



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
28 March 2013

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Bangkok, 14-15 March 2013

Draft report

Summary

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Bangkok on 14 and 15 March 2013 to consider the background document entitled “Emerging and persistent challenges as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote and enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy”, and to review two draft outcome documents: draft ministerial declaration and draft plan of action. The present report contains the draft outcome documents as revised by the Regional Preparatory Meeting, including its recommendation for further action by the Forum.

I. Matters calling for action by the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum or brought to its attention

1. The Regional Preparatory Meeting recommends that the senior officials segment of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum review the draft ministerial declaration and the draft plan of action which appear below with a view to recommending them for endorsement and adoption by the ministers.

A. Draft ministerial declaration

Draft 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 [Agreed ad ref]

We, the ministers of energy and heads of delegations of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013, [Agreed ad ref]

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ and of Agenda 21,² and recalling the recommendations and

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),³ [Agreed ad ref]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All, 66/206 of 22 December 2011 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and 67/215, in which the Assembly decided to declare the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, [Agreed ad ref]

Also recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁴ in particular paragraphs 125 to 129, which concern energy, [Agreed ad ref]

Further recalling Commission resolutions 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, and 68/11 on connectivity for energy security, [Agreed ad ref]

Recalling that the Commission, in its resolution 67/2, requested the Executive Secretary to convene, in 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level to discuss the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development, [Agreed ad ref]

Taking fully into account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty, [Agreed ad ref]

Recognizing the contributions and recommendations of the subregional preparatory meetings for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum convened in 2012 in all the subregions, [Agreed ad ref]

Expressing our gratitude to the Russian Federation, the host country, for its active support of the preparatory process, [Agreed ad ref]

Expressing our appreciation to the United Nations bodies and agencies and the other regional and international organizations that contributed to the preparatory process and are present during the Forum, [Agreed ad ref]

1. *Recognize* that energy security is a key development issue for all countries in the Asia-Pacific region [and poses particular challenges to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States].

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

2. **[Recognize the interdependence of energy security with the other core components of sustainable development, in particular water and food security in the Asian and Pacific region.] [Alternative proposal 1: delete the entire paragraph and move it to the plan of action]; [Alternative proposal 2: Recognize the interlinkages between energy, food and water.]**

3. **[Underscore that national, regional and subregional energy policies should not undermine core elements of sustainable development, including environmental, water and food security.]**

4. *Note with concern* that 1.7 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region rely mainly on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that about 700 million people in the region are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them. [Agreed ad ref]

5. *Recognize* that, although the Asia-Pacific region combines both the largest producers and consumers of energy and the importance of intraregional trade is constantly growing, the potential for full-fledged energy cooperation is far from being adequately exploited. [Agreed ad ref]

6. *Recognize* that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising more rapidly than in other regions and is projected to almost double by the year 2030 and that fossil fuels remain the main source of energy for meeting that demand. [Agreed ad ref]

7. We *anticipate* that an inevitable increase in production and consumption of energy resources in the region will enhance its role in the world economy and global energy sector. Therefore, we should enhance our regional cooperation and coordination; have a greater regional voice in energy-related international forums and participate actively in regional and global decision-making processes, aimed at addressing the global challenges facing our region in particular and mankind in general. [Agreed ad ref]

8. *Acknowledge* the crucial importance of energy as a prerequisite to poverty eradication, ensuring sustained economic growth, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We recognize that the development agenda beyond 2015 will not be advanced and sustainable development goals will not be achieved without affordable, accessible and sustainable energy services. In this regard, we recognize the interdependence between energy and the development agenda beyond 2015 and call on all relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the post-2015 thematic consultations on energy initiated by the United Nations. [Agreed ad ref]

9. *Agree* to continue our efforts to improve the transparency, predictability and stability of energy markets in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the light of global financial challenges, political and economic instability in many parts of the world and growing environmental concerns.[Agreed ad ref]

10. *Are working* to enhance and balance the share of cleaner fossil fuels, such as natural gas, in the energy mix, to develop new and renewable energy sources, to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear energy in interested economies, and to boost end-use energy efficiency. These steps will serve to enhance our energy security, contribute to our economic development, and reduce negative environmental impacts. [Agreed ad ref]

11. *Increase* the share of natural gas in the energy mix to reduce the burden on the environment by attaching importance to working together on the conversion of natural gas to power (so called “gas-to-power”) and extend the inter-connection of the existing power grids in the region in order to boost trade in electricity, eradicate poverty, increase access to electricity and facilitate the development of the developing economies of the region; [Agreed ad ref]

