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Energy for Sustainable Development

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Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

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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

1. Activities

- (a) The Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development took place in Hammamet on 4-7 November 2014 and was hosted by the Government of Tunisia and jointly organised by all five United Nations Regional Commissions in support of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative. At this Forum, the Executive Secretaries of all five Regional Commissions signed a joint call for action to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy. In this “Joint Statement” they affirmed that the objectives of energy sustainability are attainable, if the world embarks on a determined, collective effort. The CSE endorsed the intent of the Joint Statement at its twenty-third session.
- (b) The Committee on Sustainable Energy focussed its twenty-third session (19-21 November 2014) on energy for sustainable development with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all. The Committee meeting was held during UNECE’s Sustainable Energy Week (17–21 November 2014), which featured five events and included the first meetings of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, a Workshop on development of a resource classification system for renewable energy and launch of the *Geneva Energy Conversations*. In opening the meeting, UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach called attention to the Committee’s focus on 'Energy for Sustainable Development – Must Reality Conflict with Ambition?' by pointing to the range of policy options that could shift the world's course to a sustainable energy future. “The objectives of energy sustainability are attainable, if the world embarks on a determined, collective effort”, he said, presenting to the Committee an extended menu of policy options for consideration by countries to act into eight categories including: 1) Energy Market Reform, 2) Energy Efficiency, 3) Renewable Energy, 4) Energy Access, 5) Energy Security, 6) Finance and investment, 7) Technology, and 8) Energy Data, Indicators and Analysis. The full speech is available on the CSE homepage.
- (c) Member States and the public were invited to participate in an inaugural *Geneva Energy Conversation*. UNECE and the Centre for International Environmental Studies of the Geneva Graduate Institute organised the first in a series of innovative evenings, focussing on the solutions and challenges to reach and stay on a 2°C pathway. David Hone, Chief Climate Change Advisor to Shell, underscored that, while emissions continue to rise despite government efforts, the solutions to climate change are still within reach.
- (d) On 27 November 2014, Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE gave the opening speech at the 25th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference Ministerial Session about "Development of Transit Corridors – a Key to Global Energy Security" in Astana, Kazakhstan. The speech is attached in Annex 1.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, 14-16 April 2015.
- (b) 2nd *Geneva Energy Conversation*: Likely topic “Generation Y Energy”, Geneva, 15 April 2015 at the auspices of the Commission session (tbc).
- (c) Open consultation of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 27-28 May 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and Recruitment.

4. Resources

50% P5, 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities

- (a) The first session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) was held on 17-18 November 2014. The session elected its Bureau and the Chair and approved both the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015 and its report.
- (b) At the session, the GEEE decided to focus on: 1) developing a menu of high impact policy options that will be most useful for decision makers in implementing EE policies and measures and 2) developing standards and normative instruments. These activities have started.
- (c) Two discussion papers and a draft publication were prepared for the first session of GEEE:
 - 1) Initial review of energy efficiency in the ECE region**
(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee1_Nov2014/Discussion_paper_1_Initial_review_of_EE_in_the_ECE_region.pdf);
 - 2) A balanced matrix of energy efficiency policies to support SE4All objectives and sustainable development**
(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee1_Nov2014/Discussion_paper_2_A_balanced_matrix_of_EE_policies_rev1.pdf);
 - 3) Analysis of National Case Studies on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency Investments**
(http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee1_Nov2014/DraftPrePublicationAnalysisCaseStudies_AS_Latest.pdf).
- (d) Under the UNDA project Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development Preparations, Global Workshop “Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” was held in the framework of the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Hammamet, 4-7 November 2014.
- (e) A request to extend the above mentioned UNDA project until mid-2015 to finalize all activities under this project by five UN Regional Commissions was approved.
- (f) In the framework of the project “Promoting the implementation of the regional action plan and recommendations on development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS countries”, staff member participated in two missions: 1) UN DESA and UNDP High-Level Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development”, Yerevan, 8-10 October 2014; 2) International Conference on Energy Efficient Buildings of the 21st Century, Minsk, 18-19 December 2014.
- (g) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - UN DESA and UNDP High-Level Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development”, Yerevan, 8-10 October 2014.
 - Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Hammamet, 4-7 November 2014.
 - International Conference on Energy Efficient Buildings of the 21st Century, Minsk, 18-19 December 2014.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - Interregional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies, Tel Aviv, 8-12 February 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (30%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (40%), 1 G5 (50%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

