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# Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

## Quarterly Report

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015**  
**(April-June 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 Sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe took place in Geneva on 14-16 April 2015. The Sustainable Energy Subprogramme led the organisation of the energy part of the Commission session with a focus on Sustainable Energy and resilient communities. Documentation is available here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35851#/>.
- (b) The first workshop on Pathways to Sustainable Energy took place in Geneva on 26 May 2015, bringing together about 25 international experts, to share their understanding of sustainable energy and the direction the world is headed. Outcomes informed the discussions of the Open-ended Consultations and will be further developed in a second workshop in Q3.
- (c) Immediately following was the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Geneva Energy Conversation: Scenarios for Sustainable Energy*, in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute. Keynote speaker Dr. Bartosz Wojszczyk, President and CEO, Decision Point Global, and an industry spokesperson, visionary and catalyst for disruptive innovation discussed his views on disruptive factors in energy with a view on the speed of global change and new entrants. Information can be found here: [http://graduateinstitute.ch/events/\\_events/corporate/2015/scenarios-for-sustainable-energy](http://graduateinstitute.ch/events/_events/corporate/2015/scenarios-for-sustainable-energy)
- (d) The Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy: Addressing the real challenges, were held in Geneva on 27-28 May 2015. The Consultations offered the possibility for member States to review progress of the implementation of the programme of work 2014-2015 in preparation of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee. The highlight was a presentation by the International Energy Agency on energy policies in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe followed by a discussion about disruptive elements seen from the point of view of the IT sector. The meeting was further an opportunity to examine the interconnections between capitals and the work of the Committee. The website for the Committee's documents is here: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/energycommitteemeetings/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/2015/open-ended-consultations-on-unece-work-on-sustainable-energy/docs.html#/>
- (e) The Bureau's proposal about Pathways for the UNECE region to attain sustainable energy for all was presented to the UNECE Executive Committee on 30 June 2015. The Bureau has received related documentation. The Chairman's summary will be distributed as soon as it is available.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 2 September 2015: 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop to strengthen the proposal on Pathways for the region to attain sustainable energy for all. The Bureau will receive an invitation shortly.
- (b) 24 October 2015: UN Open Day in Geneva. The event is part of both the UN70 celebrations and the rebranding International Geneva initiative. The Palais de Nations will be open to the public, with up to 10,000 attendees expected. The sustainable subprogramme will participate.
- (c) 18-20 November 2015: The 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy is in preparation. The related Bureau meeting has been organised for 3 September 2015. Workshops on carbon capture and storage and coal mine methane will be organised on 17 November as well as the third edition of *Geneva Energy Conversations*.
- (d) 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on Energy for Sustainable Energy will be hosted in Yerevan, Armenia, this year. Invitations have been sent and preparations are ongoing (see also Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency).
- (e) 30 November 2015-10 December 2015: UNFCCC/COP21 in Paris. The sustainable energy subprogramme will participate in a UN Systems side event on energy and is seeking further exposure with country pavilions and partners.

### 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). The status of implementation of the Work Plan is posted on the website:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/GEEE\\_Bureau/22.06.2015/GEEE.deliverables.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/GEEE_Bureau/22.06.2015/GEEE.deliverables.pdf).
- (b) 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 submitted for publication. The electronic version (in English) is available on the website:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/ECE\\_Best\\_Practices\\_in\\_EE\\_publication.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/ECE_Best_Practices_in_EE_publication.pdf). The publication will be translated into French and Russian, as requested by numerous experts, and will be promoted among the decision-makers and wider EE community.
- (c) A draft study Overview of Activities and Players in Smart Grids was prepared and distributed to the GEEE for comments. Website:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/News/Smart\\_Grids\\_Overview\\_05-19-15.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/News/Smart_Grids_Overview_05-19-15.pdf).
- (d) Conference call of the GEEE Bureau was held on 22 June 2015. Agenda and other materials of the call are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>.
- (e) A draft Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015 has been developed by the Bureau of GEEE and the secretariat. It has been sent to the experts for comments and posted on the website:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/GEEE\\_Bureau/22.06.2015/ECE.ENERGY\\_GE.6.2015.DraftWorkPlan.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/GEEE_Bureau/22.06.2015/ECE.ENERGY_GE.6.2015.DraftWorkPlan.pdf).
- (f) The 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development will be held in Yerevan, Armenia on 29 September – 2 October 2015. The Forum is organized by the Government of Armenia, the United Nations Regional Commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Armenia, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Preparations are continuing. Forum’s website: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/).
- (g) UNECE Expert Consultation on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was held on 20 - 21 April 2015 in Geneva. The event was organized jointly with UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit. Chair and several vice-chairs of GEEE participated in the event. Website: [http://www.unece.org/housing/expertconsultation\\_ee1.html#/#/](http://www.unece.org/housing/expertconsultation_ee1.html#/).
- (h) Chair of GEEE participated in the Open-ended consultations of CSE, 27-28 May 2015, Geneva.
- (i) Staff members participated in the following events:
  - Seminar “Energy efficiency and district heating: a strategic policy approach to improving Ukraine’s energy security” organized by Committees of Ukrainian Parliament and US Department of Energy through Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, 16-17 April 2015, Kiev.
  - International Conference “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings in Uzbekistan” and the Technical Round Table “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings: experience of UNDP/GEF projects in CIS countries” organized by UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan, 18-19 June 2015, Tashkent.
  - Open-ended consultations of CSE, 27-28 May 2015, Geneva.
  - UNECE Expert Consultation on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, 20 - 21 April 2015, Geneva.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
  - Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 29 September – 2 October 2015, Yerevan.