12. *Support* establishment of regional and subregional energy/electricity bourse and markets to make the energy/electricity cost reasonable for all the producers and consumers; [Agreed ad ref]

13. *Realize* that the consumption of coal and oil in Asia and the Pacific continues to rise, reflecting the growing demand in rapidly growing economies in the region. In this regard, we stress the importance of developing and disseminating low-emission and cleaner coal and oil technologies. [Agreed ad ref]

14. *Note with appreciation* the meaningful progress in improving the energy efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region during the last decade. This is a welcome development, given that energy remains the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, which tend to increase with the region’s continued economic growth. We call upon ESCAP member States to participate actively in the global, regional and subregional efforts aimed at improving energy efficiency in order to maintain this positive trend. [Agreed ad ref]

15. *Recognize* further the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix as an important contribution to meeting the challenges presented by growing energy demand and to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services. [Agreed ad ref]

16. *Note* that rapid population growth and high rates of urbanization in the region and consequent changes in energy consumption patterns are driving the increase in energy demand in all countries in the region. We recognize, in this regard, that sustainable development requires: (a) poverty eradication; (b) the promotion of sustainable patterns of energy consumption and production; and (c) the changing of unsustainable practices; [Agreed ad ref]

17. **In this regard, we encourage the enhancement of the role of ESCAP and its subregional offices in their respective capacities to support member States in addressing energy issues in the context of sustainable development, in particular the enhancement of access to the appropriate and advanced technologies for the most vulnerable countries, including the landlocked developing countries and, [take note of the Secretary-General’s initiative on Sustainable Energy for All.] [Alternative proposal 1: welcome the recommendations contained in the Rio+20 outcome document.] [Alternative proposal 2: welcome the Secretary-General’s initiative on Sustainable Energy for All.]**

18. *Acknowledge* the pivotal role of governments and national and regional and international policies in promoting enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy, improving energy efficiency and providing wider access to modern energy in Asia and the Pacific. [Agreed ad ref]

19. *Emphasize* the critical role of the private sector in implementing projects, including those within public-private partnerships

inter alia, in the areas of sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and access to modern energy services. [Agreed ad ref]

20. *Underscore* the significant role of international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), as well as international organizations and donor countries, in achieving progress towards the sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and wider access to modern energy services. [Agreed ad ref]

21. *Acknowledge* that enhanced energy trade is a powerful catalyst for strengthening intraregional cooperation in energy security and sustainable use of energy among all the stakeholders, including energy-producing, transit and -consuming countries. We attach great importance to the establishment of a conducive environment for investments in production, transit and delivery infrastructure as well as to trade facilitation policies, both in primary energy resources and electricity. [Agreed ad ref]

22. *Recognize* the large potential and need for energy connectivity and energy markets in the region through cross-border infrastructure and energy trade, including oil and gas pipelines and electricity grids, and highlight this as a crucial area for regional cooperation to ensure reliable, efficient and safe transportation of energy resources, thus contributing to increased energy security. We express our deep concern over extraregional influences and barriers which hamper the collective efforts of the countries of Asia and the Pacific to enhance energy access and energy security in the region. We emphasize the need to promote the connectivity of physical infrastructure for cross-border energy trade, which could ensure reliable, efficient and safe transportation of energy resources, thus contributing to increased energy security. [Agreed ad ref]

23. *Underline* the importance of ensuring an appropriate energy mix in Asia and the Pacific through such measures as the increased use of cost-effective renewable energy and more efficient consumption of fossil fuels and the use of cleaner fossil fuel technologies, among others, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating negative environmental impacts. We recognize that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific national challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix. [Agreed ad ref]

24. *Acknowledge* the significance of further improving the investment climate in Asia and the Pacific, which may be accomplished through, among other things, the development of public and private financial mechanisms to stimulate the implementation of projects related to cross-border energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, renewable energy and wider access to modern energy services. [Agreed ad ref]

25. *Stress* that meeting future energy demand in Asia and the Pacific requires adequate investment resources in both producing and consuming countries with the recognition that (a) investments should also aim at making energy services more affordable and accessible to the poor, and (b) the availability of capital is a necessary but insufficient condition to deliver access to modern energy services. An enabling environment and appropriate investment mechanisms are crucial to delivering adequate financing. [Agreed ad ref]

