



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

3rd Quarter 2017
(July to September 2017)

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) 26-28 September 2017: **26th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva. About one hundred experts from UNECE member States participated in a discussion about energy transition and accelerating progress in achieving the energy-related SDGs. Delegates focused on the role that the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies could play to accelerate delivery on energy for sustainable development in the context of partnerships across regions, within governments, and with the United Nations Development Group. The Committee elected its Bureau for the coming two years, approved its Strategic Framework for 2019-2021, its Programme of Work for 2018-2019, and the mandates and work plans for those Groups of Experts that had requested it. All documents including the report and work plans can be found on the Committee website here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45864>. The Committee's Bureau met in preparation on 26 September and welcomed newly nominated Vice-Chairs.
- (b) 29 September 2017: Following the 26th Committee session, a **regional workshop on the "Development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans"** was organized in Geneva under the framework of the UN Development Account project *Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*. About 20 experts shared experiences and challenges for the development of national sustainable energy policies. These inputs are being interpreted in the context of the project **Pathways to Sustainable Energy**, and similar workshops are being planned in various sub-regions. The results of the **UNECE REN21 Renewable Energy Status Report 2017** were also presented. Documents are here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46412>

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 18 October 2017: **5th Meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy – Ecosystems Nexus**, Geneva, which will feature a discussion among countries on energy-nexus related considerations that should play a role in developing holistic, cross-cutting and adaptive policy options under the **Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project**. Preparations are ongoing. The provisional agenda and supporting documents can be found on line here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43626>
- (b) 18-20 October 2017: **Preparatory meeting on the review of SDG7**, Oslo. The Director of the Sustainable Energy Division will participate in the discussions of the Ad hoc technical advisory group on SDG7 and the Symposium on SDG7, which are meetings held in the context of the indicator review in spring 2018, organized by DESA, UNOSD, Norwegian Research Council, (SINTEF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The event will bring together global experts from inside and outside the UN system to discuss the implementation of SDG7 and its interlinkages and progress on challenges/opportunities/and recommendations for the process, which is overseen by the High Level Political Forum. The contribution of the sustainable energy subprogramme will focus on outcomes from the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial and present outcomes from the recent global and regional reports of the Global Tracking Framework, carried out jointly with the other Regional Commissions, SEforAll and the World Bank.
- (c) 8-10 November 2017: **78th session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and Ministerial Meeting**, Geneva. The next session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management will include a Ministerial Segment on 9 November 2017, which will be organised as a forum for a high-level exchange of experiences related to the implementation of international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing. The Ministerial Meeting is expected to adopt the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. Part of the agenda will be a discussion on the Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, developed by the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and already endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy. This is a joint project between the two Committees. We will report on the recommendations from the session and its ministerial meeting. All documents and information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44635>
- (d) 14 - 17 November 2017: The Chair has been invited to participate in the **23rd session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy** in Geneva. The objective is to exchange views among four

Committee Chairs on collaboration across the Committees, specifically related to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. Meeting documents are being made available on this webpage.

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45618>. We will inform on the outcomes.

