

**Energy Ministers Dialogue
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
20 September 2019**

DECLARATION

We met today, on 20 September 2019 in the city of Tashkent for the first Energy Ministers Dialogue jointly organized by the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Asian Development Bank under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) initiative. We agree to adopt the below declaration:

1. We take note of the global energy sector transition towards cleaner energy sources and a more efficient and environmentally sustainable development path. We recognize the growing importance of regional efforts and solutions in this transition. We therefore welcome this initiative to convene the CAREC Energy Ministers' Dialogue as a unique high level platform for sharing, assessing and solving common regional energy challenges. We jointly commit to continue this regional dialogue in the future to further enhance cooperation and promote sustainable energy sector development thereby improving the well-being of our people.
2. We applaud the completion of the new CAREC Energy Strategy 2030. We endorse its content, ambition and planned initiatives and commit to jointly implement the strategic vision of achieving reliable, sustainable, resilient and reformed energy markets in the region by 2030.
3. We are encouraged by the recent progress made in strengthening and expanding regional power interconnections and increased power exchanges that have contributed positively to regional energy integration and stability. We will work to accelerate regional electricity interconnections and electricity exchanges and will strive to double current regional power flows in the region by 2023.
4. Acknowledging the vast potential of renewable energy in the region and recognizing that solar and wind power have become attractive cost-competitive options, we support to step up power production from these renewable energy sources. We commit to double up the current solar and wind power capacity in the region by 2023 to achieve a more diversified and cleaner energy mix.
5. We note that despite significant progress, energy efficiency remains low in the region. We commit to prioritize actions in our respective jurisdictions to seek investments in energy

efficiency and make it a first fuel of choice. We will seek to double the energy efficiency level in our individual country and the region by 2030.

6. We recognize that achieving resilient, smart and modern energy systems requires scaling up current level of investment, which requires unlocking private sector participation and investments. We therefore commit to take appropriate energy sector reforms and, create transparent and investor-friendly regulatory frameworks in our respective jurisdictions to enable larger private sector participation. We also commit to work towards CAREC focused regional financing vehicle to help in this endeavor.
7. We reinforce our commitment to jointly work together towards attaining *Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy* and to achieve sustainable energy for all in the region by 2030. We will pay particular attention to consumers living in hard-to-reach areas and utilize innovative technology, business models and community focused solutions to accelerate attainment of this goal earlier than 2030.
8. We express our strong interest in attaining and improving financial sustainability of our respective energy sector organizations and in enhancing sector governance. We will work to reduce fiscal subsidy and accelerate sector reforms including the gradual phase out of fossil fuel subsidies to the long-term benefit of our economies, consumers and environment.
9. We note that women remain underrepresented in the energy industry of the CAREC region. Recognizing the benefits of a diverse, inclusive and balanced talent pool in the energy sector, we strive to reach gender equality by 2030. In this regard, we also endorse the principles of *EQUAL by 2030*, a Clean Energy Ministers' campaign of *Equal Opportunity, Equal Pay and Equal Leadership*.
10. We recognize and appreciate the role of international financial institutions and various development partners in supporting emerging demands of the energy sector in the region. We seek their enhanced and coordinated support in meeting the CAREC energy 2030 agenda which is spelled out in the new regional energy strategy finalized in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank.

We thank our host the Government of Uzbekistan for their warm hospitality and wonderful organization of this energy Ministers' Dialogue.

Republic of Uzbekistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Republic of Azerbaijan

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Republic

Mongolia

Republic of Tajikistan

Georgia

Islamic Republic of Pakistan