26. *Highly appreciate* the efforts to enhance regional energy cooperation through such regional and subregional organizations as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Eurasian Economic Commission. In the light of the profound and complex energy security challenges prevailing in Asia and the Pacific, we invite these organizations to come together and work collectively to meet these challenges in order to promote sustainable development and economic prosperity for all countries in the region. [Agreed ad ref]

27. *Recognize* the need to enhance energy security, within the context of sustainable development, by widening access to energy services, which could play a critical role in supporting the development process in developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. We further recognize that least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States often lack the capacity to develop baselines from which to formulate effective energy policies and to monitor the implementation of those policies. [Agreed ad ref]

28. *Attach* great importance to technological cooperation capable of creating an enormous synergistic effect in the region, and proclaim our commitment to engage in active technological cooperation in the areas of production, transportation, processing and consumption of energy, including the promotion of advanced technologies related to fossil fuel exploration, production, transportation, renewable energy exploitation and enhancement of energy efficiency. [Agreed ad ref]

29. *Welcome* the St. Petersburg Declaration — Energy Security: Challenges and Strategic Choices,⁵ adopted at the 2012 APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting. In this regard, we note with appreciation the decision by APEC Leaders at the Vladivostok Summit, held in September 2012, to develop an action plan in order to achieve the aspirational goal of reducing aggregate energy intensity by 45 per cent by 2035 while noting that the rates of improvement of individual economies may differ due to varying domestic circumstances.⁶ [Agreed ad ref]

30. *Welcome* the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the 22nd World Energy Congress, to be organized by the World Energy Council and held in Daegu, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 17 October 2013, which will provide a platform for all stakeholders in the energy sector to meet and exchange views on regional and global energy issues. [Agreed ad ref]

31. *Recognize* the crucial importance of regional and international cooperation in promoting enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in order to create conditions in which the energy sectors of Asia-Pacific economies can make the fullest possible contribution to sustainable development and to the well-being of their people and of the environment. We agree to strengthen regional and international cooperation on enhanced

⁵ www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Energy/2012_energy.aspx.

⁶ See http://apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/2012/2012_aelm.aspx.

energy security and sustainable use of energy, taking into account the diversity of economic, social and environmental conditions in our countries. In this regard, we adopt the annexed plan of action, which will be subject to periodic review, as decided by ESCAP member States [Agreed ad ref]

32. *Invite* the members and associate members of the Commission to cooperate proactively on energy security challenges in the main areas as elaborated in the plan of action. [Agreed ad ref]

33. We *request* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To further raise the profile of energy and mainstream it in the programmatic activities of ESCAP [Agreed ad ref]

(b) To accord priority to mobilizing financial resources from all sources for the implementation of the present Declaration and the plan of action; [Agreed ad ref]

(c) To facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices, and the development and implementation of all energy-related initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing energy access and energy security, diversifying energy sources and promoting sustainable use of energy in the region; [Agreed ad ref]

(d) To work closely with UN-Energy, the other regional commissions, and other relevant international and multilateral organizations in implementing the present Declaration and draft plan of action and to continue to promote cooperation and partnerships in a synergistic manner with the various intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, private sector and subregional organizations, funds and programmes that are playing an increasingly important role in enhancing energy security, [Agreed ad ref]

(e) [To develop, in consultation with the members and associate members of the Commission, a set of aspirational goals and indicators in order to provide oversight on the assessment and evaluation of the progress achieved in addressing energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels in the Asia-Pacific region;]

(f) To promote networking and information sharing among national and subregional organizations in order to implement the present Declaration and plan of action; [Agreed ad ref]

(g) To convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level not later than 2018. [Agreed ad ref]

B. Draft plan of action on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018 [Agreed ad ref]

I. Introduction

The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013. The Forum adopted the Vladivostok ministerial declaration on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific. The present plan of action is guided by General Assembly resolution 67/215, in which the Assembly declared the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable

Energy for All, and the principles contained in the Vladivostok ministerial declaration. The plan of action presents the regional vision for cooperation on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy, and contains initiatives addressing more specific needs of the diverse Asia-Pacific region and its subregions. [Agreed ad ref]

A. Objectives of the plan of action

The main objectives of the plan of action are: (a) to support the implementation of the Vladivostok ministerial declaration; (b) to enable States members of ESCAP to address energy security challenges at the regional, subregional, national and household levels through regional cooperation; and (c) to facilitate continuous dialogue and cooperation among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards the realization of sustainable development. [Agreed ad ref]

