

MINUTES OF 29TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SAFIR

Venue: Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Date / Day: 25th – 26th February, 2026 (Wednesday – Thursday)

Time: 10:30 AM (Local Time)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: Appendix-I

1. Chairperson, SAFIR / PUCSL, extended a hearty welcome to all the members to the 29th ECM. He shared the agenda items scheduled for discussion and wished for a productive, meaningful meeting where ideas are shared, mutual understanding is built and meaningful partnerships are created.
2. Chairperson, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), welcomed all members to the meeting and expressed his pleasure to participate in the activities of the forum. He highlighted the Core Course as an instrument of regional cooperation, bringing together colleagues from different member countries to deliberate on a range of cross-country issues. He also referred to important agenda items, including the proposal to establish a SAFIR School. He further noted the growing emphasis on the energy transition in his country, its target of achieving 20% RE installed capacity by 2030, and the valuable lessons that could be drawn from India's experience. He concluded by expressing confidence that the deliberations would further strengthen regional cooperation among member countries and contribute to deeper collaboration.
3. Chairperson, ERC Nepal, welcomed all members to the meeting and expressed his pleasure at being part of the gathering. He conveyed his sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of SAFIR / PUCSL for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended. He also thanked SAFIR Sectt. for facilitating the inclusion of ERC Nepal as a full-time member. He observed that joining SAFIR was a strategic step for ERC Nepal, as they believe that regulatory institutions evolve

best through peer learning, shared regional experiences, and continuous dialogue. He highlighted the immense renewable energy potential of South Asia, presenting a significant opportunity for regional collaboration. He further noted that the future of South Asia's energy landscape depends upon the strength of SAFIR's cooperation. He concluded by expressing hope that the meeting would be fruitful and successful.

4. Chairperson, CERC, welcomed all members to the meeting and extended greetings to the ERC Nepal on becoming a full-time member of SAFIR. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of SAFIR/PUCSL for the warm hospitality extended and for hosting the meeting. He briefly highlighted the current status of India's power sector and noted that India is making steady progress toward achieving its climate goals. He emphasised the importance of grid stability amid the increasing integration of renewable energy, particularly given the complexity of India's fully integrated grid system. He further referred to key initiatives undertaken by the group, including the successful conduct of the Core Course, the work of the Joint Working Group on the Common Minimum Grid Code, and ongoing efforts to promote cross-border electricity trade in the region. He concluded by expressing hope that the deliberations would yield valuable input and productive discussions.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

- A) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 28TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY, 2025**
 - B) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL ECM HELD ON 22ND DEC 2025 VIRTUALLY THROUGH MS-TEAMS**
5. Joint Chief (RA), CERC apprised the Committee regarding the action points and compliance of the Executive Committee meeting held on 17th July, 2025, and the Special Executive Committee Meeting held on 22nd December, 2025, after which EC confirmed the minutes.

6. Minutes of Special ECM held on 22nd December, 2025, were also confirmed. The Executive Committee members were informed of the successful completion of the SAFIR Core Course, held from 6 to 9 February 2026 at the IIT-Kanpur Noida Outreach Centre. The members welcomed ERC Nepal as a new full-time SAFIR member after they completed the membership formalities ahead of this meeting. ERC Nepal will attend all SAFIR meetings and events from here onwards.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PRESENTATION “BEST PRACTICE ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR IN SRI LANKA” FACILITATED BY PUCSL, SRI LANKA

7. A presentation was made by the Director General, PUCSL, on “Best Practice on the Infrastructure Sector in Sri Lanka” (**Annexure I**). Members were apprised of Sri Lanka’s National Infrastructure Vision, which aims to position the country as a regional logistics and services hub. Members were informed of the country's strategic importance as a gateway between Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Discussions focused on key infrastructure sectors such as ports, airports, roads, and renewable energy, and highlighted the Sri Lankan government’s efforts to increase the share of private investment in these sectors. There were comprehensive discussions on the current state of renewable energy in Sri Lanka, including the cost of renewable energy, RE curtailment, and resource adequacy. There was also discussion of the generation mix of Sri Lanka’s RE sources, including Hydro (small and large) and Solar. The members also discussed upcoming challenges, such as managing the complex demands of Green Hydrogen production units and addressing the increasing use of data centres, which consume large amounts of electricity and water.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACCOUNTS RELATED ISSUE – MEMBERSHIP IN SAFIR – UPDATE

8. Joint Chief (RA), CERC apprised the members about the new organisations that have joined from India. Members were informed of the list of potential organisations received from PUCSL (**Annexure II**) and ERC Nepal. BERC informed the members that it will approach organisations and fellow Commissions to join SAFIR. ERC Nepal informed that it will reach out to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to join SAFIR. SAFIR Sectt. will reach out to the list of potential member organisations shared by PUCSL and ERC Nepal. SAFIR Sectt. also reiterated its request to existing member countries to encourage at least one organisation from their country to join the SAFIR.

