



Report of the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting
Tuesday 17th January 2017, 10.00 AM - 5.00 PM
Anantara Eastern Mangrove Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

(1) The 15th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting took place on 17th January 2017 at Ballroom, Anantara Eastern Mangrove Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

(2) **H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**, the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and **the Chair** of the Meeting, welcomed all Ministers and delegates to the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting. H.E. Foreign Minister expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand, as the Past Chair, for Thailand's leadership, and thanked the ACD Secretary General for all efforts in supporting the UAE organizing the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting. H.E. Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of ACD Vision 2030 as it contributes to enhancement of comprehensive dialogue among the ACD Member States, especially in the aspects of economic and development cooperation. In this regards, H.E. Foreign Ministers expressed his wish for further meetings in order to transform the Vision into action and foster prosperity of the Asia continent. As being highlighted in Abu Dhabi Declaration, H.E. Foreign Minister underlined the importance of confronting climate change, highlighted correlation between sustainable energy and sustainable economic growth, and indicated the positive outcomes of enhancing the knowledge-based economy. On this note, H.E. Foreign Minister drew attention of all ACD Member States to the Expo 2020 as it will foster connections in the region, offer solutions to international problems, reflect our modern world's participation and build partnership of all people of Asia continent. H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan ended his statement by wishing all the successes to the meeting.

(3) **H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, started his statement by conveying heartfelt condolences to the UAE for the terrorist attack on the UAE's humanitarian mission in Afghanistan. H.E. Foreign Minister of Thailand thanked the UAE for warm hospitality and commended the excellent work of the UAE in convening the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting and hosting the first Prime and Co-prime Movers' Consultation of the Pillar on the Interrelation of Food, Water and Energy Security in December 2016. With regard to the Nexus of Food, Water and Energy, H.E. Foreign Minister of Thailand voiced that the three elements are essential, and the nexus presents a number of opportunities for Asia. In this connection, His Excellency asserted that, for Thailand, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej has been applied to promote food, water and energy security in an



integrated manner. SEP guided development in Thailand with a balanced combination of knowledge, ethics and moral consideration, and it led to Thailand's promotions on sustainable food, water and energy security, such as mixed crops-farming, clean energy production and a feed-in tariff (FIT) programme. In this relation, Thailand, as the Prime Mover of the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development, proposed (1) to host an ACD Working Group on Sustainable Development as an open-ended platform to share experiences and best practices and to generate synergy on the applications of home-grown approaches to sustainable development; (2) to organize an SEP international training programme on "Microcredit and Sufficiency Economy Development" for participants from ACD Member States in August 2017 aiming to enhance knowledge and share experiences on community empowerment and poverty reduction; and (3) to convene a consultation with the Co-Prime Movers of this Pillar, on Sustainable Development to discuss objectives, initiatives and action plans under this Pillar in August 2017. In this regards, His Excellency voiced his hope to receive support from Member States for the mentioned initiatives and urged the ACD Member States to push forward the implementation of the outcomes of the 2nd Summit through the establishment of Working Groups as a mechanism to translate visions into actions before the 3rd Summit in Iran in 2018.

(4) **Mr. Bundit Limschoon**, the ACD Secretary General, started by addressing the great importance of energy and energy consumption in Asia and highlighting ACD as a forum, where Member States could address the issue, exchange ideas and cooperation related to energy. He also further explain that, although ACD is not energy-specialized agency, ACD has been giving efforts in addressing energy challenges in the region since the 3rd ACD Ministerial Meeting in Qing Dao, China, in 2004. After underlined that the importance of energy to ACD is now being reflected at the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting, the Secretary General expressed his appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for the efforts dedicating to host this Ministerial Meeting and for the initiative to advance the work of ACD in the area of energy security. The Secretary General made a report on the positive movement of the 6 pillars after the 2nd Summit as follows:

- After the significant start of the pillar Food, Water and Energy Security, this pillar will continue with the ACD Energy Seminar on Renewable Energy Resources and Alternative Fuels hosted the Republic of the Philippines in August 2017 and Symposium on Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the Building of an Asia Community and Shared Future" proposed by the People's Republic of China (date and venue to be confirmed).
- For the pillar of Culture and Tourism, the Co-Prime Mover, the Kingdom of Cambodia, will take another vital step forward by hosting the 2nd ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 12-15 June 2017.
- Thailand, as a Prime Mover of the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and



Sustainable Development, announced to host (1) a Prime and Co-prime Movers' Consultation, (2) an open-ended Working Group Meeting on Sustainable Development in August 2017, and (3) an SEP international training programme on Microcredit and Sufficiency Economy Development during 20 August – 2 September 2017.

- Another milestone of ACD event is the roundtable meeting of Secretaries-general of forums and organisations in Asia, an attempt of ACD to establish and promote dialogues with international, regional and sub-regional forums and organisations in Asia, as agreed in the Manama Declaration, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Aside from the lined-up activities from the pillars, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a Prime Mover in Education and Human Resource Development, is working actively towards future collaboration of regional academia and the existing ACD University Network, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will host the traditional ACD Foreign Ministers Breakfast Meeting in New York in 2017.

After the report of the lined-up activities, the Secretary General expressed appreciation to all host countries (of activities) and announced to welcome more initiatives and activities from other Member States. The Secretary General ended his statement by expressing appreciation to H.H. the Amir, H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Kahled Al Sabah and the Government of the State of Kuwait for generous support to the office of the Secretariat, and emphasized the need for closer coordination within ACD.

(5) **H.H. Sheikh Sabah Khalid Alsbah**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, expressed condolence for lost of the UAE's diplomats, and in this regards, reiterated the need to confront extremism. His Highness continued with expressing gratitude to the UAE for the excellent arrangement of this meeting; then, thanked the Kingdom of Thailand for the 2nd Summit and appreciated the ACD Secretariat for the preparation of this meeting. His Highness expressed particular appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for offering to host the roundtable of Secretaries-general in Asia in 2017 and to the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd Summit. By hosting the 1st Summit and the Secretariat office, His Highness restated that ACD requires more attention from the Member States to achieve the aspiration of enhancing Asia's cooperation. After announced his wish to sign the letter of intent between the Government of Kuwait and the ACD Secretariat in front of all Members today, His Highness reaffirmed Kuwait's intention to support the Secretariat to achieve the best works as the secretarial body. Kuwait, as the Co-prime Mover of pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development, proposed to organize the Workshop on Sustainable Development in 2017, and reiterated the pledge for 200 millions US Dollars to support development in this region. Considering the theme of the 15th Ministerial Meeting, His Highness highlighted the importance of food, water and energy cooperation in Asia and stated that, according to the Kuwait's research, the Government of



Kuwait has built the plan to utilize the solar energy resource to decrease emission. The plan started to provide solar power to governmental and public institutions and soon to expand to the local households and general markets.

(6) **H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, thanked the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement under the theme Sustainable Energy. His Excellency highlighted Bahrain's keenness in advancing ACD cooperation and Bahrain's particular attention to sustainable development. In this connection, Bahrain announced hosting two workshops in the area energy in February and March 2017 – and invited all ACD Members to a workshop on energy management and the use of bio-technology in the improving the environment and the efficiency of refineries, to be held on the sidelines of the Energy Management Conference later this year. At the end of the speech, His Excellency reaffirmed Bahrain's role as an active supporter of ACD process and Bahrain's determination to work with ACD Members to keep pace with regional and international development, and informed the meeting Bahrain's intention to host the first Meeting of Secretaries-general of Regional and Sub-regional Organizations and Forums in Asia.

(7) **H.E. Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, first, conveyed condolences for the tragic attacks. Her Excellency underlined the challenges that put Asia's energy security at risk and reiterated the need to improve Asia's energy cooperation and inter-connectivity, which are in line with ACD Vision 2030 that was adopted by the leaders at the 2nd Summit; and, in this connection, Her Excellency welcomed the 6 pillars, which were also agreed at the 2nd Summit. Referring to the theme of this meeting, Her Excellency expressed her view to strengthen the region's coordination in energy management aiming to achieve energy governance and sustainability and recommended ACD to implement a well-designed and integrated approach on energy security through strengthening capacity building among Member States. In this context, Her Excellency announced Indonesia's intend to organize a Workshop on Best Practices in Micro-hydro Power Plant for Rural Electrification in 2017 to share knowledge and expertise in the development and application of sustainable and renewable energy source, and highlighted Indonesia's great hydropower and geothermal energy potential as well as other sources of renewable energy such as biomass and biofuel energy. By setting Indonesia's national target of 23% of National Energy Mix by 2025 and increase of power plants running on renewable energy to 45 Giga Watts, Her Excellency echoed Indonesia's welcome collaboration and cooperation as well as investments from the ACD Member States. Her Excellency ended her statement by commending the UAE in supporting the regional energy management initiatives and congratulated the UAE for the adoption of Abu Dhabi Declaration as well as the Energy Action Plan.

(8) **H.E. Erlan Abdyldaev**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic,



thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE for the hospitality and organization of this meeting. Referring to the global climate change and exhausting natural resources, His Excellency stressed the importance of today's agenda: energy, water and food security, which is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and encouraged the ACD Members to establish links and discussions under the framework of ACD. In this connection, His Excellency also recommended the ACD Members to work together for rational energy-resource allocation among the Members and underlined the hydropower energy capability of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is among the top 3 within CIS countries. With the potential to become a regional hub of clean-energy exporting, His Excellency expressed the Kyrgyz's interest in cooperating for the development of renewable energy sources through study, research and exchange of experience and the Kyrgyz's favor for active interaction and cooperation between the ACD Members in the field of energy. After welcomed the Abu Dhabi Declaration and Energy Action Plan for 2017-2019, His Excellency ended his statement by welcoming the awakening of Asia and its unleashing potential and committing to sustain tireless efforts for Asia.

(9) **H.E. Eng Ali Ahmad Usmani**, the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, started his statement by conveying the heartfelt condolences to the UAE and assuring the meeting that such terror attacks will not weaken the brotherhood and friendship of the two nations. After pointed the potential of ACD due to the significant size of population and resources within the ACD Members, His Excellency highlighted the potential of ACD and encourage more cooperation. His Excellency, then, stated Afghanistan's suffering from inappropriate food resources, drinking water and grid based power and Afghanistan's efforts in initiating new energy projects and plans aiming to develop and distribute power production. His Excellency also emphasized the initiative of Afghanistan to develop alternative and renewable energy and to strengthen regional energy cooperation. In this connection, His Excellency invited investors to explore investment opportunity in Afghanistan, then, stressed Afghanistan's support in a regional integration on energy transition and security and the energy trilemma, which are (a) exchange of knowledge, (b) exchange of experts and (c) regional trade and cooperation. His Excellency ended his statement by voicing support to ACD's cooperation.

(10) **H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Mohammad Yasmin Umar**, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office of the Brunei Darussalam, expressed condolences to the UAE and thanked the UAE for their hospitality and arrangement of this meeting; then, congratulated the UAE for the ACD Chairmanship. In this connection, His Excellency also congratulated Thailand on their leadership during their chairmanship late year. Referring to the theme of this meeting, His Excellency commended the timeliness of the theme and underlined the advantage of striking a balance between energy, water and food security; then, stated how the rising demand for energy exerts pressure on the need for water in producing energy, which in



turn has an impact on food production. In the connection to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency expressed Brunei Darussalam's efforts in embarking on implementation of a photovoltaic solar system and underlined Brunei Darussalam's main focus in energy efficiency and conservation. His Excellency further acknowledged the global climate change, Brunei Darussalam's support for the ratification of Paris Agreement, and Brunei Darussalam's goals to reduce 45 percent of energy intensity, to increase 10 percent of renewable energy share in the power generation mix and to increase from 41 to 45 percent of protected forests by 2035. His Excellency ended his statement by commending ACD as an exceptional fora by gathering the world's major energy-producing and consuming nations, and highlighted ACD as a platform for effective dialogue and exchange related to the Food, Energy, Water Nexus

(11) **The Chair** invited all the Ministers and delegates to witness **the Signing Ceremony** of the Letter of Intent of Hosting the ACD Secretariat between the Government of Kuwait and the ACD Secretary General. After the Signing Ceremony, all Heads of Delegations were invited for a group photo and a short break.

(12) After the short break, the meeting was resumed and chaired by **Her Excellency Dr. Maitha AlShamsi**, the State Minister of the UAE.

(13) **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Shariar Alam**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, after expressed condolences to the UAE, thanked the Secretariat and the host for the excellent arrangement and hospitality. His Excellency expressed optimism for ACD to pave the way towards an integrated Asia with prosperity and sustainability. In this regards, Bangladesh thanked Thailand as the Past Chair for the leadership and the success of the 2nd Summit. Talking about fossil fuel and carbon emissions challenges, His Excellency voiced that it is timely for the use of sustainable energy resources. He also further deliberated that Bangladesh, with steady growing economy for the past decade, could satisfy the rising demand of internal energy consumption; and, with a goal to create energy mix with a balance of hydrocarbon, Bangladesh still is taking up a number of initiatives on alternative energy, such as solar energy, bio-fuel and geo-thermal power. In this connection, His Excellency voiced for technology transfer from the ACD Members to help Bangladesh in advancing her alternative energy production, and took this opportunity inform the ACD Members that Bangladesh is not only working to get electricity from nuclear power by 2024, but also working with the neighboring countries for hydropower project and regional energy trading. Pointing the importance of regional peace, stability and security, and the threats of non-traditional security challenges, His Excellency recommended ACD to ponder over those challenges. By adopting the ACD Energy Action Plan, he expressed his hope for ACD to realize the need of focusing on alternative and renewable energy.

(14) **H.E. Mr. Ifonso G. Cusi**, the Minister of Energy of the Republic of The Philippines,



first, joined other Member States in expressing condolences to the UAE for the tragic incident, then, convey the warm congratulatory message of President Rodrigo R. Duterte for this gathering of ACD. After His Excellency commended the hard work of Energy Working Group and Senior Officials in finalizing the outcome documents, he emphasized that the Philippines is one with the ACD in pursuing its vision of sustainable energy and secured energy access for Asia. In this context, His Excellency conveyed the Philippines's support to Thailand's initiative of ACD Working Group on Sustainable Development and thanked the State of Kuwait for hosting the ACD Secretariat. Focusing on energy aspect, His Excellency pointed out that the expansion of the Philippines' economy creates more challenges for the Philippine energy sector; and, because the industrialization and urbanization need a plan to satisfy an increasing demand for energy, the Philippines is very serious about sustainable energy issues. His Excellency further explained that the Philippines is working on the energy projects to address the energy supply deficiency, to build a plan providing sufficient electric power for the Philippines' growing economy and to pursue gas infrastructure network. On this note, His Excellency summarized that the Philippines looks forward to collaborate with other ACD members on pursuing sustainable energy development as well as discussions on increasing resiliency of energy infrastructures, and announced to host the ACD Conference Towards Energy Security and Sustainability in the Philippines in August 2017.

(15) **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Saleh Al-Sada**, Minister of Energy of The State of Qatar, conveyed condolences to the UAE and condemned the terrorist act, then, thanked the UAE for the arrangement of the meeting. In light of the renewed Energy Action Plan, His Excellency commended the works of Energy Working Group in finalizing the Plan and expressed his hope for effective participation of all activities proposed in the Plan. His Excellency ended his statement by highlighting the importance of ACD and encouraged all Member States to support ACD for further successes of the forum.

(16) **H.E. Mr. Tae-ho Lee**, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, extended condolence to the UAE and reaffirmed that ROK commits to implement the ACD Vision 2030 especially in the areas of education, health, science, technology and innovation (STI), and rural development. His Excellency also expressed ROK's determination in contributing to the success of the ACD's goals, particularly as a prime mover in the pillar of science, technology and innovation (STI). Moving to mention the theme of this meeting, Sustainable Energy, His Excellency voiced ROK's support in adopting the Abu Dhabi Declaration and expressed hope for this Declaration to contribute to the steadfast improvement of energy-water-food security in the ACD's member states. After voiced support to the Energy Action Plan, His Excellency mentioned the ROK's works and projects related to food, water and energy security, for example a strategy on new energy industries for 2030.

(17) **H.E. Mr. Thongphane SAVANPHET**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the



Lao's People Democratic Republic, started his statement with expressing condolences to the UAE, then, expressed appreciation to the Government of the UAE for this hospitality and arrangement. After mentioned the contribution of ACD to the Asia region and the satisfying outcomes of ACD cooperation, His Excellency recommended the Prime and Co-Prime Movers to actively enhance their roles in initiating projects and plans for closer cooperation among ACD Member States. Highlighting the importance of renewable energy to the Lao PDR, His Excellency reminded the meeting the potential of hydropower and coal-fired power production of the Lao PDR and underlined the environmental friendliness of those power plants. His Excellency also reaffirmed the commitment of the Lao PDR in enhancing regional and international cooperation in food, agriculture and energy. In this connection, the Lao PDR adopted the Energy Action Plan and the Abu Dhabi Declaration.

(18) **Hon. Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Bin Anina Merican**, Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia, expressed appreciation to the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement of the meeting, then, expressed condolences to the UAE for the tragic event in Afghanistan. After highlighted the importance of food, energy and water resources, His Excellency addressed the significance of food-water-energy nexus as an approach to promote a better understanding of the inter-linkages and inter-dependencies across sectors and to enhance integrated management. In this connection, His Excellency also reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and underlined Malaysia's focus on energy security. As a Co-prime Mover of the pillar Education, Malaysia highlighted the Asia e University as the main driver and the central platform of ACD higher education cooperation. His Excellency concluded his statement by committed to continue working closely with other ACD Member States in achieving the vision of a sustainable, prosperous and developed Asian region.

(19) **H.E. Mr. Davaasuren Damdinsuren**, State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, thanked the UAE for hospitality and arrangement and congratulated Thailand for the successful chairmanship last year. His Excellency, by recognizing the great importance of ACD, reaffirmed Mongolia's commitment in missions and visions of ACD. In this connection, His Excellency welcomed the spirits of the past Chair (Thailand), current Chair (the UAE), future Chair (Iran) and the host of ACD Secretariat (Kuwait) and voiced support to the establishment of ACD Secretariat and ACD Development Fund. Mentioned sustainable energy as the theme of this meeting and the global important issue, His Excellency asserted Mongolia's intention in utilizing the alternative energy resources, namely solar and wind energy, and express Mongolia's interest in learning experience and striving for cooperation and investment from Arab countries in developing Mongolia's energy production. In this respect, with the adoption of ACD Energy Action Plan, Mongolia is looking forward to participate and receive technical assistance in the field of Energy, Water and Food Nexus, Transport and Carbon Capture and Storage from fellow ACD Members.



(20) **H.E. Mr. Chen Mingming**, Representative of Chinese Foreign Minister, first congratulated UAE for hosting this meeting, then, shared his views on the global, especially Asia's situation. In this connection, His Excellency emphasized the important role of ACD as the only intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation mechanism facing the whole Asia and stressed China's intention to strengthen ACD cooperation and cooperation with ACD members, especially in the field of energy, food and water resources. Highlighting China's role as prime mover of ACD pillar Interrelations of Food, Energy and Water Security, His Excellency announced to host the Symposium on Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the Building of an Asian Community of Shared Future in 2017 aiming to draw collective wisdom and seek consensus for the further development of Asia. His Excellency also voiced China's supports to the establishment of the ACD Permanent Secretariat and re-announced the China's donation for another \$100,000 to the ACD Secretariat, as being promised by Chinese leader at the 2nd Summit of ACD at Bangkok. His Excellency also elaborated China's Belt and Road Initiative and the concept of Asian Community of Shared Future, which was introduced and put forward by the Chinese leader, and pledged for ACD Members to promote the Asian development and cooperation process.

(21) **H.E. Mr. Alibek Bakayev**, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressed appreciation to the UAE and the ACD Secretariat for hosting and organizing this meeting. Aiming to strengthen of mutual understanding and provide assistance to cooperation in Asia, His Excellency reaffirmed Kazakhstan's willingness to take the active part of this cooperation. Emphasizing both bilateral and multilateral momentums in Asia that were created within the framework of ACD, His Excellency highlighted the importance to implement agreements achieved within the Dialogue, especially in the fields of mutual interest. His Excellency also highlight that, among the ACD's fields of cooperation, Kazakhstan pays special interests in energy, transport and agriculture cooperation, including food security; and, in this connection, His Excellency informed the meeting that Kazakhstan will host the international specialized EXPO with title "Future Energy aiming to contribute to the development of renewable energy. In light of the trend of transport communication, His Excellency informed the meeting that Kazakhstan, and Kazakhstan, as a land-locked country, has been developing the concept paper "Transport communications within the ACD" and called for the Members' activeness in executing this paper. At the end of his statement, His Excellency underlined ACD as a mechanism that facilitates a regular exchange of views and promote consensus-based approach in Asia.

- Lunch Break -

(22) After the lunch break, **H.E. Mohammed Sharaf**, Assistance Foreign Minister of Economic Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of **the Chair** welcomed all



Ministers and delegated.

(23) **H.E. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi**, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, conveyed condolences to the UAE, expressed sincere appreciation to the UAE for the arrangement, and thanked Thailand for the success for the 2nd Summit last year. Highlighting energy as a lifeline for development and prosperity of humankind, His Excellency emphasized the need for access to energy and energy cooperation to enhance public-private cooperation, infrastructure network and energy security in Asia. His Excellency also commended ACD and the Chair for attaching great importance to energy cooperation, which is also one goal among all UN SDGs, and expressed appreciation for the hard work of Energy Working Group and SOM to finalize the Action Plan and Declaration. In this connection, His Excellency underscored the hydropower capability, solar power for grid connection and potential for wind power generation of Nepal. Expecting to meet SDG, ensuring access to sustainable energy for all, His Excellency informed the meeting that energy development is high on Nepal's agenda and Nepal is pursuing integrated energy development strategy in all aspects, especially by enhancing existing bilateral, sub-regional and regional mechanisms in Asia. Taking this opportunity, His Excellency also announced the Investment Summit in Kathmandu on 2-3 March 2017 and invited all investors from the ACD Members to explore opportunities to invest in energy sector at the said Summit. His Excellency concluded his statement by reaffirming Nepal's commitment to closely working with the ACD Members.

(24) **H.E. Mr. Zainul Abidin Rasheed**, Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, expressed his appreciation to the UAE and the ACD Secretariat for organizing this meeting. His Excellency also conveyed Singapore's condolences to the UAE for the killing of five UAE diplomats on a humanitarian mission in a bomb attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and condemned the despicable act. Commending the timeliness of the theme of this meeting, His Excellency stated that Singapore, as a small island city-state with no natural resources, attaches importance to sustainable development and supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Goals. His Excellency explained Singapore's water strategy in reducing its dependency on imported water and scaling up renewable energy sources for sustainability. He added that Singapore is an alternative energy-disadvantaged country, and also reaffirmed Singapore's commitment in sharing knowledge and technical experiences to the other ACD Members under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP). At the end of his statement, His Excellency called for the diverse members of the ACD to come together to explore solutions to common challenges in food, water, and security.

(25) **H.E. Mr. Kyaw Zeya**, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, expressed appreciation to the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement; congratulated Thailand and the ACD Secretariat of the successes, and conveyed condolences to the UAE for the loss of life of the UAE's humanitarian mission due to the terror attack in Afghanistan. Considering the ever-growing global population which is



continuously exhausting the global resources and supplies; the vast number of undernourished people worldwide and particularly in Asia; and a number of environmental challenges such as climate change, disasters, draughts and floods; His Excellency voiced the need for cooperation for the innovation of modern technology to ensure food and water safety for the global population. Furthermore, His Excellency underlined the importance of clean water and energy for sustainable development, and continued to explain that since Myanmar is one of the countries with less access to electricity, Myanmar is working towards the national electrification plan which aims to provide electricity to 7.2 million households by 2030. Expressing his belief in the ACD to increase cooperation amongst Asian countries for development, His Excellency reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to work together with other Asian nations for the completion of goals set by the Abu Dhabi Declaration as well as towards a sustainable and clean future for Asia.

(26) **H.E. Grace Asirwatham**, Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, condemned the terror attack to the UAE's humanitarian mission and expressed condolences for the loss, then, thanked the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement. By supporting the establishment of the ACD Secretariat, Her Excellency thanked Kuwait for the generous hosting of the Secretariat. After mentioned the momentum that was created at the 2nd Summit, Her Excellency underlined that as the gravity of global economy is coming east, this is time for Asia to follow ACD Vision 2030, implement the Road Map and move towards SDGs. Her Excellency also highlighted the need of ACD to work on the pillars' cooperation under the leadership of the Prime and Co-prime Movers and with partnership of all ACD Members, and reaffirmed Sri Lanka's intend to lead as a Co-prime Mover of the pillar Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). Underscoring the importance of access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all, as identified in SDGs, Her Excellency prevailed the clear need to take appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of energy crisis; therefore, supported the measures proposed in the Abu Dhabi Declaration and Energy Action Plan. In this connection, Her Excellency mentioned Sri Lanka's power and energy sector development plan and stressed the significance of creating sustainable energy resources and encouraging investment in energy infrastructure. By reassured Sri Lanka commitment to the objectives of the ACD, Her Excellency ended her statement.

(27) **H.E. Mr. Jamshed Shoimzoda**, Undersecretary of Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, conveyed sincere gratitude to the Government of United Arab Emirates for hosting the ministerial meeting. His Excellency expressed that today's meeting is devoted to an extremely issue-energy, which plays a vital role in the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development. His Excellency believed that improving the energy access by strengthening bilateral and regional power interconnectivity that will address the energy problems of the ACD Member-States, sustainable and affordable



services. He also stated that the access to modern energy is crucial for economic and social development, as well as for poverty reduction. To achieve this goal, ACD needs solutions in improving access to energy through the promotion of reliable and affordable energy services, which would be environmentally friendly and economically feasible. His Excellency further underlined that it is important to encourage and promote an increase of the share of renewable energy in the regional and global scale, transfer of new and advanced technologies, increasing energy efficiency. At the same time, efforts should be mobilized to provide financial support to countries that have potential to expand the use of the renewable energy. Before conclusion, His Excellency reiterated that Tajikistan supported the sustainable energy pillar of the ACD agenda and is ready to actively engage with all interested countries in revitalizing joint efforts on this issue. Tajikistan is also supportive of the new pillar for focusing on Food, Water and Energy Security Nexus. Finally, His Excellency expressed appreciation for the support of the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets initiative by the Asian Dialogue partners during the adoption of the resolution at the UN General Assembly and invite all to closely cooperate with Tajikistan on implementation of the goals and objectives of the decade.

(28) **H.E. Mr. Murat Yavuz Ates**, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, conveyed sincere condolences for the loss of UAE diplomats in Afghanistan and expressed appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE for the warm hospitality. His Excellency continued his statement by addressing ACD as an important platform with one of the most representative regional structures as well as a unique structure of informality, flexibility and inclusiveness. Regarding the theme of this meeting, His Excellency underscored that given the volatility of energy price environment & rapid growth of energy demand in Asia, securing energy in a sustainable and affordable manner is an important challenge in the region, and that ACD can thus positively serve as an important platform for cooperation on energy with the preliminary framework of the ACD Energy Action Plan. Drawing attention to Turkey's energy strategy of diversification of energy supplies and routes among others, His Excellency explained that Turkey aims at contributing to regional & global energy security through various projects. In that regard, His Excellency gave information on TANAP and TurkStream natural gas pipeline projects. His Excellency also shared information on Turkey's goals on renewable (30% of electricity production by 2023) and nuclear energy (Two nuclear power plant projects are under way, and a third on the agenda). Given the inseparability of sustainable utilization of energy resources and environmental issues, His Excellency highlighted that progress to be made in this area will contribute to many of global current problems such as food security, water scarcity, drought, desertification and migration and drew attention to Turkey's efforts within the framework of Paris Agreement and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

(29) **H.E. Majid Abdolnabi Bizmark**, Director General for International Environment and



Sustainable Development of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed appreciation to the UAE and the ACD Secretariat for hosting and organizing this meeting. Underlining the significance of Asia's share of global GDP and Asia's immense capabilities and natural resources, His Excellency recommended Asia to be a hub in global interaction and suggested ACD to play a key and complementary role with other sub-regional organizations/forums to avoid parallel activities and boost synergy. As a result of global challenges such as scarcity of water resources and increase of natural disasters, His Excellency expressed Iran's view to enhance regional and international cooperation without politicizing the relations. In this connection, His Excellency also echoed Iran's opinion to welcome the promotion of Asian cooperation on energy security as stipulated in Article A of ACD Energy Action Plan and recommend ACD to establish ACD Energy Working Group to further enhance energy cooperation in Asia. In this regards, Iran also recommended the Working Group: (a) to discuss removing energy-investment barriers and attracting more participation of high-tech companies, (b) to support technology transfer and human resources, (c) to attract engagement of the countries in need of energy and the owners of wealth and technology, (d) to attract participation of the ACD Members in expansion of energy efficiency projects. At the end of the statement, His Excellency reaffirmed Iran's intention in chairing ACD and hosting the 3rd ACD Summit in 2018.

(30) **H.E. Mr. Tshering Gyaltshen Penjor**, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Bhutan to the State of Kuwait, began his statement by expressing condolences to the UAE and greetings from His Majesty the King and the people of Bhutan to the Chair and the meeting as well as expressing appreciation to the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement; then, commended UAE's initiatives and appointments of the Minister of Happiness and Minister of Tolerance and thanked the State of Kuwait for the generous support to the ACD Secretariat. His Excellency also reaffirmed Bhutan's commitment as a Co-prime Mover of the pillar Promoting Approaches to Inclusive and Sustainable Development and conveyed Bhutan's acknowledgement with appreciation the Concept Paper prepared by the Kingdom of Thailand. In this connection, His Excellency expressed Bhutan's eagerness in discussing the Concept Note and sharing Bhutan's homegrown approaches at the ACD Working Group on Sustainable Development to be held in Thailand in June 2017. After commended the UAE's effort in hosting the first Prime and Co-prime Movers' Consultation for the pillar Food, Water and Energy Security, His Excellency echoed Bhutan's acknowledgment of efforts of Energy Working Group, Drafting Committee and senior officials in finalizing the outcomes of this meeting. Underlining the importance of energy cooperation in Asia, His Excellency shared Bhutan's key initiatives in promoting sub-regional energy cooperation and Bhutan's experiences in energy cooperation under the regional and sub-regional frameworks such as Bhutan's hydropower export to India and prospected export project to Bangladesh. In this regards, Bhutan suggested ACD to establish expert groups on (i) electricity, (ii) oil and gas, (iii) Renewable energy, and (iv) technology and knowledge transfer. On this note, His



Excellency reiterated Bhutan's commitment in working with ACD aiming to enhance Asia cooperation.

(31) **H.E. Mr. TAN Bunpa**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the State of Kuwait, expressed condolences for the tragic attacks in Afghanistan and sincere appreciation for the hospitality and arrangement of this meeting to the UAE. Recalling the adopted outcomes of the 2nd ACD Summit and the agreed 6 pillars, His Excellency reflected Cambodia's envision the 2030 Asia Community as a continent of peace, progress, stability and shared prosperity with inclusive and dynamic innovation where no one will be left behind. His Excellency mentioned that Cambodia welcomed the adoption of UN 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development and the entry into force of Paris Agreement on Climate Change and reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to SDGs, in particular the energy-water-sanitation-food nexus as the prerequisite to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development for all. His Excellency stressed that the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting under the theme "Abu Dhabi, the Capital of Sustainable of Energy" is an opportunity to address and plan our serious concerns which Asia is facing today and the future as well as to exchange views how to ensure food, water and energy security for all peoples on our continent, and call the ACD member States to take advantage of the meeting to spark our commitments to build partnership, including public-private-people partnerships (4Ps), to transfer technology on mutual agreed terms, in particular to the developing countries, and to increase the awareness of the importance of sustainable produce and use of energy, water and food as well as their nexus. His Excellency commended the great efforts of the High Level Study Group and its recommendation and welcomed the ACD Secretariat in processing the legal status. In this connection, Cambodia also expressed appreciation to the State of Kuwait for generous and continuous support to the ACD Secretariat. His Excellency ended his statement by welcoming and thanking Iran for hosting the 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting **in 2017** and the 3rd Summit in 2018 – as well as congratulated the success of the 1st ACD Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and invited all ACD Members to attend the 2nd ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting back-to-back with the International Conference on Tourism and Heritage Cities in June 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

(32) **H.E. Mr. Navdeep Suri**, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the UAE, started with congratulating Thailand for successful hosting of 2nd Summit and appreciated the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement of this meeting. His Excellency, then, express sadness at the loss of lives in Kandahar. Mentioning about the pillar Interrelation of Water, Food and Energy Security, His Excellency emphasized energy sustainability as the heart of this pillar due to the less accessibility to affordable and adequate energy. With the challenge to provide the 24/7 energy accesses to all Indian citizens across the country by 2019, His Excellency further deliberated that, because of the expensiveness of renewable energy, Indian Government still predicts to use fossil fuels as the core; however, concerning the global



climate, Indian Government is still working hard to move towards a cleaner and a more efficient energy production with the support from ACD Members. In this connection, His Excellency underlined that the challenge for renewable energy is affordable financing; and, although the unit cost of renewable energy is decreasing, but research and innovation are still the key to make renewable energy more feasible and affordable. In this regards, His Excellency invited all ACD Members to join the International Solar Alliance, which is a joint initiative of the Prime Minister of India and the President of France launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in 2015, aiming to reduce cost of finance and enable more solar energy programmes.

