Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

2nd Quarter 2016
(April-June 2016)

This document is an informal document submitted to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to assist the Bureau in its oversight of activities under this sub-programme.

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Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)

1. **Activities**
   
   (a) **19-20 April 2016: 3rd Workshop in the context of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project.** More than 35 participants from the scenario and modelling arena participated to shape the future project about the options that are available to countries to implement SDGs through a sustainable path on energy. The meeting is the basis for the preparation of the final proposal, concept note and terms of reference.

   (b) **10 May 2016: UNECE’s Environment and Sustainable Energy Divisions jointly organised a session at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in Geneva on the nexus between renewable energy and the environment in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water and sanitation. The session sought to demonstrate the integrated nature of UNECE work and how it supports policy coherence and achievement of the SDGs. The work of the Sustainable Energy Division contributes to the achievement of environmental goals, including on climate, water and access to energy. The work of the Environment Division supports progress on energy and food goals, as well as environmental protection notably through the work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

   (c) **12 May 2016: Scott Foster met with the Director of the EU's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) Mr Lawrence Meredith to discuss potential partnerships and funding opportunities for the work of the sustainable subprogramme. DG NEAR is the administrator of funds for the next phase of the INOGATE project, which for over twenty years was an international energy co-operation programme between the EU, the littoral states of the Black and Caspian seas and their neighbouring countries. INOGATE was one of the longest running energy technical assistance programmes funded by the EU. INOGATE evolved into a broader energy partnership between the EU and countries of the former Soviet Union, (excluding the Russian Federation and the Baltic States, but including Turkey), and concentrating on four key topics:
   - enhancing energy security
   - convergence of member state energy markets on the basis of EU internal energy market principles
   - supporting sustainable energy development
   - attracting investment for energy projects of common and regional interest.

   INOGATE has now entered its second phase. For future activities, now called Energy4Europe, DG NEAR has provided EUR20 million in funding to three organisations: The International Energy Agency (IEA) (EUR12 million), the Energy Charter and the Energy Community (EUR8 million). IEA has the new secretariat role and is administering the four-year programme, which also contains an energy ministerial in the UNECE region in 2017. The sustainable energy subprogramme has approached DG NEAR, IEA, and Energy Charter to offer partnership and joint activities.

   (d) **16 June 2016: The second in-person Bureau meeting** discussed themes and objectives of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and linkages to events in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (7th and 8th International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and energy ministerial held by Kazakhstan in Astana). The Bureau further focused on the length of meetings of the Committee and was informed about activities in methane management and efforts to raise extrabudgetary funds. On the side and with the participation of some Bureau members the potential donors of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project held a session on next steps. The next Bureau meeting has been confirmed for 27 September 2016, the day before the 25th session of the Committee.

   (e) **30 May 2016: The Director of Sustainable Energy taught a session at the Geneva Graduate Institute for the Executive Certificate in Environmental Governance.** This time, the session featured pathways to sustainable energy and the role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy future. The event was complemented by the *fourth Geneva Energy Conversation* about how to meet the Sustainable Development Goals with Janos Pasztor, Senior Adviser to United Nations Secretary-General on Climate Change as the keynote speaker. Scott Foster moderated the event, which attracted more than 120 participants.
24 June 2016: First meetings with Vivian Foster, Director in the World Bank Group and responsible about the 2017 Global Tracking Framework report will be held in Geneva to discuss the UNECE regional input and refine TORs for future collaboration on data, indicators and regional specificities. Representatives of ECLAC and ESCWA will also participate. The final report is due in June 2017 and could be launched at the Energy Ministerial in Astana.

2. Upcoming Events
(g) 20 July 2016: Official deadline for the documents of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
(h) 16 September 2016: Meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) to discuss extrabudgetary funding for the project *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* to be received from the Russian Federation.
(i) 28-30 September 2016: 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Main theme: Meeting the challenge of Sustainable Energy.
(j) 16 November 2016: Traditional meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The activities, conclusions and recommendations of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be presented to the UNECE EXCOM.

3. Main Challenges
(a) Staffing and recruitment.

4. Resources
   50% P5, 50% JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.
Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities
   (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017 approved at the 2nd session of GEEE (5-6 November 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of EXCOM (14 March 2016).

   (b) Study “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” continued to be distributed and promoted. The electronic version (in English, French and Russian) is available on the website: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41058](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41058). Hard copies in all three languages are available and are being distributed at appropriate events and on demand. The work has continued on expanding the menu of policy options according to the criteria and key attributes of the best practices.

   (c) Work continued with potential donors (Germany and the Russian Federation) on securing funding for the extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region”.

   (d) Preparations for the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku on 18-21 October 2016 and the 3rd session of the GEEE to be held in the framework of the Forum on 18-19 October 2016 has continued. The website of the Forum has been created: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643). The Concept Note has been developed in cooperation with the host country, other UN Regional Commissions and other partners. The first draft of the Outcome Document has been developed and distributed to other partners and to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for comments. The registration for the Forum and the GEEE session has started.

