



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Bangkok and online, 19 and 20 October 2023

Report on the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendation is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation

The participants in the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum recommend that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its eightieth session, endorse the Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific and support its implementation.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decision adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum is brought to the attention of ESCAP:

Decision

The participants in the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum adopt the Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Third Forum

3. The Third Forum, which was held in Bangkok and online on 19 and 20 October 2023, was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Thailand, Mr. Pirapan Salirathavibhaga. The Executive Secretary and a Vice-Chair of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum made statements.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following member States attended: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the following associate members also attended: Cook Islands and Hong Kong, China.

6. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers attended: Belarus and Sweden.

7. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat attended: Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: ASEAN Centre for Energy, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth of Independent States, Global Green Growth Institute and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

9. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities also attended: Clean Energy Ministerial, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization and Sustainable Energy for All.

10. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of the representatives of member States and reported upon them. The credentials of the representatives of 36 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session,¹ and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the Chair and Vice-Chairs decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the Third Forum pending a decision by the Assembly on the representation of Myanmar.

¹ A/77/600.

11. The participants in the Third Forum took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

C. Election of officers

12. The following officers were elected:

Chair: Mr. Pirapan Salirathavibhaga (Thailand)
 Vice-Chairs: Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet (Nepal)
 Mr. Herath Hitihamilage Don Indika Anuruddha (Sri Lanka)
 Mr. Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren (Mongolia)
 Mr. Manuchehr Safarzoda (Tajikistan)

D. Agenda

13. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy perspectives on building a secure, sustainable and interconnected energy future for Asia and the Pacific.
3. Review of the work of the secretariat on energy since the third session of the Committee on Energy.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on building a secure, sustainable and interconnected energy future for Asia and the Pacific.
6. Adoption of the report on the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.

E. Other events

14. The following meetings, seminars, side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Third Forum:

- (a) 16 October 2023, side event: “Moving towards competitive markets for cross-border multilateral electricity trading: experiences in South and South-East Asia”, organized by ESCAP;
- (b) 16 and 17 October 2023, annual meeting of the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance;
- (c) 16 and 17 October 2023, inaugural international conference of the International Society for Energy Transition Studies;
- (d) 17 October 2023, twelfth meeting of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity;
- (e) 17 October 2023, policy dialogue: “The electrification of public transport in the Asia-Pacific region”, organized by ESCAP;

(f) 17 October 2023, side event: “The Port Vila Call: demonstrating leadership and commitment to a clean energy future”, organized by the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, as well as Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy;

(g) 17 October 2023, side event: “Unlocking the flow of financing to clean energy access and transition in Pacific island countries”, organized by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Pacific Community;

(h) 18 October 2023, policy dialogue: “The role of natural gas in the energy transition in Asia and the Pacific”, organized by ESCAP;

(i) 18 October 2023, ninth meeting of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels, held under the theme “The role of energy efficient and low-carbon buildings in realizing Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region”;

(j) 18 October 2023, side event: “ASEAN regional approach to accelerating renewable energy and strengthening supply chains for advancing the ASEAN Power Grid”, organized by the ASEAN Centre for Energy and Sustainable Energy for All;

(k) 18 October 2023, policy dialogue: “The phasing down of coal in the Asia-Pacific region”, organized by ESCAP;

(l) 18 October 2023, side event: “Regional youth forum on SDG 7”, organized by BRICS Youth Energy Agency and Youth for Energy Southeast Asia;

(m) 18 October 2023, side event: “Strengthening the capacity of selected ESCAP member States to manage natural resources in a sustainable and balanced manner”, organized by the Russian Energy Agency, the State Commission on Mineral Resources of the Russian Federation and the International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management;

(n) 18 October 2023, side event: “Partnership to promote sustainable energy: regions of Russia and businesses”, organized by the United Nations Association of Russia, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Thailand, the Russian Energy Agency, the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow and the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO University);

(o) 20 October 2023, side event: “Development of distributed generation in remote and isolated areas of the Asia-Pacific region: the role of the State and business”, organized by Business Russia, the Distributed Power Generation Association and the Far East and Arctic Development Corporation;

(p) 20 October 2023, side event: “Aligning power system connectivity and sustainable development: the green power corridor framework”, organized by ESCAP.

III. Account of proceedings

15. The discussions held during the Third Forum have been summarized in an account of proceedings (see annex II).

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/APEF(3)/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/APEF(3)/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/APEF(3)/2	Closing the gap in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	2
ESCAP/APEF(3)/3	Enhancing cross-border power system connectivity to enable increased energy security and net-zero emissions	2
ESCAP/APEF(3)/4	Financing clean energy transitions in Asia and the Pacific	2
ESCAP/APEF(3)/5	Review of the work of the secretariat on energy since the third session of the Committee on Energy	3
ESCAP/APEF(3)/6	Report on the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	
ESCAP/APEF(3)/6/Add.1	Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APEF(3)/L.1	Draft report	6
ESCAP/APEF(3)/L.2	Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific	5
<i>Information available online</i>		
www.unescap.org/events/2023/APEF3	Information for participants	
	List of participants	
	Tentative programme	

Annex II

Account of proceedings

I. Introduction

1. The Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Bangkok and online on 19 and 20 October 2023.

II. Summary of discussions

A. Opening of the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (agenda item 1)

2. On 19 October 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Thailand, Mr. Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, was elected Chair of the Third Forum. The Chair delivered welcoming remarks and presided over the opening of the session. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) delivered welcoming remarks.

