



Armenia: A Lighthouse for Sustainable Energy Scale-up



Lighthouse for Sustainable Energy Scale-up

DECLARATION

Representing the non-governmental, civil society organizations, civil initiatives, local authorities, academia, industry associations, consumer groups and independent experts from Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, gathered in Yerevan, Armenia on December 3-4, 2018 at the Regional Conference “A Lighthouse for Sustainable Energy Scale-up”,

In pursuit of regional energy security, sustainable energy transition, access to safe and affordable energy supply, efficiency energy supply and end-use, as well as carbon neutral economy, global climate change mitigation and local environmental safety,

Recognizing the problems and challenges on the path to promotion of energy security, sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, related to:

- 1. Import dependence and insecurity of supply,*
- 2. Lack of regional energy market integration,*
- 3. Inefficiency of energy end use and growing demand,*
- 4. Insufficient utilization of renewable energy potential;*

Also recognizing that the ways to overcome the above challenges can be overcome through national policy reform, legal-regulatory mechanisms, diverse financial instruments, institutional and capacity strengthening,

Affirming the importance of international and intra-regional cooperation, information sharing, stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue on all aforementioned matters,

Aiming at enhanced public attention, policy advocacy and dedicated expertise towards:

- 1. Adoption of binding national energy savings targets in line with the national sustainable economic development agenda and cost-effective potential;*
- 2. Promotion of policies, plans and regulations promoting investments in increased energy end use and generation of low-carbon energy alternatives, while enhancing energy security;*
- 3. Continued pursuit of innovation in delivery mechanisms, financing schemes and institutional solutions for acceleration of market uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, private sector participation;*
- 4. Engagement of local players, small and medium towns, and potential bottom-up initiatives for generation of local interest and grass-root initiatives aimed at energy efficiency and renewable energy with consideration of local content and with local ownership;*
- 5. Strengthened public understanding and awareness, adequate media coverage of the global and local imperatives for immediate action in secure, sustainable energy and climate, impacts on local environmental pollution as well as security of local jobs, forming national alliances of dedicated and concerned organizations,*

Have agreed to the following:

Establish a platform for regional dialogue and cooperation aimed at the promotion of sustainable energy and energy efficiency policy reform. Accordingly, the Parties agree to pursue the following areas of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action and support through such Platform:

- 1. Knowledge sharing: helping exchange information and experience in:*
 - a. legal-regulatory reform in energy efficiency and renewable energy by the use of standard approaches, adaptable regional templates of legal-regulatory documents, developing and maintaining a legal-regulatory database, technical standards;*
 - b. state-of-the-art energy efficient technologies and market-ready renewable energy technologies, environmentally safe fossil fuel alternatives;*
 - c. financing tools for investments in energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy;*
 - d. public awareness raising campaigns, mobilization of citizen groups and local initiatives, identification and promoting of local champions and cultivating inter-agency dialogue with policy-makers, agencies and regulatory commissions, engaged cooperation with the mass media representatives for quality coverage and outreach, consumers and youth groups.*

2. *Capacity Building: offering a major capacity building resource and platform, allowing utilization of practical experiences and best practices, exemplary technical documentation, case studies from individual countries of the region as well as more advanced international experiences;*
3. *Experience Sharing: Share advanced methodologies, lessons and tips, especially in transposition and approximation of the EU energy acquis, including*
 - a. *Energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy markets;*
 - b. *Building energy performance, energy auditing, passportization and certification;*
 - c. *Access to and enhanced affordability of modern energy services, mitigation of energy poverty, mitigation of impacts of sustainable energy transition on local economy and jobs;*
 - d. *Development of energy efficiency and sustainable energy initiatives on local government level, including support for Covenant of Mayors for Energy and Climate and development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, Green City Action Plans, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, as well as other local and national strategic development plans addressing sustainable energy and climate agenda;*
 - e. *Stakeholder engagement, accountability and monitoring of local sustainable energy initiatives by local non-governmental, civil society organizations, business associations, trade unions, academia, local initiative groups, local authorities; continued expansion of the network within individual countries;*
 - f. *Promotion and oversight of public leadership in sustainable energy initiatives, green and energy efficient procurement, etc..*
4. *Resource Center: Serving as a resource center on various aspects of energy efficiency and renewable relevant to the region to offer a common pool of:*
 - a. *Successful policy and regulatory models for promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy;*
 - b. *Technical standards and methodologies;*
 - c. *Database of government agencies, regulators, NGOs, consulting organizations, donors, investors and equipment manufacturers, youth groups;*
 - d. *Training using intra-regional successes;*
 - e. *Dissemination of information on potential capacity building opportunities;*

f. *Organization of meetings and sharing of proceeds, spreading the word within countries to local initiative groups.*