The plan of action does not constitute a mandatory action framework; rather, it provides a list of voluntary actions that member States may carry out through regional cooperation to formulate and implement coherent energy policies based on individual national circumstances and development aspirations. [Agreed ad ref]

B. Vision

An Asia and the Pacific where:

- Sustainable energy for all is a reality [Agreed ad ref]
- Enhanced energy security is present from regional to household levels [Agreed ad ref]
- An energy future of equity, diversification and access to all is secured [Agreed ad ref]
- The share of cleaner energies in the overall energy mix is increased [Agreed ad ref]

II. Areas for action

A. Establishment of a platform for facilitating continuous dialogue and cooperation among ESCAP member States on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy [Agreed ad ref]

1. Mainstreaming enhanced energy security strategies and actions into national development plans. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Increasing coherence and availability of energy statistics, and policy related information on energy security to enable analysis and identify focus areas for continuous dialogue and cooperation and possible joint actions of mutual benefits. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Promoting existing regional and national initiatives that align with the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All, as well as initiatives that arise from individual and joint efforts taken by member States on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy. [Agreed ad ref]

4. Facilitating regional dialogue on energy in order to enhance cooperation among energy-producing, transit and energy-consuming countries. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Encouraging bilateral and multilateral agreements towards enhanced energy security. [Agreed ad ref]

B. Work towards universal access to modern energy services

1. Developing regional programmes [Chair] for member States to accelerate the expansion of access to modern energy services through innovative policies and financing schemes, with the participation of various stakeholders. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound modern energy services, particularly for the populations of energy-poor developing countries, by enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Establishing and replicating more innovative financing schemes at the micro- and macro-levels for improving access to modern energy services. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Accelerating provision of electricity for lighting, communication, and modern appliances and for productive use. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Promoting micro-, mini- and off-grid energy options, where appropriate, in particular for rural areas. [Agreed ad ref]

C. Advance the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy

1. Mainstreaming strategies and actions on deployment and dissemination of renewable energy into national energy development plans. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Sharing experiences and practices in establishing renewable energy targets and action plans, established on a voluntary basis. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Strengthening policy framework to promote renewable energy technologies, including small hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, ocean energies and various forms of bio-energy, which are ideally suited to mini-grid and off-grid applications, especially in remote and dispersed rural areas. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Enhancing the enabling environment for the promotion and development of large-scale renewable technologies, including onshore and off-shore wind, photovoltaic, solar thermal, concentrating solar power, geothermal, hydro, and biomass. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Promoting policies and business models to support renewable energy research and innovation, feed-in tariffs, renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and public auctions needed to reduce the cost of renewable energy technologies. [Agreed ad ref]

6. Promoting the sustainable use of biomass and other renewable energies through the improvement of current patterns of use, such as management of resources, more efficient use of fuel wood and new or improved products and technologies. [Agreed ad ref]

D. Improve energy efficiency and conservation and observe sustainability in the supply, distribution and consumption of energy [Agreed ad ref]

1. Mainstreaming energy efficiency strategies and actions into national energy development plans. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Strengthening energy efficiency targets and action plans. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Promoting cleaner and efficient use of fossil fuels in power generation, distribution and final consumption. [Agreed ad ref]

4. Increasing energy efficiency in mechanical systems, appliances and lighting. [Agreed ad ref]

5. Reducing energy intensity in the economic sectors, such as industry, agriculture, transport and buildings. [Agreed ad ref]

6. Promoting harmonized energy efficiency and conservation policy and regulations, codes and standards. [Agreed ad ref]

7. Organizing demand-side awareness campaigns, followed by more specific measures, such as labelling. [Agreed ad ref]

8. Developing innovative mechanisms to provide access to finance, investment and services for energy efficiency, such as energy service companies (ESCOs). [Agreed ad ref]

E. Diversify the energy mix and enhance energy security [Agreed ad ref]

1. Promoting the diversification of economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy resources with due respect to the management of energy demand. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Facilitating the development of indigenous energy resources in order to contribute to poverty reduction and long-term energy sustainability in developing countries. [Agreed ad ref]

F. Improve energy trade and investment opportunities to optimize the development and utilization of current and emerging energy resources [Agreed ad ref]

1. Improving the sustainability, efficiency, predictability and transparency of energy markets. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Promoting integrated energy markets in subregions as well as the region. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Promoting transparent, equitable, stable and effective legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage international upstream and downstream investments. [Agreed ad ref]

4. Increasing efforts towards mobilizing financial resources, including through public-private partnerships, foreign direct investment and multilateral financial institutions for implementation of joint energy infrastructure projects. [Agreed ad ref], and creating more favourable business environments with new or renewed policies, regulations, and energy plans to incentivize commercial investments and develop markets (for example, tariff reforms and regulatory frameworks to promote transparency and efficiency). [Agreed ad ref]
5. Encouraging investment on development and implementing projects for transportation of energy resources in the subregions, including for power grids and oil and gas pipelines. [Agreed ad ref]
6. Increasing efforts towards enhanced market mechanisms for trade in oil and oil products. [Agreed ad ref]
7. Enhancing energy emergency preparedness, including coordinated management of strategic energy stockpiles and actions in case of emergency situations that involve energy infrastructure. [Agreed ad ref]

G. Improve fiscal policy and financing mechanisms to incentivize and strengthen markets for sustainable energy [Agreed ad ref]

1. Creating stable policy environments, sound institutional frameworks and governance, and policies that support private investment in sustainable energy resources and technologies. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Promoting instruments to reduce risk and increase private investment in sustainable energy through the targeted use of public and philanthropic capital. [Agreed ad ref]

H. Improve energy statistics and facilitate data and information sharing [Agreed ad ref]

1. Improving the reliability, availability and comparability of statistical data and policy information on production and consumption of energy resources in order to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policy development more compatible with sustainable development. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Assessing and quantifying the socio-economic benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy potential at the regional and national levels. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Establishing the regular exchange of information and data on the formulation and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Developing and maintaining open and free information sources on energy data, policies and best practices, where appropriate. [Agreed ad ref]

I. Minimize the environmental impact of the energy sector

1. Promoting the development and use of environmentally friendly energy resources as well as the deployment and transfer of clean energy technologies. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Promoting application of “end-of-pipe” pollution abatement technologies, such as carbon capture and storage. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Accelerating the efforts for the utilization of innovative technologies that advance more efficient use of fossil fuel, and considering the perspectives and interests of all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and vulnerable populations, in the development and implementation of energy sector policies. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Supporting the transition to the cleaner use of liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, where considered more environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost-effective. [Agreed ad ref]

J. Promote more efficient and cleaner use of oil [Agreed ad ref]

1. Promoting the efficient and clean use of petroleum through advanced and appropriate technologies; [Agreed ad ref]
2. Expanding regional and international cooperation to reduce and cut gas flaring in oil facilities, such as refineries and petrochemical industries, to reduce pollution and combat climate change; [Agreed ad ref]
3. Strengthening collaboration about information exchange and co-financing experiments, research and development, demonstration programmes; [Agreed ad ref]
4. Promoting clean oil technology transfer to foster technology diffusion; [Agreed ad ref]
5. Stimulating the use of advanced technologies of increasing oil recovery which allow to maximize effectiveness of employing resource potential of the member States [Agreed ad ref]
6. Widening cooperation at the regional level on creating economic conditions for commercial production of “difficult” oil utilizing advanced technologies, modernization of oil refining capacities, ensuring anticipating investments in the oil and gas infrastructure. [Agreed ad ref]

K. Promote the efficient and clean use of coal

1. Promoting the efficient and clean use of coal through advanced technologies for coal combustion, such as supercritical coal plants; more efficient industrial boilers; fluidized bed combustion; and coal gasification. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Strengthening collaboration about information exchange and co-financing experiments, research and development, and demonstration programmes. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Promoting clean coal technology transfer to foster technology diffusion. [Agreed ad ref]

L. Promote expanded production, trade and use of natural gas as a low-emission fuel [Agreed ad ref]

1. Increasing the share of natural gas, which is one of the least carbon-emitting fossil fuels in the energy mix, including for gas-to-power projects, in order to facilitate the transition to a lower carbon economy. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Developing a regional compressed and liquefied natural gas market. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Promoting steady investment in natural gas infrastructure, including compression and liquefaction facilities. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Exploring the possibilities for exploiting unconventional natural gas resources, such as shale gas, their trade potential and their environmental impact. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Developing technologies and market conditions for the increased and more efficient use of gas in transportation. [Agreed ad ref]

