

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Subregional Consultation Meeting for North and Central Asia
Preparation for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF)
25 and 26 October 2012
Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. ESCAP Subregional Consultation Meeting for North and Central Asia was held on 25 and 26 October 2012 at the World Trade Center in Moscow, Russian Federation. This Meeting was conducted as part of the preparatory process for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF), which will be held at the ministerial level in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013.
2. The Meeting was organized in conjunction with the 7th International Energy Week, which is one of the major energy fora in the Russian Federation. Participants were able to participate in some of its events.
3. The Meeting brought together the official representatives and experts in the field of energy and development from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
4. The Meeting elected the Chair (Russian Federation) and the Vice Chair (Uzbekistan) and noted that they will be presenting the outcomes of the Subregional Consultation Meeting at the Regional Expert Group Meeting planned to be held from 21 to 23 November 2012 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the Regional Expert Group Meeting is to draft the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Plan based on the five sub-regional perspectives on energy security and the sustainable use of energy.
5. The Meeting reviewed and discussed the draft background document "Perspectives on the Challenges to Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in the ESCAP Subregion of North and Central Asia" prepared by ESCAP consultant. The objective of the background document was to facilitate identification and formulation of the subregional messages and perspectives to be contained in the drafts of the APEF outcome documents – the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Plan.
6. Although there was no consensus reached on this matter, it was proposed during the Meeting to include the issues of water and food security, as well as the issues of transboundary river basin management into the Conclusions and Recommendations.
7. The Meeting also expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for providing financial and technical support to the preparatory process towards the Asian

and Pacific Energy Forum, and organization of the Subregional Consultation Meeting for North and Central Asia in particular.

8. Participants of the Meeting commended the draft background report prepared by ESCAP consultant and provided detailed comments and recommendations for its further improvement. Participants also expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for organizing the Subregional Consultation Meeting for North and Central Asia, as well as whole preparatory process towards the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.
9. ESCAP will finalize the draft background report with the consideration of the comments and suggestions received and will circulate it to the Meeting participants and publish it on the APEF web-site.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants to the Subregional Consultation Meeting for North and Central Asia from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed and agreed upon the following messages to serve as recommendations from the ESCAP North and Central Asia subregion and to be included into the outcome documents of the APEF:

1. Improvement of energy security at the national and subregional levels is the key element for promoting sustainable development, sustaining economic growth and enhancing political stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Governments and intergovernmental cooperation play the leading role in achieving energy security at the national, regional and global levels. Establishment of predictable long-term equilibrium between energy supply and demand to ensure adequate consideration of interests of all participants of energy market, including energy-exporting, transit and energy-importing countries, is an important prerequisite for ensuring energy security.
3. United Nations System, and in particular United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), play important role in assisting North and Central Asia States in formulation and implementation of energy policy and in development of intergovernmental cooperation on energy, including in recognition of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Sustainable Development “Rio+20”.
4. International financial institutions, specifically the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Eurasian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank, international organizations and donor countries play an important role in achieving progress towards energy security and sustainable use of energy in the subregion.
5. The optimal energy mix should rely on the particular circumstances of certain countries and adequately address three elements of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

6. Providing reliable, transparent and comparative statistical data and information on production and consumption of energy resources enables countries to formulate and implement energy sector policies more compatible with sustainable development. More active cooperation to improve methodologies and to enhance quality of statistical data collection, as well as to ensure reliable storage and utilization of statistical data on energy should become one of the priorities among the countries in the subregion.
7. Measures to decrease negative impact of energy sector on the environment should equally take into account issues of climate change and anthropogenic impact on the ecosystems. Such measures should include improving efficiency of energy consumption, application of advanced fossil fuel technologies, increasing the share and diversity of economically viable and environmentally sustainable renewable energy resources within the energy mix.
8. Within the context of existing risks of man-made and natural disasters, the North and Central Asia States emphasize the importance of preparedness to render mutual help in case of such emergency.
9. To ensure energy security it is necessary to apply comprehensive approach, including through providing support in areas, such as nurturing behavioral change towards more efficient energy consumption, training of energy sector professionals, improving efficiency of energy consumption in all sectors of economy and in residential and utility sectors.
10. Further development of national legislation and harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks in countries of the subregion is an important factor to achieve energy security. Countries in North and Central Asia could on regular basis exchange information and data on formulation and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector. Development of accessible open and free information platforms of legal documents is very important.
11. Energy trade is one of the critical elements that can greatly contribute to enhancing energy security both within the subregion and in the entire Asia-Pacific. In this context, development of energy infrastructure is an integral prerequisite of effectively sustaining and increasing energy trade and is essential to enhancing energy security.

North and Central Asia States expressed their interest in reflecting the need to strengthen subregional intergovernmental cooperation in a wide range of areas in the Regional Implementation Plan to be adopted by the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, in particular:

- a. Development of legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as technical regulations and standards
- b. Development, application and attraction of relevant advanced technologies
- c. Attraction of financial resources for implementation of joint large-scale investment projects
- d. Training of energy sector professionals