- Second session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, 5-6 November 2015, Geneva.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of the 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) The chair, secretariat and several bureau members from the Group of Experts participated in the Open-ended consultations of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 27-28 May 2015, Geneva. A formal in-session report was given to discuss the current status of activities and to discuss future activities.  
([http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/EnComm24\\_May\\_2015/6\\_Worthington\\_CEPpresentation.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/EnComm24_May_2015/6_Worthington_CEPpresentation.pdf))  
Updates of the Group of Experts' work and active task forces were provided to all attendees: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24\\_Open\\_Consultations/CSE-Cons\\_2015\\_INF.3\\_Progress\\_reporting.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24_Open_Consultations/CSE-Cons_2015_INF.3_Progress_reporting.pdf)  
Several informal meetings were also held with participation of several bureau members to discuss future activities.
- (b) Activity A of the work plan: A revised version of the report entitled "A Survey of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS): Landscape, Recent Developments and Principal Stakeholders in an Intergovernmental Context" was completed and will be circulated to the bureau and Task force members for final approval. The final draft will be posted after their approval.
- (c) 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 and other stakeholders as plans progress on the run up to COP 21 in Paris. There is significant activity on the topic of CCS and UNECE is engaged to determine where meaningful contributions can be made.
  - Scott Foster was interviewed by L'AGEFI for the 2015 Special Edition on Commodities. The interview was placed in the section on CSR, Climate and Environment. The article can be found at: [http://www.agefi.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Agefi\\_Commodities/201504\\_special-commodities\\_04.pdf#page=16](http://www.agefi.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Agefi_Commodities/201504_special-commodities_04.pdf#page=16)
  - CCS recommendations were presented to participants of an executive certificate course in Environmental Governance at the Geneva Graduate Institute by David Elzinga on 17 June.
- (d) Continued work by the Task Forces established at the Expert Group 10<sup>th</sup> session to develop proposals and recommendations for future concrete and result-oriented activities:
  - *Task Force on CCUS Technology Transfer and Task Force on CCS Readiness*: A draft report has been completed and is currently out for expert review.
  - *Task Force on goals, targets and indicators on efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants and the impact on GHG emissions with a view to developing best practice guidance*: A draft has been prepared and will be circulated among bureau members and stakeholders.
- (e) Draft of the 2015-2016 work plan has been developed and circulated to the Bureau Chair. Following input from Chair the draft will be circulated to the bureau and then sent for broader consultation.
- (f) Funding has been secured to support travel for several UNECE member countries to a capacity building workshop to apply best practices in the use of clean coal power generation.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, eleventh session, 30 October 2015.
- (b) Workshop on "Strengthened national capacity of countries with economies in transition to apply best practices to clean coal power plant technologies", 29 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 (50%), 1 P4 (30%), 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

## Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

### 1. Activities

- (a) A draft menu of technologies and policies to promote them has been developed with inputs by GERE Bureau members and other stakeholders – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the German Energy Agency (DENA) as practical tool to exchange lessons learnt, best practices, high-impact measures and procedures for an energy transition which leads to significantly increase the use of RE. A first draft was reviewed by Bureau members in April 2015; a working draft is posted at <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/gere.html>;
- (b) Progress made in preparing the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2015 with REN21 and IEA.
- Call for proposals and authoring team (EIR) selected in April 2015;
  - Kick-off of the process on 11 May with preparation of the questionnaire (translation in Russian), identification of potential data providers among the UNECE, REN21 and EIR constituencies;
  - Request for expressions of interest with joint UNECE/REN21 letter of endorsement: approx. 100 positive responses (May-June);
  - Letter to relevant Ministers from UNECE Executive Secretary at the end of May, information and data gathering by the first quarter of July, see ToR at [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/UNECE\\_RE/TOR\\_UNECE\\_RE\\_Status\\_Report.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/UNECE_RE/TOR_UNECE_RE_Status_Report.pdf)).