AGENDA ITEM 4: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

A. PROPOSAL OF COLLABORATION FROM UNESCAP

9. The members were apprised of the discussions held with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) recently. It was informed that UNESCAP has expressed its desire to support the establishment of a SAFIR School of Regulation similar to its establishment of the ASEAN School of Regulation. While the members welcomed the proposal, it was emphasised that SAFIR should have complete independence in creating this school, including the School's structure, governing body, and institutional arrangements.
10. After a detailed discussion, the EC granted in-principle approval to the creation of the SAFIR School of Regulation. It was agreed that UNESCAP could be asked to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the School at its earliest, preferably within four months, after which SAFIR Sectt. can bring the proposal to the EC, and further decisions can be taken. UNESCAP should clearly indicate the funding and in-kind support that it can provide for the School. The School could initially be housed within one of the member organisations. Funding

support could also be explored from member organisations, multilateral organisations and Government bodies. The ultimate objective should be to bring the School to fruition as an independent think tank in the South Asian region with full autonomy. The Executive Committee should remain the principal decision-making authority about the School.

11. The EC members also agreed to organise a conference in the near future, possibly in Singapore, with the support of UNESCAP. The proposed conference would provide an opportunity for members to gain first-hand exposure to the Schools of regulation operated by UNESCAP. It was also agreed that, in addition to supporting the School, UNESCAP could extend technical assistance to SAFIR's Joint Working Group (JWG).

B. DEVELOPMENTS W.R.T MOU OF SAFIR WITH ENERGY REGULATORS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION (ERRA)

12. The EC members were apprised of the recent conversation between SAFIR and the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA). They were informed of the existing MOU between the two organisations and of ERRA's willingness to renew it once it lapses next year.

13. Members were also apprised of ERRA's invitation to interested SAFIR members to the 23rd ERRA Annual Conference, which is being held as part of their 25th Anniversary Celebrations on 27th & 28th April in Bratislava, Slovakia. ERRA has also expressed its willingness to provide SAFIR members with certain concessions.

14. Registration fees are as follows:

| Member Category | Fees (exclusive of 23% VAT) |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ERRA Full Member | 399 Euros, 2 Delegates Waved |
| ERRA Associate Member | 499 Euros, 1 Delegate Waved |
| ERRA Non-Member Regulators | 599 Euros |

SAFIR falls under the Non-Member Regulators Category.

15. It was decided that interested members of SAFIR will reach out to ERRA directly with their queries.

C. EXPLORING COLLABORATION BEYOND SOUTH ASIA

16. The Committee deliberated on the possible expansion of SAFIR beyond South Asia. Members agreed in-principle to explore expanding the forum into a wider regional platform. It was agreed that each member country would consult its respective Government to assess the feasibility of such an expansion.

D. SAFIR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ENERGY REGULATION [ICER], USA

17. The EC members were apprised of SAFIR's current engagement with ICER. They were informed about SAFIR members' participation in online Steering Committee Meetings and in some past Capacity Building Programs (CBPs) conducted by ICER. They were also apprised of the World Forum of Energy Regulation (WFER) conference, which ICER conducts once every three years.

18. It was decided that SAFIR Sectt. will engage with ICER to get more details on upcoming meetings and programmes. The EC members were encouraged to attend the virtual meetings organised by ICER more regularly and also attend the conference, as such engagements give new ideas and add value to our perspective.

E. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICE TARIFF FIXATION COMMISSION, NEPAL – REFERENCE

19. The EC members were apprised of the request received from the Water Supply and Sanitation Service Tariff Fixation Commission (WSSSTFC), Nepal to visit the SAFIR Sectt to learn about regulatory practices. It was decided that WSSSTFC would also be invited by SAFIR Sectt. to join SAFIR as a member.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REDESIGNING THE LOGO OF SAFIR

20. It was observed that the present logo of SAFIR does not adequately reflect the organization's evolving role, core objectives, and areas of impact. The need for redesigning the logo of SAFIR was discussed and agreed upon, to ensure that the new logo represents the vision, mandate and identity of the organization in the present times. The EC members were informed that a similar exercise was done by the Forum of Regulators (FOR) in India in 2016 by constituting a Working Group (WG) and hiring a design agency.

