

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE ELECTRIC POWER COUNCIL OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
and
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Electric Power Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereafter EPC CIS) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter UNECE), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

- *sharing* the idea to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels as stated in the final document of the Conference “The Future we want” (Rio +20) held on 20-22 June 2012,

- *recognizing* the critical role that energy plays in the sustainable development process, the importance of access to environmentally sustainable modern energy services for all, enhancing energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy sources and transferring to cleaner and energy efficient technologies,

- *supporting* the UN Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources,

- *acknowledging* the role of the UNECE as the focal point in the pan-European region for development and promotion of the United Nations’ legal norms, standards, recommendations and tools for transport, environment, trade, energy, statistics and other areas,

- *acknowledging* the role of the EPC CIS in the Commonwealth of Independent States in conducting joint and coordinated activities in the electric power area among the member states of the Commonwealth in order to ensure sustainable and reliable power supply to the national economy and the households of the Commonwealth member states based on efficient functioning of the interconnected power systems of the CIS member states,

Hereby agree on the following:

ARTICLE 1

In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter – the Memorandum), the Parties will cooperate within the limits of their respective mandates and competencies on the issues of sustainable energy development, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental protection and in other agreed areas.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties will cooperate with a view to:

- (i) promoting interregional cooperation in the field of energy;
- (ii) ensuring greater energy security, sustainable energy supply and environment protection;
- (iii) supporting the increased use of advanced technologies to enhance energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, development of renewable energy, reduction of emissions of harmful substances into the environment, and rational use of energy resources;
- (iv) facilitating extended access to reliable, cost-effective, environmentally sound energy supply and energy sources;
- (v) promoting replication of advanced international practices of using best available energy efficient and environmentally clean techniques in conventional and renewable energy;
- (vi) improving legal and institutional frameworks for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy development;
- (vii) improving investment climate for application of cleaner and energy efficient technologies and renewable energy development;
- (viii) promoting education and awareness raising in the area of cleaner technologies in electric power supply, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- (ix) promoting wider access to information in the field of sustainable energy, including energy efficiency and renewable energy.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties agree to cooperate in the following ways:

- (i) holding seminars and other events on issues of common interest;
- (ii) participation in conferences, workshops, forums and other events organized by the Parties;
- (iii) exchange of information and documents related to the area of interest of the Parties;
- (iv) joint participation in research, preparation of analytical reviews in the area of common interest;
- (v) participation in the implementation of joint projects;
- (vi) invitation of EPC CIS experts to participate in activities of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and its groups of experts;
- (vii) invitation of the UNECE experts to participate in the meetings of the CIS Electric Power Council and its working bodies;
- (viii) any other forms agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 4

The Parties will seek funding opportunities for the activities indicated in this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 5

The Parties agree that coordination and monitoring of the implementation of this Memorandum will be carried out by:

On behalf of the Electric Power Council of the CIS – the Executive Committee of EPC CIS;

On behalf of the UN Economic Commission for Europe – Sustainable Energy Division of the UNECE.

ARTICLE 6

In the framework of this Memorandum the Parties shall be guided by generally accepted principles and norms of international law and will cooperate on the basis of equality, transparency and reciprocity.

ARTICLE 7

7.1 This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall be valid for three years. The Memorandum will be automatically renewed for further three-year periods, unless either party gives a written notice of withdrawal from this Agreement six months prior to the expiration date. The Memorandum may be terminated by either party by written notice to the other party at least six months before the termination.

7.2 Any amendments to this Memorandum shall be made by mutual agreement and by signing an additional protocol, which will become an integral part of this Memorandum.

7.3 Joint activities of the Parties under this Memorandum shall be carried out on the basis of separate written agreements, which will specify the financial, resource and administrative obligations of the Parties, the sources of funding, type of activity and timing.

7.4 This Memorandum is not an international agreement and does not create rights and obligations governed by international law.

7.5 This Memorandum of Understanding is a jointly agreed statement of intent of the Parties and does not impose any financial and/or legal obligations on the Parties. The Memorandum does not regulate rights and obligations of the Parties under other similar agreements, as well as the right of the Parties to enter into such agreements.

7.6 The Parties shall settle any disputes arising out of the application or interpretation of this Memorandum through direct negotiations.

This Agreement is signed in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

25 April 2014

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**On behalf of the Electric Power Council of
the Commonwealth of Independent States**

**On behalf of the UN Economic
Commission for Europe**

**President
Alexandre Novak**

**Deputy Executive Secretary
Andrey Vasilyev**