



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL  
ASIA (SPECA)

2014 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

**“Improving connectivity: a key contribution of SPECA to the success  
of the Transformation Decade of Afghanistan”**

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 4 December 2014)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

10.30-11.00 OPENING OF THE 2014 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM

**Chairperson:** Mr. Atiqullah Atifmal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Opening statements:

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the country Chair of SPECA

Representative of Turkmenistan, the host country of the 2014 SPECA Days in Ashgabat

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE

Mr. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Heads of Delegation of SPECA countries

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.00 **SESSION I: IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY IN THE SPECA REGION**

Moderator: Mr. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP

**Keynote statements**

Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the CIS

Mr. Tadamichi Yamamoto, Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Ambassador Jonathan Addleton, Regional USAID Mission Director for Central Asia

Discussion

**13.00-15.00** Lunch break

**15.00-16.30** **SESSION II. PRESENTATION OF THE ESCAP STUDY ON IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS CENTRAL ASIAN NEIGHBOURS**

Moderator: Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE

Presentations by the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats

**Comments:**

*Energy exports* (presentation by Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on behalf of the “Heart of Asia” process and RECCA)

Discussion

**16.30-16.45** Coffee break

**16.45-17.15** **SESSION III: CONTRIBUTION BY SPECA TO IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Head of the ESCAP/UNECE SPECA Office in Almaty

Presentations by the ESCAP and UNECE secretariats

Discussion

**17.15-18.00** **CLOSING OF THE 2014 SPECA ECONOMIC FORUM**

Conclusions by the Chairperson

Closing statements by the Heads of Delegation of SPECA countries

Closing statements by representatives of ESCAP and UNECE

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