

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all please let me welcome all panelists and I would like to express my gratitude to you for the opportunity to address the meeting.

If we speak about transit of energy resources it is necessary to point out that energy has become firmly established as one of the priorities on the international agenda for sustainable development and the prerequisites for economic growth and tackle social problems and counteract environmental challenges. Thereupon we welcome concrete steps for the long-term outlook within the UN to improve the interstate energy cooperation, particularly concerning practical implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and announcement of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All in 2014 – 2024.

We reckon that energy transit agenda should become an integral part of the energy dialog within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. We urge the Commission in accordance with the request of the UN General Assembly and in the framework of its competence, focus on identifying and consolidating the positions of Member States on the most pressing issues of energy transit and evaluating its associated socio-economic factors and environmental risks. At the same time we think it necessary to put this work in the context of a broad dialogue on energy security and give it a purely advisory in nature. The Russian side confirms its positive attitude to the initiative of Turkmenistan approved in May this year in resolution of 67th Session of the UN General Assembly 67/263 of a reliable and stable transit of energy.

Issues of energy supply are considered not only at the site of the UNECE, but also within the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In May of this year on the initiative of Russia Vladivostok hosted the First Asia-Pacific Energy Forum, which also addressed the energy supply in the region. The Forum had a positive response. We hope that the initiative to hold such forums will continue.

In this regard, we would consider it appropriate to combine the efforts of the two regional organizations in the preparation of the Ashgabat meeting. This proposal is fully consistent with the UN resolution 67/263.

We consider the UNECE site as the most suitable for the implementation of the resolution. The Secretariat of the Commission, together with ESCAP should take an active part in the preparation and the work in Ashgabat international meeting on energy transit, which is scheduled for early 2014. At the same time it is necessary to be guided by the UN General Assembly request on the regional economic commissions to contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

The Russian side believes that consideration of transit of energy resources should be based on an integrated approach that takes into account all aspects of energy security in the pan-European dimension. There is a need to balance the interests of suppliers, consumers of energy resources and transit countries. A principle of mutual benefit is fundamental to a successful and long-term solution of the challenges we are faced with.

It should be noted that the development of general principles does not mean ready-made solution for each case, as each case is different, and there is no single solution for all cases. At the same time, agreement on common approaches will create the basis for successful cooperation in finding such solutions.

The Speech by the Secretary General of the Energy Charter Mr. Rusnak confirms this thought. Many years of work on the Transit Protocol to the Energy Charter is a good example of that.

Given all the above, I would like to express the hope that the forthcoming meeting in Ashgabat will determine the next steps in working together to implement the initiative and will result in a goal.