The status report intends to respond to the gaps pointed out in the previous report prepared in November 2014 with existing data, mainly from IEA, REN21, IRENA and GTF/WB 2014 (see at:

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1\\_18.11.2014/ECE\\_ENERGY\\_GE.7\\_2014\\_INF.1\\_Revised.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1_18.11.2014/ECE_ENERGY_GE.7_2014_INF.1_Revised.pdf)).

The report will establish a renewable energy baseline in the UNECE region but it is also expected to identify those communities with no access to energy through information collected through ad hoc questionnaire and data gathered in the countries concerned and identified with the work produced for the first GERE session, November 2014 (see at [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1\\_18.11.2014/ECE\\_ENERGY\\_GE.7\\_2014\\_INF.2.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere1_18.11.2014/ECE_ENERGY_GE.7_2014_INF.2.pdf)). The Report 2015 is foreseen to be launched in December 2015.

- (c) Chair of GERE participated in the Open-ended consultations of CSE, 26-28 May 2015, Geneva. Participation in the CSE Bureau meeting and Presentation to the participants in the consultations;
- (d) Preparatory work for an International Conference on the Development of Renewable Energy in the UNECE Region is ongoing, initially scheduled to take place jointly with the Second GERE session in October 2015 in Baku and now postponed to 2016 (tbc);

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on renewable energy efficiency will be presented:
- Six<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 29 September – 2 October 2015, Yerevan.
  - Second session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, 12-13 October 2015, Geneva.

### 3. Main Challenges

- (a) Availability and collection of the right data/ information, analysis of findings toward constructive recommendations.
- (b) Additional project sponsors for the on-going status report and other activities
- (c) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.

### 4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 G5 (30%).

## 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)
  - Mongolian version published on the UNECE CMM website in June 2015.
  - Continued activities towards translation into other languages (Turkish, Romanian, and Polish) through various in-kind arrangements, as requested by the Group of Experts at the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 finalized its work on new content and structure of an updated BPG.
- (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
  - Submitted to EXCOM a proposal for a new XB project on dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane, funded by the United States.
  - Continued to liaise with the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation regarding another possible extrabudgetary project.
- (d) Activity D: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM.
  - In May 2015 the Chair of the Group of Experts, a Vice-chair, and the secretary visited Katowice and Warsaw and discussed the establishment of the Centre of Excellence with the management of the Central Mining Institute and the representatives of the Polish ministries of economy, the treasury, education and foreign affairs.
  - The primary purpose of the visit is to agree the text of a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU was discussed and agreed. As soon as finally approved by the legal affairs, the MoU will be formally signed. The optimal time for the signing ceremony is mid-September – early October, or possibly on 28 October, during the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts.
  - The Group of Experts also explored the modalities of the Polish in-kind contribution through hosting the International Centre of Excellence on CMM.
  - The secretariat remains engaged in ongoing consultation with the Central Mining Institute regarding practical aspects of financing and functioning of the International Centre of Excellence, and the possible activities of the Centre in 2016, including its formal launch.
- (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
  - The Group of Experts established working relationships with the ISO's Technical Committee 263. Representatives of TC 263 are invited to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts planned for October 2015.
  - The Group of Experts continued its close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- (f) Continue to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on the fifth Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative, planned for 27 October 2015, and the possible follow-up meetings on 28-30 March 2016, in Washington, DC.
- (g) 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.
- (h) The Bureau continued to work on the substantive preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts. A provisional annotated agenda is agreed and sent for translation into French and Russian. Formal invitations are being sent.
- (i) The Group of Experts started its preliminary preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> session planned for 2016.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of UNECE/GMI Coal Subcommittee, 27 October 2015
- (b) 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts, 28 October 2015.

### 3. Main Challenges

N/A

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



## Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

### 1. Activities

- (a) [UNECE Resource Classification Week](#), 27 April–1 May, with over 200 experts.
  - IAEA and UNECE Joint Consultancy Meeting, 27–28 April: resulted in significantly updated guidelines for the application of UNFC to uranium and thorium resources.
  - [UNECE UNFC Workshop with focus on Central Asia](#), 28 April.
  - First UNFC “Train the Trainers” Workshop, 30 April.
  - EGRC Sixth Session, 29 April–1 May: [meeting report](#) approved on 1 May.
  - Associated meetings of EGRC Bureau and sub-groups, 28 April-1 May.

