



BISHKEK DECLARATION ON PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ELECTRICITY TRADE BETWEEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Bishkek, 26 April 2007

The delegations of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Recognising the need to develop and intensify cross-border electricity trade between Central and South Asia;

Acknowledging the work of organisations, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and the initiatives by regional organisations, such as the Economic Cooperation Organisation, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in facilitating regional cross-border trade;

Recognising further the need to establish a legal and technical framework for a secure and sustainable regional cross-border trade and to attract the investments needed to develop this trade;

Recognising also the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating a mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade among the participants of this event;

Noting with satisfaction the progress of Afghanistan and Pakistan in acceding to the Energy Charter Treaty and encouraging these countries to complete their accession process as soon as possible.

RECOMMEND:

Enhancing their cooperation within the framework of the Energy Charter Treaty through a systematic channel for sharing information and know-how;

Establishing a task force made up of national focal points, and focal points in the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other stakeholders;

Developing a legal and technical framework for facilitating a sustainable and secure regional power trade based on the Energy Charter Treaty;

Accepting the proposal of the Energy Charter Secretariat to organize the next meeting of the task force in Kabul within this year, on the invitation of the Afghan Government to host the next meeting, to discuss further ways for facilitating and securing regional cross-border electricity trade through initiatives such as the development of model-agreements, maximising the use of the existing expertise in the region and other appropriate initiatives; and

Working towards high level political commitment by the preparation of a ministerial forum for enhancing the regional electricity cooperation using the Energy Charter.