Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

1st Quarter 2015
(January-March 2015)

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

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Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)

1. Activities
   (a) The Acting-Chair of the CSE presented selected activities of the CSE to the UNECE Executive Committee at its seventy-fifth meeting on 10 February 2015. The presentation was well received. The Executive Committee took note of the state of the Report from the twenty-third session and that it will be approved only at the twenty-fourth session. The Executive Committee approved the draft work plans from the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Resource Classification as recommended by the CSE. The presentation and chairman’s summary were previously circulated to the Bureau.

   (b) The sustainable energy subprogramme is leading the energy session for the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, 14-16 April 2015. The session focus is on resilient communities. An expert group chair is on the panel.

   (c) The Executive Secretary met briefly with Mrs Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), assisted by the sustainable energy subprogramme. The meeting focused on value added both from UNECE and the sustainable energy subprogramme to lead the forthcoming COP21 meetings in Paris in December 2015 to success. The secretariat has already reported about this meeting and a similar meeting with the French Delegation to COP21 to the Bureau.

   (d) In this context, the sustainable energy subprogramme leads UNECE’s Task Force on COP21 in order to coordinate events and input for December. The drafting of a brochure about UNECE wide energy and climate related substantive activities has started with the aim to publish the document shortly before COP21.

   (e) Preparations have started for a series of meetings that involve the CSE in May, notably the Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy: Addressing the real challenges, and adjacent activities on scenario building.

       You can also view the report online at www.unog.ch/annualreport

2. Upcoming Events
   (b) Meeting of an informal expert group for the development of standards on energy efficiency in buildings at the UNECE, 20-21 April 2015, Geneva, a joint event of the Committees on Sustainable Energy and Housing and Land Management.

3. Main Challenges
   (a) Staffing and Recruitment.

4. Resources
   50% P5, 1 G5.
Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities
(a) GEEE continued implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015 approved at the first session of GEEE (17-18 November 2014), 23rd session of CSE (19-21 November 2014), and 75th meeting of EXCOM (10 February 2015).
(b) Draft study “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency (EE). A structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” has been developed. The draft went through two rounds of comments from the Bureau and other member of GEEE and energy efficiency experts from member States, international organizations, and other stakeholders. The study has been posted on the energy efficiency website: http://www.unece.org/energyefficiency.html. The secretariat and the Bureau are exploring possibilities for translating the study into Russian, as requested by numerous experts, and promoting it among the decision-makers and wider EE community.
(c) Conference call of the GEEE Bureau was held on 4 March 2015. Agenda and report of the call are available at: http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html.
(d) Under the UNDA project “Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development”, Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies was held in Israel on 8-12 February 2015. Materials from the event are available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38564/.
(e) Discussions continued with several member States regarding hosting of the 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. Finally, Armenia agreed to host the meeting in Q3 2015.
(f) Preparations continued for organization, jointly with UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit, of a meeting of an informal expert group for the development of standards on energy efficiency in buildings at the UNECE on 20-21 April 2015 in Geneva. The CSE has been invited.
(g) Staff members participated in the following events:
   • Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies, 8-12 February 2015, Israel.
   • Specialized paper marking exercise as a Specialized Board member (Economics) for the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) 2014, 16-25 March, New York.

2. Upcoming Events
(a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
   • Meeting of an informal expert group for the development of standards on energy efficiency in buildings at the UNECE, 20-21 April 2015, Geneva.

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

4. Resources
1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (30%), 1 G5 (50%).
Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

1. Activities
   (a) Activity B of the work plan: Assist UNFCCC in assessing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
      - Continued to liaise with UNFCCC on progress under this activity.
      - Developed a CCS Fact Sheet to accompany the Recommendations when circulated to policymakers.
      - CCS Recommendations have been circulated to selected Environment Ministers (from counties where fossil fuels play critical role for power generation) under a cover letter from the Executive Secretary of UNECE.
      - The UNECE Executive Secretary posted a blog “Capture the carbon” on 9 January in support of CCS and promoting the CCS Recommendations; the text of this blog is being reproduced in the USEA Annual Report.
      - CCS recommendations were promoted/presented by the UNECE Executive Secretary to Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC on 9 February, to Mr. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France on 8 February and to members of the French delegation supporting Ms. Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for Climate Negotiations on 12 February.
      - CCS recommendations were presented to Eurelectric by Scott Foster on 27 January.
   (b) Updated the website to reflect October events.
   (c) 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:
      - Task Force on collaboration with global and regional developments banks prepared its report. The report was circulated among Bureau members and received approval.
      - Task Force on CCUS Technology transfer and Task Force on CCS Readiness. A Series of consultations have been conducted with THE UK CCS Research Centre, USEA, GCCSI as well as a number of Bureau members.
   (d) Draft concept note on project proposal “Partnership and Investment for Delivering Clean Coal Technology Projects - Roadshow: presentation of advanced clean coal technologies in Central Asia” was prepared and approved by the Bureau Chair.