- (e) 11 December 2017, 11.00-16.00, **the next in-person Bureau meeting** will be organised in **Geneva**. Details will be sent shortly. The meeting is connected with the traditional report of the recommendations and conclusions of Committee sessions to **the UNECE Executive Committee**. The Chair will present his report and inform the Executive Committee of progress, political messages and documents for approval, as per request of the delegates during the 26th session. The Bureau agenda will feature process and content for future Bureau interactions. It is the first time the new Bureau will meet in this composition. Dial-in will be provided.
 - (f) 26-28 September 2018: **27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva. Details will be provided as soon as possible. The secretariat reminds of the 10-week deadline before the meeting for all official documents. The Bureau will be invited to recommend strategic areas of discussion for the Committee in the next biennium.
3. Main Challenges
- (a) Staffing and recruitment.
 - (b) Attracting UNECE member countries to Committee meetings and manage cannibalizing effect of meeting invitations to experts.
4. Resources
- 60% P5, 40% JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017.
- (b) Preparations continued for the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to be held on 31 October – 1 November 2017 in Geneva. All session documents are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45694>.
- (c) Members of the GEEE and its Bureau participated in the 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-28 September 2017. Mandate of the GEEE has been extended until December 2019 and its Work Plan for 2018-2019 has been approved. The session on the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was chaired by Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair of GEEE. Framework Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee (see press release: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/sustainable-energy/2017/new-guidelines-on-energy-efficiency-standards-pave-the-way-for-more-sustainable-buildings/doc.html>).
- (d) The joint UNECE/Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency study *Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency* is being prepared for publication (estimated to be issued in November 2017). The website: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/ReportOvercomingBarriersPre-publication.pdf>.
- (e) The second edition of the publication *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency* has been prepared for publication (estimated to be issued in October 2017).
- (f) Implementation of the extra-budgetary project *Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings* with two sources of funding (Denmark and Russian Federation) has started. The project is being jointly implemented with Forests, Housing and Land Management Division. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings is planned for 30 October back-to-back with the fourth session of GEEE.
- (g) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Implementation Workshop on UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, Philadelphia, PA, 2 August 2017.
 - Training of the National Officials and Experts Responsible for Sustainable Energy Data Collection, Tbilisi, 11-12 September 2017.
 - 10th Tbilisi International Local Economic Development Forum, Tbilisi, 13-15 September 2017.
 - 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-28 September 2017.
 - Regional Workshop on the Development of National Sustainable Energy Policies, Geneva, 29 September 2017.Chair of GEEE participated on behalf of UNECE in the Concluding Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Prague, 6-8 September 2017.
A Vice-Chair of GEEE participated on behalf of UNECE in the Expert Group Meeting on Benchmarking of Industrial Energy Efficiency, Vienna, 28-29 September 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - North American Passive House Network Annual Conference (NAPHN 2017), Oakland, CA, 4-8 October 2017
 - XXII Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum, Minsk, 10-13 October 2017.
 - National Capacity Building Workshop on Developing and Implementing Energy Efficiency Policies, Baku, 24-25 October 2017.
 - First meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, Geneva, 30 October 2017.
 - 4th session of GEEE, Geneva, 31 October – 1 November 2017.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
- (b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (c) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 G5 (40%), 1 G6 (20%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP) has continued the implementation of its work plan for 2016-2017.
- (b) Agenda for the 13th session prepared, invitations sent, the timetable agreed, and the speakers for the session identified.
- (c) The Committee approved the Group's 2018-2019 work plan at its 26th session in September.
- (d) On 28 September 2017 in Geneva, as part of the 26th Committee on Sustainable Energy, the secretariat and the Group of Experts on CEP organized two sessions: one on the critical role of CCUS in achieving climate objectives and the other on the continued reliance on fossil fuels of the energy system. A keynote address was given by Ms Trude Sundset, CEO of Gassnova, a pioneer of CCS in the UNECE region.
- (e) Publication: Coordinated Operations of Flexible Coal and Renewable Energy Power Plants: Challenges and Opportunities – in progress and due to be published in 2017.
- (f) CEP experts and the secretariat continue to work on a case study in sustainable electricity system development (PJM Interconnection, a regional transmission organization in the United States).

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 13th session of CEP, Geneva, 26-27 October 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources.
- (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 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) Preparations continued for the fourth session of GERE scheduled on 2-3 November 2017 in Geneva. Provisional agenda and all session documents are posted at:
<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45697>
- (c) The Chair of GERE, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, actively participated in the 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy on 26-28 September 2017 and in the Regional Workshop on the Development of National Sustainable Energy Policies on 29 September, in Geneva. The session on “Tracking progress on sustainable energy” was chaired by Mr. Ramazanov; The Chair presented also the various activities implemented in the current biennium and the proposed Work Plan 2018-2019;
- (d) The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 26th session renewed the mandate of the Group of Experts and approved the GERE Work Plan 2018-2019 (available at:
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm26/ECE_ENERGY_2017_4e_GE_7_2_017_6e.pdf) See also report at:
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm26/ECE_ENERGY_113e.pdf)
- (e) Preparatory work was done during the Committee session by the secretariat with the Chair of the Group of Experts, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, to organize a UNECE Hard Talk on Renewable Energy, Baku, Azerbaijan, 19-20 October 2017; including initial contacts to organize an Hard Talk in Kazakhstan during the first months of 2018;
- (f) Staff member participated in the following events:
 - Documentary and panel discussion “Bring the sun home”, Geneva, 17 September 2017,
 - 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-28 September 2017.
 - Regional Workshop on the Development of National Sustainable Energy Policies, Geneva, 29 September 2017, presenting key findings from the REN21 Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, launched in Astana in June 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on renewable energy will be presented:

- Hard Talk on Renewable Energy, Baku, Azerbaijan, 18-19 October 2017
- 4th session of GERE, Geneva, 2-3 November 2017;
- GERE Bureau meeting during GERE session, Geneva, 2 November 2017
- Workshop on “Fostering renewable heat in the UNECE region”, Bonn, 13 November 2017, parallel event to UNFCCC COP23, jointly organized with dena, German Energy Agency;
- Workshop on “Fostering renewable energy in UNECE countries’ electricity sector”, Bonn, 14 November 2017, parallel event to UNFCCC COP23, jointly organized with dena, German Energy Agency;

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (c) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas to strengthen future activities and cooperation with other Groups of Experts.
- (d) Strengthening cooperation and planning future joint activities with key actors, e.g. REN21, IRENA, IEA, EU-DEVCO, as well as with current and potential bilateral donors and new partner organizations;

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO (30%), 1 G6 (20%).

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE on CMM)

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on the deliverables prescribed in its 2016-2017 work plan.
- (b) Mandate of GoE on CMM has been extended for 2018-2019 by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 26th session, 26-28 September.
- (c) Work plan for 2018-2019 was presented to and approved by the Committee at its 26th session.
- (d) 12th session GoE on CMM continues to be prepared: 24-25 October, Geneva. Agenda has been developed and speakers secured. Documents posted to: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44868>
- (e) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - The official translation of the BPG into Russian and French is in progress.
 - The work on unofficial translation into Polish and Indonesian based on in-kind contributions from private sector is in its final stage.
- (f) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - A capacity building workshop was held in Tianjin, China, 24 September as part of China Mining 2017 (147 attendees).
 - Technical workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy is being organized in Geneva, 23 October 2017. Agenda has been developed and speakers secured: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46315>
- (g) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - ICE-CMM in China was officially inaugurated in Tianjin, September 2017. High level officials from China were present. The attendees represented 7 countries. A capacity building workshop delivered by UNECE experts was held back-to-back with the ICE opening.
- (h) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - 8 presentations delivered at the workshop in Tianjin and posted on the CMM website.
- (i) Activity E: Expand the GoE scope of work to cover integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development.
 - Budget for 2017 for extrabudgetary project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas/Downstream Gas)* was prepared, approved, and funds were released.
- (j) Cross-cutting issues
 - A survey related to the project on *Modernization of the energy sector* was prepared and will be disseminated among targeted states in Q4 2017.
 - Kazakhstan was presented with the project on *Modernization of the energy sector*.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Technical workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in context of Sustainable Energy, 23 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.
- (b) 12th Session GoE on CMM, 24-25 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland, to include a joint UNECE and Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Sub-Committee event.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding for the secretariat to service GoE on CMM and its Bureau.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2016-2017](#) are either completed or being worked on. The Bureau met on 2 August and 18 September to review progress on implementation of the work plan, start organization of the EGRC 9th session (24-27 April 2018), and discuss the UNFC revision process and reorganization and restructuring of the EGRC's 19 sub-groups. The Technical Advisory Group met on 27 July and 29 August. All other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) The [Work Plan for 2018-2019](#) was approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 26th Session, 26-28 September.
- (c) [Draft Specifications for the application of the UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources](#) were issued for public comment on 14 August until 12 October 2017.
- (d) A panel session on Recovery of energy and valuable materials from waste and the role of UNFC was organized during the 26th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, following which the Committee requested the Expert Group to explore possibilities to develop UNFC guidelines and best practices to manage energy and material recovery from waste projects. A news article was issued: "[From risk to resource: waste can contribute to sustainable development](#)".
- (e) [Specifications for the application of UNFC for Bioenergy Resources](#) were endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 26th Session, 26-28 September. A [press release](#) was issued on 28 September.
- (f) Following issuing for public consultation, the [Draft guidance for the application of UNFC for mineral resources](#) in Finland, Norway and Sweden is under finalization.
- (g) UNECE organized a session on UNFC and reserves and resources at the 22nd World Petroleum Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 July 2017.
- (h) Participated in Stakeholder Council meeting of the EU-funded project GeoERA - Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe, Vienna, Austria, 5 September 2017.
- (i) UNFC was presented at the 3rd Meggen Raw Material Days, Lennestadt, Meggen, Germany, 14 September 2017.
- (j) UNFC was presented at China Mining 2017, Tianjin, China, 24-26 September 2017.
- (k) Extrabudgetary projects: (i) Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources (2017-2019), US\$ 161,000, funded by Russian Federation has been approved; (ii) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (2018-2021), US\$ 490,000 from UN Development Account 11th Tranche. Following the approval of the project concept, a detailed project document has been submitted.
- (l) Publication of 14 UNFC geothermal case studies in progress.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Workshop on Harmonization, Adaptation, Implementation and Development of UNFC in line with the African Mining Vision (AMV) Cairo, Egypt, 2-6 October 2017.
- (b) UNECE, ESM Foundation and EIT Raw Materials [Workshop on Strategic Raw Materials and Sustainable Development](#) organized during World Resources Forum, Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 October 2017.

