



## **BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI- SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE THIRD BIMSTEC ENERGY MINISTERS' MEETING<sup>1</sup>**

**20 April 2022**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

We, the Ministers responsible for Energy/Representatives of the Member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), representing the People's Republic of Bangladesh; the Kingdom of Bhutan; the Republic of India; the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Nepal; the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and the Kingdom of Thailand; met (*virtually*) in Kathmandu, Nepal on 20 April 2022 for the Third BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting.

**Recalling** the Bangkok Declaration which emphasized on identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the energy sector;

**Recalling further** the emphasis given on energy cooperation by our Leaders at the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat held in Goa, India on 16 October 2016;

**Recognizing** the urgent need to promote energy cooperation and energy trade among the Member States for achieving energy security and greater economic integration in the region;

**Welcoming** the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection during the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018;

**Noting** the need to establish necessary institutional arrangements for the implementation of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection to enhance the energy trade among the Member States;

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<sup>1</sup>As finalized by the Fifth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy held virtually in Kathmandu, Nepal on 19 April 2022

**Have agreed as follows:**

- 1) **Approve** the establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee (BGICC) to implement the provisions of the MoU for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection and its Terms of Reference (ToR).
- 2) **Direct** the BGICC to conclude the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan Study with the support of Asian Development Bank at the earliest.
- 3) **Direct** the BGICC to conclude BIMSTEC Policy for Transmission of Electricity and BIMSTEC Policy for Trade, Exchange of Electricity and Tariff Mechanism.
- 4) **Direct** the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Energy to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Energy Cooperation on how the energy trade should be performed among the BIMSTEC Member States.
- 5) **Direct** the preparation for establishment of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in order to act as a centre of excellence in research and sharing of experience to strengthen the cooperation in energy sector among BIMSTEC Member States.
- 6) **Direct** the Secretary General to consult Member States on the appropriate workplan, roadmap, structure, functioning and feasible sources of funding of BIMSTEC Centres/Institutions so that the BEC can become operational in a suitable timeline.
- 7) **Reiterate** our decision to convene the Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy at least once a year and the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting at the designated level once in every two years.
- 8) **Endorse** the Reports of the Third Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy held in New Delhi, India on 08 February 2011; Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 11-12 January 2017 and Fifth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy held virtually in Kathmandu, Nepal on 19 April 2022.

- 9) **Express** our appreciation and sincere thanks to Myanmar for serving as the Lead Country of BIMSTEC Energy Cooperation until March 2022 and welcome India for taking the leadership in BIMSTEC Energy Sub-sector.
- 10) **Express** our appreciation to the Government of Nepal for hosting this Meeting.
- 11) **Welcome** the offer of the Government of India to host the Sixth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy (SOM-E) in February/March 2023.
- 12) **Welcome** the offer of the Government of India to host the Fourth BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting preceded by the Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials on Energy.

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