1. Activities

- (a) Provided substantive and practical support for execution of the 10th session and the related stakeholder workshop (speakers, presentations, background documents, mailing lists).
- (b) Activity A of the work plan: Prepared a draft survey of CCS: landscape, recent developments and stakeholders. The draft has been circulated to the Bureau and approved.
- (c) Activity B of the work plan: Assist UNFCCC in assessing CCS technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Recommendations were developed, discussed and approved at the 10th session and then submitted to UNFCCC.
 - Continued to liaise with UNFCCC on progress under this activity.
 - Developing a CCS Fact Sheet to accompany the Recommendations when circulated to policymakers.
- (d) Activity C of the work plan: Assess the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the UNECE region.
 - A baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the UNECE region has been developed, presented, discussed and approved at the 10th session.
- (e) Updated the website to reflect October events.
- (f) The report of the 10th session was prepared, circulated to member States and experts and adopted.
- (g) Continued to work on creation of Task Forces established by the Expert Group 10th session to develop proposals and recommendations for future concrete and result-oriented activities.

2. Upcoming Events

N/A

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.
- (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 (60%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G4 (30%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. Activities

- (a) Preparatory activities in cooperation with Bureau candidates for the first session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.
- (b) Background paper: Status Report on Renewable Energy in the ECE region; prepared with the support of GIZ consultants on the basis of existing data.
- (c) Background paper: Access to energy services in the ECE region; paper on communities with no access to energy in the ECE region/ key areas to support them.
- (d) Background paper: a Framework for Developing Best Practice Guidelines to Accelerate Renewable Energy Uptake.
- (e) Preparation in close cooperation with Bureau candidates of the draft conclusions and recommendations sent to ECE member States before the annual session; consensus building process with key countries on the conclusions and recommendations as well as on the work plan 2014-2015.
- (f) Development of a project proposal for a status report in the ECE region together with REN21 and in cooperation with IEA and IRENA. Proposal presented to and approved by the Group of Experts on 18 November.
- (g) Development of a memorandum of understanding for the Cooperation with REN21 which was then signed on 19 November in Geneva during the ECE Energy Week.
- (h) Annual session of the Group of Experts on 18-19 November: 79 participants; work plan 2014-2015 presented, considered, amended and approved by the Group of Experts on 19 November 2014 and subsequently by the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy; report of the session approved.
- (i) Bureau call on 18 December 2014 on priorities of the work plan, Bureau commitment and various roles, next steps for the status report, menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to support them and a possible path to a standardization process in the medium-term period.
- (j) Launched fund-raising activities in support of the Status Report in the ECE region with REN21, IEA and IRENA.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) N/A

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Enlarge the renewable energy constituency for ECE and strengthen their involvement/ commitment within the range of focus areas and activities of the work plan.
- (b) Identify and secure extrabudgetary resources for the status report in the ECE region with REN21 by February 2015 and to implement the work plan.

