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DRAFT AGENDA
and
ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA
of the
4th ECO HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS GROUP
MEETING ON ENERGY as Senior Official
Meeting of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting

2021, BAKU

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of the Chairperson
 3. Adoption of the Agenda
 4. Appointing the Drafting Committee for preparing the report
 5. Consideration of draft agenda for 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy,
 6. Consideration of the draft of Declaration on the conclusion of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting
 7. Consideration of draft of “Roadmap on Realization of ECO Regional Electricity Market Project”
 8. Consideration of draft of Charter on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center and discussion of host country selection
 9. Consideration of concurrence on New ECO Strategy/Plan of Action 2030 for Energy Cooperation
 10. Any other business
 11. Date and venue of the 5th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy
 12. Adoption of the Report of the 4th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy
 13. Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks
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ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA**Agenda Item No. 1****Inauguration of the Meeting**

1. A representative from ECO Secretariat will make inaugural statement
2. Senior official from the host country will deliver opening statements/remarks;

Agenda Item No. 2**Election of the Chairperson**

3. According to the ECO Rules of Procedure, the head of delegation from host government shall be elected the Chairperson of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3**Adoption of the Agenda**

4. The following Agenda may be adopted by the Meeting, with amendment/s, if any:
 - Opening of the Meeting
 - Election of the Chairperson
 - Adoption of the Agenda
 - Appointing the Drafting Committee for preparing the report
 - Consideration of draft agenda for 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy,
 - Consideration of the draft of Declaration on the conclusion of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting
 - Consideration of draft of “Roadmap on Realization of ECO Regional Electricity Market Project”
 - Consideration of draft of Charter on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center and discussion of host country selection
 - Consideration of concurrence on New ECO Strategy/Plan of Action 2030 for Energy Cooperation
 - Any other business
 - Date and venue of the 5th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy
 - Adoption of the Report of the 4th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy
 - Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks

Agenda Item No. 4**Appointment of the Drafting Committee for preparing the Report**

5. An open-ended Drafting Committee comprising the representatives of the interested Member States and the ECO Secretariat will be appointed to prepare the draft Report of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5**Consideration of draft agenda for 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy**

6. The 4th Ministerial Meeting is expected to provide a timely decision-making platform for keeping up the momentum for energy cooperation and stimulating high level policy dialogue, hence developing policy guidelines for realization of energy-related components of "ECO Vision 2025". The ECO Secretariat suggests devoting this Ministerial Meeting to exclusively enhancing of energy security and sustainability of the Region through wider intra-regional energy trade, as well as transformation to renewable, as well as cleaner and sustainable energy sources. The Member States are sought to make important decisions to implement components of ECO Vision 2025 related to energy, such as establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center, advancing ECO Regional Electricity Market project, endorsing new multiannual ECO Strategy for Energy, and declare their intention to enhance cooperation through new steps. Within this perspective Member States are expected to consider the draft agenda and enrich it in line with their needs and priorities.

Agenda Item No. 6**Consideration of the draft of Declaration on the conclusion of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting**

7. The chairman/ ECO Secretariat gives a brief explanation to the Meeting on the draft of Baku Declaration to be expected as conclusion of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting will discuss and consider giving its consent to the proposed text. The final draft of subject document will be adopted by HLEG and sent to Ministers Meeting.

Agenda Item No.7**Consideration of draft of "Roadmap on Realization of ECO Regional Electricity Market Project"**

8. The ECO Secretariat will brief the audience on the background and recent status of the flagship energy project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM). With reference to the objectives of Vision 2025 and ECO Strategy 2030 ECO Member States have decided to enhance cooperation in setting up a regional power market initiative consisting of establishing power exchanges and a regional balancing market as well as making the best use of the already existing power exchanges, inviting other initiatives in the region to support the regional electricity market development; By the signing up to this Roadmap, the ECO Member States reiterate their commitments made under Vision 2025 and other documents, ask the ECO Secretariat to facilitate coordinating and implementing the measures to be taken for that purpose and to monitor the implementation. Within this in mind, the Meeting will review draft document and consider it to give consent to be presented for adoption at the 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No.8**Consideration of draft of Charter on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center and discussion of host country selection**

9. As a Joint ECO-UNIOD project the Secretariat/UNIDO expert will make brief presentation on the project of Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center
10. The Interested Member States to be nominated as a candidate countries to host subject Center may deliver presentation/speech to introduce advantage of being incumbent candidate
11. The Meeting will finalize and consider giving consent on the Charter of said Center to be endorsed at the 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting.
12. The Meeting will seek to give consensus on selecting host country of said Center and transmit this decision to aforementioned Ministerial Meeting

Agenda Item No.9**Consideration of concurrence on New ECO Strategy/Plan of Action 2030 for Energy Cooperation**

13. The ECO Secretariat will debrief the Meeting about the process of development of the next, fundamentally new multiannual ECO Strategy/Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation, which will build on the “ECO Vision 2025” and UN 2030 Agenda. The envisaged new Strategy/PoA is expected to be finalized and approved by 4th ECO Ministerial Meetings on Energy to substitute previous ECO Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation (2011 – 2015).
14. The subject document has been developed in collaboration of prominent consultants from Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan as a small size bankable project, which will be delivered in the form of presentation by them.
15. The Member States are expected to present their positions with the view to endorse subject document by 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10**Any Other Business**

16. The Meeting may consider other issue/s under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 11**Date and venue of the 5th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy**

17. Under this Agenda item, an interested Member State may wish to announce its intention to host the 5th ECO High Level Experts Group Meeting in 2022/ 2023.

Agenda Item No. 13**Adoption of the Report of the 4th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy**

18. The Meeting will consider and adopt its Report, prepared by the Drafting Committee.

Agenda Item No. 14**Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks**

19. The delegates may wish to thanks the host authorities they may do so under this item. Chairman will declare closing of the Meeting.



REPORT OF THE
Virtual 4th ECO High Level Experts Group Meeting
on Energy

(22-23 June 2021 – Baku, Azerbaijan)

Report of the
4th ECO High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy
(22-23 June 2021, Tehran, Iran)

1. The 4th High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Energy was held virtually on 22-23 June 2021. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It was attended by the delegates from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan (host), Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as, delegations from the ECO Secretariat, Energy Charter Secretariat, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as well as consultants on preparation of new ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030 and its Action Plan. The list of the participants is attached as ***Annex-I***.

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

2. At the outset, on behalf of the ECO Secretariat, Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, Director (EME) of the ECO Secretariat welcomed the distinguished delegates from the Member States in the virtual High-Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy. He noted that 4th HLEG meeting will consider future energy cooperation through validation of numerous documents of priority areas reflected as a follow up of "ECO Vision 2025". He drew attention to the fact that by concurring on the proposed documents, which will be sought to be endorsed by Energy Ministers of the ECO Member States on June 24, 2021, will pave the way to result-oriented decisions and guide ECO Member States to more enhanced partnership in coming years.

3. Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, while expressing that despite the ongoing pandemic, the Republic of Azerbaijan is managing to conduct HLEG & Ministerial Meeting on Energy after a long period, there are a lot of developments at national and regional level. He further stated that the today's meeting will have to discuss and finalize the several documents before the Ministerial Meeting, which is scheduled on June 24, 2021.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

4. In accordance with ECO Rules of Procedure, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Head of Delegation of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was unanimously elected as a Chairman of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The agenda of the 4th HLEG Meeting was unanimously adopted. The adopted agenda of the Meeting is attached as ***Annex-II***.

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointing the Drafting Committee for preparing the report

6. An open-ended drafting committee was established consisting officials of the ECO Secretariat to prepare the draft report of the 4th HLEG Meeting. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that draft report will be shared among the Member States for their views & comments. The two weeks period of time will be set for receiving the feedbacks from the Member States. In case, if there is no objection, the report will be considered as adopted.

7. The Chairman of the Meeting stated that in the meantime, the other relevant documents will be discussed and finalized by the HLEG Meeting for adoption and approval by the Ministerial Meeting as an outcome of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration of draft agenda for 4th Ministerial Meeting on Energy

8. The agenda of the 4th Ministerial Meeting was unanimously adopted. The adopted agenda of the Meeting is attached as ***Annex-III***.

Agenda Item No. 6

Consideration of the draft of Declaration on the conclusion of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting

9. The ECO Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the draft of Baku Declaration and requested the Member States to provide their inputs and views for finalization of it. The participants provided their views and comments and unanimously recommended the Baku Declaration with slight amendments, to be presented for approval by the Honourable Ministers in the 4th Ministerial Meeting.

10. The Meeting recommended the draft Baku Declaration as finalized by the HLEG for submission and approval by the Honorable Ministers of Energy of the Member States.

11. Two below paragraphs were agreed to be excluded from the draft declaration and tasked Secretariat to work on the concept of perceived ideas for submitting to the further consideration of Member States:

- **Task** the Secretariat to conduct feasibility study project on the establishment of ECO Energy Loop and ECO Energy Corridors aimed at exploring the possibility of linking production and consumer markets, contributing to energy security in the region;
- **Provide** necessary technical and financial support to the Secretariat to work on and materialize the idea of “ECO Integrated Energy Market” and “ECO Energy Hubs”, to facilitate business communities’ interaction and promote intra and inter-regional energy market investments;

Agenda Item No. 7

Consideration of draft of "Roadmap on Realization of ECO Regional Electricity Market Project"

12. Mr. Kanat Botbaev, representative of the Energy Charter made a presentation on sustainable energy, energy transition and benefits of integration of energy markets. He particularly explained about the pros of electricity market integration, policy framework, connectivity and also shared the best international practices on regional electricity market types (presentation is attached).

13. Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, emphasized that realization of regional electricity market will significantly contribute strategic objective of ECO in enhancing energy security and sustainability through wider inter-regional energy trade and connectivity. As a follow up to achieve this goal stipulated by ECO Vision 2025, ECO Secretariat invites Member States to consider adoption of “Roadmap” serving to encourage Member States to cooperate for implementing feasibility study, as well as bringing closer their electricity network systems for energy trade and exchange.

14. The draft of "Roadmap on Realization of ECO Regional Electricity Market Project" was discussed by the HLEG Meeting and suggested with few amendments as proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Uzbekistan. Also, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed for consideration to prepare extended roadmap as a result of implementation of current roadmap and Feasibility Study at further stage.

15. The Meeting recommended agreed text of draft roadmap for adoption and approval by the 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

Consideration of draft of Charter on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) and discussion of host country selection

16. Mr. Martin Lugmayr, representative of UNIDO briefed the Meeting on the merits for nomination of host country selection process for the establishment of

ECO Clean Energy Center, as one of the significant expected outcome of “ECO Vision 2025” (presentation is attached). He stated that Center needs at least 1.5 Million Euros (in-kind included) to carry out first operational phase and UNIDO would support ECO Secretariat as well as selected host country during that period.

17. Mr. Mirzayev, Director (EME) explained that currently the Secretariat has received official applications by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey nominated to host the CECECO. He encouraged other Member States who has interest to be candidate for hosting subject Center to provide official application to the Secretariat as soon as possible. After joint assessment of applications between ECO Secretariat and UNIDO, the Secretariat will share views to Member States for consideration to select host country in the relevant decision making body of ECO.

18. The Meeting decided that the Secretariat will conduct in cooperation with UNIDO candidate assessment process within two months (end of August 2021) and distribute the results of assessment to Member States for consideration to select host country.

19. The Charter on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center was deliberated by the Member States and finalized with minor changes as proposed by the Member States. The Meeting recommended for adoption and approval by the Honorable Ministers during the 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Consideration of concurrence on New ECO Strategy/Action Plan 2030 for Energy Cooperation

20. Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, Director (EME) of ECO Secretariat briefed about the process of development and implementation of ECO Strategy/Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation, according to “ECO Vision 2025” and UN 2030 Agenda. He requested the Member States come forward with their invaluable support for finalization and approval to substitute previous ECO Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation (2011-2015). He further mentioned that the above document have been prepared by the prominent consultants from Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan.

21. The ECO Strategy/Plan of Action was discussed by the HLEG Meeting and was finalized with few amendments as proposed by the Member States. The Meeting recommended the documents of Strategy/Plan of Action 2030 for Energy Cooperation for adoption and approval by the Ministerial Meeting.

22. The Meeting proposed that monitoring and implementation of Energy Strategy and its Action Plan will be based on annual/biannual review by Member States. According to needs and interests of Member States reviewed strategy can make assessment reports for necessary measures to be taken.

Agenda Item No. 10
Any Other Business

23. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 11
Date and Venue of the next Meeting

24. None of volunteer Member State proposed to be host country. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will keep in touch with the Member States to follow-up exploring volunteer nomination to host subject event.

Agenda Item No. 12
Adoption of the Report of the 4th High Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy

25. The Report of the Meeting to be circulated among the Member States for their views and comments. The report will finally be adopted after received feedbacks from the Member States within two weeks deadline.

Agenda Item No. 13
Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks

26. The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by all delegates to the Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Head of Delegation of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his excellent conduct of the deliberations. They also expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan for making excellent arrangements and technical assistance extended to all participants.

27. The delegations also expressed appreciation to the ECO Secretariat for preparing relevant documents as well as other valuable technical services to facilitate successful proceedings of the Meeting.

**The list of participant of
4th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Energy
22-23 June, Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr.Orkhan Zeynalov – Head of International Relations Department, Ministry of Energy

Ms.Nazrin Zeynalova – Expert, International Relations Department, Ministry of Energy

UZBEKISTAN

Ms.Jamola Khusanjanova – Head of international relations department

Kyrgyz Republic

Mr.Marar Jeenbekov – head electro-energy state policy department, Ministry of Energy and Industry

Mr.Bilal Pirzayilov – leading expert, electro-energy state policy department, Ministry of Energy and Industry

Mr.Alan Oktyabr – expert, foreign relations and project promotion department, Ministry of Energy and Industry

Ms.Mirgul Askarova – senior expert, energy efficiency, energy supply and development of renewable energy sources division, Ministry of Energy and Industry

Mr.Gulzat Kokonbaeva – senior expert, energy efficiency, energy supply and development of renewable energy sources division, Ministry of Energy and Industry

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