   (e) The provisional agenda and official documents for the 3rd session of the GEEE are in the process of preparation. The secretariat is in contact with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Bureau and members of the Group of Experts regarding the meeting agenda and content of particular sessions and workshops to be held at the session.

   (f) Staff members participated in the following events:
      - Visit of students from the University of Geneva Summer Course on Energy and Environment to UNECE, Geneva, 30 June 2016.

   (g) The Chair of GEEE was one of the organizers and presenters of the workshop Holistic Approach to Accelerating Energy Efficiency Action where UNECE work on energy efficiency was presented, Amsterdam, 6 June 2016.

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
      - 3rd session of GEEE, Baku, 18-19 October 2016.

3. Main Challenges
   (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.

4. Resources
   1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (20%), 1 G5 (40%).
Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP)

1. Activities
   (a) Secretariat developed a draft on the role of thermal power plants in global electricity systems with a focus on three regional systems: Nord Pool, MIBEL and Korea’s electricity system. This will be submitted to the bureau for review in Q3.

   (b) A list of university programmes that offer CCS related studies or focus has been compiled and will be circulated to CEP membership for input. This will be posted on the UNECE website following the 12th Session in October.

   (c) Participated at the Energi@21 congress held in cooperation with the Polish Energy Association (PKEE) to be held in Poznan, Poland on 10–12 May 2016. Key discussions held were around the role of coal post COP 21 on a global basis, but concentrated on the role of coal for Poland. A subsequent discussion is scheduled with the Polish government in early 3rd quarter.

   (d) Particpated in the IChemE Energy Centre launch of a paper entitled Transitions in electricity systems towards 2030 and held meetings with several stakeholders in London, UK on 6-7 June 2016. The IChemE paper emphasised the still significant role of fossil fuels in global electricity systems and the need to address this from a sustainability perspective.

   (e) On 20 June 2016 Attended the IEA Well Below 2 Degree Scenario (WB2DS) workshop as part of the development of the Energy Technology Perspectives 2017 publication. Attended a Bio-Energy and CCS (BECCS) workshop on 21 June. There was a keen interest by stakeholders on this topic and bioenergy, CCS and BECCS, especially in the context of the COP21 increase in ambition to a climate goal of below 2°C.

   (f) On 29 June 2016 participated in the work shop by the Carbon Capture and Storage Leadership Forum (CSLF) on the role of CCS after COP 21. The workshop was attended by many global leaders in CCS and provided an opportunity to meet and reconnect with many stakeholders. Met with CEP chair and the UK Vice-Chair to discuss progress of the group of experts.

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) Bureau call scheduled to be held in July, 2016
   (b) Participate in the World Energy Congress event in Istanbul Turkey, 9 October 2016.
   (c) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, 12th session, 26-27 October 2016.

3. Main Challenges
   (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in substantive activities of the Group.
   (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources
   1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P4 (30%), 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.
Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. **Activities**
   (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017, approved at the 2nd GERE session (12-13 September 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of the UNECE EXCOM (14 March 2016).
   (b) Preparations for the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku on 18-21 October 2016 and the 3rd GERE session to be held in the framework of the Forum on 20-21 October 2016 has continued in close cooperation with the host country. The website of the Forum has been created: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643. The Concept Note has been developed in cooperation with the host country, other UN Regional Commissions and other partners. The first draft of the Outcome Document has been developed and distributed to other partners and to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for comments. The registration for the Forum, GERE and GEEE sessions has started. The provisional agenda and official documents for the 3rd GERE session are under preparation in consultation with GERE Bureau Chair and Vice Chairs.
   (c) Funding for outreach activities of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report (http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-status-report.html) - issued jointly with REN21, in cooperation with IEA and launched at COP21 in December 2015, has been approved by GIZ/ Germany. A project proposal for activities in support to the RE deployment in South Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus during the Baku Forum and follow-up period as well as a new edition of the UNECE report are under consideration.
   (d) Following missions in Jan.-March (see previous report) and new funds available, outreach activities of the UNECE RE Status Report were held. Staff member participated in the following events:
   - Podgorica, Montenegro, 20-22 April, kick-off workshop of the Drina project on Assessing the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation in the Drina River Basin, organized by the UNECE with the participation of the energy representatives, including GERE Vice-Chair, Mr. Milos Banjac. The identification of benefits of transboundary cooperation for renewable energy deployment within a nexus approach has been considered.
   - Budapest, Hungary, 20-24 June, participation in the workshop and study tour organized by the FAO Global Bioenergy Partnership. The UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report was presented during a session related to bioenergy development and regulatory frameworks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. UNECE moderated a round table on Raising awareness on project financing opportunities for the development and deployment of bioenergy projects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Promotion of the international forum under preparation in Baku.
   (e) The Status Report is also presented under the format of a Renewables Interactive Map (http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-interactive-map.html) and now the mapping of all UNECE member countries is under preparation.