- (c) IAEA-UNECE Interregional training course on unconventional uranium resource assessment, UNFC classification and reporting with particular emphasis on uranium as co- or by-product, Salta, Argentina, 13-17 November 2017.
- (d) UNECE Resource Management Week 2018 - UNFC for Sustainable Development (incorporating EGRC 9th Session), Geneva, Switzerland, 23-27 April 2018.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and 19 sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (40%), 1 P4 (100% - temporary) and 1 G6 (30%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) The GEG Bureau held two conference calls in July and September to discuss the ongoing activities and the Group's participation in the 26th committee on Sustainable Energy.
- (b) The 2018-2019 work plan was approved by the Committee. On 27 September, the Chair participated in the Committee's session on methane emissions from the extractive industries.
- (c) The Chair and the secretariat participated in an industry workshop on methane emissions, organized by Marcogaz and GIE on 14 July in Madrid. The Group of Experts on Gas offered to host the next meeting in March 2018 in Geneva.
- (d) The implementation of the extrabudgetary project "Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas / Downstream Gas)" formally started in August. The secretariat and the donor agency continued to discuss practical aspects of project implementation. The secretariat initiated the process of identifying and contracting a consultant to develop a draft of the two best practice guidance documents.
- (e) The secretariat prepared for printing two publications stemming from the Group's 2016-2017 work plan: a case study on LNG and the recommendations to removing barriers to the use of natural gas in transport.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Industry workshop on reducing methane emissions from the gas sector, 21 March 2018, Geneva.
- (b) 5th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, 22-23 March 2018, Geneva.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources to service GEG, its Bureau and 4 task forces.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity building activities.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

(a) **Advisory mission to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 10-14 July 2017**

During meetings with the Vice Chairman of the State Committee on Industry, Energy and Subsoil there were discussions on SDG7 implementation in Kyrgyzstan, on cooperation and on participation of national experts in SED capacity building activities. It was noted that the Government's request for assistance in preparation of the national energy efficiency policies should be part of the development of a national action plan to meet SDG7. There was a discussion on the list of projects for foreign investments, opportunities for investors and how electricity tariffs are still a barrier to attracting investment. The Government of Kyrgyzstan requested to provide them with a review of existing international experience on energy efficiency legislation and information on electricity tariffs in other Central Asian countries. On behalf of the State Committee, the Vice Chairman requested finding an opportunity to conduct a workshop on UNFC in Bishkek for national experts.

It was recommended that the State Committee should continue to conduct policy and institutional reforms for the energy sector, aimed at: a) developing a legal and regulatory framework to outline the segments of energy sector which are not open to privatization (most probably generation capacities of large HPP); b) restructuring the power engineering sector to improve transparency, efficiency and involvement of private sector participation in segments, which are eligible for privatization (for example, power distribution companies); c) raising the level of electricity tariffs toward full cost recovery to ensure the development of the power sector; d) diversifying energy resources (first of all through the development of wind power); and e) encouraging private sector participation.

It was noted that attracting foreign direct investment to construct new generation capacities requires guarantees by the Government that include appropriate feed-in tariffs and power purchase agreements. Current electricity prices and tariff policies do not encourage an open market approach which could stimulate more efficient use of existing equipment and infrastructure in parallel with installing new power capacities.

Discussion on mutual cooperation and future work of the SPECA Working Group on Energy, Environment and Water was held during the meeting with the Chair of the Group who stressed on the role of the WG as a platform for cooperation of SPECA countries on water-, energy- and environment-related SDGs through extensive exchange of information and sharing of best practice experiences. He suggested continuing UNECE efforts to find sponsorship for potential projects "Central Asian energy cooperation on transboundary issues to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7" (UNECE and UNESCAP) and "Supporting sustainable management of energy and mineral resources of Central Asia (UNECE)".