M. Promote the development of advanced energy technologies [Agreed ad ref]

1. Developing regional and national technology road maps that facilitate regional cooperation and address opportunities and barriers to emerging energy technologies, including renewable energy and energy efficiency applications in end-use sectors. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Transferring advanced and cleaner energy technologies on preferential and concessional terms, as mutually agreed, particularly to developing countries. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Encouraging research and development through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, focusing on appropriate energy technologies, and promoting joint demonstration projects in key areas. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Promoting public and private investment in research and development regarding environmentally sound technologies. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Promoting cooperation on innovative development of the energy sectors in the region. [Agreed ad ref]

N. Develop common infrastructure and harmonized energy policies with a view to increasing regional economic integration [Agreed ad ref]

1. Implementing transparent transmission/distribution costing mechanisms that drive energy efficiency, and offer equal opportunities to connect energy sources to the grid. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Promoting initiatives for regional energy connectivity, including those focused on cross-border energy infrastructure development, such as oil and gas pipelines and electricity grids, through the identification of possible options for an integrated regional power network, which could contribute to the development of an Asian "energy highway". [Agreed ad ref]
3. Extending cross-border electricity grids and increasing the efficiency of energy generation, transmission and distribution. Coordinating grid-connected infrastructure strategies. [Agreed ad ref]
4. [Consideration of the opinions of all interested parties in the implementation of energy projects with trans-border interests.]
5. Facilitating international energy trade and developing regional and subregional power markets. [Agreed ad ref]
6. Developing common and transparent standards for independent power producers and power purchase agreements, respecting national rules and procedures. [Agreed ad ref]

O. Promote capacity-building, education and knowledge sharing in the field of energy [Agreed ad ref]

1. Organizing meetings and regional networking events and ensuring the participation of key stakeholders and representatives of relevant agencies of ESCAP member States in order to coordinate joint efforts and exchange information on current and planned energy policies. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Issuing periodic joint reports on the progress made by ESCAP member States as well as best practices in overcoming energy poverty, enhancing energy security and advancing the sustainable use of energy. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Exchanging best practices in the areas of sustainable energy management, energy efficiency and conservation by fostering networks of experts from public-sector and relevant private companies. [Agreed ad ref]
4. Conducting research and analysis to support the development of objectives and actions, including those mentioned in the present plan of action. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Promoting education and training activities in order to improve the capacity of developing countries to address energy security challenges and improve resilience. [Agreed ad ref]

III. Areas of action for subregions

A. East and North-East Asia

1. Strengthening cooperation through networking among energy experts to facilitate exchange of information and views on national, subregional, regional and global issues related to energy security, and seek intellectual support in this regard. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Recognizing that the subregion includes the largest energy producers and consumers, member States agree to cooperate to explore the full potential on intra-subregional energy trade. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Promoting initiatives for subregional energy connectivity, including those focused on cross-border infrastructure development, and considering possible ways to develop an intra-subregional power network and supply system to strengthen subregional cooperation and interdependence. [Agreed ad ref]

B. North and Central Asia

1. Working together to create joint information resources and knowledge-sharing systems on legal and regulatory frameworks, public participation, financial mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and successful projects aimed at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy development in the subregion. [Agreed ad ref]

2. Strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms on energy among member States in North and Central Asia in order to better coordinate national energy policies and realize the full potential of subregional cooperation in the area of energy security and sustainable use of energy for the benefit of all participating member States, and, in this context, inviting ESCAP, UNECE and other relevant United Nations bodies, other international organizations and financial institutions to increase their efforts on capacity-building with regard to regional, subregional and cross-regional initiatives, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme and the “International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development”. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Working jointly towards harmonized cross-border energy infrastructure which is efficient and reliable, taking into consideration the fact that most of the countries in the subregion are landlocked developing countries, and, to this end, supporting the continuation of bilateral and regional consultations on this matter. [Agreed ad ref]

C. The Pacific

1. Establishing a framework for acquiring energy data and information, such as national energy plans, road maps, key baseline data, statistics and project documents, to bridge the knowledge gap and apply lessons learned, to improve coordination between all partners and to better measure achievement.

2. Undertaking capacity-building and training to improve the accessibility, affordability and sustainability of the energy used for transport and electricity, drawing on lessons learned regarding improved pricing, energy efficiency and renewable resources.

3. Promoting the integration of national energy markets to help connect communities, to build economies of scale, to leverage finance and to strengthen the sharing of technology and capacity in Pacific island countries and territories.