2. Upcoming Events
   (b) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, eleventh session, 30 October 2015.

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 G6 (30%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.
Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. Activities
   (a) Support to the Task Force on Renewable Energy and Gas during the meeting held on 20-21 January 2015 within the annual session of the Group of Experts on Gas; A GERE Bureau member joined the Task Force. The aim of the cooperation is to exchange views between the two communities on (i) how can gas be an enabler for RE; (ii) how to develop a strategic alliance within an holistic approach and the context of optimisation of future energy systems; (iii) identify specific joint activities and projects within the respective work plans;
   (b) Project proposal concept note drafted and considered internally on the development of national SE4ALL Action Plans in the UNECE region with emphasis on instruments, policies and measures to demonstrate the synergies between renewable and gas in achieving a sustainable future energy system: best practices and policy guidelines for gas to be an enabler of renewable energy and a part of a sustainable energy future;
   (c) Fund-raising campaign for the status report on renewable energy in the UNECE region to selected potential donor countries (15) through letters from the Executive Secretary Mr Friis Bach and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division; and subsequent follow-up actions by the secretariat;
   (d) Development of the Status Report project document together with REN21 colleagues for GIZ consideration and approval; IEA and IRENA are also participating in the project (Contribution from Germany: Euros 70,000);
   (e) Development of the Azerbaijan proposal for a workshop on best practices in policies in Central Asia and Caucasus, including the proposal to host the second GERE session in Baku in conjunction with the workshop and the co-financing of the REN21 status report (Overall contribution from Azerbaijan: Euros 120,000);
   (f) Draft paper and tool for a menu of technologies and policies to support them for consideration by GERE Chair and Bureau;
   (g) Strengthening of the cooperation on RE and gas through the appointment of a GERE focal point to the Task Force on Gas and RE (DENA, 23 March 2015);
   (h) Secretariat’s participation and contribution to key RE international workshops and meetings organized, e.g. by UNFCCC/COP, IEA, Word Bank, Central European Initiative, Joint Research Centre.
   (i) Call for proposals to recruit the authors for the REN21 status report, consultant selection is ongoing.

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) GERE Bureau call on 2 April on status report, menu of technologies/policies, energy access, vision for future work plan and input to the CSE open-ended consultations in May, cooperation RE and Gas, activities in second half 2015 including GERE session in October 2015 and workshop in Azerbaijan.

3. Main Challenges
   (a) To develop a GERE strategy to be reflected in the draft work plan 2016-2017 within a future CSE holistic approach; identify a process of standards development in the long run.
   (b) To complement extrabudgetary resources for the outreach of the status report in the ECE region and strengthening the implementation of the work plan, in particular to promote the exchange of information and best practices in policies among experts.
   (c) To enlarge the constituency and strengthen their involvement/commitment within the range of focused areas and activities of the work plan as well as to strengthen the cooperation with a wide range of key stakeholders, including the private sector.

4. Resources
   75% P4, 15% of a G5, 10% of a P5 Chief of Section plus in-kind contribution by Bureau members, associated organizations and experts.
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities
   (a) Activity A: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
      - Spanish version published on the UNECE CMM website in January 2015.
      - Serbo-Croatian version published on the UNECE CMM website in January 2015.
      - Mongolian version is being peer-reviewed.
      - Continued activities towards translation into other languages (Turkish, Romanian) through various in-kind arrangements, as requested by the Group of Experts at the 9th session.
   (b) Activity B: Update and further development of the Best Practice Guidance (BPG)
      - After having reported to the Group of Experts in October 2014, the Task Force on Update and further development of the BPG continued to work on new content and structure of an updated BPG. Identifying the needed funds to rewrite chapters of the BPG remains a challenge.
   (c) 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
      - Continued to liaise with Russian Ministry of Energy re possible extrabudgetary projects.
      - The Bureau discussed possible new case studies will be posted on UNECE CMM website.
   (d) Activity D: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM.
      - In February 2015 the secretariat had a follow-up meeting with the representative of the Permanent Mission of Poland to inform the Mission about the developments and to seek Mission’s continued support.
      - The secretariat continued its consultation with the Central Mining Institute regarding practical aspects of financing and functioning of the International Centre of Excellence.
      - In a conference call on 19 March 2015, the Task Force on establishing International Centre of Excellence in CMM discussed progress and the next steps, including the elements of a future Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and the Central Mining Institute in Katowice, which is nominally under the Polish Ministry of Economy.
      - The secretariat and members of the Bureau will visit Poland the end of May 2015. The needed funds for the mission have been identified. The exact timing and programme of the visit will be determined in close consultations with the Polish partners. The purpose of the visit is to agree principal elements of the Memorandum of Understanding.
   (e) 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
      - No requests for advice were received in Q1 2015.
      - The Group of Experts continues to monitor developments in CMM-related standards, which will be reported at the Group’s next session.
   (f) Continue to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on possible joint activities in 2015, including the fifth Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative, planned for 27 October 2015
   (g) The Bureau continued to work on the substantive preparations for the 10th session of the Group of Experts
   (h) The Bureau continued to discuss elements of the work plan for 2016-17, which are to be presented by the Chair of the Group of Experts at the consultative session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in May 2015.

