



ALMATY DECLARATION ON PROMOTING REGIONAL ELECTRICITY COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Almaty, 21 April 2009

The Task Force on Promoting Regional Electricity Cooperation between Central and South Asia, comprising of delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the CIS Electric Power Council.

Recalling the Bishkek Declaration agreed on 26 of April 2007, the Kabul Declaration, agreed on 18 November 2007 and the Dushanbe Declaration, agreed on 23 April 2008;

Stressing the necessity to develop and intensify cross-border electricity trade between Central Asian countries and with South Asia, taking into account common interests of all parties;

Understanding the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade within the Energy Charter Constituency;

Considering the work of organisations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the USAID in facilitating regional cooperation, cross-border power trade and creation of common electricity market in Central Asia;

Encouraged by the progress made by participating countries in the development of regional electricity projects;

Recognizing the need to establish a legal, regulatory and technical framework for secure and sustainable regional cross-border trade based on the principles of the Energy Charter, to encourage investments for developing adequate infrastructure;

Welcoming the work of the Energy Charter Secretariat in developing the Model Electricity Agreements for cross-border electricity projects;

Emphasizing the need for further elaborating on operational agreements for addressing technical issues pertinent to cross border trade in electricity to ensure secure operation of electricity systems involved in regional power trade;

Acknowledging the financial support provided by the Government of Norway to facilitate the efforts of the Energy Charter Secretariat in promoting cooperation between Central and South Asia.

RECOMMEND:

Continuing the work of this Task Force as a forum for discussion on regional power trade including technical, regulatory and legal issues pertaining to power generation, transmission and trade between the countries of Central Asia and with South Asia;

Working towards reaching a joint understanding of the legal, regulatory and technical framework for power trade between Central Asian countries and with South Asia and towards the finalisation of Model Electricity Agreements;

Proposing to further elaborate on operational agreements as a supplementary part of the Model Electricity Agreements of the Energy Charter to promote sustainable and secure regional power trade;

Proposing to undertake a regional study on relation between regional electricity cooperation, sector reforms and investment climate and dedicate national focal points from participating countries to provide up-to-date information and to participate in peer reviews;

Planning to have the next meeting of this Task Force in the region in the autumn of 2009;

Aiming towards holding a ministerial level meeting to adopt recommendations made by the participating countries at the Task Force level.