EGRC Sixth Session highlights:

- EGRC agreed on its work plan for 2016–2017 and has recommended it for consideration by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-fourth session.
  - Revised Bridging Document between CRIRSCO Template of 2013 and UNFC was approved.
  - Bridging Document between NEA/IAEA Uranium Classification and UNFC was approved.
  - Draft generic specifications for application of UNFC to renewable energy were approved with the caveat that they may need to be updated as a result of the development of the commodity-specific specifications. Geothermal and bioenergy specifications are under development.
  - Draft specifications that will allow the use of UNFC to classify injection projects for geological storage, in particular CO<sub>2</sub> storage, were reviewed. They can be issued for public comment.
  - The terms of reference for the E-Axis Sub-Group were approved. A panel discussion highlighted the importance of social licence and environmental issues on the UNFC E-axis.
  - Work to start on collation of issues for a future update of UNFC. EGRC recommended that the update should not be planned before 2018.
  - Case studies on application of UNFC to petroleum, uranium, thorium and landfill mining were presented. Classification of anthropogenic resources under UNFC including application of UNFC to different wastes (e.g. industrial wastes) and waste facilities was presented, as well as a landfill mining case study. The results showed UNFC can be applied to such projects.
  - The Bureau is tasked to develop and execute a resourcing strategy together with an estimated funding requirement, identify potential donors and approach them for support.
- (b) Progress report on the activities of the EGRC was presented by the EGRC Chair to the Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 27–28 May.
  - (c) [Draft guidelines for the application of UNFC to uranium and thorium resources](#) and eight case studies were issued for public comment on 25 June for two months.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNFC and Renewable Energy Workshop, Geneva, Switzerland, 14 October 2015
- (b) 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 2015

### 3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau and eight sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (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 (25%). 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) The chair, secretariat and several bureau members from the Group of Experts participated in the Open-ended consultations of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 27-28 May 2015, Geneva. A formal in-session report was given to discuss the current status of activities and to discuss future activities:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/EnComm24\\_May\\_2015/7\\_De\\_La\\_Flor\\_Garcia\\_Gas.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/EnComm24_May_2015/7_De_La_Flor_Garcia_Gas.pdf)
- (b) Updates of the Group of Experts work and active task forces were provided to all attendees:  
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24\\_Open\\_Consultations/CSE-Cons\\_2015\\_INF.3\\_Progress\\_reporting.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24_Open_Consultations/CSE-Cons_2015_INF.3_Progress_reporting.pdf)  
The Chair emphasised the importance of COP 21 as a venue to promote the value of natural gas in meeting sustainable energy objectives.
- (c) Christian Friis-Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE spoke at the World Gas Conference (WGC) on the topic of “Gas development in emerging countries”. The panel was chaired by Maria Van der Hoeven from the International Energy Agency.
- (d) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Gas Union (IGU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was signed on 30 April in Paris, France. The content of the MoU supports work across the Group of Experts, but does provide a specific focus around gas leakage in the gas value chain.
- (e) Activity A- Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain:  
Several meetings were held over the quarter by the Sustainable Energy Division Director, including related missions to Washington, Paris (for the IGU hosted World Gas Conference) and Istanbul. There is increased interest and support in this topic matter to both producer and transit countries. The missions have resulted in several bureau nominations and confirmation of the importance of this topic. Ongoing discussions with the US EPA have focused on the potential role for UNECE in the Global Methane Initiative.
- (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:  
Work on renewable energy and gas has started according to the work plan. The Task Force will be working over the summer to refine inputs for the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- (g) Activity C- Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):  
"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 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Workshop on Methane Emissions hosted by Marcogaz – Technical Association of the European Gas Industry, 30 June 2015.
- (b) 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 (15%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%).

## **Gas Centre (XB)**

### 1. Activities

- (a) The Task force on Supply, Infrastructure, and Markets has been delayed to the Autumn. The host has expressed a preference for an October date.
- (b) There was an offer to conduct the Gas Industry Forum at the end of August 2015. Those discussions are on-going, but it is getting late to plan it for then. The Chair has proposed instead that it be conducted in December 2015 in Geneva.
- (c) Recruitment of Gas Centre staff proceeds. The programme assistant has been selected, and recruitment for the programme manager has begun.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets (SIM) – tbd
- (b) Gas Industry Forum (IF) – tbd
- (c) Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation (GMR) – December 2015

### 3. Main Challenges

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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) A UNFC Workshop with a special focus on Central Asia was organized in Geneva on 28 April 2015. The event had been scheduled immediately before the official opening of the Sixth Session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (29 April-1 May 2015) to allow delegates from Central Asia to benefit from both attending the Expert Group meeting and technical discussions, and networking with fellow experts who are familiar with applying the UNFC.

The workshop included introductory presentation by the Regional Adviser, followed by presentations from Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek delegations on national classification systems currently in use in their countries, and on the possibility to apply the UNFC system on national level. The Regional Adviser liaised with experts prior to and after the workshop to identify specific concerns related to understanding and implementing the UNFC system; he also prepared a project concept note on promoting the adoption of the UNFC model in the Republic of Tajikistan.

### 2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Missions to Central Asia and Caucasus.

### 3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing, lack of resources.

### 4. Resources

1 P5 (100%).