2. **Upcoming Events**
   (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on renewable energy will be presented:
   - 3rd session of GERE, Baku, 20-21 October 2016.

3. **Main Challenges**
   (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
   (b) Encourage the broader participation by UNECE member States and other stakeholders, including renewable energy associations, industry, international and financial institutions and investors, in the substantive activities of the Group of Experts.

4. **Resources**
   1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO, (30%), 1 G5 (30%).
1. Activities
(a) GoE on CMM works on all deliverables of its 2016-17 work plan.
(b) Preparations for the GoE on CMM 11th session proceed as planned. The draft agenda agreed upon, the invitations sent.
(c) The revision and update of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG) is almost finished. The Stakeholders Group’s comments on the updated and revised version of BPG are now incorporated by the BPG Steering Committee. The new version of the BPG will be presented at the Group’s session in October 2016.
(d) The dissemination of best practices continues. The next capacity-building workshop is set for 4 October 2016 in Karaganda, Kazakhstan. The secretariat identified international experts to present the good practices in pre- and post-mining drainage, explosion prevention, and methane utilization. A survey to identify challenges in methane management in Karaganda coal mines, drainage and ventilation techniques employed, and prospects for CMM utilization is underway. The workshop’s results, findings and recommendations will be compiled by UNECE into a report and disseminated to the workshop participants and other interested parties.
(e) The GoE on CMM continues its support to the launch of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE on CMM). A member of the Group’s Task Force on ICE travelled to Poland in June 2016. The secretariat has been in close contact with current—and prospective—partners such as the Polish Ministry of Energy, the Central Mining Institute (GIG), the Polish Geological Institute (PIG), and the Polish Oil and Gas Company (POCG). The secretariat plans to visit Poland in early July, to explore potential for expanded collaboration with Mr Michał Kurtyka, Deputy Minister of Energy, POCG, and other Polish interlocutors.
(f) The GoE on CMM is currently working on several case studies in various stages of preparations.
(g) The UNECE/Columbia report "The Challenges of the US Coal Industry and Lessons for Europe" has been finished and is now being reviewed by the Bureau. The report is related to, and will be used towards achieving, the Group's work plan's deliverable (e) (ii): "Recommendations on the enabling role of coal mine methane projects in restructuring coal mining industry", due by Oct 2017.
(h) The secretariat continues to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on joint activities, including on practical and substantive elements for the 6th joint session of UNECE and GMI Coal Sub-committee, to be held as part of the 11th session of the GoE on CMM, in October 2016.
(i) The secretariat established the so-called liaison-A with the International Standards Organizations Technical Committee 263 (coalbed methane). The secretariat and a few Bureau members have been invited to participate in the next plenary meeting of ISO_TC 263 in Xi'an, China on 6-9 September 2016.

2. Upcoming Events
(a) The plenary meeting of ISO_TC 263, Xi'an, China, 6-9 September 2016.
(b) Workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane organized within the framework of the US EPA funded project, Karaganda, Kazakhstan, 4 October 2016.
(d) World Mining Congress, Rio de Janeiro, October 2016.

3. Main Challenges
(a) Changes of political and economic landscape in Poland are affecting the work on opening of the ICE in Katowice.

4. Resources
1 D1 (10%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.
Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities
(a) All deliverables of the work plan for 2016–2017 are being worked on. The Bureau met on 11, 26 and 28 April and 28 June to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to continue overseeing preparations for the EGRC 7th session. The Technical Advisory Group met on 26 April and 20 June to review documentation to be issued for public comment and provide recommendations thereon to the Bureau. The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) met on 27 April. The other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.

(b) UNECE Resource Classification Week, 25–29 April, with over 200 experts from 50 countries.
• UNECE UNFC Workshop, 26 April.
• UNECE and SPE Swiss Section Lecture “Results from Comprehensive, Integrated Analysis of Six Major US Shale Gas Basins and Shale Oil Basins, Geneva, 28 April.
• UNFC “Train the Trainers” Workshop, 30 April.
• EGRC Seventh Session, 26–29 April: meeting report approved on 29 April.
• Associated meetings of EGRC Bureau and sub-groups, 25–29 April.

EGRC Seventh Session highlights:
• Keynote by Dr. Scott W. Tinker, Director, Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas and State Geologist of Texas, United States, on SWITCH: The Global Energy Transition.
• Expert Group elected a new Bureau with 21 members to take over from the end of the seventh session for a period of two years.
• Technical Advisory Group (TAG): TAG’s extensive work since the sixth session was reviewed.
• UNFC Guidance Notes: Guidance Note to support UNFC-2009 Definition of a Project was approved. G-axis: recommendations for possible future changes to the G axis name, category definitions and supporting explanations to be submitted to eighth session. Competent Person: Bureau to finalize the guidance note on Competent Person.
• Bridging Documents: the draft Bridging Document between Russian Federation 2013 Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification and UNFC-2009 will be issued for public comment. Bridging documents to the Chinese petroleum classification system and the China Mineral Reserves and Resources Classification System (CMRRCS) are under development.
• Application of UNFC to renewable energy: the draft generic specifications for application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources were approved. Draft geothermal specifications will be issued for public comment. Significant progress made on bioenergy specifications. EGRC requested wind, solar and hydro work streams to start subject to volunteers being identified.
• Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources: handbook of good practices for application of UNFC-2009 for uranium and thorium resource management under development.
• Application of UNFC to injection projects: draft specifications that will allow use of UNFC to classify injection projects for the purpose of geological storage were approved.
• UNFC-2009 E axis: a Guidance Note comprising high-level guidance on accommodating social and environmental considerations in UNFC-2009 to be prepared.
• Education and Outreach: UNFC continues to be presented at an event every week globally. Webinars on UNFC will be organized. UNFC-2009 issued in Thai.
• EGRC Resourcing Strategy: resourcing proposal approved. Donors to be identified and approached.
• Africa Mining Vision (AMV) noted. AMV refers to the establishment of a continental system or “AMREC” (African Mineral Resource Classification). Cooperation on UNFC to be explored.
• System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) has adopted UNFC-2009. Countries have started to compile mineral and energy resource accounts using SEEA of 2012.
• Sub-group to be set-up to explore potential applicability of UNFC-2009 to anthropogenic resources.
• ISO has a project to develop a “Reporting template for the public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and mineral reserves”. Bureau to cooperate with ISO to avoid overlap.
(c) Draft Specifications for Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy were issued for public comment on 6 June for 60 days.

(d) Draft Bridging Document between 2013 Russia Oil & Gas Classification and UNFC-2009 issued for public comment on 14 June for 60 days.

2. Upcoming Events
(a) UNECE-IAEA Interregional Workshop ‘Uranium, Coal, Oil and Gas: Towards a better understanding of energetic basins & application of UNFC’, Ulaanbaatar, 16–19 August

3. Main Challenges
(a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and eleven sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
(b) Securing extrabudgetary funding and maintaining the level of in-kind contributions needed

4. Resources
1 P5 (50%) and 1 G6 (25%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).
1. **Activities**
   
   (a) A several conference calls were held between Chair and secretariat to support progress leading up to Third Session in April 2016.

   (b) Third session of GEG was held on 21–22 April 2016 with over 90 people attending. The theme of the meeting was “The Sustainability Credentials of Gas”. Mr. John Michael Roberts from Methinks Ltd illustrated these challenges by calling natural gas the “2nd best fuel”. Despite the many positive attributes of natural gas, he outlined that relative to natural gas coal based power generation is often less expensive and renewables are cleaner. He also noted that from a security of supply perspective, political instability can present concerns to countries that import large shares of natural gas. Ms Hélène Macela-Gouin, of Total New Energies confirmed this perspective by highlighting that there is no “natural niche” for natural gas – that there is always an alternative fuel with which it must compete.

   (c) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain:
   - Presented the activities over the last year on the topic of Methane Management. The group offered support for ongoing efforts by felt the title of the task force should be changed to better reflect the needed efforts. The new title is: Best Practice Guidance in Managing Methane Emissions in the Gas Value Chain
   - A draft survey has been developed with the objective to provide an initial snapshot of how methane emissions in extractive industries are monitored, measured, recorded, and reported. The survey has been circulated to several in the stakeholder community and the secretariat has begun to process comments.

   (d) Activity B: Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region:
   - Total has agreed to take the chairmanship of this task force and will begin supporting this effort in September 2016

   (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):
   - The report entitled: Assessment of Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas was updated and presented at the GEG. There was broad agreement on the draft and it will be published on the GEG website in the 3rd quarter. The report can be found here:

   (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel:
   - A report entitled “Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel” was completed and presented at the 3rd session. The report was well received and will be finalised for publishing on the SED website in the 3rd quarter. The report can be found here:

   (g) Attended the Marcogaz General Assembly meeting, 10th June 2016 – Zurich (CH). Strong support by Marcogaz in the work that we are doing. Special interest in the efforts on methane management.

2. **Upcoming Events**
   
   (a) IGU Strategy Committee meeting 26-28 September 2016 in Athens, Greece

3. **Main Challenges**
   
   (a) Having sufficient resources for secretariat to service GEG, its Bureau and task forces; update website; identify speakers for conferences.

   (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. **Resources**
   
   1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%).