21. After discussion, it was decided that a design agency would be engaged by SAFIR Secretariat with the approval of Chairperson, SAFIR.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROPOSED STUDY OF SAFIR "CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION"

22. The EC members were informed that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed study had been prepared and vetted internally. Members were also informed that a Consultancy Evaluation Committee (CEC) had been constituted to examine the TOR. Following this committee's evaluation, it would be taken forward for the bidding process. Members were also briefed on the objective and scope of the TOR, which outlined the key areas proposed to be covered by the study.

The Members noted the same.

AGENDA ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

23. The EC members decided to have the next Executive Committee meeting in a virtual mode to take up Budget discussions and any other urgent agenda, as decided by the Chairperson, SAFIR / PUCSL.

24. The EC members also decided to have the next Steering Committee Meeting & the SAFIR Annual Conference (to be conducted later this year in the month of Aug – Sept), in Nepal.
25. Secretary, SAFIR / CERC, conveyed his sincere gratitude to Chairperson, SAFIR / PUCSL, for hosting the meeting, presiding over the deliberations, and sharing valuable insights. He also thanked the Chairperson of BEREC, the Chairperson of ERC Nepal, and the Chairperson of CERC for enriching the discussions with their guidance. He acknowledged the meaningful deliberations on key agenda items, including the insightful presentation on best practices in Sri Lanka's infrastructure sector, which offered valuable lessons for member countries. He also noted the Committee's in-principle approval for the proposed SAFIR School, recognising its potential to provide long-term support to member countries. He concluded by expressing his sincere appreciation to the PUCSL team and SAFIR Sectt. for their meticulous planning and efforts in successfully organising the meeting, and thanked all members for their active participation and constructive deliberations.
26. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

APPENDIX-I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
29TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (ECM) OF "SAFIR"
HELD ON 25TH & 26TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT COLOMBO [SRI LANKA]**

| S. NO. | NAME | ORGANIZATION |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 01. | Prof. K.P. Lalith Chandralal Chairperson, SAFIR / PUCSL | Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) |
| 02. | Mr. Jishnu Barua Chairperson, CERC | Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (India) |
| 03. | Mr. Jalal Ahmed Chairman, BERC | Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Bangladesh) |
| 04. | Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital Chairperson, ERC Nepal | Electricity Regulatory Commission Nepal |
| 05. | Mr. Harpreet Singh Pruthi Secretary, SAFIR / CERC | Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (India) |
| 06. | Dr. Sushanta K. Chatterjee Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC | Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (India) |
| SPECIAL INVITEE | | |
| 07. | Mr. Damitha Kumarasinghe Director General, PUCSL | Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) |
| 08. | Mr. Nadeeja Warapiriya Secretary, PUCSL | Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) |
| SAFIR SECRETARIAT | | |
| 09. | Ms. Rashmi Somasekharan Nair Jt. Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC | Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (India) |



Best Practice on the Infrastructure Sector in Sri Lanka

- Facilitated by Public Utilities
Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL)
- SAFIR – Agenda Item 2

Sri Lanka's National Infrastructure Vision (Policy Summary)

- Position Sri Lanka as a regional logistics and services hub
 - Modernize core infrastructure: ports, airports, roads, energy and digital networks
 - Promote private sector participation through PPP frameworks
 - Integrate sustainability and climate resilience into infrastructure
 - Ensure strong regulatory governance for long-term stability

Strategic Context

- Sri Lanka located along major East–West maritime trade routes
 - Gateway between Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe
 - Infrastructure positioned as a driver of economic transformation
 - Focus on resilience, connectivity and competitiveness

Practices in Infrastructure Development in Sri Lanka

- **Investment attraction** Private sector, Public-Private Participation (PPP), Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)
- **Approach** Integrated multi-sector development strategy
- **Focus** Sustainability & climate resilience in infrastructure
- **Fairness, investment protection & level playing field** Independent regulator

Continue...