D. South and South-West Asia

1. Accelerating subregional connectivity infrastructure, such as gas pipelines and power interconnections, and facilitating the establishment of an integrated subregional market to expand energy trade with a view to enhancing energy security at the subregional, national and household levels. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Promoting renewable energy for decentralized applications and grid-connected electricity generation. [Agreed ad ref]
3. Encouraging the development and implementation of gas-to-power projects to facilitate power interconnections and energy-related trade in the subregion [Agreed ad ref]
4. Strengthening a subregional multi-stakeholder institutional framework to accelerate the expansion of access to modern energy services, with due attention to affordability for the poor through a combination of innovative policies, business models and financing schemes as well as effective knowledge management. [Agreed ad ref]
5. Strengthening a subregional financing mechanism to support the implementation of the present plan of action. [Agreed ad ref]
6. Strengthening South-South cooperation within the subregion to facilitate the transfer of energy-related technologies, especially environmentally sound energy technologies, and joint ventures for research and development and diffusion of such technologies. [Agreed ad ref]
7. Expanding cooperation and synergy between the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the major organizations in the subregion, to implement their energy-related decisions in order to enhance subregional energy security.

E. South-East Asia

1. Promoting energy trade and connectivity:
 - (a) Supporting subregional connectivity (such as pipelines, a common power grid and access to land- or sea-based tankers) to promote energy exchange and the economical utilization of energy resources. [Agreed ad ref]
 - (b) Promoting harmonization of rules and regulations and technical standardization within the energy sector. [Agreed ad ref]
2. Improving energy efficiency and conservation:
 - (a) Exploring various economic instruments that encourage the development of a market for energy efficiency. [Agreed ad ref]
 - (b) Identifying major areas of wasteful energy consumption and offering guidelines to improve efficiency through education, awareness and enforcement. [Agreed ad ref]

(c) Promoting energy-efficient technologies and appliances through the implementation and harmonization of energy efficiency standards and labelling programmes. [Agreed ad ref]

(d) Promoting energy management best practices. [Agreed ad ref]

(e) Promoting efficient power generation, transmission and distribution. [Agreed ad ref]

3. Promoting clean energy [Agreed ad ref]

(a) Increasing the share of clean energy within South-East Asia's energy mix in order to benefit from the subregion's vast renewable energy potential and reduce dependency on imported energy resources. [Agreed ad ref]

(b) Utilize regional experience to initiate a partnership programme on renewable energy research, development and implementation. [Agreed ad ref]

4. Promoting sustainable energy policies: [Agreed ad ref]

(a) Strengthening energy policies to enhance efficiency in the use of energy resources with a view to decreasing dependency on imported energy. [Agreed ad ref]

(b) Restructuring energy pricing mechanisms so that energy pricing becomes cost-reflective. [Agreed ad ref]

IV. Review and assessment mechanism

ESCAP will undertake a periodic review of the progress made in the implementation of the plan of action based on information provided by members and associate members on a voluntary basis, as well as by collaborating international organizations. The review report will be submitted to the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held not later than 2018. [Agreed ad ref]

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Emerging and persistent challenges as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy

2. The meeting had before it the background document entitled "Emerging and persistent challenges as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy" (E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/1).

3. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Uzbekistan.

4. Gratitude was expressed to the Russian Federation for offering to host the Asia and Pacific Energy Forum in Vladivostok, from 27 to 30 May 2013, the purpose of which would be to enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. In highlighting the current national energy situation, with its major challenges and the opportunities for enhancing energy security, the delegations agreed on the importance of energy to economic and social development.

6. Representatives of some member States expressed concern about the large number of people living without access to modern energy services in the Asian and Pacific region and stated that the situation required urgent action. Similarly, some countries emphasized the importance of improving the energy intensity of economies and noted that improvements in energy efficiency would also help in the achievement of targets to attain electricity for all.

7. Some countries urged that renewable energy sources, such as solar, hydro, wind and biomass, be developed as the key means to decrease dependency on fossil fuels, and supported the path towards “greening the economy”.

8. Agreement was reached on the crucial role of regional and subregional cooperation among member States in efforts to attain enhanced energy security and sustainable use of energy. In that context, the representatives of some countries highlighted the potential for and the importance of improving physical connectivity, improved financing for energy projects, transfer of technologies and policy exchange.

9. One delegation noted the significance of the Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

10. Representatives of some countries noted that it was necessary to have a balanced approach in taking into account the role of all sources of energy without discriminating against any of them.

11. Representatives of some member States emphasized that the documents for the Regional Preparatory Meeting should recognize the triple crises of energy, food and water and highlight the interlinkages that threatened the enhancement of energy security in the region.

