Based on recommendation at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF2) on 15 December 2017 (Annex I) as well as comments received from member States, the secretariat developed the preliminary draft of the APEF2 Ministerial Declaration.

The draft was presented to the member States for consideration at the Informal Consultation Meeting to collect their views and to provide guidance to the secretariat about the main structure and content of the APEF2 Ministerial Declaration.

Delegations from India, Russia, USA, Bangladesh, and Japan provided comments to the draft. All delegations present at the meeting underlined, that the Ministerial Declaration aimed to be an action oriented document, which encapsulates the region’s priorities for work and, thus, serves as a pathway to achieve SDG7 in Asia Pacific.

At the conclusion of the consultation, it was agreed that member States to send back their comments in writing to Secretariat by 23 February 2018. Then the draft will be developed and shared by 28 February the latest.

Following this initial consultation on 20 February, the secretariat will circulate a first draft of the Declaration to be further considered by Governments on 28 February. Additional informal consultations will be convened as needed through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
List of Participants
Consultation Meeting for the Ministerial Declaration of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum
20 February 2018

1. Mr. Nam Song Ri, Permanent Representative to UNESCAP, Embassy of the DPRK in the Kingdom of Thailand, Democratic Republic of Korea

2. Mr. Anil Singh, Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of India

3. Mr. Nurui Dewi, Alternate Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Indonesia

4. Mr. Yoshinori Suga, First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan

5. Mr. Timur Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Kazakhstan

6. Mr. Jay Francis G. Alcantara, Second Secretary and Consul and Alternate Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

7. Mr. Talyat Aliyev, Ministry of Energy, Russian Federation

8. Ms. Natalia Karmazinskaya, Assistant Permanent Representative, Embassy of Russian Federation

9. Ms. Jung Hyun Ryu, Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

10. Ms. Elisa Maria da Silva, Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Timor-leste

11. Mr. Antonio Freitas, Attache Cooperation and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Timor-leste

12. Mr. John Kay, Political Officer, U.S. Department of State, United State of America
Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum
15 December 2017, Bangkok

Report of the meeting

On 15 December 2017, the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was convened at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok. At this meeting, representatives from ESCAP member States discussed the organization of the Forum, and considered inputs for the Ministerial Declaration.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Shamshad Akthar, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Dr. Akthar highlighted the urgency of addressing the challenges the region faces considering strong growth projections for energy demand. She underlined that energy connectivity could be a significant tool to help achieve SDG7.

Mr. Talyat Aliev, Vice-Chair of the First Session of ESCAP Committee on Energy, was invited to Chair the RPM. In his opening remarks, he outlined the objectives of the meeting and strongly encouraged all representatives to provide their perspectives on the topics, the standpoints, and the main messages that are to be included in the Ministerial Declaration.

After the opening session, the RPM was informed by the Secretariat on matters regarding the organization of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. Most importantly, three official conference documents will be produced, namely the “Review of implementation of Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific”, the “Energy Transition in Asia and the Pacific: Pathways for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and the draft Ministerial Declaration. Moreover, the Secretariat shared the prospective agenda and timeline for the preparation of the Forum.

Subsequently, the RPM was briefed on the first meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity and the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels by the respective Chair of each Working Group. The briefings included information on the proposed Terms of Reference and the Working Plans of the EWGs, as well as the main outcomes of their topical deliberations. Both briefings were well received by the RPM. The Chairs’ summaries of the Expert Working Group meetings were considered and taken note by the RPM.

Importantly, the RPM considered the proposed outline of the Ministerial Declaration of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum presented by the Secretariat. The RPM participants provided their perspectives on the topics, the standpoints, and the main messages that they would like to have included in the draft Declaration. The secretariat was requested to develop the first draft of the Ministerial Declaration in consideration of all the inputs received at the RPM.

The RPM discussed the timeline for development of the Ministerial Declaration and agreed on the following:
Participants of the RPM were encouraged to provide feedback and inputs to the Secretariat on the outline of the Ministerial Declaration before 15 January. Then the secretariat will develop the first draft text of the Ministerial Declaration with a view to circulate it through the ACPR among all member States in early February.

The RPM recommended to consider organization of another meeting to consider the draft MD. One of the options could be on the margins of the Global Preparatory Meeting on SDG7 which will be convened in Bangkok on 21-23 February.

The continued consultations with member States on the draft Ministerial Declaration will be carried out through the ACPR.

Attachments:
1. Chair’s Summary of the First Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity