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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Sustainable Energy

**Twenty-seventh session**

Geneva, 26–27 September 2018

DRAFT Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-seventh session BEFORE ADOPTION

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I. Introduction and attendance

1. The work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. It promotes international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. The current focus of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) is on energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, coal mine methane, natural gas, and classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources through the work of six subsidiary bodies.

2. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee took stock of its work in the context of the growing urgency to implement decisions to accelerate and deepen the transition to sustainable energy systems. The session was held in Geneva on 26-27 September 2018.

3. About one hundred experts from the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States participated (to be completed): Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United States of America. A representative of the European Union also participated. Further, the following representative from a non-ECE member State attended: Mexico.

4. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: to be completed.

5. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions were in attendance: to be completed.

6. Independent experts, representatives of academia and the private sector also attended, at the invitation of the secretariat.

II. Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/118 – Annotated provisional agenda.

7. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, opened the meeting and presented the provisional agenda, which was adopted without any changes.

8. He alluded to the challenges countries face as they seek to define sustainable pathways to meet the commitments they have made, including under the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Climate Agreement. He invited the Committee to shape the dialogues offered by this occasion actively, and to share experiences and lessons learnt freely to accelerate and deepen the transition to a sustainable energy future.

9. The Chair informed the Committee that he would chair Items 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 of the provisional agenda. Items 4a and 4b would be chaired by Mr. Raymond Pilcher, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, and item 4c would be chaired by Mr. Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

10. The Committee agreed to consider recommendations and conclusions after each agenda item, followed by the adoption of the report of the Committee at the end of the twenty-seventh session.

III. Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 2)

A. Election of officers

11. The Committee elected Mrs. Nino Enukidze (Georgia), Mr. Talgat Karashev (Kazakhstan), Mrs. Jelena Simovic (Serbia), and Mr. Jarad Daniels (United States) as Vice-Chairs until the end of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

12. The term of office of the already-elected officials Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) as Chair and Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ron Adam (Israel), Mr. Sergio Garribba (Italy), Mr. Hubert Schwarz (Poland), Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation), Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland), and Ms. Nataliya Boyko (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairs was for two years from the date of their election until the end of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Committee underscored the desirability, for the sake of ensuring continuity of the Bureau, that not all officers be elected at the same time.

13. The Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies have been Vice-Chairs *ex officio* since the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Mr. Barry Worthington, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, Mr. Ray Pilcher, Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, Mr. Francisco de la Flor, Group of Experts on Gas, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. David MacDonald, Expert Group on Resource Classification).

IV. Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems (agenda item 3)

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy

ECE/ENERGY/2018/1 – Pathways to sustainable energy – status report

14. The energy transition of global systems is ongoing and complex. It is widely recognized that energy underpins the 2030 Agenda as a golden thread that interconnects all other areas defined by the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Recognizing this, the Committee had mandated a project on “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” to allow deepened conversations about the consequences of the transition from all angles. The session was organised to set in motion a consultation with the Committee to sharpen and reorient the structure of the Committee’s work in response to shifting needs and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences.

15. In the session, the keynote address (a) and the project update (b) were presented in reverse order to allow for the challenging nature of the keynote address and facilitate a lively discussion about challenges and solutions, rather than about the technicalities of the modelling process, which was discussed in a workshop preceding the Committee session on 25 September 2018 in Geneva.

A. Keynote address and discussion

16. Mr. Graeme Maxton, Full Member and Former Secretary General of The Club of Rome,[[1]](#footnote-2) challenged the Committee to think holistically and realistically about the future, reminding of the urgency and scale of needed change and what was at stake for humanity – given the ongoing warming of the planet. He made the link between successful actions on the ground and the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy.” Mr. Maxton presented his account about what would happen without change and shared his insights and recommendations about the transition to a more sustainable economic and energy system.

B. Pathways to sustainable energy: status update

17. On behalf of the modelling team, Mr. Holger Rogner from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) presented the preliminary results of the “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” project (first phase). The Committee received a full update on the status of the project with the objective to integrate reactions and recommendations to shape the next project phases and to develop new analytical foci and deep dives.