4. Resources

1 P4 (70%), 1 G5 (20%), 1 P5 (10%) plus in-kind contribution by Bureau members, associated organizations and experts.

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities

- (a) Organized the ninth session on 23 October (40 participants).
- (b) Adopted meeting report with conclusions and recommendations.
- (c) Organized, in collaboration with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Sub-committee, a joint UNECE-GMI Meeting on 22 October, including a GMI-sponsored reception on 22 October.
- (d) Continue to work with GMI on possible joint activities in 2015, including through liaising with other GMI sub-committees.
- (e) Activity A: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG).
 - Spanish version finalized, peer reviewed, and is now being prepared for publishing.
 - Serbo-Croatian version finalized by the end of October 2014 is being peer reviewed.
 - Mongolian version finalized by the end of November 2014 is being peer reviewed.
 - Initiated preliminary activities towards translation into other languages (Turkish, Romanian) through various in-kind arrangements as requested by the Group of Experts at the 9th session.
- (e) Activity B: Update and further development of the BPG.
 - The Task Force on Update and further development of the BPG reported to the Group of Experts on the content and structure of an updated BPG. The proposed changes endorsed by the Group of Experts. Identifying the needed funds to rewrite chapters of the BPG remains a challenge.
- (f) Activity C: Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by XB resources, on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - The Bureau met on 22 October to discuss possible extrabudgetary projects in the light of new requirements.
 - Continued extensive consultations with the Russian Ministry of Energy regarding possible extrabudgetary projects.
- (g) Activity D: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM.
 - The secretariat met with the representative of the Permanent Mission of Poland to inform the Mission about developments in this this initiative.
 - Identified focal points in the Polish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy.
 - The secretariat held intensive consultation with the Central Mining Institute regarding practical aspects of financing and functioning of the International Centre of Excellence.
- (h) Activity E: Continue to provide advice to UNFCCC and to other international, national and regional market-based CMM emission reduction mechanisms and CMM related standards
 - Activities of the California Air Resources Board presented at the 9th session of the Group of Experts.
 - Representative of ISO presented at the ninth session of the Group of Experts.
- (i) Published a promotional story on the new UNECE website: "Saving lives like the Canary in a coal mine".

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts 10th session, October 2015.

3. Main Challenges

N/A

4. Resources

1 P4 (40%), 1 P3 (50%) and 1 G4 (20%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) **Specifications for UNFC-2009:** Phase One of a sub-group of the EGRC Bureau has drafted Terms of Reference for the development of guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in “UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application”. Phase Two membership is being established.
- (b) **Technical Advisory Group (TAG):** TAG met in October and December; extensive email correspondence during period. Following detailed review of the UNFC solid minerals case study, TAG issued recommendation to the Bureau on the use of the G-axis and seven additional issues identified in the study.
- (c) **Testing and review of UNFC-2009:** case studies on application of UNFC to uranium resources were presented at the UNECE and IAEA UNFC Workshop in Johannesburg, 10-14 November, including by Cameroon and Tunisia.
- (d) **Education and Outreach:** UNFC presented at more than ten conferences by EGRC members during the period. Communications Sub-Committee met in December and agreed on its deliverables and timelines for 2015. A series of standard UNFC presentations has been drafted.
- (e) **Use of UNFC in classifying injection projects:** Task Force continues to meet regularly and is working on specifications for application of UNFC to CO₂ reservoirs.
- (f) **Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources:** Bridging Document between the Nuclear Energy Agency/IAEA Uranium Classification and UNFC-2009 endorsed by CSE 23rd Session. Task Force now working on a Guidebook on Application of UNFC-2009 to Uranium and Thorium Projects.
- (g) **Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy projects:** Renewables Task Force continues to hold two-weekly conference calls. Task Force organized a Workshop on Application of UNFC to Renewables in Geneva, 17-18 November. Bioenergy Sub-Group also met in Geneva on 18 November. Development of geothermal specifications progressing including during the International Geothermal Association Workshop on “Globally consistent classification for geothermal energy resources” in Bonn, Germany, 8–9 December 2014.
- (h) **Financial reporting:** Bureau continues to review developments of relevance to the EGRC.
- (i) **Collaboration and cooperation with other bodies:** new stakeholders continue to be identified.
- (j) **Electronic communication:** update of EGRC contact list in relation to renewables.

