



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Energy**First session**

Bangkok, 17-19 January 2017

Items 2 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel discussion on the theme**“Opportunities and challenges of energy system transformation in Asia and the Pacific: how far and how fast can the region go?”****Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum****Report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on progress in the implementation of its resolution 70/9****Note by the secretariat*****Summary*

The first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was convened in accordance with resolution 67/2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in Vladivostok from 27 to 30 May 2013.

The Commission subsequently adopted resolution 70/9, in which it endorsed the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, namely 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 Commission decided to convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in 2018 and requested the Executive Secretary to begin the necessary preparatory work in a timely manner. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of that resolution. The present document is a status report on that progress.

The Committee on Energy may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with comments and guidance on further reporting to the Commission at its seventy-third session.

* E/ESCAP/CE(1)/L.1/Rev.1.

** The present note is being issued late due to the need for extensive research and internal consultation.

I. Requirements of Commission resolution 70/9

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 70/9, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) decided to convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in 2018.

2. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 70/9, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of 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; to undertake a periodic review of the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action based on information provided on a voluntary basis by members and associate members of ESCAP, as well as by collaborating international organizations; and to begin the necessary preparatory work for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in a timely manner, including consultations with the Government of Tonga regarding the hosting of the meeting.

II. Progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 70/9

3. In response to the request regarding the Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action in subparagraph 4 (a) of resolution 70/9, the Executive Secretary continued to make regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific a key priority in the strategic direction of the Commission.

4. In its resolution 71/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, the Commission established the Committee on Energy, which was supported by a new subprogramme on energy. In General Assembly resolution 70/248 A, the Assembly approved the establishment of new posts and the redeployment of existing posts for the newly created Energy Division in the Commission in order to provide substantive support for subprogramme 9 (Energy) of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

5. The strategic direction of the new subprogramme is derived from global and regional goals, including those contained in the Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action, which were endorsed by the Commission, as the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, in Commission resolution 70/9.

6. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals related to energy, in particular Goal 7, will be the major focus of work for the newly established subprogramme on energy, especially enhanced regional cooperation on sustainable energy for regional economic integration and cooperation.

7. In response to the request in subparagraph 4 (b) of Commission resolution 70/9, regarding a periodic review of the implementation of the Plan of Action, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum Implementation Support Mechanism was developed under a project funded by the Government of the Russian Federation. The project supported the implementation of the Plan of Action, as one of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, and the periodic review of progress made in its implementation. The Mechanism consists of three pillars: the Asia Pacific Energy Portal; policy dialogues; and analysis and reporting. The Mechanism is solution driven, with multilateral policy initiatives the expected outputs.

8. The Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org) is a web-based data and policy information platform designed to increase the accessibility and use of the Commission's regional energy information to support research, analysis and decision-making. The Portal collects and integrates data from the International Energy Agency, the World Bank, Sustainable Energy for All, the International Monetary Fund, the Energy Information Administration of the United States of America, the United Nations Comtrade database, Bloomberg, and other global and regional energy data providers that cover energy access, efficiency, renewables, trade flows, subsidies, investment and more. The Portal provides a user-friendly interactive data visualization platform and enables quick generation of meaningful charts from complex data. It also has a policy database that contains policies from 58 member States, which are sourced from hundreds of official websites. The Portal offers more than 2,500 full-text policy and programme documents, which are analysed to enable cross-sectional views of policy approaches from the region.

9. The dialogue pillar includes the annual sessions of the Policy Dialogue on Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which focuses on identifying solutions to key and emerging energy challenges in the region. The Policy Dialogue usually is attended by policymakers, resource persons and relevant stakeholders, including representatives of research institutions and private sector and civil society organizations. The Policy Dialogue is structured around the annual *Regional Trends Report on Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, which contains an examination of trends and analyses of a few selected topics. The Portal and the *Regional Trends Report* facilitate deliberations during the Policy Dialogue to identify a few specific areas and concrete solutions to address common challenges through regional cooperation.

10. The analysis and reporting pillar includes the development of the annual *Regional Trends Report on Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. In addition to its importance to the Policy Dialogues, it provides information on key challenges identified by member States. The *Regional Trends Report* supports the identification of potential policy solutions based on regional good practices. An edition of the *Regional Trends Report* was issued in 2015 and 2016.¹ The 2016 *Regional Trends Report* provides an overview of the progress made with regard to the 15 areas identified in the Plan of Action.

11. In response to the request in subparagraph 4 (c) of Commission resolution 70/9, the secretariat initiated the necessary preparatory work for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level under the guidance of the Commission and the Committee on Energy and with the support of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum Implementation Support Mechanism.

12. The Executive Secretary appointed the Director, ad interim, of the Energy Division as the focal point for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and the Chief of the Division of Administration as the focal point for host country agreements and logistical arrangements. More discussions and consultations on the preparation of the second Forum will be continuing with member States.

¹ Available from www.unescap.org/our-work/energy/energy-information-knowledge-sharing/publications.