18. The moderated discussion that followed both interventions shed light onto some of the challenges of the ongoing transformation in energy and the role that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies could play to accelerate further and deepen the transition. In particular, discussants explored how the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” could be solidified based on practical recommendations. Topics addressed included major driving forces, critical uncertainties and unknowns with influence on energy systems development. Remarks also covered the opportunities and limitations of emerging business models and technology innovation and offered thoughts on disruptive factors, uncertainties and possibilities of response.

19. The Committee recommended the following steps to accelerate progress towards attaining the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals:

20. Stressed the importance of developing concrete pathways and solutions towards sustainable energy in the ECE region. The Committee continued the support of the project it has mandated since the twenty-third session on “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” (see also documents from previous sessions for information: ECE/ENERGY/2014/96, ECE/ENERGY/2015/99, ECE/ENERGY/2016/7, ECE/ENERGY/2018/1).

21. Agreed with the approach taken for the “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” project and tasked the project team to build on this framework to develop an early warning system with related signposts and to share intermediary results at the 16 May 2019 session together with the various scenarios (see also paras. 24, 26, 31c, d, f, 96).

22. Endorsed future work according to the project plan and building on the intermediate results of the first phase. In this context, tasked the secretariat and the project team to continue developing the various climate, technology and policy scenarios and integrate the recommendations made during its session to the degree possible. The Committee further noted that the results of the project would be used as the basis for a policy dialogue at the Committee on how the ECE region will meet its objectives and encouraged a broader set of countries to engage and contribute. The Committee also asked the secretariat to continue to explore alternative and extrabudgetary funding sources to solidify the basis for a longer-term outlook for the project management and modelling.

23. Recommended to build on this opportunity to strengthen ECE’s and the Committee’s role as a neutral platform for policy and technology dialogues on the attainment of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets and to continue to collaborate with the other Regional Commissions for accelerated progress, for example through the international fora process.

24. Requested the increased involvement of its six subsidiary bodies, in particular through (i) research on existing policies and measures, and suggestions for possible innovative policy options in their respective areas; (ii) development of adaptive, cross-cutting and holistic policy options and the formulation of various climate, technology and policy scenarios; and (iii) reactions on targets, metrics, and signposts as basis for the early-warning system. Such feedback is requested for the preparatory meeting of the Committee on 16 May 2019 and for subsequent activities of the Pathways project (see also paras. 21, 26, 31c, d, f, 96) [possibly add results from deep dive suggestions made at the Committee session].

25. Requested a report on the progress and results of the “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” project in 2019 with a summary for policy makers to be presented at its twenty-eighth session. This report should be developed in preparation for a potential [ministerial/high-level] policy dialogue [in 2020] about options open to countries to attain sustainable energy.

26. To allow consultation with all ECE member States on the recommendations emerging from the project, requested an open-ended consultation of the Committee on 16 May 2019 and asked the secretariat to begin the preparations for this event. This [informal] Committee event would allow an exchange of views on the policy options in the context of the “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” project to be discussed in its twenty-eighth session on 25-27 September 2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/7) (see para. 96). In this context, empowered its Bureau to take decisions between the two sessions in the name of the Committee, and asked the secretariat to consult with selected stakeholders from the advisory board.

27. Took note of the work undertaken in the context of the “Global Tracking Framework” and recommended to continue the work related to tracking of sustainable energy progress in the ECE region, subject to funding. Requested preparation of a second status report on attainment of energy for sustainable development, pending available resources, and that the status report be prepared in collaboration with the World Bank, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the organisations affiliated with UN Energy.[[2]](#footnote-3)

28. Requested the continued active participation of the sustainable energy subprogramme in the outcomes of the 2018 review process on progress of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). [[3]](#footnote-4) The Committee stressed the importance of a holistic approach for implementing the 2030 Agenda and recommended a broader view of energy for sustainable development, as is reflected in the international fora process. Inputs could be based on joint work among all Regional Commissions tracking progress on SDG 7 to develop a broader set of energy indicators. In this context, the Committee expressed support for ECE’s continued involvement in UN Energy.

V. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (agenda item 4)

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable

Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

29. In preparation of the twenty-eighth session in 2019, the Committee was invited to provide guidance on the future direction of its programme of work and an effective and streamlined role of the subsidiary bodies. A brief introduction to the proceedings of the two meeting days framed the discussions.

30. In this context, the Committee was briefed on the outcomes of the review of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on sustainable energy by the HLPF in New York on 9–18 July 2018 and had an opportunity to reflect on implications for the work.[[4]](#footnote-5)

31. The Committee reminded that the objective of the sustainable energy subprogramme had to remain to support and accelerate the delivery of energy for sustainable development and to concretise ECE’s reputation as a credible and relevant partner. The Committee then confirmed the need to reconsider its mandate and programme of work going forward to ensure strategic alignment with the 2030 Agenda and:

(a) Approved the alignment of the programme of work not only with SDG 7, but also with SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17 and encouraged nexus work and linkages through the sustainable energy subprogramme to be reflected in all efforts to the extent that resources are available;

(b) Stressed the importance for ECE’s sustainable energy sub-programme to develop concrete, action-oriented products to assist its member States in attaining the objectives of energy for sustainable development;

(c) Stressed the importance for countries to develop concrete pathways and solutions towards sustainable energy in the ECE region and requests its Bureau to develop a strategic plan for assisting member States in preparation of a vision, a concrete action plan, and a roadmap for implementation to be discussed at the meeting on 16 May 2019 (see paras. 21, 24, 31d, f, 96) and to be presented by the Chair for adoption at its twenty-eighth session. A list of priorities based on predefined criteria and needed staff resources should be included in the proposal;

(d) Recommended organising a Committee-wide strategic dialogue on 16 May 2019 to explore challenges and opportunities taking account of the findings and recommendations from the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy. Further considerations could be the nominal or operational clusters presented to the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) at its ninety-eighth meeting, the outcomes from the SDG 7 review process at the 2018 HLPF, alignment with the 2030 Agenda, draft outcomes from the Ninth Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, and nexus activities (see paras. 21, 24, 31c, f, 96);

(e) Requested its six subsidiary bodies to play lead roles in shaping this document and requests the six Chairs to present at the next session their expert group’s role in addressing these challenges. This report back could include recommendations on the effectiveness and efficiency of current approaches and whether the current structure and work plans adequately support them in meeting the challenges they face;

(f) Requested the six subsidiary bodies to contribute to the dialogue on energy transition. Recognized the importance of electricity across a range of topics for deep transformation and asked its Bureau to develop a proposal on how to organise the work of the subsidiary bodies in an effective way for a report back at the Committee’s twenty-eighth session, with interim results to be presented at the meeting on 16 May 2019 (see also paras. 21, 24, 31c, d, 96);

(g) Requested the secretariat to prepare draft procedures for decision making on predefined topics when the Committee is not in session.

(h) Requested that documents be developed over the coming year and be in line with ongoing reform developments in the United Nations system (see also paras. 89, 90).

A Methane Management in extractive industries

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/2 – Report of the twelfth session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2018/2 – Report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

32. Two distinct panels characterised this session about methane management in extractive industries, namely i) one on transition of the energy sector and related costs, benefits and the unavailable social and economic aspects and ii) the second panel on methane management in the oil and gas industries. The Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and on Gas shared views on the science and scale behind methane emissions and explored practices for measuring, monitoring and reporting methane emissions in the oil and gas industry.

33. The Chairs of the Bureaux of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and on Gas reported on the implementation of their respective work plans for 2018-2019, Bureaux work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session.

1. Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

34. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

35. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2018-2019.

36. Noted with appreciation the active engagement of the Group of Experts in establishing International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane to support ECE’s effort to disseminate ECE’s CMM best practice guidance, to train experts in the application thereof, and to enable further evolution of the best practices through development of case studies and knowledge sharing. The Committee also agreed to consider the possibility of establishing additional Centres in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States, and Colombia.

37. Supported the activities to address sustainable management of fugitive methane emissions from abandoned coal mines, recognizing the relevance of this in attaining a number of the Sustainable Development Goals. Noting that “Coal Mine Methane Management as a Tool for Achieving Sustainable Energy Objectives” is included in the Publications Programme for 2018-2019 (item number 64/2691), the Committee endorsed the request to amend the title to “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines”, which more accurately reflects its content and is in line with the work of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.

