



Terms of Reference of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources

Preamble

1. The Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources (PWG-Water/Energy) is a subsidiary body within the governing structure of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The member countries of the Programme are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) provide overall support to the Programme.

2. The PWG-Water/Energy was set up in compliance with the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998, establishing the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. The Declaration identified the rational and efficient use of energy and water resources as a priority area for sub-regional cooperation. In accordance with the decision of the special session of the SPECA Regional Advisory Committee on 27 May 2005 in Astana the PWG-Water/Energy shall continue functioning and shall report to the SPECA Governing Council.

Objectives

3. In line with the overall objectives of SPECA to support its member countries in (i) developing sub-regional cooperation and (ii) in integrating their economies into the world economy, the PWG-Water/Energy shall (i) facilitate cooperation in the areas of water and energy resources between interested SPECA member countries; (ii) support the full implementation of the SPECA Cooperation Strategy to Promote the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia; (iii) serve as a forum for discussion of issues of water and energy resources management; (iv) support and coordinate capacity building activities and programmes in the water and energy sectors; and (v) promote and support the participation of SPECA member countries in international conventions, agreements, programmes and projects related to water and energy resources management and development.

Participants

4. The PWG-Water/Energy shall comprise National Representatives, nominated by the Governments of SPECA member countries. The National Representatives shall be senior officials involved in the formulation and implementation or be aware of national policies and programmes, which affect water and energy resources development and management in their respective countries and able to effectively follow up the recommendations and decisions of the PWG-Water/Energy.

5. Each participating country shall also nominate, on a permanent or on an ad hoc basis, experts on various aspects of water and energy resources management as required.

6. Neighbouring countries of the SPECA region are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the work of the PWG-Water/Energy, especially when issues concerning cooperation with neighbouring regions are discussed.

7. Relevant sub-regional organizations implementing programmes on water and energy resources management are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the work of the PWG-Water/Energy.

8. United Nations bodies as well as other bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations operating in the water and energy sectors in SPECA member countries are invited to participate in the work of the PWG-Water/Energy and to nominate liaison officers on matters related to its work.

Modalities of operation

9. The PWG-Water/Energy shall elect two Co-Chairpersons from among the National Representatives nominated by the Governments.

10. The Secretariats of UNECE and UNESCAP will provide secretarial support to the PWG-Water/Energy. The Secretariats will facilitate the preparation and organization of the sessions of the Group and will maintain records of its activities.

11. The PWG-Water/Energy shall hold annual sessions at a date and venue agreed by the participating countries.

Funding

12. The operational costs of the PWG-Water/Energy as well as the costs of participation of National Representatives and experts in its sessions shall as a rule be borne by the Governments of participating countries. In addition, the UNECE and UNESCAP shall support, within their available resources, the functioning of the PWG-Water/Energy.

13. The PWG-Water/Energy shall also seek funds and technical assistance for its operations from multilateral and bilateral donors.

Programme of work and activities

14. The PWG-Water/Energy shall develop, agree upon and implement an annual work programme.

15. The PWG-Water/Energy shall formulate and agree upon specific projects and programmes and seek extrabudgetary resources for their implementation.

16. Important policy conclusions should be brought to the attention of high-level policy making authorities in the SPECA member countries.

17. Recommendations along with agreed investment and project ideas should be presented to relevant international organizations and international programmes as well as to private investors.

Other matters

18. The current Terms of Reference shall be reviewed in 3 years or sooner if the SPECA member countries so decide.

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