EGRC Bureau: the Bureau held conference calls in October and December and has started preparations for the EGRC Sixth Session, 28 April –1 May 2015.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Workshop on UNFC-2009 held in cooperation with the Indian Association of Petroleum Geologists during Geo-India 2015, New Delhi, India, 12–14 January 2015.
- (b) UNECE and IAEA Consultancy Meeting on Guidelines for Application of UNFC-2009 to Uranium and Thorium Projects, Geneva, 27–28 April 2015.
- (c) UNECE Workshop on UNFC-2009, Geneva, 28 April 2015.
- (d) EGRC Sixth Session, Geneva, 29 April–1 May 2015.
- (e) UNECE “Train the Trainers” UNFC Workshop, Geneva, 30 April 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau and six sub-groups; respond to requests for information and technical advice; organize workshops; update web pages; identify speakers for conferences globally.
- (b) Need to secure extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions.

4. Resources

1 P5 (50%) and 1 G4 (20%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant in-kind contributions from EGRC members/stakeholders (time, travel & sponsorship of events).

Group of Experts on Gas

1. Activities

- (a) Continued substantive and practical preparations for the Group of Experts' second session (20-21 January 2015). There are 60 registered participants as of 31 December 2014.
- (b) Bureau of the Group of Experts held a teleconference on 31 October and met in person on 19 November to discuss the work plan and establishment of the four task forces.
- (c) Secretary-General of the International Gas Union (IGU), one of the key stakeholders, met with the Executive Secretary of UNECE. One of the conclusions from the meeting was to work towards formulating a Memorandum of Understanding between IGU and UNECE.
- (d) The secretariat drafted an early version of the MoU that sketches the common line of action. The MoU is now to be reviewed by IGU and the Group of Experts on Gas, and will be presented at the second session of the Group of Experts.
- (e) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain.
 - The secretariat and the Bureau have established a Task Force for this activity. The leader of the Task Force is the Bureau Vice-chair Tamas Korosi. The IGU might take a leading role in this Task Force.
 - The Chair and the secretariat drafted Terms of Reference for this Task Force.
 - The secretariat drafted an outline for the Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain that is to be reviewed by the Task Force.
- (f) 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.
 - The secretariat and the Bureau have set up a Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force is the Bureau Vice-chair Jan Ingwersen.
 - The Chair and the secretariat drafted Terms of Reference for this Task Force.
 - Established contacts between the Task Force on the Role of Natural Gas in Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.
- (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).
 - The secretariat and the Bureau have set up the Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force is the Bureau Vice-chair Alexandre Karasevich.
 - The Chair and the secretariat drafted Terms of Reference for this Task Force.
 - The Task Force on LNG met in person on 23 December in Madrid.
 - The secretariat drafted an outline for the Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain and sent it to all members of the Task Force for comments and suggestions.
- (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.
 - The secretariat and the Bureau have set up a Task Force for this activity. The Chairs of the Task Force have been identified (Manuel Lage and Lennart Pilskog).
 - To further promote the work of the Task Force, the secretariat is working—with the support of NGVA Europe—on an exhibition of natural gas vehicles that will take place during the second session of the Group of Experts on Gas.
- (g)

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) The second session of the Group of Experts on Gas is scheduled for 20-21 January 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Increase involvement of the private sector in the activities of the four Task Forces.
- (b) Better coordination of the Group of Experts on Gas with the activities of the Gas Centre.

