

## **Joint Statement of the Fourth International Forum:**

### **Energy for Sustainable Development**

Georgia, Tbilisi

17-19 September 2013

#### **We, the participants of the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development:**

1. Consider the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development, which follows the international fora on energy efficiency and energy for sustainable development held in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2010, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2011 and at the Issyk Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan in 2012 to be an important platform for discussing the energy and sustainable development in the European and Asian regions and a substantive input into enhanced regional energy cooperation.
2. Acknowledge the pivotal role of governments and national policy for fostering sustainable energy development in the countries of the region, including for ensuring a balanced energy mix with larger share of environmentally sound conventional energy and renewable energy, for increasing energy efficiency, promoting sustainable use of energy and securing consumers' access to final energy.
3. Underline the special role of business sector for practical implementation of international, regional and national initiatives in the sphere of energy, including for development of infrastructure, enhancing cross-border energy trade, and increasing energy efficiency. Also note the important character of business as a sensitive indicator of the health of the market environment, and in this regard, consider it critical to monitor business processes for advancement and adjustment of the regulatory function of the state in the energy sector.
4. Recognize ultimate importance of public participation for sustainable energy development in the countries of the European and Asian regions, especially for improvement in energy consumption patterns, and importance of multilateral dialogue and cooperation, including with non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and other stakeholders.
5. Emphasize the special role that the United Nations system and in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) play in promoting sustainable development in the European and Asian regions.
6. Underscore the significant role of international financial institutions, in particular of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, international organizations and donor countries for sustainable energy development, and in particular for implementation of large infrastructure projects necessary for ensuring sustainable use of energy.
7. Believe that one of the major aims of sustainable development in the energy sector in the countries of the European and Asian regions is securing sustainable balance between supply and demand of energy. Acknowledge in this regard that the conventional fossil fuels and vast hydro resources remain the main energy supply source in the region with undoubted, but currently limited, increase of renewable sources' role in the energy mix and stress that energy efficiency increase is critical for curbing energy consumption growth levels in the region.
8. Resolve to make every effort to improve transparency, predictability and stability of energy markets in the European and Asian regions considering the opportunities of enhanced functioning of the countries' energy systems due to strengthened intraregional energy cooperation and increased cross-border energy trade. Support in this regard the establishment of energy bourses and markets to make the energy cost reasonable for all producers and consumers.
9. Underscore the significance of further improving the investment climate in the countries of the

European and Asian regions, including through application of financial incentives that will allow attracting additional interest to the implementation of projects in the area of sustainable use of energy.

10. Note that increase in energy efficiency in buildings is one of the major opportunities on the way towards sustainable use of energy in the European and Asian regions in view of the large potential for energy intensity reduction through application of modern energy saving and insulation technologies in buildings. Recognize in this regard that improvement in energy services is required for sustainable development in the European and Asian regions.
11. Stress the significance of setting forth the tariff systems flexibly responding to current social and economic trends due to a special role of pricing mechanisms in promoting sustainable use of energy, including for stimulating application of energy saving technologies, taking into account special importance of affordable energy for social and economic development.
12. Are convinced that education and training of skilled professionals in the energy area are indispensable prerequisites for sustainable development, including for creating favourable environment for innovation and providing a driving force for progress towards improved energy efficiency and wider access to cleaner energy.
13. Are certain that one of the major directions of energy cooperation in the European and Asian regions is creation of joint information resources and knowledge sharing systems on legal and regulatory frameworks, public participation, financial mechanisms, public-private partnerships and successful projects aimed at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy development in the region.
14. Underscore the necessity of strengthening cooperation mechanisms on energy among the states of the European and Asian regions in order to better coordinate national energy policies and realize the full potential of subregional cooperation in the area of energy security and sustainable use of energy for the benefit of all participating states.
15. Consider it necessary to encourage development and implementation of joint hydropower projects for electricity generation to facilitate grid connectivity and trade in energy.
16. Express confidence that developing harmonized cross-border energy infrastructure may become one of the areas for energy cooperation in the European and Asian regions, and are ready to support the continuation of bilateral and regional consultations on this matter.
17. Believe that work on developing breakthrough technologies in the energy sector may become one of the important directions of international cooperation, especially within the UN system, and that this work should be implemented with participation of a wide circle of stakeholders. Consider it possible to carry out such work through, among other opportunities, preparation of the “EXPO-2017: Future Energy” worldwide exposition based on the cooperation of scientific and research programmes, projects and institutes of the countries of the European and Asian regions.
18. Welcome the outcomes of the First Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in May 2013 and believe that the International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development can provide valuable contribution to the implementation of the APEF outcomes, including of the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018.
19. Express gratitude for the excellent organization of the Forum to the Government of Georgia and also to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
20. Call upon UNECE, ESCAP and UNDP to continue holding such Fora on a regular basis.
21. Recommend convening the next Forum in 2014.