



**ASTANA DECLARATION ON PROMOTING REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION  
IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA**

**Astana, Kazakhstan, 7 October 2013**

The Task Force on Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia, established under the Bishkek Declaration and comprising of representatives from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan,

**Recalling** the Bishkek Declaration agreed on 26 of 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, the Issyk-Kul Declaration agreed on 23 of June 2011, Dushanbe Declaration agreed on 20 of July 2012;

**Welcoming** the accession of Afghanistan to the Energy Charter Treaty becoming its fifty-fourth member;

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

**Understanding** the necessity to develop and intensify cross-border energy trade and transit;

**Stressing** 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;

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

**Recognising** the importance of addressing the transit related matters in the region; and

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

*Delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan,*

**RECOMMEND:**

**Intensifying** the work of this Task Force as a forum for discussion on regional energy cooperation between the members of the Energy Charter Process, including the observer countries;

**Working** towards reaching a joint understanding on legal, regulatory and technical frameworks for cross-border energy transit and trade;

**Calling** to the Coordination Power Council of Central Asia and other interested countries to take into account recommendations of the proposed draft Transit Tariff Methodology Study;

**Proposing** to undertake a review of the market reforms in the power sector of the selected countries of the region;

**Continuing** to work towards high-level political commitment by participating countries to enhance regional energy cooperation using the Energy Charter Treaty;

**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.