38. Noting with appreciation the progress made on the cross-cutting project on the transformation of the energy sector, endorsed development of a case-specific model for transition of a specific legacy industrial site. The Committee further requested all its subsidiary bodies to contribute to this initiative and invited the countries to engage in the project to identify an industrial site for the pilot stage of the venture.

39. Requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to continue to contribute, in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development. The work is being carried out by the task force the Committee established at its twenty-fourth session, with representatives of the Groups of Expert on Coal Mine Methane and Gas and other stakeholders (ECE/ENERGY/99, para. 44).

2. Group of Experts on Gas

40. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

41. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Gas has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2018-2019.

42. Noted that the Group of Experts on Gas discussed the possible upgrade of the Group into a Working Party at its fifth session as per the request of the Committee at its twenty-sixth session. Further noted that the Group of Experts recognized that this was a matter for ECE member States to decide.

43. Recognizing that abatement of methane emissions from extractive industries requires proper monitoring, reporting, and verification, welcomed the progress to develop best practice guidance for methane management along the oil and gas value chains. Noting that the title of the publication in the Publications Programme for 2018-2019 is “Methane Management in Extractive Industries” (item number 62/2678), endorsed the request for its amendment to “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Management in the Oil and Gas Sector: Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Mitigation”, which better reflects its scope and content.

B. Sustainable resource management

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2018/4 – Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves (GB/T 19492-2004) and UNFC

ECE/ENERGY/2018/5 – Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (GB/T 17766-1999) and UNFC

ECE/ENERGY/2018/6 – Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources

ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/2 – Report of the ninth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

44. A panel of international experts discussed the role that the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) could play in framing and guiding natural resource management. The discussion also allowed to explore the role and importance of sustainable resource management in attaining the 2030 Agenda.

45. The First Vice-Chair of the Expert Group on Resource Classification reported on the development of specifications for the application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources and on the progress made to bridge the Chinese national systems on petroleum and minerals to UNFC with a view to request endorsement by the Committee of the newly developed UNFC specifications for anthropogenic resources and the bridging documents.

46. The First Vice-Chair of the Bureau of Expert Group on Resource Classification reported on the implementation of the work plan for 2018–2019, Bureau work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session. In this context, the Committee was invited to endorse the change of name of the Group to the Expert Group on Resource Management based on decisions made at the ninth session of the Expert Group to widen the focus towards the development of a comprehensive resource management tool (United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)) with UNFC at its core that can help improve systemic efficiency in resource production and environmental and social performance.

47. The First Vice-Chair of the Bureau of Expert Group also highlighted the Expert Group’s work on gender equality and diversity in resource management noting that gender justice and inclusion is required in the workplace and also when resource information is used for decision-making in communities and local governments. The Expert Group is monitoring developments in improving the participation of women in resource management and working to ensure that this is reflected in its membership, work plans and activities.

48. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

49. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Expert Group on Resource Classification has made on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan for 2018-2019.

50. Took note of the report of the ninth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/2).

51. Approved the change of name of the Expert Group on Resource Classification to the Expert Group on Resource Management as recommended by the Expert Group at its ninth session.

52. Approved the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management which reflect the refocus of the Expert Group on Resource Classification to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDGs 7, 9, 11, 13, and 17 and emphasis on sustainable resource management (CSE-27/2018/INF.9).

53. Endorsed the following documents: (i) Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves(GB/T 19492-2004) (ECE/ENERGY/2018/4) and UNFC; (ii) Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (GB/T 17766-1999) and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/2018/5); and (iii) Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources (ECE/ENERGY/2018/6).

54. Noted that a publication on “Pathways for Fossil Fuels in Sustainable Energy Systems” is included in the Publications Programme for 2018-2019 (item number 65/2692). Endorsed the recommendation that this publication be replaced by “Redesigning the Uranium Resource Pathway: Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for Planning and Implementing Sustainable Uranium Projects”, which is a mandated deliverable of the Expert Group on Resource Classification.

