



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

Bangkok, 24–26 February 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee on Energy (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Energy security and resilience in the context of the coronavirus disease crisis.
3. 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:
 - (a) Review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Status of national road maps for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7;
 - (c) Regional road map on power system connectivity, entitled “Promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development”;
 - (d) Preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held in 2023.
4. Work of the subprogramme on energy:
 - (a) Activities in the period 2018–2019 and 2020;
 - (b) Planned activities for 2021 and 2022.
5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The programme for the opening of the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-energy-third-session.

(b) Election of officers

The Committee will elect a chair and five vice-chairs for its session. One of the vice-chairs will also serve as rapporteur.

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-energy-third-session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CE/2021/L.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Energy security and resilience in the context of the coronavirus disease crisis

Documentation

Energy security for a greener, more resilient and more inclusive energy future in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/CE/2021/1)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/CE/2021/1 contains an analysis of energy security in the region in response to the recommendation made by the Committee at its second session.

Since the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the energy sector has experienced declining demand for energy, low oil and gas prices and supply chain disruptions. The crisis provides an opportunity to consider ways to strengthen existing energy security policies and ensure greater energy system resilience against future crises. To support the deliberations of the Committee, a panel on energy security comprising high-level government officials will share perspectives on energy security and the resilience of regional energy systems, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat and propose areas in which regional cooperation could enhance the security and resilience of the region's energy systems.

3. 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

The Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, which was held in Bangkok from 3 to 5 April 2018, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific. In it, the Ministers recognized the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including its Committee on Energy, as an important intergovernmental platform to facilitate regional energy cooperation. They also recognized the important role of the Commission in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 7, and its follow-up and review process by, inter alia, promoting policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing and helping to link national and global implementation.

(a) Review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Follow-up on and review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CE/2021/2)

Annotation

In its resolution 74/9 on the implementation of the outcomes of the Forum, the Commission invited members and associate members to follow up on and implement the commitments contained in the Forum's Ministerial Declaration and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to efforts in that regard. In accordance with the Declaration, such efforts would include following up on and reviewing regional progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 targets, as well as conducting analytical studies on key energy trends and emerging issues in the Asia-Pacific region and compiling and disseminating relevant energy information and data, in particular through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, to ensure informed intergovernmental deliberations, including at Commission and Committee sessions.

Document ESCAP/CE/2021/2 contains information related to regional progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 based on the data available as at November 2020. Examples of successful national policies and measures that have supported advances are presented, as are common challenges in aligning policy and creating the necessary conditions to achieve the Goal 7 targets.

The Committee may wish to comment on the progress that has been made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Asia and the Pacific. Member States may wish to share national experiences, including good practices in achieving targets on energy access, renewables and efficiency.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on how the secretariat can support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its follow-up and review processes at the national, subregional and regional levels.

(b) **Status of national road maps for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7**

Documentation

National road maps for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (ESCAP/CE/2021/3)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/CE/2021/3 contains a review of the progress made by member States in developing national road maps. The document has been prepared in response to the Forum's request, made in its Declaration, that the secretariat assist 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. The document also contains key findings, a summary of policy recommendations and lessons learned.

In this connection, the secretariat has developed the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning, which can help policymakers to build capacity in developing their national road maps. The secretariat identified three pilot countries from different subregions to develop the content and structure of the tool and test its appropriateness at the national level. Progress and future plans in that regard were reported to the Committee at its second session. The Committee recommended that the secretariat continue to support member States, particularly least developed countries, landlocked least developed countries and Pacific island countries and territories in developing their national road maps using the tool.

Support is now available to member States that are interested in developing national road maps. In 2020, the secretariat supported seven additional member States in developing their road maps. Each road map is unique, having been fully customized to suit the national context. The secretariat worked with relevant ministries, departments and other stakeholders in developing the road maps, and capacity-building workshops have been conducted to transfer knowledge and train policymakers and energy experts on the use of the tool.

The Committee may wish to review the progress made, provide the secretariat with guidance on how the work of the subprogramme can be further improved, and encourage interested member States to request support from the secretariat to develop their national road maps.

(c) **Regional road map on power system connectivity, entitled “Promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development”**

Documentation

Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development (ESCAP/CE/2021/4)

Annotation

At its seventy-third session, the Commission adopted resolution 73/8 in which it established the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels and the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity, and the

Forum decided in its Declaration to support the continued work of the latter. That work has included the development of a draft regional road map on power system connectivity entitled “Promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development”.

At its second session, the Committee noted that regional cooperation was the most efficient mechanism for improving energy systems and increasing the deployment of renewable energy resources. Member States have also recognized the need for a more standardized approach, agreed by them, towards promoting power system connectivity. The aim of the draft regional road map, which is based on subregional experiences, studies and expert insights, is to support the acceleration of regional power system connectivity and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in meeting the Goal 7 targets.

Based on the initial draft that was prepared for the second session of the Committee and on subsequent comments from member States, a draft regional road map was presented to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session for review and further guidance. Owing to the abbreviated nature of the session, it was not possible for the Commission to conduct detailed deliberations or discussion on the document; instead, the Commission, in its decision 76/9, requested the Committee to review it at its third session with a view to providing guidance on follow-up, as appropriate. Additional comments received from member States in the intervening months have been incorporated into the draft road map and are reflected in document ESCAP/CE/2021/4.

The Committee may wish to review and endorse the draft road map and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat in that regard.

(d) Preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held in 2023

Documentation

Information on preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (ESCAP/CE/2021/INF/1)

Annotation

In its Declaration, the Second Forum decided, inter alia, 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.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with further guidance on priority issues for deliberation at the third Forum.

The Committee may also wish to invite member States to provide support for the preparation process.

4. Work of the subprogramme on energy

(a) Activities in the period 2018–2019 and 2020

(b) Planned activities for 2021 and 2022

Documentation

Review of the work of the Committee on Energy (ESCAP/CE/2021/5)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/CE/2021/5 contains a summary of the activities carried out by the secretariat since the second session of the Committee in supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7. It also contains reports from the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels and the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity. The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the secretariat's short- and long-term work on energy, taking into account the mandates of the subprogramme and the direction and priorities outlined in the programme of work for 2022.

The Committee may also wish to review and endorse the terms of reference of the Expert Working Groups and provide guidance on the focus of their future work.

5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

The secretariat will provide an overview of its work in the areas of energy for sustainable development, including its contribution to areas that should be mainstreamed into the work of all the committees in accordance with the conference structure of the Commission.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the preparations for the programme plan for 2022 based on its deliberations.

6. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CE/2021/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session.