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) 5th Joint Meeting of UNECE/GMI Coal Subcommittee, 27 October 2015
   (b) 10th session of the Group of Experts, 28 October 2015.

3. Main Challenges
   N/A

4. Resources
   1 P4 (40%), 1 P3 (50%) and 1 G6 (20%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.
1. **Activities**

   (a) **Specifications for UNFC-2009:** Phase Two membership of the Sub-Group developing guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in “UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application” now established. The Sub-group will present its work to the EGRC Sixth Session and request approval of its Terms of Reference.

   (b) **Technical Advisory Group (TAG):** TAG met in January and March; extensive email correspondence during period. Issued recommendation to the Bureau on Generic Renewables Specifications and the Specifications for application of UNFC to injection projects.

   (c) **Testing and review of UNFC-2009:** seven case studies on application of UNFC to uranium resources and one on application to petroleum prepared for EGRC Sixth Session.

   (d) **Education and Outreach:** UNFC presented at more than ten conferences by EGRC members during the period. Work on development of standard set of UNFC presentations continuing.

   (e) **Use of UNFC in classifying injection projects:** Task Force continues to meet regularly and has finalized a first draft of the specifications for application of UNFC to CO₂ reservoirs for geological storage for review by the EGRC Sixth Session.

   (f) **Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources:** Task Force has prepared first draft of Guidebook on Application of UNFC-2009 to Uranium and Thorium Projects, including seven case studies, for review at EGRC Sixth Session.

   (g) **Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy projects:** Renewables Task Force continues to hold two-weekly conference calls. Generic renewables specifications finalized. Geothermal Sub-group held a Workshop with the World Bank in Washington, 4–5 March. Bioenergy Sub-Group organized a webinar on 6 March.

   (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 Sixth Session:** all official documentation submitted. Informal documents under preparation, including draft work plan for 2016-2017.

**EGRC Bureau:** the Bureau held conference calls in January and February and is deeply involved in the oversight of and preparations for the EGRC Sixth Session, 28 April –1 May 2015.

2. **Upcoming Events**


   (b) UNECE Workshop on UNFC-2009 with focus on Central Asia, Geneva, 28 April.

   (c) EGRC Sixth Session, Geneva, 29 April–1 May.

   (d) UNECE “Train the Trainers” UNFC Workshop, Geneva, 30 April.

   (e) UNECE and SPE Swiss Section Lecture “Can the UNFC be applied to Renewable Energy”, Geneva, 30 April.

   (e) UNECE and IAEA Regional Workshop “Uranium exploration and mining: Application of UNFC-2009 project maturity concepts and international standards in management of projects”, Luxor, Egypt, 19–23 October.

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) Renewables Task Force has put development of specifications for hydro, solar and wind on hold due to lack of time and resources.

   (c) Need to secure extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions.