Meetings with a Director of Energy Research Institute were devoted to development of renewable energy projects in Kyrgyzstan. In particular, the Director presented the Institute's experience and facilities. There was a discussion on a potential wind power project near Balykchi town. The Regional Adviser presented on-going UNECE projects and potential topics for cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and UNECE and findings on "Conjunctive Wind and Hydro Energy for Water Management in Kyrgyzstan." This project proposal was developed by UNECE and submitted for the Government's consideration.

Meetings in the UNDP office, procurement section allowed resolving challenges related to the tender process to be conducted by UNDP for selection of a national contractor for the installation of a biogas unit near Kant town under the UNECE project "Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan".

The Regional Adviser visited two sites: 1) the location near Kant town selected for the development of a biogas pilot project under on-going UNECE project "Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan"; 2) an area in Balykchi town – potential site for a wind power project.

The Regional Adviser is preparing information on electricity tariffs in other Central Asian countries to be submitted to the State Committee on Industry, Energy and Subsoil.

(b) Advisory mission to Astana, Kazakhstan, 6-8 September 2017

During meetings with the Vice Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan and ministry's officials there were deliberations on the future work of the SPECA Working Group on Energy, Environment and Water, UNECE support of a common electricity market in Central Asia, involvement of Kazakhstani experts in implementation of UNECE project "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia". The meetings with the Vice Minister were focused on transforming the national concept on "Development of national fuel-power system till 2030" into a comprehensive national action plan to meet SDG7. The Vice Minister requested the preparation of an updated overview of world best practices on coal gasification technologies and projects.

Consultations with the Task Force (national officials and experts) gave an opportunity to share best practices for the development of national sustainable energy policies in Kazakhstan. These consultations helped the country to assess the applicability best practices to the national circumstances and develop national models for improvement of sustainable energy policies.

Participated in the XI KAZENERGY Eurasian Forum "Securing the Future of Energy" and had meetings with a number of event participants. The Forum considered various aspects of sustainable energy development, including the world's best projects and technologies in the fields of energy saving, well-balanced use of traditional and alternative energy sources. Its format makes it possible to maintain a high-level open and constructive dialogue on the international aspects of energy of the future. The future cooperation with KazEnergy as a follow-up to the jointly organized Ministerial "Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy" held in June 2017 was discussed with high-level KazEnergy officials.

(c) Advisory mission to Tbilisi, Georgia 13 September 2017

Meetings were held with the Deputy Minister of Energy Ms. Mariam Valishvili, and Ministry's officials: Ms. Natalia Jamburia, Ms. Margalita Arabidze, and Mr. Davit Sharikadze. During meetings at the Ministry of Energy there were discussions on SDG7 implementation in Georgia, mutual cooperation, in particular in implementation of UNECE project "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia", status of the development of national action plan to meet SDG7, in particular on growth of renewable energy projects, plans to construct thermal (coal) power plant, development of the electricity market, and transboundary electricity trade. Deputy Minister requested to provide her Government with the review of world best practices on Carbon Capture and Storage.

(d) Capacity building activities: Training to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection, Tbilisi, Georgia, 11-12 September 2017

Regional Adviser organized and conducted training to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection. The event was jointly organized by UNECE and ESCAP as an activity in the framework of implementation of the joint United Nations Development Account project "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia".

Thirty participants from 5 targeted countries Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan attended the training. The training sessions focused on methods for collection, verification, aggregation and reporting of data, as well as statistical indicators relevant for monitoring of sustainable energy development. The goal of the training was to increase the national experts' knowledge of relevant best practices on collection and monitoring of national data on sustainable energy in compliance with international standards. Based on knowledge acquired during the training, national experts strengthened their capacities to organize data collection in their countries in accordance with United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The status of sustainable energy data collection in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan was done by the countries' representatives. The role of energy statistics in achieving sustainability was presented by speakers from international organisations and the

private sector including Statistics Austria, Directorate Spatial Statistics Environment and Energy; United Nations Statistics Division, UNDESA; UNECE Sustainable Energy Division; Services Industriels de Genève.

The UNECE International consultant and trainer provided training to participants with focus on the United Nations Official Principles of Statistics and their relation to sustainable energy statistics as well as on Sustainable Energy Statistics in general.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Mission to Serbia.
- (b) Workshop “Strengthening national capacity of Central Asia in transitioning to sustainable energy policy and practices based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Reviews”, Astana, Kazakhstan.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) N/A.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%).