4. Resources

1 D1 (10%), 1 P4 (60%), 1 P3 (30%), 1 G4 (30%).

Gas Centre (XB)

1. Activities

- (a) Logistical and substantive preparations for the 4th meeting of a Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation, in cooperation with EUROGAS – an Association of the European gas industries (Brussels, 16 December 2014);
- (b) Preparations for the 20th Gas Centre Executive Board meeting, including preparation of revised Terms of Reference, annual budget for 2015, draft programme of work etc. The meeting will be held in Geneva on 19 January 2015;
- (c) The 5th UNECE Gas Centre Industry Forum that was originally planned for October 2014 in St. Petersburg was postponed and moved to 19 January 2015 in Geneva. Therefore all substantive preparations for this event occurred in Q4 of 2014;
- (d) Liaising with focal points of the Gas Centre, updating database and mailing lists of the Gas Centre.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 4th meeting of the Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation, Brussels, 16 December 2014
- (b) 20th Gas Centre Executive Board meeting (a.m.), Geneva, 19 January 2015 (a.m.)
- (c) 5th UNECE Gas Centre Industry Forum, Geneva, 19 January 2015 (p.m.)

2. Main Challenges

- (a) Withdrawal of a number of members from the Gas Centre;
- (b) Hence, re-defining the purpose of the Gas Centre and its Terms of Reference, attracting new members; reinforcing dialogue among gas companies, and initiating new links with stakeholders interested in the Gas Centre;
- (c) Hiring of new staff – Manager of the Gas Centre and an assistant.

4. Resources

1 XB P3 (vacant, temporarily filled by a consultant) and 1 XB G4 (long-term sick leave); in-kind contributions from Gas Centre members (meetings hosted by companies).

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) *Consultations in Washington, DC, USA; 30 September – 2 October, 2014.* On 2 October 2014, Regional Adviser held consultations with US-based energy experts and participated in USEA's 7th Energy Supply Forum.
- (b) *Workshop "Strengthening of National Capacities for Urban Planning, Housing, Energy Efficiency and Disaster Risk Reduction in Armenia;" 13-16 October, 2014.* On 13-16 October 2014, Regional Adviser, together with a delegation from UNECE's Housing and Land Management Unit, co-hosted a workshop in Armenia titled "Strengthening of National Capacities for Urban Planning, Housing, Energy Efficiency and Disaster Risk Reduction." In addition to UNECE, co-organizers included: Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of Armenia, UNDP, UN Habitat, and IFC. In addition to participants from Armenia, also present were participants from Belarus and Bulgaria.
- (c) *Workshop on fossil fuel-fired electricity production; 20 October, 2014.* Regional Adviser sponsored the participation of with delegates from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine in the workshop and stakeholder meeting titled *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Fossil Fuel-Fired Electricity Production*, in Geneva, on 20 October 2014. He engaged in advisory discussions with the delegates during and after the workshop.
- (d) *Consultations and informal brainstorming session for participants from Kazakhstan and Armenia during the second energy week, 17-21 November 2014.* Regional Adviser and Secretary of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy held consultations with the representatives of energy ministries of Kazakhstan and Armenia regarding the issue of access to modern energy in Central Asia and Caucasus. On 19 November 2014, Regional Adviser organized an informal brainstorming meeting for the Deputy Minister of Energy of Armenia, with the participation of Switzerland-based energy specialists from the private sector.
- (e) *Participation in the 25th meeting of the Energy Charter Conference and stakeholder consultations in Astana, Kazakhstan, 26-27 November 2014.* Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy accompanied UNECE Executive Secretary during his trip to Astana, and assisted him in setting up and coordinating bilateral meetings with Kazakh government officials, including the Prime Minister, as well as with the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and other participants of the event.
- (d) *Moderating role during the workshop on assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya Basin, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 1-4 December 2014.* Regional Adviser helped in the facilitation of discussions and reaching conclusions on energy-related topics for the workshop organized by the UNECE Environmental Division, Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Smart City assessment field project in Armenia, in cooperation with Housing and Land Management Unit, April 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing, limitations on travel using RPTC funds

4. Resources

1 P5

Annex 1:

Statement by Mr. Christian Friis Bach
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
at
25th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference Ministerial Session
"Development of Transit Corridors – a Key to Global Energy Security"
Astana, Kazakhstan
27 November 2014

Excellencies, Ministers
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the UN and UNECE I would like to thank the Government of Kazakhstan for being such an excellent host of the 25th meeting of the Energy Charter Conference "Development of Transit Corridors – a Key to Global Energy Security."

