



3rd Almaty
Energy Forum

Session 2 – Regulatory roundtable on energy connectivity and renewable integration



6 November 2023

12.15 – 14.00 (UTC/GMT +6 hours)
Independence Hall

BACKGROUND

Central Asia is a region with vast fossil and renewable energy resources. These resources are, however, distributed unevenly across the region. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, for example, have very large hydro resources, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have the highest solar irradiation of the region and Kazakhstan has a very high potential for developing wind power. All of this potential, if developed, can significantly contribute to emission reduction targets of Central Asian countries, and contribute to an affordable energy transition.

Power system connectivity is an important tool to increase the ability of the individual countries to improve energy security, by increasing resource diversity and enabling the sharing of generation. Connectivity also enables the integration of high shares of variable renewable energy and provides economic benefits and market opportunities due to economy of scale.

During the Soviet era, the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan were interconnected into a single Central Asian Power System (CAPS). This vast network of power plants, transmission lines and subsystems allowed for more optimal use of the region's energy and water resources. After the collapse of Soviet Union, the CAPS faced numerous challenges that ultimately led to its fragmentation, and a lack of investment in infrastructure and maintenance resulted in power outages in many parts of the region.

Central Asia's legacy of integration gives it an infrastructure and institutional base upon which it can build a more secure, affordable, and sustainable energy system.

From an institutional perspective, regulators have a significant role to play in the energy transition at the national level as well as the development of regional power system connectivity. For example, regulators are key to ensuring that variable renewable energy resources and connectivity initiatives are developed in the interest of the consumers. Enabling energy transition at a regional scale in Central Asia therefore requires regulatory collaboration. Areas for collaboration include engaging in regional dialogue in order to share experiences, harmonizing regulations, and enabling the development of new or the augmentation of existing institutions to support connectivity which in turn will support the clean energy systems of the future.

For more information about the event please visit

<https://unece.org/>



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OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This session is organized as part of the Almaty Energy Forum. The Forum serves as a platform for inclusive multistakeholder dialogue to facilitate regional cooperation, provide technical capacity support and help countries in Central Asia innovate and modernize their regional infrastructure and build resilient energy systems.

The regulatory roundtable will invite regulators and other relevant power sector stakeholders to discuss the role of regulations and regulatory frameworks in energy connectivity and energy transitions, and how to elevate the discussion from the national to regional level.

The goal is to seek discussion and consensus on the following points

- Which best practices from around the world are relevant to modern connectivity in Central Asia, and why?
- What role do regulators play in ensuring connectivity is sustainable?
- What are the needs of the Central Asian regulators to ensure enhanced collaboration on a regional level on sustainable connectivity?

The regulatory roundtable will follow the first session on “Energy Connectivity in Central Asia: Unlocking untapped Opportunities,” where participants will address how to enhance the interplay of low-and zero-carbon technologies and strengthen grid infrastructure capacity and resiliency.

From the discussions development partners will seek to identify concrete actions that need to be taken to accelerate the sustainable connectivity discussion at the regulatory level.



AGENDA

12:15

Opening remarks

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12:25

Shoimzoda Jamshed Shodi, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Tajikistan

12:25

Presentation 1

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12:40

Regulatory developments in Central Asia

Oleg Ryaskov, Energy expert, USAID Power Central Asia Project

12:40

Presentation 2

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12:55

Example of multilateral power system integration: Africa power pools

Mohamed Abbas Eltahir Elabbas, Researcher, Technology Research Institute - IIT Comillas

12:55

Panel discussion

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13:40

How to ensure regulatory collaboration on sustainable connectivity in Central Asia?

Moderator: Alberto Pototschnig, Deputy Director, Florence School of Regulation

Panelists:

- Damir Narynbayev, Executive Director, KAZENERGY
- Gulnara Hasenova, Deputy Director Regulatory Department, Ministry of Energy, Kyrgyzstan
- Anna Lobanova, Sustainable energy specialist, Energy Division, ESCAP
- Andrew Flagg, Coordinator, RETA
- César Alejandro Hernández Alva, Director. India and Global Opportunities program, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)
- Edvardas Bumsteinas, Head of Asia and Pacific Division, European Investment Bank (EIB)

13:40

Closing remarks

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13:45