C. Transition to sustainable energy systems

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2017/2 – Report of the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy on its fourth session

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its fourth session

ECE/ENERGY/2018/10 - ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2018/3 – Exchange of experience to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry sector[[5]](#footnote-6)

1. Deep transformation of the energy system through electricity

55. The session, jointly led by the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels and on Renewable Energy allowed an exchange of views on all aspects of systems transformation and resiliency to low-carbon energy supply. As energy is widely considered a golden thread underpinning all Sustainable Development Goals, the same can be said for electricity from production to consumption. Transformative activities are only as rapid and far reaching as the grid infrastructure and the electricity system can follow. A panel of experts described the challenges in decarbonising electricity production while achieving the other Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The focus was on the interplay between fossil fuels and renewable energy and the need to promote transformational investment to a cleaner electricity system for enhanced decarbonisation and grid resiliency at scale. Aspects of interconnectivity, synergies, and energy security were also mentioned.

56. Views of member States and recommendations made in the context of this discussion will shape the future programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme and seeks to raise the awareness of scale and urgency to address the challenges of a low-carbon future successfully and sustainably. Thus, the Committee has continued its deliberations from the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions about commitments that countries have made to attain sustainable development objectives and persistent gaps. In this confirmed setting, the Committee was asked to consider a widened mandate for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. The Group of Experts will hold its fourteenth session directly after the Committee session on 28 September 2018 in Geneva and will address the requests made by the Committee.

2. Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

57. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

58. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels has made on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan for 2018-2019. The Committee stressed that the Group of Experts is well-positioned to coordinate with other subsidiary bodies to develop a proposal on how the work on electricity could be organized more effectively.

59. The Committee further stressed the need for a dialogue led by all six subsidiary bodies about the priorities and challenges of a deep transformation and the collective contribution that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies can make. This commitment to institutional effectiveness has to be seen in the light of the challenges the world faces and ECE’s unique position as a regional commission (see also para. 31f ).

60. Noted that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels is considering changing its name to Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity in light of the critical role electricity will make to deep transformation of the energy system. In the frame of this discussion, the Committee requested the Group of Experts to consider the following additional topics, pending available resources:

(a) Electricity as a primary vehicle for achieving deep transformation of the energy system;

(b) Synergies between natural gas and renewables through properly structured balancing markets;

(c) Power market design for the 2030 Agenda (including enabling distributed generation);

(d) High-efficiency, low-emissions (HELE) technologies;

(e) Carbon capture use and storage;

(f) Digitalization;

(g) E-mobility;

(h) ICT in support of high performance buildings and smart, sustainable cities;

(i) Decarbonisation of energy: what is the order of merit as defined by economics, environment, and societal needs;

(j) Clean electricity in support of Committee’s pathways activities.

61. The work on these topics need to take into consideration technical, economic and ecological aspects.

62. Requested the Group of Experts to consider how it could contribute to more ambitious standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants (including HELE power plants) in the ECE region.

3. Energy efficiency in industry and buildings

63. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee endorsed the activities to develop standards related to energy efficiency in buildings (ECE/ENERGY/113, para. 53). This time, the Committee was informed of progress related to energy efficiency in industry through a newly established Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (ECE/ENERGY/2018/10 -ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2018/3). The Committee was invited to endorse the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the ECE Region for   
2019–2020.

64. The Chair of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency reported on the implementation of the work plan for 2018–2019, Bureau work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session.

65. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

66. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018–2019.

67. Supported activities to enhance dialogue between governments and business to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry.

68. Endorsed the establishment of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency and its Terms of Reference and mandated the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to oversee its activities.

69. Supported activities to address barriers to improve energy efficiency based on the outcomes of the study “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency.”

70. Noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings in mapping the energy efficiency standards and technologies in buildings in the ECE region, in delivering training course on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings, and in promoting the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and encouraged member States to continue support for the Joint Task Force through extrabudgetary funding.

71. Took note of the High-Performance Buildings Initiative that implements the dissemination and training called for in the Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings that the Committee endorsed at its twenty-sixth session in 2017.

72. Encouraged member States to propose candidates for the global consortium of universities participating in the Global Building Network and the network of local institutions constituting International Centres of Excellence for High Performance Buildings.

