
Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Committee on Sustainable Energy
Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 26-27 September 2018

Item 7(d) of the provisional agenda

Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Committee on Sustainable Energy Twenty-seventh Session

The Committee on Sustainable Energy:

Agenda Item 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation:

ECE/ENERGY/118 – Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adopted the Agenda as presented.
2. 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.

Agenda Item 2. Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Election of officers

3. Elected Ms. Nino Eukidze (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. 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.

4. 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, and Mr. David MacDonald, Expert Group on Resource Classification).

5. Underscored the desirability, for the sake of ensuring continuity of the Bureau, that not all officers be elected at the same time.

Agenda Item 3. Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems

Pathways to sustainable energy: status update

Documentation:

ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy

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

6. Stressed the importance of developing concrete pathways and solutions towards sustainable energy in the ECE region and continued the support of the project it has mandated since the twenty-third session on Pathways to Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/2014/96, ECE/ENERGY/2015/99, ECE/ENERGY/2016/7, ECE/ENERGY/2018/1).

7. Agreed with the approach taken for the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project. 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 [for meeting mandate see below].

8. Endorsed future work according to the project plan and building on the intermediate results of the first phase. 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. Noted that the results of the project will be used as the basis for a policy dialogue at the Committee on how the ECE region will meet its objectives. Encouraged a broader set of countries to engage and contribute. Asked the secretariat to continue to explore alternative and extrabudgetary funding sources.

9. 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.

10. Requested the increased involvement of its six subsidiary bodies, in particular through (1) research on existing policies and measures, and suggestions for possible innovative policy options in their respective areas; (2) development of adaptive, cross-cutting and holistic policy options and the formulation of various climate, technology and policy scenarios; and (3) 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 [for meeting mandate see below, possibly add results from deep dive suggestions made at the Committee session].

11. 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.

12. 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

will 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. 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.

13. 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.

14. Requested the 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). 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.¹ Expressed support for ECE’s continued involvement in UN Energy.

Agenda Item 4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

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

15. Confirmed the need to reconsider its mandate and programme of work going forward to ensure strategic alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 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 and to be presented by the Chair for adoption at its twenty-eighth session in 2019. A

¹ 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/hlpf>).

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 EXCOM at its ninety-eighth meeting, the outcomes from the SDG 7 review process at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum, alignment with the 2030 Agenda, draft outcomes from the Ninth Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, and nexus activities.
- (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 para 31];
- (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.

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

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

16. 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.

17. 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. Agreed to consider the possibility of establishing additional Centres in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States, and Colombia.

18. 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), 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.

19. 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. Requested all its subsidiary bodies to contribute to this initiative. Invited the countries to engage in the ECE project to identify an industrial site for the pilot stage of the venture.

20. 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 on Sustainable Energy, 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).

Group of Experts on Gas

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

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

24. 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.

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

26. 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.

27. 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).

28. 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).

29. 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),

30. Endorsed the recommendation that the publication “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, be included in the Publications Programme.

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

Deep transformation of the energy system through electricity

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

31. 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 organised more effectively. The Committee stressed the need for a dialogue led by the 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 15 f]]

32. Noted that the Group of Experts 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 (CCUS);
- (f) Digitalisation;
- (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.

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

33. 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.

Energy efficiency in industry and buildings

34. 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.

² 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.

35. Supported activities to enhance dialogue between governments and business to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry.
36. 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.
37. Supported activities to address barriers to improve energy efficiency based on the outcomes of the study “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency.”
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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.
41. Recommended development of case studies to demonstrate the impact of the Framework Guidelines and associated standards.
42. 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.

Agenda Item 5. Regional outreach

(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

43. Thanked Ukraine for hosting the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (Ninth Forum) in Kiev on 12-15 November 2018. Congratulated Ukraine for its leadership and stressed the importance of leadership by countries on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and invited member States to disseminate the outcomes of the Ninth Forum for broad-based action.
44. Thanked the co-organizers of the Ninth Forum: [...]
45. 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. Encouraged the secretariat 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.

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

47. 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

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

49. 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.

Agenda Item 6. Consultation on the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

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

49. See Agenda item 4.

Agenda Item 7. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process

50. Committee took note of the information provided. 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. 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.

Approval of documents

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/7 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2019
ECE/ENERGY/2018/8 – Draft publications plan for 2020

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

52. Requested that future mandates and work plans for the subsidiary bodies 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 Regional outreach.

53. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 26-28 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.

54. 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.

55. Endorsed the Revised draft publication plan for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13.Rev.2) with the requested change(s) as reflected in [...] or annexed to the report; or [Endorsed the Draft publications plan for 2020 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/8).]

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

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

Any other business

[possible discussion on gender - see lunch time session from 27 September 2018 and various Committee contributions]

58. 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, policies, regulations and innovative development that take into account both women's and men's needs in the energy sector. Further recommended that the Committee

and its subsidiary bodies explore ways to mainstream Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” in the subprogramme and in capacity-building events on energy-related topics.

(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

59. Adopted the report of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/119) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
