

**CLEAN DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF ENERGY**

**OBJECTIVE**

- To discuss a Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Sustainable Development

**BACKGROUND**

1. Ministers have recognized in three previous meetings that the forecasted growth in energy supply and use will place considerable pressure on the local, regional and global environment. Ministers have agreed that the application of economically sound measures to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of energy production and use is essential to protect the well being of both present and future generations.
2. Ministers have recognized forecasts showing that fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) will continue to play a dominant role in the region and that their development and use poses a particular challenge to sustainable development.
3. Ministers have recognized that there are a wide range of measures available to address the environmental challenge, including improving the efficiency with which energy is produced and used, using techniques and practices that reduce emissions, and switching to more environmentally benign energy sources, including renewable energies. They also recognize the significant role and potential contribution of women in meeting the environmental challenge including the promotion of energy efficiency.
4. Ministers have agreed to cooperate extensively in research and development, technology adaptation and uptake, and programs related to energy efficiency, cleaner fuels and renewable and alternative sources of energy.
5. Ministers have recognized the importance of accelerating action to deal with global emissions of greenhouse gases and noted that mechanisms to address this issue are being discussed within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To reduce the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, Ministers have recognized the importance of improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of low or non-carbon emitting energy systems, increasing efforts to attract private investment in advanced energy technologies, and promoting regional cooperation to develop and deploy clean energy technologies.
6. Ministers have endorsed a wide range of energy initiatives that help advance a commitment to the environmentally responsible development and use of energy, that contribute to the availability of clean, affordable energy, and that integrate energy, economic and environmental goals..

7. The Energy Working Group's program of work and Expert Groups' programs of work also promote clean energy and sustainable development goals.

#### **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. Ministers may want to consider future goals and strategies for promoting clean energy and sustainable development.
9. Ministers are invited to consider the draft document on "Clean Energy and Sustainable Development" agreed to by the Energy Working Group for Ministers' deliberation, which includes future goals and strategies.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

10. Ministers to discuss the Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Sustainable Development.