



## *Draft Terms of Reference for Consultation*

# Asia Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks

## **1. Background**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) works with Asia-Pacific member States on regional energy cooperation, with a focus on promoting sustainable energy and SDG7 of the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP has convened a network of academic institutes, think tanks, universities and not-for-profit entities across the Asia Pacific region, the Asia Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT). This network will facilitate research collaboration and information exchange on social, technical, environmental and economic aspects of energy with secretariat support provided by ESCAP. APNETT brings together institutes from diverse countries and differing areas of sectoral focus within the energy domain. These Terms of Reference provide guidance on the function, structure and operation of APNETT.

## **2. Key Functions of APNETT**

APNETT will address existing and emerging energy knowledge gaps and build expertise in the field of sustainable energy development, focused on assisting the member States of the region to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7. It will facilitate exchange of knowledge, data and perspectives; and develop collaborative research on energy issues identified by ESCAP and its member States through intergovernmental processes such as the Committee on Energy; the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum; and the ESCAP Commission.

APNETT recognises that the diverse nature of the Asia-Pacific region will require addressing energy issues specific to certain subregions. APNETT will endeavour to undertake activities that respond to subregional priorities.

APNETT will provide a mechanism for energy experts to connect and collaborate on the social, technological, environmental and economic aspects of energy. It will constitute a diverse pool of highly qualified institutes that can provide expertise for specific research tasks that are commissioned by ESCAP in consultation with its member States. In this way, APNETT will enable ESCAP to access relevant expertise in relevant energy specialisations to support its intergovernmental dialogue; technical assistance to member States; and research and knowledge building work.

For the participating institutions, it is anticipated that their membership of APNETT and relationship with ESCAP places them in a more influential position to share their research and findings with other institutions across the region and to increase the impact of their research. It also enables participating institutions to collaborate with other similar organizations across the region, extending their academic reach and strengthening their capacities. As ESCAP works at an intergovernmental level, APNETT can allow its members greater proximity to policymakers. This can help in

making research outputs more available to national decision makers, enhancing further the science-policy interface.

APNETT will undertake the following tasks, which may be amended from time to time by mutual agreement between the ESCAP secretariat and APNETT members:

- a) deliver collaborative research, drawing on contributions from relevant institutes in APNETT, feeding into ESCAP's regional publications on energy;
- b) undertake peer reviews of energy research in support of the ESCAP work program on energy;
- c) support capacity development in the form of research tools, databases and assistance to institutes in need; and
- d) exchange information across the network and disseminate learnings to Asia-Pacific energy policymakers through ESCAP's platforms.

### **3. Composition**

Members of APNETT will be from relevant research organizations such as universities, think tanks or research institutes which have a focus on sustainable energy issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Participating organizations will be sought from both developed and developing countries to include broad perspectives on the region's energy challenges. Some organizations which are located outside the Asia-Pacific, but which devote efforts to researching Asia-Pacific issues, will also be considered as members of APNETT. There is no fee levied on institutions to join APNETT and no upper limit placed on the number of participating organizations.

### **4. Selection of Participating Institutions**

In selecting potential members to join APNETT, ESCAP will ensure balanced participation of institutes from different geographic regions, specialisations and from both developed and developing countries. Taking the views of APNETT members, member States and other stakeholders, ESCAP can invite other organizations to join following the inception.

### **5. Operation**

ESCAP will establish APNETT and serve as its secretariat.

An Executive Committee will be created consisting of the following office-bearers:

- a. The Chairperson
- b. The Vice-Chairperson (optional)
- c. The Secretary

The Secretary will be appointed by ESCAP. The Chair and (optional) Vice-Chair will be representatives of member institutions and will be appointed for a period of no more than one year by election and with the support of a majority of the members in attendance.

Office-bearers are eligible for re-election at the end of their tenure.

ESCAP will aim to organize one face-to-face meeting per year. The agenda and format of meetings will be planned by ESCAP and APNETT members jointly. ESCAP will adopt online networking tools to allow APNETT members to collaborate remotely.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Processes for the agreement and publication of meeting minutes will be agreed at each meeting. By default, meeting minutes will be drafted by the Secretary, circulated to members for comment and published (without attribution) within one month of the meeting on the APNETT web page.

The process for agreement and publication of statements, reports or documents relating to specific work undertaken by APNETT will be agreed by members contributing to that statement or work.

Members' statements and contributions to APNETT discussions will not be taken as endorsement of that view by the institution that they represent.

The APNETT name, logo or branding may not be used in any publication without the explicit permission by ESCAP. Likewise, membership of APNETT does not grant the member any license for the use of logos and branding of member institutions.

## **6. Withdrawal of Participating Institutions**

Member institutions may withdraw their membership unilaterally with 30 days' notice. If an office-bearer's institution withdraws its membership, a new appointee will be elected at the next meeting of members.

## **7. Amendments**

The ESCAP will take the views of APNETT members and member States stakeholders into account when making changes to these Terms of Reference.