12. One delegation noted the trend towards increasing production of shale oil and gas in North America and that that trend was likely to induce a shift in import and export patterns in countries of Asia and the Pacific. It also noted that the Asia-Pacific region enjoyed access to good energy resources and countries in the region needed to work together by developing new political positions and a new framework of action.

13. In reference to the document, it was suggested that the phrase “regional energy compact” be replaced with a clearer expression that would reflect the intentions of the member States as well as proposals for future political cooperation. It was also suggested that the phrase “energy-resilient” be revised, as the word “resilient” was generally used in the context of natural disasters.

B. Review of the draft ministerial declaration

14. The meeting had before it the draft ministerial declaration (E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/WP.1). Section I above contains the agreed revisions to the text of that draft. As operative paragraphs 2, 3, 17 and 33(e) were not agreed, the member States concerned were encouraged to continue their dialogue with a view to reaching an agreement on the text by 29 March 2013.

In the event that no agreed text could be produced, the discussion would continue during the senior officials segment of the Forum.

C. Review of the draft plan of action

15. The meeting had before it the draft plan of action (E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/WP.2). The text as contained in section I above incorporated agreed revision to the text as well as some editorial changes.

16. The text of the vision statement of the draft plan of action was not agreed. The member States concerned were encouraged to continue their dialogue with a view to producing an agreed text by 29 March 2013. In the event that no agreed text could be produced, the discussion would continue during the senior officials segment of the Forum.

17. With regard to section III (areas of action for subregions) of the draft plan of action, some editorial changes were introduced.

D. Organization of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

18. The meeting had before it the draft provisional agenda for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/4) and the related draft tentative programme (E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/5).

19. The item was introduced by the secretariat, with comments by the representative of the Russian Federation, the host of the Forum.

20. Copies of the letter of invitation to the Forum, signed jointly by the Executive Secretary and the Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation, were distributed to the delegations attending the meeting. The delegations were requested to urge their Governments to participate in the Forum at the ministerial level.

E. Other matters

21. No other matters were raised.

F. Adoption of the report

22. For the adoption of the report, the chair informed the delegates that the secretariat would prepare the draft report and circulate it through the rapporteur, noting further that it was expected that the draft report would be issued in all four languages by 29 March 2013. Delegates attending the meeting were requested to provide the secretariat with their comments on the draft report by 5 April 2013 so that the secretariat could proceed to issue the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting as a pre-session document for the Forum.

III. Organization

A. Opening of the session

23. An opening statement was made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP. It was followed by statements from the representative of the Russian Federation, the host of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, and the representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

B. Attendance

24. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following members of ESCAP: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

25. A representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General attended.

26. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following United Nations programmes and funds: United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

27. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Intellectual Property Organization; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

C. Election of officers

28. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chair

Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation)

Vice-Chairs

East and North-East Asia

Mr. Sung-hwan Oh (Republic of Korea)

North and Central Asia

Mr. Askar Tazhiyev (Kazakhstan)

The Pacific

Mr. Peceli Nakavulevu (Fiji)

South and South-West Asia

Mr. Prabhat Kumar (India)

South-East Asia

Mr. Prasert Sinsukprasert (Thailand)

Rapporteur

Mr. Ahmad Farid Mohammed (Malaysia)

D. Agenda

29. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Emerging and persistent challenges as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote and enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy.
5. Review of the draft ministerial declaration.

6. Review of the draft plan of action.
7. Organization of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closing of the meeting.

E. Side event

30. During the lunch break on 14 March 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme held a side event entitled “E.C.O. talk: Energy, Climate and Ozone — discovering synergies in refrigeration and air conditioning”.

F. Closing of the meeting

31. Statements were made by the Director of the Environment and Development Division of ESCAP and the Chair of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

Annex

List of documents

Document symbol	Title	Agenda item
<i>General documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/1	Emerging and persistent challenges as well as opportunities for regional cooperation to promote and enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy	4
<i>Limited documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/L.2	Draft report	9
<i>Working papers</i>		
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/WP.1	Draft ministerial declaration on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific	5
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/WP.2	Draft plan of action on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2018	6
<i>Information documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/2	List of participants	
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/3 and Rev.1	(Revised) tentative programme	
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/4	Draft provisional agenda for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	7
E/ESCAP/APEF/RPM/INF/5	Draft tentative programme for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	7