



**GOVERNMENT OF  
TAJIKISTAN**



**ENERGY CHARTER  
SECRETARIAT**

*Dushanbe, 20 July 2012*

**Declaration on Promoting  
Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia**

Under the initiative on Promoting Regional Energy Cooperation and joining efforts towards the gradual development of a framework for sustainable and secure regional energy trade based on the principles of the Energy Charter,

**The Task Force on Regional Energy Cooperation, consisting of the following Member States:**

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Republic of Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Republic of Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
Republic of Uzbekistan,

Noting that Pakistan did not attend the meeting,

And to which any Signatory of the Energy Charter Treaty or any Observer to the Energy Charter Conference may assist as Observer;

Having regard to the Bishkek Declaration agreed on 26 April 2007, the Kabul Declaration, agreed on 18 November 2007, the Dushanbe Declaration agreed on 23 April 2008, the Almaty Declaration agreed on 21 April 2009, the Ashgabat Declaration agreed on 18 November 2009, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration agreed on 9 July 2010, and the Issyk-Kul Declaration agreed on 23 June 2011;

**Recognising:**

the use of the Energy Charter framework as a means of intensifying and developing cross-border energy trade and transit;

the Task Force as a neutral forum promoting exchange of information, open discussions, knowledge sharing, and development of common goals for enhanced cooperation;

the work of the Task Force in promoting energy markets and regional trade with the aim of exploring and utilising opportunities for expanding cross-border energy trade;

the importance of the Energy Charter Treaty in facilitating mutually beneficial and balanced cross-border trade and transit based on the principles of the Energy Charter;

the measures taken by the participating countries for developing energy infrastructure, aimed at creation of common energy markets;

the wish of Energy Charter members for early completion of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's accession process to the Energy Charter Treaty to encourage secure cross-border energy trade and transit between Central and South Asia; and

the importance of addressing the transit related matters in the region;

#### **RECOMMENDS:**

**Continuing** the work of this Task Force as a Forum for discussion on regional energy cooperation;

**Working** towards reaching a joint understanding on legal, regulatory and technical framework for cross-border energy transit and trade, namely to adapt Model Agreements for Cross-Border Pipelines, Model Agreements for Cross-Border Electricity Projects, and use the Market and System Inter-operability Guidelines;

**Calling** to the Energy Charter Conference to authorise the negotiation of Protocol for energy transit;

**Acknowledging** the wish of the Energy Charter members of speedier completion of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's accession process to the Energy Charter Treaty;

**Acknowledging** the need to secure cross-border energy trade and transit between Central and South Asia;

**Encouraging** the exchange of information among the Participants of the Task Force between the meetings of the Task Force and coordinating preparatory work for the upcoming Task Force Meeting;

#### **DECLARES its intention**

to devote its best endeavours to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding on enhanced cooperation, to be signed at a future Meeting of the Task Force, covering some substance in the following areas:

##### ***Maintenance and operation of cross-border energy systems***

- Transit tariffs and transit tariff methodologies
- Rules for access to transport facilities for transit of energy materials and products
- Technical inter-operability
- Sharing knowledge on best practice experience
- Ways and means to expand cross-border energy trade
- Prevention of energy emergencies
- Coordinated action in case of energy emergency
- Promoting networks' efficiency by minimising technical losses.

### ***Legal framework for cross-border energy transit and trade***

- Exploring the negotiation of Transit Protocol for Central and South Asia
- Exploring the negotiation of a regional framework for promotion of investments in low-carbon sector on the basis of Energy Charter Principles
- Exploring the negotiation stronger cooperation between Energy Charter Secretariat and international financial institutions for jointly developing projects on regional energy markets.

### ***Facilitating construction of cross-border energy infrastructure***

- Further work towards improving of project-specific legal frameworks (e.g. inter-governmental and host government agreements, interoperability agreements)
- Facilitating negotiations in cross-border energy corridor planning
- Facilitating pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of cross-border projects
- Facilitating access to project finance.

### ***Capacity building for promoting ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Trade Amendment***

- Exchange of experts
- Acceptance of seconded expert at the Energy Charter Secretariat
- Organisation of stakeholder events in the countries concerned.

### ***Improving the functioning of the Task Force for regional energy cooperation***

- Regular meetings of the Task Force
- Fix agenda points together with the specific agenda interests of the hosting country
- Exchange of information between the meetings of the Task Force, especially before the meetings
- Ensure high-level political support of the Task Force by means of a network of country representatives
- Broadening of the funding principles of the Task Force activities.