



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Energy, Mining
and Mineral Resources



14th International Forum on
**ENERGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
28–30 October 2025, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia



United
Nations



From goals to ACTION: Powering the FUTURE with **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

CONCEPT NOTE

Energy Connectivity, Resilience and Security: Global Best Practices

29 October, 9:00-12:00 (Skopje/Geneva)

Venue: Holiday Inn, Skopje, North Macedonia

Background

Enhancing regional energy connectivity and fostering cross-border energy trade is a critical factor for energy security and resilience. An integrated and interconnected power system supports the efficient deployment of renewable energy, enhances system reliability, and reduces overall investment and operational costs. Moreover, it provides the foundation for long-term decarbonization and inclusive economic development.

In recognition of the importance of energy connectivity, UNECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, and ECA have joined forces under a UN Development Account (UNDA) project to strengthen the capacity of member States to design policies that support energy system resilience through enhanced connectivity. This initiative promotes global cooperation, develops policy guidance, and builds stakeholder networks to catalyze energy transitions across regions.

Each Commission plays a key role in advancing energy connectivity in their respective regions. ESCAP's Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity serves as a strategic framework designed to enhance energy integration across the Asia-Pacific region. UNECE focuses on analytical modeling and scenario development to assess the economic and environmental benefits of enhanced energy interconnectivity, particularly in Central Asia. ECA supports the development and strengthening of regional Power Pools across Africa. ECLAC works with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop policy frameworks and regulatory instruments that foster regional energy integration. ESCWA provides technical assistance and policy support to advance interconnection initiatives in Arab Region.

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Objectives

- Facilitate interregional knowledge exchange by bringing together experts, policymakers, and development partners
- Identify challenges and policy priorities to accelerate energy transition through connectivity
- Highlight the role of multilateral cooperation and partnerships in enabling regional electricity markets

Target Group

Government representatives, international organizations, financial institutions, and energy sector experts

Provisional Programme

Time (GMT+2)	Agenda items
9:00 - 10:15	Opening remarks: • Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy, UNECE • Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP Scene setting presentation – key findings from the Report on aligning cross-border power trade with the development and integration of renewable energy resources • Anna Lobanova, Energy Connectivity Expert, ESCAP Sharing regional experiences on developing energy connectivity for secure power systems (presentations): • Alison Chikova, Chief Engineer (Planning and Operations), Southern African Power Pool • Jason Veysey, Stockholm Environment Institute • Yesar Al-Maleki, Energy Economist, Gulf Analyst, MEES (online) • Randall Zuñiga, Energy Director of the Environment and Energy Ministry, Costa Rica • Zelalem Gebrehiwot, Technical Director, East African Power Pool • Tajikistan (TBC)





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	Q&A Moderator: Dario Liguti , Director, Sustainable Energy, UNECE
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 12:00	Sharing regional experiences on developing energy connectivity for secure power systems (panel discussion): • Anna Piwowska, Economic Affairs Officer, ECE • Omar Tsereteli, Deputy Head of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development at Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia • Ignacio Nancupil, Natural Resources Division, ECLAC • Yohannes Hailu, Connectivity and Infrastructure, ECA • Hosni Ghedira, Senior Advisor, AI71 • Sean Ratka, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA Q&A

Mode of participation

The session takes place in a hybrid format (in-person and online).

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