It is the start of a new tradition of chairmanship in the organization and Kazakhstan's leadership that keep the issues of energy security and energy transit high on the international agenda.

The Astana Declaration brings a strong vision for the next 5 years. The Energy Charter's aspiration to expand the geographical scope of its involvement through the adoption of a modernized Energy Charter next year will indeed be a robust step to strengthen the framework of global energy governance.

I would like to underline our long-standing cooperation with the Energy Charter Secretariat and I am here to build an even stronger partnership.

What unites us at UNECE with the Energy Charter process is our commitment to multilateral dialogue on energy transit, security, policy coordination and efficiency – major priorities for UNECE member States.

We work closely with the Energy Charter Secretariat and would like to offer our platform for your use in pursuing the vision of the Astana Declaration. Our continued close collaboration will enhance the multilateral energy security framework for UNECE member States and signatories of the Energy Charter Treaty.

UNECE's origins go back to the post-WWII Europe and our membership extends from the US to Russia, from Kazakhstan to Canada. We have for more than 60 years convened our countries and helped them to agree on hundreds of recommendations, standards and conventions that has a direct and positive impact on the life of citizens in the ECE region from the UN transport conventions, standards in trade facilitation, environmental conventions, agricultural standards, standards for housing and statistics and standards for energy production and use and increasingly for sustainable energy solutions.

This work is what UNECE does really well.

Our work in energy is guided by goals of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Though simply stated, the concept of sustainable energy is extremely complex.

It includes energy **security**. It must focus on **accessibility** and **affordability**. And it must focus on **sustainability** with all its three dimensions – ensuring economic progress, and environmental and social protection.

All above components are integral and inseparable. And we must meet these complex demands in a world that is changing rapidly in terms of environmental considerations, technological progress, and globalization. What we meant by energy security in 1970 became something different in 1990, and the concept is changing again as the world works to tackle climate change and ensure access to modern energy services.

Because energy security considerations are dynamic, the energy dialogue must be dynamic and continuous as well. UNECE's sustainable energy programme embraces a range of activities.

We work on:

- developing clear recommendations and standards for energy efficiency and renewable energy - standards are needed for windows, water pumps and windmills. And we work with our partners to implement them, not least in economies in transition and in this region
- encouraging the greater use of natural gas as a "transitional" fuel and the safe use of gas with our work on standards for gas use and leakages and coal mine methane management.
- further development of the UN Framework Classification for both Fossil Fuels, nuclear and now expanding to also cover renewable energy sources. It is a framework we encourage all countries to use to ensure consistent reporting and statistics – we need better energy statistics.
- we work on promoting cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels and here our members just agreed on a new set of strong recommendations for Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage that will be submitted to the UNFCCC. Fossil fuels will be with us for a long time and we need to reduce their carbon footprint.

Earlier this month, we also held the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Tunisia which resulted in a joint statement by the Executive Secretaries of the five United Nations regional commissions – the Hammamet Declaration. The statement affirms that the objectives of energy sustainability are attainable and are not in conflict with more short-term considerations, if the world embarks on a determined, collective effort.

Up to recently there was fear that tackling climate change would become a stumbling stone on the way towards economic progress. Today we know that sustainable energy and tackling climate change does not need to be a stumbling stone – it is a building block, and an important building block, of a future strong green economy. It can help to create energy security and new jobs, more investments, higher growth – and green growth.

I would like to emphasize that UNECE – as always – stands ready to provide support to our member states in the field of energy. In this context, the international exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana is an excellent opportunity to expand UNECE's technical cooperation with Kazakhstan and the region in the area of future energy and clean technologies.

Lastly, I would like to thank once again the Energy Charter and the Government of Kazakhstan for organizing this event and for their kind hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.