

Abu Dhabi Declaration of the First Energy Ministerial of South American and Arab countries

16 January 2013

Energy ministers and/or senior officials from South American and Arab Countries (ASPA) convened in Abu Dhabi on 16 January 2013 for the cooperative mechanism's inaugural meeting on the energy sector, held as part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the world's largest annual sustainable energy event. The ministers and/or senior officials reaffirmed their commitment to enhance energy links between the two regions and highlighted the opportunities for cooperation in the rapidly diversifying global energy portfolio. The ministerial meeting put into action the Lima Declaration's call for energy to form an axis and backbone of bi-regional relationship in the coming years. For this purpose, and in order to develop the future activities of ASPA, they agreed to:

Renewable Energy

1. Prioritize joint cooperation in renewable energy as a key component of sustainable development
2. Identify mechanisms and priority topics for:
 - a. Exchange of experiences, including policy successes and challenges
 - b. Resource quality assessment
 - c. Promotion of investment and financing opportunities
 - d. Academic collaboration
 - e. Performance and cost data on renewable energy products and services
 - f. Grid interconnection and energy storage
 - g. Capacity-building
3. Utilize the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), headquartered in Abu Dhabi, as a primary forum for cooperation and support for inter-regional initiatives, in cooperation with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

Oil and Gas

1. Promote opportunities for cross-regional investment in the sector, noting the essential value of robust exploration, production, and distribution to all ASPA economies
2. Identify opportunities, through peer-learning and best-practice-sharing, to improve the energy and carbon efficiency of the oil and gas industry, including transport
3. Identify opportunities for capacity-development and academic exchange among researchers and practitioners in the sector

Energy Efficiency

1. Highlight investment and support opportunities in domestic energy efficiency initiatives as among the lowest-cost means of improving energy security and mitigating environmental impacts of energy consumption
2. Identify mechanisms for exchange of knowledge on policy frameworks, incentives, energy service markets, and protection of disadvantaged consumers

3. Identify opportunities for data-sharing on efficient products and services, notably including appliances

Power sector

1. Identify opportunities and joint investments in power projects
2. Encourage investors and contractors to consider opportunities in the ASPA countries' power sectors
3. Exchange experiences in developing power market regulations
4. Encourage investment opportunities to increase local content (products and services) in the power sector

To achieve the objectives of this Declaration, the ASPA countries agreed to develop a three-year work programme of follow-up actions in accordance with their overall policies, laws, and regulations.

To promote progress and exchange, they further agreed to hold a ministerial meeting every three years, alternating between the Arab countries and South American countries, and to form an energy subcommittee, consisting of experts (focal points), to meet whenever necessary to follow up on the implementation of this Declaration.