73. Recommended development of case studies to demonstrate the impact of the Framework Guidelines and associated standards.

74. Requested the secretariat to approach the other United Nations Regional Commissions and other organizations to support extending the initiative to global scale for broad, deep, and accelerated impact.

IV. Regional outreach (agenda item 5)

A. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2018/3 – Concept note and draft outcome document of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

75. Ukraine presented the status of the preparations for the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (the Ninth Forum), to be hosted in Kiev on 12–15 November 2018 (ECE/ENERGY/113, para. 30). As is tradition, the intent is to agree on a balanced set of options of what countries could do concretely and effectively and to inform the programme of work of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme.

76. The discussion extended to the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, likely hosted by a member State of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) in 2019.

77. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

78. Thanked Ukraine for hosting the Ninth Forum in Kiev on 12–15 November 2018, congratulated Ukraine for its leadership, and invited member States to disseminate the outcomes of the Ninth Forum for broad-based action.

79. Thanked the co-organizers of the Ninth Forum: [to be completed]

80. Endorsed the collaboration with the other four United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank Group, the IEA, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), and the International Energy Charter on tracking progress towards attainment of the energy-related SDGs and targets and requested the secretariat to seek funding for the activities on an ongoing basis. The Committee renewed its encouragement to engage with other organizations and groups with relevance for ECE energy activities to ensure complete coverage of relevant data and analysis, including deepened collaboration with organizations comprising UN Energy and with other intergovernmental, industrial, and civil society organizations.

81. Noted with appreciation the outreach to academic institutions (Penn State University, Boston University, and Dartmouth College) to achieve the objectives of the sustainable energy subprogramme and encouraged the extension of this outreach to other sub-regions of ECE.

82. Noted with appreciation the institution of international centres of excellence as vehicles for deployment and dissemination of the products of the sustainable energy sub-programme and encouraged their further development, notably the best practices on coal mine methane and the framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings. Requested the Groups of Experts and the secretariat to ensure proper oversight and management of the international centres of excellence to ensure their continuing alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Progress on regional advisory services

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2018/9 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

83. The Committee received an update on regional advisory services, extrabudgetary projects and projects under the United Nations Development Account since its last session. This time, the report also included emphasis on gender issues, empowering women in energy policy, the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and cooperation with other stakeholders.

84. In the light of the discussion, the Committee:

85. Stressed the importance of regional advisory services for its work and requested a report on regional advisory services at its twenty-eighth session.

86. Supported activities to develop gender-responsive policy recommendations to ensure gender equality in access to sustainable energy, in participation in decision-making and management of the energy and related sectors, in opportunities for jobs and career development in countries with economies in transition and in work undertaken in the context of capacity-building in countries with economies in transition, and recommended to continue the work related to national commitments to meet SDG 7 in the ECE region.

VII. Consultation on the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (agenda item 6)

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable

Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

87. The Committee was invited to draw conclusions and issue recommendations for the work of the subprogramme on sustainable energy and its subsidiary bodies, taking into consideration the deliberations of the twenty-seventh session.

88. All related conclusions and recommendations endorsed by the Committee are listed under section 5, para. 29-31, see also paras. 93 and 94.

VIII. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 7)

A. Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process

89. In December 2017, at the Seventy-second Session of the General Assembly Member States approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis from the beginning of 2020 onwards. The Committee was informed of developments regarding the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2020 and implications for the work of the Committee.

90. The Committee took note of the information provided and emphasized the need to create a shared understanding among all stakeholders of the nexus areas and opportunities for accelerated action. Noting that a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society (as called for in SDG 17), requested that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies work to establish cooperation and effective partnerships with governments, the private sector and civil society in accordance with United Nations rules, regulations and procedures. The Committee thanked the private sector for its continued contributions to the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme and renewed its wish to involve the private sector in its activities and meetings.

B. Approval of documents

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/2018/7 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2019

ECE/ENERGY/2018/8 – Draft publications plan for 2020

91. The Committee was presented with two documents to support the implementation of the previously mandated areas of work and after discussion:

92. Acknowledged the important work of the six subsidiary bodies to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee requested further analysis on how the activities offer support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional level.