4. **Resources**

   1 P5 (50%) and 1 G6 (20%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant in-kind contributions from EGRC members/stakeholders (time, travel & sponsorship of events).
1. **Activities**
   (a) The second session of the Group of Experts held on 20-21 January 2015; 136 experts participated. The report was adopted at the session.
   (b) Finalized draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Gas Union (IGU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, with input from the UN legal office and the UNECE executive and front offices. The MoU is now being reviewed by the IGU. It is expected that the MoU will be formally signed in Geneva on 30 April.
   (c) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain - The secretariat discussed with IGU’s focal point possible next steps. The mentioned MoU with IGU will be an important instrument in developing BPG in reducing leaks along the value chain.
   - The Secretariat approached other key players (US EPA and IEA) about their collaboration on the task force. Meetings are arranged in the 2nd quarter 2015 to progress their involvement.
   (d) Activity B: Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region
   - On 20 and 21 January, held two working meetings of the Task Force, chaired by the Bureau Vice-chair Jan Ingwersen. The Task Force revisited its vision and mission and agreed on a workplan moving forward. Focus will be on exploring alliances and co-existence of renewable energy and gas players in the context of a future sustainable energy system.
   (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
   - On 21 January held a working meeting of the Task Force, chaired by the Bureau Vice-chair Alexandre Karasevic.
   - First draft of "Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG", which is part of the Best Practices on LNG, finalized in March and sent for peer review. The assessment is to be published on the ECE website and circulated to a wider audience.
   (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel
   - On 20 and 21 January, held two working meetings of the Task Force, chaired by the Bureau Chair Francisco de la Flor Garcia
   - On 21 January organized an exhibition and test drive of the natural gas vehicles at the Palais des Nations. The event was attended by the Executive Secretary and was promoted on UNECE website.
   - On 24 March another meeting of the Task Force held in Brussels, where the division of labour among the Task Force members was defined.

2. **Upcoming Events**
   (a) Group of Experts on Gas, Third Session, February 2016.

3. **Main Challenges**
   (a) Better coordination of the Group of Experts on Gas with the activities of the Gas Centre.

4. **Resources**
   1 D1 (10%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (60%), 1 P3 (30%), 1 G6 (30%).
1. Activities
   (a) The 20th Gas Centre Executive Board meeting was held and agreed to revised Terms of Reference, an annual budget for 2015 (which includes no new contributions), and a draft programme of work. The meeting was held in Geneva on 19 January 2015;
   (b) The 5th UNECE Gas Centre Industry Forum was held on 19 January 2015 in Geneva.
   (c) Preparations began for the activities of the Gas Centre foreseen for June 2015

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets (SIM) - June
   (b) Gas Industry Forum (IF) – October;
   (c) Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation (GMR) – December;

3. Main Challenges
   (a) Withdrawal of a number of members from the Gas Centre. The Executive Secretary decided to refund their contributions in 2014, even if not legally obliged to do so, to put an end to recriminations.
   (b) Attracting new members; reinforcing dialogue among gas companies, initiating new links with stakeholders interested in the Gas Centre, developing a model for Gas Centre operations that meets the needs and expectations of UNECE member States.
   (c) Hiring of new staff – Manager of the Gas Centre and an assistant.

4. Resources
   1 XB P3 (vacant) and 1 XB G4 (vacant, recruitment underway; in-kind contributions from Gas Centre members (meetings hosted by companies).
Regional Adviser

1. Activities
   (a) *Consultations in Kiev, Ukraine, 27 February 2015.* Regional Adviser travelled to Kiev at the official invitation of Ukraine’s parliamentary Committee on Fuel and Energy to present Sustainable Energy Division’s (SED) comments on the draft "Concept of the new Energy Strategy of Ukraine until 2020." The Concept was sent to SED earlier in January 2015, and a 5-page memo with comments, prepared mainly by Regional Adviser, was sent back in February 2015. The discussions in Kiev focused on the Committee’s official request for a continued and larger-scale engagement on this topic, and ways to transform the comments into a project proposal. Regional Adviser also met with experts of the Razumkov Centre, who drafted the Concept, as well as with other Ukrainian energy specialists from NGOs and the private sector. During the second part of the visit, Regional Adviser met with the Chairman of Ukraine’s State Commission on Mineral Resources, and a Senior Adviser. The discussion focused on: a) Ukraine’s policy on mineral resources in the context of Ukraine’s evolving new energy strategy; b) UNFC implementation in Ukraine; c) evolution of the UNFC model in the direction of non-fossils.

   (b) *Assistance to Georgia on developing the National Renewable Energy Action Plan.* In a letter of 4 March 2015, Georgia’s Ministry of Energy officially requested the Sustainable Energy Division to provide technical assistance to draft the country’s first National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP). The Regional Adviser has prepared a tentative plan of work to be undertaken, and is applying on behalf of the Ministry of Energy of Georgia to EuropeAid to fund the project.

   (c) *Developing projects proposals at the request of member States.* During Q1 2015, Regional Adviser developed 6 project proposals at the request of member States and has submitted them to donors.

2. Upcoming Events
   (a) Mission trips to Caucasus and Central Asian member states to hold discussions on the project proposals that were developed at the request of member States during Q1 2015.

   (b) Organisation of workshop on UNFC adoption and implementation in Central Asian states that is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 28 April, during the UNFC week.

3. Main Challenges
   (a) Staffing

4. Resources
   1 P5