5. **Lobbying:** *Joining efforts in lobbying energy efficiency and renewable reform among the decision-makers; generating public dialogue and debate about current policy ambitions; forming expert opinion about proposed policies and targets.*
6. **Research and Advocacy:** *Conduct joint research, publishing and offer consulting services, engage academia and scientific institutions, collect and publicize successful technical innovations to enhance the market uptake of new technical solutions in the field, identify and document cost-effective interventions in efficiency, renewables, accumulation technologies, as well as research and development in national energy, energy end-use, energy security and local green economy policy, integration of modern smart systems and solutions for smart management of energy end-use, real-time and remote control of all elements of the energy value chain.*
7. **Fundraising:** *utilizing the potential of the network members and potential of such a platform for synergetic effect and effective dissemination channels, pursue joint projects and seek international, public, private and grant financing for implementation of programs serving the above objectives, yet with the network not competing for funding with any individual member.*
8. **Networking:** *seeking further opportunities to hold fora on topics of mutual interest, expanding and streamlining the network of likeminded groups to promote the policy advocacy on all policy levels.*

The original of this Declaration is drawn in English and will have Russian and Armenian equivalents.

DONE at Yerevan this fourth day of December two thousand and eighteen.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Declaration.

1. Name (first, last), Position

Organization

*Astghine Pasoyan, Director
Energy Saving Foundation, Armenia*

2. Name (first, last), Position

Organization

*Ashot Mirzoyan, Chairman, Armenia
Consumers Support center, Armenia*

3. Name (first, last), Position Tetyana Boyko, program director
Organization Civil Network ORORA, Ukraine
4. Name (first, last), Position Zluzha Pliis, President
Organization AEEER - Alliance for Energy Efficiency, Moldova
5. Name (first, last), Position Anahit Beglaryan President
Organization Women and children help and support Center NGO, Armenia, RA
6. Name (first, last), Position Arsen Karapetyan, Director
Organization Ulyanov Development Solutions Institute Foundation RA
7. Name (first, last), Position Nune Sakanyan, President
Organization Women in Climate and Energy, Armenia
8. Name (first, last), Position Movhannes Karapetyan, President
Organization Young Engineers Association NGO
9. Name (first, last), Position Ivan Shchedraukh, Director
Organization Foundation Innovations Ulyanov
10. Name (first, last), Position Alexander Mikhalevich, Professor
Organization Institute of Energy, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
11. Name (first, last), Position Mariam Kochachyan "Eco Step" sales manager
Organization "Eco Step Green energy solution"

11. Name (first, last), Position Liana Nersisyan, Head of Youth Section
Organization "Association for Sustainable Human Development" NGO. Armenia
12. Name (first, last), Position Karen Asatryan, Director
Organization R2E2 Fund
13. Name (first, last), Position Aram Zakarian
Organization Lead engineer. SRIE.
14. Name (first, last), Position Karen Yeznikyan
Organization Community Dev. Innov. Center
Yeznikyan
15. Name (first, last), Position Yana Movhannisyam, Energy Economist
Organization Green and Sustainable Energy NGO
Yana
16. Name (first, last), Position Luiza Vardanyan, Executive Director
Organization Habitat for Humanity Armenia
Vardanyan
17. Name (first, last), Position Hasmik Barseghyan, Executive Director
Organization Sustainable Energy Development Fund
Barseghyan
18. Name (first, last), Position Lucineh Kassarian, CEO, Sensyan &
Organization Armenia
Kassarian

19. Name (first, last), Position Arman Avetisyan
Organization Municipality of Spitak Armenia UNDP
20. Name (first, last), Position Gagik Makaryan
Organization Republican Union of Employers of Armenia
21. Name (first, last), Position Artashes Sargsyan
Organization EcoTeam Energy and Environment NGO
22. Name (first, last), Position Karen Erotyants
Organization Ministry of Nature Protection
23. Name (first, last), Position Ingga Zarakyan
Organization Center for Information UNDP
24. Name (first, last), Position George Akhushvili
Organization Director of Energy Efficiency Center Georgia
25. Name (first, last), Position Nataliyon Lapauri
Organization Director Union of Communities of Armenia
26. Name (first, last), Position _____
Organization _____