B. Policy perspectives on building a secure, sustainable and interconnected energy future for Asia and the Pacific (agenda item 2)

3. The participants in the Third Forum had before them the notes by the secretariat entitled “Closing the gap in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” (ESCAP/APEF(3)/2), “Enhancing cross-border power system connectivity to enable increased energy security and net-zero emissions” (ESCAP/APEF(3)/3) and “Financing clean energy transitions in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/APEF(3)/4).

4. Video messages were played from the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, Mr. Francesco La Camera, and the Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi.

5. Under agenda item 2, two panel discussions were held to encourage the sharing of country-level experiences: the first was on closing the gap for Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the second was on enhancing cross-border power system connectivity to increase energy security and achieve net-zero emissions in the Asia-Pacific region. The participants in the panel discussions shared their perspectives, experiences and successes in implementing Goal 7 and on cross-border connectivity initiatives with a focus on the implementation of the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity.

6. The panel discussions were moderated by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP and by the Senior Director of the Energy Sector Office of the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Priyantha Wijayatunga. Presentations and statements were made by: Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia, Mr. Victor Jona; State Minister of Power and Energy of Sri Lanka, Mr. Indika Anuruddha Herath; Secretary of State for Electricity, Water and Sanitation of Timor-Leste, Mr. Santos Noronha; Deputy Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergei Mochalnikov; Inspector General of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, Mr. Sompop Pattanariyankool; State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh, Mr. Nasrul Hamid; Vice-Administrator of the National Energy Administration of China,

Mr. He Yang; Vice-Minister of Energy and Mines of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr. Sinava Souphanouvong; Vice-Minister of Energy of Mongolia, Mr. Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren; Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet; and Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan, Mr. Manuchehr Safarzoda.

7. The Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development of Columbia University and President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs, delivered a keynote address by video link.

8. Representatives of the following member States made oral statements or submitted written statements: Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

9. Representatives of the following associate members also made oral statements or submitted written statements: Cook Islands and Hong Kong, China.

10. Representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made statements.

11. Representatives of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, the Asian Development Bank and the Clean Energy Ministerial also made statements.

12. The participants in the Third Forum highlighted the essential role of regional cooperation in achieving energy security, meeting commitments and making efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region. States, regional organizations and other stakeholders were encouraged to actively engage in collaborative initiatives and in knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities to bridge the gaps and to support those countries lacking the means to accelerate progress in the energy transition, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

13. Representatives reported on the progress made by their Governments in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7, including by working to provide universal access to electricity and clean cooking technologies; setting and meeting ambitious targets for the adoption of renewable sources of energy; fostering energy efficiency in a variety of economic sectors; and increasing the use of electric vehicles.

14. Several representatives highlighted their Governments' commitment to climate action, including in terms of achieving carbon neutrality or net-zero emissions by or around mid-century.

15. The participants in the Third Forum recognized the importance of cross-border energy trade and regional energy connectivity, where applicable, in enhancing energy security, promoting the development of regional energy markets, interconnections and other cross-border infrastructure to facilitate the efficient flow of energy resources and promote energy cooperation among countries.

16. Several representatives emphasized the importance of building a secure and sustainable energy future in the Asia-Pacific region. They highlighted strategies to transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, promote interconnectivity among countries, where applicable, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

17. Several representatives highlighted the need to scale up support for the development and implementation of national road maps on Sustainable Development Goal 7 and regional energy connectivity.

18. Several representatives stressed the importance of diversifying the regional energy mix and enhancing energy security by increasing the share of renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal and modern biomass, while recognizing the role of hydropower, natural gas, nuclear power and hydrogen in the energy transition.

C. Review of the work of the secretariat on energy since the third session of the Committee on Energy (agenda item 3)

19. The participants in the Third Forum had before them the note by the secretariat on the review of the work of the secretariat on energy since the third session of the Committee on Energy (ESCAP/APEF(3)/5).

20. The secretariat introduced agenda item 3.

21. One representative noted her Government's active engagement in regional energy cooperation and highlighted the importance of strengthening energy security, connectivity and policy coordination in support of the energy transition and the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

D. Other matters (agenda item 4)

22. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of the representatives of member States and reported upon them. The credentials of the representatives of 36 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session,² and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the Chair and Vice-Chairs decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the Third Forum, pending a decision by the Assembly on the representation of Myanmar.

23. The participants in the Third Forum took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

E. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on building a secure, sustainable and interconnected energy future for Asia and the Pacific (agenda item 5)

24. The Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific was adopted.

25. The representative of Vanuatu made a statement in relation to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

² A/77/600.

26. The representative of Youth for Energy Southeast Asia made a statement on behalf of youth groups attending the Third Forum.

F. Adoption of the report on the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (agenda item 6)

27. The report on the Third Forum was adopted on 20 October 2023.