(33) **H.E. Kanji Fujiki**, Ambassador of Japan to the UAE, at the outset, extended sincere condolences to the bereaved families of the victims including five UAE diplomatic officials and those who were injured while carrying out noble humanitarian assistance activities. His Excellency then expressed congratulations to the UAE for hosting the 15th Ministerial Meeting of ACD and stated that Japan values the UAE's initiative and efforts towards this Ministerial Meeting of the ACD. His Excellency reiterated that Japan recognizes the ACD as a very powerful transnational platform to carry out productive and forward-looking discussions and to promote joint efforts and mutual understanding among countries concerned on a variety of issues of multinational interest in Asia. His Excellency then introduced some of Japan's efforts in three important areas, which are energy, water and food. With respect energy, Japan has been strengthening various efforts to secure stable supply of energy at reasonable prices, improving energy efficiency by using its advanced knowledge on energy-saving measures as well as advanced clean energy technology. As for water, Japan has been prioritizing the water and sanitation issue as one of the most important pillars in its official development assistance policy. Regarding food, Japan has been promoting responsible agricultural investments which are to realize a triple-win situation for the invested countries, local farmer communities and investors. In closing, His Excellency expressed hope that cooperation under the framework of ACD will be even more fruitful by materializing the results of the 2nd ACD Summit and Japan is committed to continuously enhancing cooperation through dialogue in ACD towards that direction.

(34) **H.E. Moazzam Ahmad Khan**, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the UAE.

(35) **H.E. Alexander Efimov**, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the UAE, expressed condolences to the UAE and thanked the host for hospitality. His Excellency voiced Russia's support in strengthening multilateral frameworks in Asia and Asia Pacific and highlighted the importance of establishing partnerships between existing fora and striving to achieve synergy in Asia. Referring to promoting economic integration, as one of ACD's key areas of cooperation, His Excellency mentioned President Putin's initiative, namely Comprehensive Eurasian Partnership with participation of, among others the Eurasian



Economic Union (EAEU), aiming to harmonize and conjugate integration processes in the region. His Excellency also emphasized the successes of two sessions of Eastern Economic Forum and announced the third forum, scheduled for 6-7 September 2017. As the theme of meeting circled around development and energy-food-water security, His Excellency gave examples of Russia's internal policies in the concerned areas. Focusing on energy security, His Excellency reiterated the shared goal in providing access of all global citizens to modern energy sources and reaffirmed the good results of OPEC's agreement to cut the volume of oil production. His Excellency ended his statement by underlining Russia's responsible in ecological issues, such as reduction of emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement, and reaffirming Russia's commitment to work together with the ACD Members to strengthen global energy, food and water security.

(36) **H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Dam**, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic Viet Nam to the UAE, expressed condolences to the UAE, reiterated Viet Nam's stand against terrorism and extremism, and expressed appreciation to the UAE for the hospitality and arrangement of this meeting. As the spotlight has been shifted to Asia with the title growth engine of the world, His Excellency echoed Viet Nam's view of ACD as the vehicle of Asia's cooperation and expressed hope for Abu Dhabi Declaration and Energy Action Plan to be another step towards the realization of ACD Vision 2030. Seeing Viet Nam as the powerhouse of world's agriculture with important role in global food security, His Excellency commended the timeliness and relevance of the theme of this meeting. In this connection, His Excellency addressed ACD as a potential venue for Asia region to coordinate and share information and experience and emphasized the views, namely (a) Viet Nam's support to ACD process and its compliment to other regional frameworks, (b) Viet Nam's hope for ACD to be an instrument that support all Members to achieve 2030 SDGs, (c) Viet Nam's hope for ACD to promote multi-dimensional and inter-disciplinary connectivity among ACD countries and (d) Viet Nam's wish for all ACD Members to mobilize necessary resources for translating our vision into reality, in particularly the execution of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP).

(37) **H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash**, on behalf of the Chair invited the ACD Secretary General to conclude the meeting.

(38) **The ACD Secretary General** concluded the meeting by highlighting and complimenting the hard works of energy experts and the senior officials during the Energy Working Group, Drafting Committee and Senior Officials' Meeting on 15 and 16 January 2017 which lead to the adoption of two outcome documents: Abu Dhabi Declaration and Energy Action Plan at the Ministerial Meeting. The Secretary General also expressed appreciation to all active participation and supports from all ACD Member States for the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

(39) **H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash** of the UAE expressed the UAE's appreciation



to all ACD Member States and the ACD Secretariat and ended the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

the ACD Secretariat
3 April 2017