

**Concept Note**  
**Preparatory Webinar for the**  
**Fourth Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity**  
**24 June 2020, 13:00 to 15:00 hrs (GMT+7)**

Energy connectivity, particularly in the power sector, is an essential strategy to help countries tap into renewable energy resources across the Asia-Pacific region. If properly guided, energy connectivity can help countries meet SDG7 targets and support efforts to decarbonize power grids. To support this strategy, the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity (EWG-EC) was established in 2017 through a resolution of the ESCAP Commission. In 2018, the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the development of a regional roadmap on energy connectivity. Later in that same year, the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the ESCAP Commission endorsed the Ministerial declaration.

Since its establishment, the EWG-EC has engaged a diverse range of experts on energy connectivity. It has conducted three meetings, through which the EWG-EC has undertaken research, analysis and deliberation on a range of key issues. This has culminated in the development of the draft “Electricity Connectivity Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific” which was presented to the Committee for Energy at its second session in October 2019. The Committee provided further feedback on the draft Roadmap, which was published in December 2019.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, a revised Roadmap<sup>2</sup> has been submitted, based on the feedback received from member countries, to the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for further review.

### **Objective**

The primary objective of this preparatory meeting for the Fourth Meeting of the EWG-EC is to provide expert views on the development and progress of the draft Roadmap. Members will be invited to provide inputs and suggestions for a program of regional cooperation based on the strategies outlined in the draft Roadmap, including both short-term opportunities and long-term goals. Finally, participants will be invited to develop proposals and provide inputs that can serve as the basis for moving ahead as an implementation plan, which will be summarized by ESCAP for EWG-EC review, and which will be discussed formally at the full EWG-EC meeting, when it is organised later.

Given the ongoing Covid-19 situation and related restrictions on travel, this preparatory meeting will be organised online as a webinar, in an abbreviated format, on 24 June 2020 from 13:00 to 15:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7). In order ensure that all EWG-EC members and other participants have an opportunity to provide input and share view, the meeting will be followed by an online survey, to be provided at a later date. ESCAP intends to organize an in-person EWG-EC meeting in the second half of 2020, subject to the lifting of travel restrictions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/publications/electricity-connectivity-roadmap-asia-and-pacific-strategies-towards-interconnecting>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unescap.org/commission/76/document/E76\\_15E.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/commission/76/document/E76_15E.pdf)

## Tentative Programme:

### Preparatory Webinar for the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity

24 June 2020, 13:00 to 15:00

Time (GMT+7)	Draft Agenda
13:00 – 13:05	<b>Session 1: Introduction</b> Moderated by Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, ESCAP
13:05 – 13:15	Brief opening remarks and scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statement by Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director Energy Division ESCAP</li><li>• Statement by the Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Xiaowei Wei, National Energy Administration, China</li></ul>
13:15 – 13:30	Summary of progress of the development of the regional roadmap for energy connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Matthew Wittenstein</li></ul>
13:30 – 14:00	<b>Session 2: Reviewing and Implementing the Strategies of the draft Regional Roadmap: Response from EWG Members</b> Moderated by Mr. Michael Williamson, ESCAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitated discussion</li></ul>
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Session 3: Formulating a Regional Cooperation Plan for Power Grid Connectivity</b> Moderated by Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, ESCAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of short- and long-term action plans.</li><li>• Discussion of priority actions and challenges/barriers to implementation.</li><li>• Identification of relevant sub-regional initiatives.</li><li>• Discussion around resources required for implementation.</li><li>• Call for “champion” countries to help lead on strategy implementation.</li></ul>
14:45 – 15:00	<b>Session 4: Concluding Session</b> Moderated by Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, ESCAP Conclusions and way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director Energy Division ESCAP</li><li>• Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Xiaowei Wei, National Energy Administration China</li></ul>