



Statement of Afghanistan's delegation, Eng. Habib Rahman Rahmat, on behalf of the
Ministry of Energy & water (MEW) Islamic republic of Afghanistan
in 25th Session of the (EC)

Astana, November 27, 2014

Excellencies Ministers of Energy from member countries, Members of the Energy Charter
25th conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Asalam-o-Alaikom wa rahmatullah,

I'm delighted of attending the 25th session of the (EC), which is arranged in the beautiful city of Astana, on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. I hope that the Energy Charter 25th conference participants could work together in full harmony, understanding and coordination for the growth and stability of the Eurasia common economy and development. The election of Kazakhstan as the next chairman of Energy Charter Conference, was the main result of the 24th session of the Energy Charter Conference that took place in the capital of Cyprus - Nicosia, which is the horizon of hope for us.

Respectful Ladies and Gentlemen:

We believe that the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is an international agreement which establishes a multilateral framework for cross-border co-operations in the energy industry. The treaty covers all aspects of commercial energy activities including trade, transit, investments and energy efficiency. The treaty is legally binding, including dispute resolution procedures.

Originally, the Energy Charter process was based on integrating the energy sectors of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War into the broader European and world markets. Its role however extends beyond East-West cooperation and through legally binding instruments strives to promote principles of openness of global energy markets and non-discrimination to stimulate foreign direct investments and global cross-border trade.

The beginnings of the Energy Charter date back to a political initiative launched in Europe in the early 1990s. The time at end of the Cold War offered an unprecedented opportunity to overcome previous economic divisions between the nations on both sides of the Iron Curtain. The clearest prospect for mutually co-dependent beneficial cooperation was the energy sector, given Europe's growing energy demand and vast resource availability in post-Soviet nations. Additionally there was a recognized need to ensure that a commonly accepted foundation was established for developing energy cooperation among the states of Eurasia. On the basis of these considerations, the Energy Charter process was born.

The original Energy Charter declaration was signed in The Hague on 17 December 1991. It was a political declaration of principles for international energy including trade, transit and investment.

Energy Charter Protocol on energy efficiency and related environmental aspects:

At a glance we read that this Protocol was adopted in accordance with the Treaty, which clearly provided for the negotiation of protocols and declarations aimed at achieving the objectives and principles laid down in the Charter.

The objectives are:

- to promote energy efficiency policies compatible with sustainable development;
- to create the conditions for encouraging producers and consumers to use energy in a more economic, efficient and environmentally sound manner;
- to encourage cooperation in the field of energy efficiency.

Afghanistan is anxious to join this vital agenda of the 21st century as committed country to all principles outlined above.

This gathering will bring together not only all the members of the Energy Charter which includes more than 50 countries, but also representatives of observer countries, oil and gas companies and experts.

Afghan team believe that the outcome of this event will be the adoption of Astana roadmap that will define the main directions of development of the Energy Charter process in the next five years.

We also are optimist that the organization aims to establish common rules on the world energy market. the participating countries are hoping to minimize the risks associated with investment and trade in energy sector.

Afghanistan propose that : participating countries must make revision of process, measure taken and other progresses every 5 years and come to a common conclusion in which direction the Charter process should develop.

Respected audience!

It is a good occasion to express a few points about our country Afghanistan, and it's potentials.

Afghanistan due to it's specific location, has large amount of 23000MW hydro power potential, more over having 300 sunny days in a year, it has potential of 222000MW of solar energy,67000MW of wind energy potential, we are in the capacity of producing 1000MW of power from our gas resources, in case we provide enough budget, we could generate 2500MW power from coal plants, up to date a potential of 3500MW power generation have been estimated from our Geothermal resources.

We are working on a project which will generate 4000MW power in the near future.

With the assistances/ cooperation of, major industrialized friendly nations and the private sector of all friendly countries with the cooperation of Energy Charter member states.

The Geopolitical location of our country is carrying the importance, which can facilitate conditions as a transit country to South Asia, Central Asia and other parts of Asia and as a trading corridor for the region, therefore we want your attention to this outstanding superiority and supremacy.

As an example, projects such as (CASA-1000) that connects Central Asia's countries, Tajikistan and Kirghizstan, to transfer the surplus electric power through Afghanistan to Pakistan, paves way for mutual cooperation among the involved nations and ends to stability and economical growth of the whole region. likewise project (TAPI) is one of the largest gas-carrying project, between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India facilitating the energy transfer. in the near future (TUTAP) development project which aims to transfer energy from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan & Tajikistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan, which provides the best transit corridor to the South Asia countries, will be studied.

As we have large Hydro-technical Potential, therefore the friendly countries & the Energy Charter member states, are invited to invest in the energy sector of the country, we guarantee your rights by all means based on the international laws and regulations, those who invest much will get more interest, we offer first priority to Energy Charter member states, friendly countries & their private sectors.

Our country is in the heart of Asia and very close to Eurasia that plays an important role in the region's energy balance and energy security. We have proven ourselves to be a reliable and experienced international partner and we are willing to work to bring the charter to the forefront of the global energy management system, this is a scare opportunity available for some others.

Dear audience,

Referring the articles of energy charter, about Dispute settlement and the resolution of disputes between participating countries, and in the case of investments between investors and host countries in Article 27 & Article 26 of the Energy Charter Treaty provides some provisions for resolving disputes arising under the Treaty between an investor of a Contracting State and another Contracting State, are confirming the stability of this organization.

Energy efficiency

The Charter's involvement in matters of energy efficiency and its relation to a cleaner environment which was introduced in the 1991 Energy Charter Declaration. The subsequent Energy Charter Treaty, and in particular Article 19 of the Treaty, requires that each Contracting Party "... shall strive to minimize in an economically efficient manner, harmful Environmental Impacts arising from energy use, Afghanistan will remain committed to this principle.

Energy transit

The Energy Charter Treaty provides a set of rules that covers the entire energy chain, including not only investments in production and generation but also the terms under which energy can be traded and transported across various national jurisdictions to international markets. As such, the agreement is intended to prevent disruption of fuel passing between

countries. Afghanistan anxiously regards this issue for further deepening of its relations among the member states.

Principle of national sovereignty of the Energy Charter is based on the idea that international flows of investments and technologies in the energy sector are mutually beneficial, national sovereignty over energy resources is a core principle of the treaty (ECT Article 18). We see that an objective of the treaty is to promote transparency and efficiency in the operation of energy markets, hence Afghans are keen to cooperated broadly, the international objectives of the Energy Charter Treaty.

Respectful Ladies and Gentlemen:

Finally, I heartily thank for warm hospitality of the Kazakhs's Government, the Energy Charter Secretariat and those who arranged this event, Assure once again that the decisions taken by the EC Secretariat, so far, will be materialized through joint endeavors of all,

For the success of all

Eng. Habib Rahman Rahmat

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Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW)
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