- **Strategies** International & regional cooperation
- **Transparency** Procurement & execution
- **Information to public** Right to Information (RTI) Act

Sectors to be discussed

- Ports
- Port city — an urban mega project
- Airports
- Roads and Expressway
- Renewable Energy

PUCSL

Integrated Multi-Sector Development

Strategy

- Simultaneous development of transport, energy, digital and urban systems
 - Avoid fragmented and isolated infrastructure projects
 - Support long-term productivity and regional balance
 - Strengthen domestic and international connectivity

Port Infrastructure Strategy

- Development of complementary deep-water ports
 - Expansion of Port of Colombo (jetty and terminal capacity)
 - Development of Hambantota Port as industrial and logistics hub
 - Public–Private partnerships in terminal operations
 - Diversified maritime capacity to enhance resilience

Port of Colombo Expansion

- Deep-water terminal expansion (Colombo Jetty development)
 - Capacity for Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs)
 - Strengthening transshipment role in South Asia
 - Private sector participation through concession agreements

Hambantota International Port

Development

- Located near major East–West shipping lanes
 - Specialization in RoRo, bulk cargo and logistics services
 - Long-term PPP concession structure
 - Port-led regional industrial development strategy

PUCSL

Urban Mega Project – Port City

Colombo

- Reclaimed land for financial and services hub
 - Dedicated regulatory and governance framework
 - Integrated smart infrastructure planning
 - Attracting foreign investment and financial services

Airport Infrastructure Expansion

- Expansion of Bandaranaike International Airport capacity
 - Improved cargo handling facilities
 - Integration with logistics and tourism strategy
 - Strengthening regional air connectivity

Road and Expressway Connectivity

- Expansion of national expressway network
 - Linking ports, airports and industrial zones
 - Reducing travel time and logistics costs
 - Supporting regional economic integration

Energy and Power Sector

Modernization

- Diversification of generation mix
 - Increasing renewable energy share
 - Grid modernization and transmission strengthening
 - Improving reliability and cost efficiency

PUCSL

Renewable Energy Integration

- Scaling up wind and solar generation
 - Competitive procurement mechanisms
 - Climate-aligned infrastructure investment
 - Reducing long-term fuel dependency

Role of PUCSL in Infrastructure

Governance

- Independent regulation of public utilities
 - Ensuring a level playing field and fair competition
 - Transparent tariff methodologies
 - Monitoring service quality and reliability
 - Consumer protection mechanisms

PUCSL

Public–Private Partnership (PPP)

Framework

- Applied in ports, energy and urban development projects
 - Risk-sharing with international investors
 - Long-term concession agreements
 - Regulatory oversight to ensure public interest

PUCSL

Governance and Procurement

Transparency

- Competitive bidding processes
 - Independent audit and regulatory scrutiny
 - Contract clarity and performance monitoring
 - Improved investor confidence

PUCSL

Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- Coastal protection in port development
 - Energy transition toward renewables
 - Urban resilience planning
 - Integration of sustainability in design stage

Digital and Smart Infrastructure

Integration

- Smart grids and digital monitoring systems
 - ICT-enabled service delivery
 - Data-driven regulatory decision-making
 - Increased operational efficiency

Economic and Development Impact

- Increased foreign direct investment
 - Enhanced maritime competitiveness
 - Improved logistics efficiency
 - Growth of industrial zones
 - Strengthened regional connectivity

Service Reliability Improvements

Reduced power interruptions

- Improved cargo turnaround times
- Better road connectivity
- Enhanced consumer service standards

Institutional and Regulatory Strengthening

- Separation of policy and regulatory roles
 - Independent oversight increases credibility
 - Benchmarking and performance monitoring
 - Investor assurance through regulatory stability

Key Lessons

- Leverage geographic advantage strategically
 - Adopt integrated multi-sector infrastructure planning
 - Embed sustainability at early stages
 - Encourage private participation with regulatory safeguards
 - Maintain independent regulatory institutions

Ongoing Challenges

- Financing constraints and debt sustainability
 - Balancing affordability and cost recovery
 - Rapid technological change
 - Climate vulnerability risks

List of Potential Organisations in Sri Lanka - For SAFIR Membership

- Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRCSL)
- National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWSDB)
- Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)
- Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC)
- National Transport Commission (NTC)
- Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA)
- Road Development Authority (RDA)
- Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA)
- Airport & Aviation Services Sri Lanka (AASL)
- Department of Railways (Sri Lanka Railways, SLR)
- Condominium Management Authority (CMA)
- Data Protection Authority, Sri Lanka (DPA)
- Petroleum Development Authority of Sri Lanka (PDASL)
- Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board
- Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council

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