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Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Bangkok, 3–5 April 2018

Items 2 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the draft ministerial declaration on regional cooperation for energy transition towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific

Adoption of the ministerial declaration on regional cooperation for energy transition towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific and the report of the Forum

Draft outcome document**

1. We, the Ministers of energy and high representatives, having met at the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and held in Bangkok from 3 to 5 April 2018,
2. Commit to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ in Asia and the Pacific, recognize that energy is a prerequisite to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda and acknowledge that while the Asia-Pacific region has made steady progress in attaining Goal 7 it is still far from achieving the vision of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, keeping in mind the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.² We recall 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, adopted by the First Asia and Pacific Energy Forum,³ as well as the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014–2018.³ **{We will {seek to} [USA; China] continue to accelerate [China, India; USA]} {We seek to further accelerate [Japan, USA; China]}** the pace of energy transitions and further encourage the progress towards achieving Goal 7 – with targets on access, efficiency,

* ESCAP/APEF/2018/L.1.

** The final negotiated text will appear in the draft report and will be adopted under agenda item 7.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 69/313.

³ See E/ESCAP/APEF/3.

renewables and means of implementation – taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. **Energy transitions should rely on all energy sources and technologies, implemented in a sustainable manner and in accordance with national circumstances to advance towards a clean energy future [USA]. [China requests more clarity on last sentence. USA will convey this message offline.]**

3. Concerned that more than 420 million people remain without access to electricity and 2.1 billion people continue to rely on traditional cooking fuels and technologies which have harmful health effects, we commit to strengthening regional cooperation **{by working together with private public partnerships [Timor Leste]} {making use of platforms such as the International Solar Alliance [India; Pakistan, Russia, United Kingdom, Indonesia, ROK]}** to support national efforts to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030 and to scale up access to clean cooking facilities.

3 bis. Noting that renewable energy is an important pathway to a less carbon intensive, more efficient and more sustainable energy system and recognizing that solar energy offers a clean, climate-friendly and inexhaustible energy resource with an unprecedented opportunity to bring energy security to people and improve their lives. [India; Pakistan]

4. We welcome the accession of the Asia-Pacific region to the global partnership, critical to promoting renewable energy uptake with increased investment, installed capacity, and consumption. We recognize that grid system capacity and readiness for variable renewable energy integration, as well as the lack of technologies capable of storing electricity, remain key limiting factors. **{We will continue our efforts to develop public and private financial mechanisms and a favourable policy environment for advanced energy technologies in the energy mix, including advanced and clean fossil fuels and renewable technologies [USA].} {We will continue our efforts to introduce ambitious targets[USA], financial incentives, public financing measures, new regulations and technological advancement and to foster collaboration among countries, including {voluntary [USA]} transfer of technology {on mutually agreed upon terms [USA]}, to scale up renewable energy within the energy mix [Indonesia, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, China]} {, supported by access to such technologies and financing. [Pakistan; USA]} [UK and China seek clarification “advanced and clean fossil fuels”] [China has reservations on first sentence]**

5. We recognize that in spite of the progress that countries in the Asia-Pacific region have made on energy efficiency, the region continues to rank highest in the world in terms of energy intensity. We encourage the regional approaches and efforts by member countries to increase efficiency of the overall energy supply chain, from extraction, conversion, delivery to end use, through their national strategies and energy development plans. We recognize the important role that the private sector has to play in this area and **commit seek [USA; China]** to make suitable provisions to facilitate its participation. We **commit to undertake further consider taking appropriate [Iran]** measures and actions on energy efficiency, such as targeted action plans, **reasonable [USA; Pakistan, Bhutan]** standards for appliances, lighting and mechanical systems, labelling, **support for energy service companies [Indonesia]** and energy efficiency promotion campaigns **{, with due consideration for national circumstances and priorities. [Pakistan]} {, including ways to combat wasteful distribution and consumption of electricity [USA].} [USA seeks clarification on energy service companies] [China seeks clarification on “wasteful distribution”]**

