
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Energy

Third session

Bangkok, 24–26 February 2021

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up on the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum: preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held in 2023

Information on preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum**

Summary

The Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum decided to convene the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in 2023 and requested the Executive Secretary to initiate the necessary preparatory work in a timely manner. Under agenda item 3(d) of the provisional agenda, the secretariat presents an information note to support deliberations of the Committee on Energy on the preparation for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. The secretariat seeks guidance from the Committee on the initial plans for the preparation of the Forum.

I. Introduction

1. The existing practice to organize the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was established in 2011 when member States adopted resolution [67/2](#) ‘Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific’. The resolution was adopted in recognition of the United Nations General Assembly resolution [65/151](#), in which the Assembly decided to declare 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

2. Resolution 67/2 created a new intergovernmental platform on energy in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission 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. The Government of the Russian Federation offered to host the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and provide support to its organization.

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3. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was convened at the ministerial level in Vladivostok, Russian Federation from 27 to 30 May 2013. The Forum was the first ministerial conference on energy in the United Nations system. At the Forum, member States addressed the concept of “enhanced energy security” in moving beyond conventional short-term calculations of supply and demand. Enhanced energy security took a more holistic view of energy security based on a long-term perspective. The main outcomes of the Forum in 2013 were the [‘Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific 2014-2018’](#). The plan of action presented the regional vision for cooperation on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy, and contained initiatives that addressed more specific needs of the diverse Asia-Pacific region and its subregions.

4. In 2014 the Commission decided, by its resolution [70/9 ‘Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum’](#), to convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in 2018. In its resolution [73/8 ‘Strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable energy development in Asia and the Pacific’](#), the Commission further decided to fully prepare for the second Forum, while ensuring that the preparatory process will take into account the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the First Forum and to consider the theme study issued by the Commission at its 73rd session as well as inputs from all stakeholders from across the region, including Governments, international bodies, the private sector and civil society.

5. In line with resolutions 70/9 and 73/8, the secretariat organized an extensive preparatory process for the Second Forum with substantive support being provided by the newly established Expert Working Groups on Energy Connectivity and Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels. The organization of the Second Forum was supported by the Government of the Russian Federation.

6. The Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was held at the ministerial level in United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, from 3 to 5 April 2018. The Second Forum addressed the challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7, including the important role of energy connectivity in attaining Goal 7. The Forum reviewed the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing energy security challenges, assessed the outlook based on scenarios and discussed the policy options for keeping the region on track towards Goal 7. The Forum adopted the [Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific](#). The Declaration was endorsed by the Commission resolution [74/9 ‘Implementation of the outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum’](#).

7. As decided by the member States at the Second Forum, the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum will be held in 2023. According to the current intergovernmental meeting plan and practice, the fourth session of the Committee on Energy will be convened in 2023 as well.

8. The Commission conference structure stipulates as follows: “In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened. Subject to the approval of the Commission, a committee may be convened at the ministerial level on an ad hoc basis to ensure high-level engagement on the issues to be addressed.” In this context, the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at ministerial level will be organized in 2023 and the fourth session of the Committee on Energy will be organized in 2025.

9. The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with further guidance on ideas for agenda items/topics that the Forum should cover, programme, including side events and other associated activities, etc.

10. The Committee may also wish to invite member States to provide support for the preparation process of the third Forum such as hosting subregional meetings/dialogues to prepare the Forum and providing financial support for the participation of developing countries to the Forum.

11. The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the organization of the Forum in 2023 including dates, host and venue.
