



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 3 (j)

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific**

**73/8. Strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable energy
development in Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 67/215 of 21 December 2012 and 69/225 of 19 December 2014 on promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, in which the Assembly decided to declare 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, as well as resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the Assembly adopted Sustainable Development Goal 7 and corresponding targets, and acknowledged the significance of sustainable, reliable, affordable and modern energy in socioeconomic development,

Recalling also resolution 63/6 of 23 May 2007 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, resolution 67/2 of 25 May 2011 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, and resolution 68/11 of 23 May 2012 on connectivity for energy security,

Recognizing that energy is a key driver for sustainable development, and that the lack of universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services poses serious development challenges to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Recognizing also that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising more rapidly than in other regions and that fossil fuels remain the main source of energy, and the need to diversify energy sources according to national circumstances,

Noting that Sustainable Development Goal 7 contains, inter alia, three targets to be achieved by 2030: 7.1, to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; 7.2, to increase substantially the share

of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and 7.3, to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency,

Acknowledging the importance of the transition to the use of renewable energy sources and the deployment of environmentally friendly energy technologies in order to mitigate adverse environmental footprints of the energy transfer and trade,

Acknowledging also the role of the regional energy trade and energy projects in strengthening economic cooperation and eradicating energy poverty in the region and exploiting the strong nexus between energy and other development factors for long-term energy sustainability in the region,

Emphasizing the importance of all elements of energy security, including, inter alia, the diversification of energy sources, security of supply, energy routes and regional energy connectivity,

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts on climate action related to energy at the global level, as well as across the Asian and Pacific region, including those in line with the Paris Agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session,

Noting with satisfaction various national actions from across the Asia-Pacific region in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 7 targets, and recognizing the potential for regional energy cooperation to enhance and reinforce these actions at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Acknowledging the efforts made by member countries to expand regional and subregional energy infrastructure through the implementation of connectivity projects that lead to increased access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in the region,

Recalling its resolution 70/9 of 8 August 2014 on the implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, in which the Commission decided to convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in 2018,

Noting the progress made by members and associate members in implementing the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, namely, the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific and the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018,

Emphasizing the need to make all efforts in removing barriers to invest in the energy sectors of member countries by stakeholders with financial and technical capabilities with a view to contributing to the achievement of energy security and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region,

Reaffirming the role of the Committee on Energy, established by the Commission in its resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015, as an intergovernmental forum for discussing emerging trends and development issues relevant to supporting access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and identifying modalities for regional energy cooperation,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Energy on its first session,¹

Having also considered the draft terms of reference of the expert/working groups of the Committee on Energy prepared by the secretariat,

Having reviewed the theme study prepared for the seventy-third session of the Commission, entitled “Enhancing regional cooperation for sustainable energy in Asia and the Pacific”,²

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on Energy on its first session;¹

2. *Encourages* all members and associate members to develop and strengthen national, bilateral and multilateral programmes and projects aiming to strengthen regional energy cooperation and energy security as a driver to facilitate economic growth, social equality and prosperity, and environmental sustainability and support energy projects which contribute to energy security in all its aspects in the region;

3. *Also encourages* members and associate members to actively share experiences on their energy sector transition to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, which contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the creation of financial incentives in this area;

4. *Further encourages* members and associate members to formulate and implement innovative energy policies that are economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound;

5. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to further promote regional energy connectivity and to formulate and implement coherent policies to increase the cost-effectiveness of joint energy infrastructure projects;

6. *Decides* to adjust its conference structure with regards to the specific issues to be addressed by the Committee on Energy, as contained in the annex to resolution 71/1 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and revised in the annex to the present resolution, for alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;³

7. *Encourages* all members and associate members to participate in the international specialized exhibition EXPO-2017 “Future Energy”, which will be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan in Astana from June to September 2017, and the Energy Ministerial Conference and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, which will be held from 11 to 14 June 2017;

8. *Decides* to fully prepare for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, while ensuring that the preparatory process will take into account the progress made in implementing the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy

¹ E/ESCAP/73/30.

² E/ESCAP/73/7.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

in Asia and the Pacific and the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018, and to consider the theme study issued by the Commission at its seventy-third session as well as inputs from all stakeholders from across the region, including Governments, international bodies, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate;

9. *Also decides* to create two expert working groups on energy connectivity and on universal access to modern energy services, renewable energy, energy efficiency and cleaner use of fossil fuels;

10. *Stresses* that the above-mentioned expert working groups take advantage of and build upon the existing knowledge, information and policy research and closely coordinate with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of work while making further studies, and that the concrete focus areas should be further discussed during 2017 among members and associate members;

11. *Emphasizes* that the Executive Secretary utilize the outputs of the expert working groups in preparing reports for the intergovernmental discussions at the Committee on Energy and the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* the officers of the Committee on Energy, namely, the Chair, five Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur, to play an active role intersessionally in advising the secretariat in implementing the decisions of the Committee;

13. *Invites* members and associate members, relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to actively contribute towards the preparation of the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue to assist members and associate members in building their capacity, including through policy dialogue and by taking advantage of the Commission's conference structure to identify paths towards energy transition and sustainable development;

(b) Continue to conduct analytical studies and compile and disseminate relevant energy information and data, utilizing a combination of existing funds and extrabudgetary contributions, with a view to identifying key trends and emerging issues in the Asian and Pacific region, and taking advantage of ongoing work of other relevant international organizations and bearing in mind the need to minimize duplication of work;

(c) Contribute to develop an inclusive and comprehensive set of recommendations for the agenda of the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

(d) Support the work of the expert working groups mentioned in paragraph 9 of the present resolution;

(e) Convene a preparatory meeting for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

(f) Report to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting
19 May 2017*

Annex

Issues to be addressed by the Committee on Energy

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by the Committee on Energy. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat, upon consultation with member States:

(a) Policy options, strategies, policy dialogues and knowledge platforms to promote energy system transformation in Asia and the Pacific, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 7, including promoting energy connectivity, investments in energy infrastructure and cleaner energy technologies;

(b) Regional dialogues to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all with a focus on energy connectivity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(c) The discussions and outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and other regional agreements and mandates promoted by the Commission for regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy.