6. We acknowledge that the Asia-Pacific region is projected to account for two thirds of global energy growth between now and 2040 and recognize that in meeting this demand, countries can further [USA] diversify their energy mix to include not only clean fossil fuels, but also renewable energies, among other energy sources such as nuclear [USA; China, India]. New opportunities for energy diversification are arising from emerging trends such as rapid deployment and falling costs of clean energy technologies [Iran], growing electrification and the shift to a more services-oriented economy in the region, as well as in response to raising concerns about climate change and environmental degradation. [USA; Bhutan, Bangladesh] We call for further effective measures and actions {towards rationalizing the share of cleaner fossil fuels such as natural gas in the energy mix developing new and renewable energy sources and to boost energy efficiency [India, China; USA] } {towards to promote cleaner use of fossil fuels. [China, UK, Australia]} towards the use of clean(er [UK, USA]} {, with due consideration for national circumstances and priorities [Pakistan, China]} {and advanced fossil fuels and nuclear energies. [USA]} [UK, China seeks clarification on clean and advanced fossil fuels] [China suggests checking reference on nuclear language in APEF 2013 Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 13]

7. We recognize the importance of energy connectivity and the potential contribution of cross-border electricity power energy [China, Pakistan; India] trade in attaining Sustainable Development Goal 7. We stress the necessity of coordinated efforts to facilitate development and implementation of cross-border electricity power infrastructure and energy [China; India] trade, including oil and gas pipelines and electricity grids, [China] in the region. and We [China] call for {the development of further study on [Japan; China]} the regional development [China] road map on cross-border power-electricity grid [China] connectivity {by the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity [China]} based on experiences and best practices, and [China] with a view to promoting policy coherence and efficient institutional mechanisms and seek further regional cooperation to improve energy connectivity, including oil and gas pipelines. [China, Timor-Leste, Bhutan, Pakistan] Resource-rich countries in the region having huge [Laos] potential for generating hydroelectricity may be facilitated to export power, {to other regional countries in order to reduce fossil fuel generation [Laos]} making use of seasonal demand variations among the region and by means of cross-border regional power grid [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Timor-Leste, Laos, India]. [USA proposes striking whole paragraph] [India has reservations about "road map on cross-border electricity connectivity"]

8. We recognize the role of national Governments in creating their own respective [Bangladesh] energy policies that support energy transitions and the achievement of national sustainable development objectives. We acknowledge that well-designed national policies, including more integrated and long-term energy planning and better market design for energy sector transformation, are critical in achieving sustainable energy for all. {We are fully committed to mainstreaming} We encourage countries to mainstream [USA, Turkey]} {We reaffirm our commitment to mainstreaming [Indonesia, China, Timor-Leste, India; USA]} {We are fully aware of the importance of the mainstreaming of [Iran]} Sustainable Development Goal 7 into national development and energy policies, plans and strategies, {and work to this end [Iran]} {and stand ready to share best practices and knowledge to help coordinate better our renewable energy policies [India].} {and encourage to communicate and coordinate on our energy

development policy and planning, including renewable energy policies as appropriate [China, Timor-Leste (flexible), USA]}.

9. We recognize that inefficient fossil fuel subsidies may encourage wasteful consumption, endanger our energy security and impede investment in clean energy sources. ~~{We are committed~~ **We will encourage policy frameworks designed [USA]} {We are considering [Iran]}** to phase out and rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies ~~{while providing targeted support for the poor that encourage wasteful consumption [USA; China].}~~ **{while providing targeted support for the poorest [China, Timor-Leste; USA]} {, while providing targeted support for countries with special needs [Timor Leste, China; ROK]} {while taking into account domestic conditions and priorities [Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, USA, India]}.**