93. Requested that future mandates and work plans for the subsidiary bodies, as they will be prepared for its twenty-eighth session, give special attention to joint activities across sectors within governments and within ECE in addressing energy nexus issues, and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences and lesson learned as discussed under agenda item 6.

94. Endorsed the request for widening the mandate of the Committee’s work to align not only with SDG 7 but also with SDGs 9, 11, 12, and 17 and as discussed under separate agenda items above and recommended it for approval to the ECE Executive Committee (see agenda item 5, para. 31a).

95. Endorsed the Provisional calendar of meetings for 2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/7).

96. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 25-27 September 2019 in Geneva, including a draft agenda, draft report, and all supporting documents necessary for the implementation of the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018-2019 and the work plans of its six subsidiary bodies. Emphasizes the need for a preparatory meeting for the high-level dialogue of the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy it oversees, to be held on 16 May 2019 in Geneva.

97. Endorsed the Revised draft publications plan for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13) with the requested changes as annexed to this report. It further endorsed the Draft publications plan for 2020 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/8) as presented.

98. Renewed its request to member States of ECE and other participants of the meeting to provide expert focal points to the secretariat.

C. Any other business

99. The Committee stressed the importance of advancing work on gender in energy and recommended that a gender perspective be promoted in the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies, including by raising awareness on gender mainstreaming in energy-related activities; promoting the incorporation of a gender perspective in meeting agendas and presentations; and, creating a supportive environment for expert participation, polices, regulations and innovative development that take into account both women’s and men’s needs in the energy sector. The Committee further recommended that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies explore ways to mainstream SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” in the subprogramme and in capacity-building events on energy-related topics. [this paragraph could be moved up to section 6b, new para 87].

D. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

*Documentation*: ECE/ENERGY/119 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-seventh session

100. The Chair summarized the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee.

101. The Committee adopted the report of its twenty-seventh session (ECE/ENERGY/119) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

102. The twenty-seventh session was adjourned on 27 September 2018 at XXX hours.

Annex

Revised publications plan for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13) (ECE/ENERGY/113)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Item no.* | *Publication title* | *Planned date of issue* | *Issue format (print and/or electronic)* | *Number of pages in original language* | *Original language* | *Language for translation* | *Number of copies and languages for reproduction* |
|  | **Non-recurrent publications** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | Pathways to Sustainable Energy | 2019 | Print and electronic | 100 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 2 | Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Management in the Oil and Gas Sector: Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Mitigation | 2019 | Print and electronic | 100 | E | F, R | 200E, 100F, 200R |
| 3 | United Nations Framework Classification for Resources - Revised Edition | 2019 | Print and electronic | 400 | E | A, C, F, R, S | 600A, 1500C, 12000E, 3000F, 1500R, 3000S |
| 4 | Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines | 2019 | Print and electronic | 80 | E | C, R, S | 1000E, 500C, 500R, 100S |
| 5 | Redesigning the Uranium Resource Pathway: Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for Planning and Implementing Sustainable Uranium Projects | 2019 | Print and electronic | 80 | E | F, R | 200E, 100F, 200R |
| 6 | Renewable Energy Status Report in the ECE Region | 2019 | Print and electronic | 100 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 7 | Overcoming Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency | 2019 | Print and electronic | 80 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 8 | Promoting Policies and Measures for Energy Efficiency Implementation | 2019 | Print and electronic | 90 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 9 | Implementing Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in the ECE Region | 2019 | Print and electronic | 80 | E | A, C, F, R, S | 100A, 400C, 500E, 100F, 400R, 100S |
| 10 | Promoting renewable energy investments in ECE countries | 2019 | Print and electronic | 80 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 11 | United Nations Framework Classification for Resources – Case Studies | 2019 | Print and electronic | 300 | E | F, R | 1500E, 1000F, 1000R |

1. Mr. Maxton also gave the keynote address during the Committee’s twenty-fifth session, exploring the water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus in the context of a circular economy and increased resource efficiency, providing excerpts of the book “The Limits to Growth.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. http://www.unsceb.org/content/un-energy. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) "The Future We Want"](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20). (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Background paper on the Concept Note and Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the ECE Region for 2019-2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)