provided ongoing support by maintaining and offering inquirers access to the *travaux préparatoires* of the European Energy Charter, the ECT and its related protocols, as well as the Amendment to the Trade-Related Provisions. Additionally, the Secretariat assisted inquirers in navigating these resources. The Secretariat also maintained a dedicated website on the ECT.

Access to the documentary and audio *travaux préparatoires* is now available at the Secretariat's new premises.