Alt 9. We recognize that inefficient fossil fuel subsidies may encourage wasteful consumption, endanger our energy security and impede investment in clean energy sources. We will encourage policy frameworks designed to phase out and rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest and countries with special needs and taking into account domestic conditions and priorities.[Proposed by the Chair] [USA reserves on this alternative]

10. We acknowledge that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a call for a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework to be implemented at the global, regional and national levels, and recognize that accessible, timely, reliable and high-quality disaggregated data contributes to our efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 and other goals related to energy. We note that energy data quality and availability have been uneven across our countries. We acknowledge the efforts made by the secretariat to develop the Asia Pacific Energy Portal which accommodates data indicators, policy information and infrastructure mapping for all countries in the region. We urge international organizations, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and other relevant stakeholders, to assist developing countries in building capacity for producing, analysing and using various forms of data, both quantitative and qualitative, to effectively implement, follow up and review Goal 7.

11. We emphasize that while strong political commitment at the national level is a prerequisite, enhanced regional cooperation can build and strengthen capacities, knowledge-sharing, technology innovation and **voluntary [India; USA]** technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and technology and mobilization of investment, as well as support establishing regional energy markets **and improving trade levels [China, India; USA]**. To this end, we reiterate the importance of North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation through various existing collaborative platforms **such as the International Solar Alliance [India; UK, Indonesia, Russia, Pakistan]**. We recognize the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including its Committee on Energy, as an important intergovernmental platform **to facilitate for [Iran; USA]** regional energy cooperation **and removal of regional and international barriers to energy-related investments, financing and financial transfers, including through banking systems in the countries of the region [Iran; USA]**. We also recognize the important role of the Commission in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Goal 7, **and its follow-up and review process[Iran]**, by, inter alia, promoting policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing, and helping to **link better understand [Iran]** the national and global levels of implementation.

12. We decide:

(a) To ~~{work together toward the full implementation of encourage the effective implementation of [USA; China]} {work together towards the effective implementation of [China; USA]}~~ Sustainable Development Goal 7 and other goals related to energy, including through subregional and regional energy cooperation, in light of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To work together to develop a regional development road map on cross-border power grid connectivity; **[India has reservations on road map reference]**

Alt b To work together to develop a **{regional development [Bhutan] road map on cross-border electricity connectivity cross-border power grid connectivity and present it to the Committee on Energy at its second session [China]}**;

Alt2 b. To start discussion on a regional road map on cross-border power grid **{electricity [Japan]} connectivity based on experience and best practices; [Indonesia, Japan]**

Alt3 b. To broaden the discussion on regional energy connectivity based on experience and best practices, including the ongoing discussion on this topic within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; **[USA]**

(c) To convene the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in 2023, to review the progress of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region, including the progress on the present Declaration.

13. We request the Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in the implementation of the present Declaration by:

(a) Promoting regional and subregional cooperation **through innovative and collaborative platforms such as the International Solar Alliance [India; Pakistan, UK, Russia, Indonesia]** and fostering the sharing of best practices and experiences to assist countries in their efforts to undertake the actions and commitments highlighted in the present Declaration;

(b) Assisting countries, upon request, in developing national road maps for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and in mainstreaming the global targets related to energy into national policies, plans and strategies;

(c) Following up on and reviewing progress towards Goal 7 targets at the regional level in light of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific; **[Iran proposes to delete]**

(d) Continuing to support the work of the Expert Working Groups on Energy Connectivity and on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels **Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels [quote from Resolution 73/8] clean and advanced fossil fuels [USA; China, Russian Federation, UK]; {, including by supporting the development of a regional road map on cross-border electricity connectivity [China; USA]} [UK requests clarification on “clean and advanced fossil fuels]**

(e) Conducting analytical studies on key energy trends and emerging issues in the Asia and Pacific region and compiling and disseminating relevant energy information and data, including through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal,

to ensure informed intergovernmental deliberations, including at the sessions of the Commission and the Committee of Energy;

(f) Initiating necessary preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in a timely manner.
