

First Meeting of South Asian Regional Parliamentary Forum (RPF) for Energy Cooperation

Resolution

on

Deepening Regional Energy Co-operation and Enhancing Regional Energy Security and Climate Prosperity in South Asia (2024)

(to be adopted at the Launch of the RPF)

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging that the South Asian region has multi-level developmental, resource, and climate /environmental challenges. Despite the economic differences amongst the countries in the region, there is a shared political commitment to mitigate these challenges.

Acknowledging explicitly that climate change, in particular, poses a grave threat to the region jeopardising all progress witnessed until now and can adversely impact the regional efforts to accelerate clean energy transition. There is a need to jointly address the concerns urgently and utilize regional energy resources in a sustainable manner to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate.

Appreciating that the BBINS (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) countries also share complementary geographical energy resources that, when exploited sustainably, as studies have shown, can deliver multiple socio-economic and climate benefits to the region.

Convinced that deepening regional energy cooperation within South Asia including through cross-border electricity trade and a regional energy/electricity power market can bring long-term benefits to all the countries involved through improved energy security, affordability, reliability, and sustainability. Subsequent grid interconnection with neighbouring regions such as ASEAN could further accrue dividends and benefits for South Asia.

Appreciating that the BBINS countries have a stable political relationship that can be leveraged to enhance economic, technical, and commercial cultural cooperation to fulfil the above commitment.

Convinced that long-term energy planning, enhanced cross-border grid infrastructure, synchronisation of grid operations and harmonisation of policies and regulations, deepening of power markets, sharing of good practices and learning, facilitation of clean energy trade and supply chain development are going to be the key tenets of this energy co-operation.

Acknowledging that there is a need to institutionalize the process of regional energy cooperation and cross-border electricity trade by establishing or strengthening regional institutional mechanisms among energy system regulators, policymakers, planners, and system operation entities as validated by several studies as well as various international experiences and best practices.

Acknowledging that while there have been advancements made by the BBINS countries through bilateral and trilateral power agreements in the near future, there is a need to accelerate this pace urgently through a more multilateral and regional approach. This will need focused coordination, continuous dialogue, and an in-depth understanding of the cooperation among the countries.

Invites the members to:

- Work collectively to empower themselves through continuous capacity strengthening on the policy design and development, technologies, strategies, policies and pathways needed for enhanced regional energy cooperation to advance clean energy transition including cross-border energy trade in South Asia
- Work and advocate with their respective national governments the need to act urgently on regional energy cooperation initiatives – in a multilateral way while considering all countries involved.
- Call upon their national governments to urgently initiate/revive regional dialogue on energy cooperation for meeting developmental goals as well as energy and climate goals through an MoU or a new joint communique.
- Work collectively to advocate on building and/or strengthening regional institutional mechanisms such as Networks for Integrated Power System Planning and System Operation for complementary energy system planning and safe and secure operation of the regional grid and regional investment facilitation platform for long term sustainability of regional energy cooperation, cross border energy trade and clean energy transition.
- Work with specific government departments and actors to assess the maximum contribution of regional energy cooperation initiatives feasible and the benefits accrued from them in the national and regional context and incorporate the findings in the revised/upcoming national energy/electricity plans, climate-related policies and programs as well as in the regional energy plans being developed under intergovernmental regional organisations such as BIMSTEC.
- Work collectively to translate the benefits of enhanced regional energy co-operation not just at the national and regional level but also at local level to demonstrate its role in improving economic wellbeing and quality of life of local population thereby ensuring a just clean energy transition through REC and CBET.
- Work with other actors such as other MPs, political entities, civil society actors, experts, and businesses to bring public attention, mobilise consensus and resources towards the development of regional energy co-operation.
- Work and initiate dialogue with international development bodies, governments, investors, and businesses to attract technological knowhow, investments, development aid towards the fast development of this area.
- Work collectively to promote and enhance the outreach of this forum - Regional Parliamentary Forum across law makers, policy and decision makers and relevant energy and climate stakeholders for an integrated, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable energy future for South Asia.

Adoption Date:

Attendees Present: