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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Seventeenth session
Geneva, 19-21 November 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 19 November 2008*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. Energy Security Dialogue: strategic alliances for energy security

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie/>), and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one and a half hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 or 75721).

4. Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
5. Review of activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee:
 - (a) Energy Security Dialogue
 - (b) Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
 - (c) Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, and Gas Centre
 - (d) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology
 - (e) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
 - (f) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels
6. Regional advisory services programme in the field of energy
7. Cooperation and coordination with other Sectoral Committees of the Commission
8. Programme of work in the field of energy for 2009-2010 and assessment of the Programme Performance of the sustainable energy subprogramme:
 - (a) Programme of work, including subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2009
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/77 – Annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published in English, French and Russian and will be posted on the UNECE website as soon as they become available, at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/com.html>.

Item 2: Election of Officers

2. The Committee should elect a Bureau or confirm/ re-elect the existing Bureau.

Item 3: Energy Security Dialogue: Strategic alliances for energy security

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/76 - Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its sixteenth session

ECE/ENERGY/2008/1 - Energy Security Dialogue

ECE/ENERGY/2008/2 – Progress report on UNECE Study on sustainable energy policies to mitigate energy security risks

3. During the Committee on Sustainable Energy's first expert dialogue on energy security held in November 2007, experts noted that the most effective way to manage supply risk and increase global energy security was to invest in technology and infrastructure. Changes in the energy market had given rise to new challenges in meeting these investment requirements. The secretariat background paper on financing energy security concluded that active cooperation between national oil companies (NOCs) and international oil companies (IOCs), together with stable host government policies, could help ensure that the required capital is mobilized in support of hydrocarbon investments. Governments should strive to achieve a fiscal and regulatory environment in which multiple sources of finance are supported. This session of the expert dialogue will first examine the potential impact of strategic alliances between NOCs and IOCs on energy security. Their government officials will then review the complementary nature of energy security strategies in different countries and subregions.

Item 4: Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2008/4: Cooperation with international organizations

4. The Committee will be briefed on cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry associations and the business community.

Item 5: Review of activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee

5. The Committee will receive a succinct briefing on the activities and future programme of work of each of its subsidiary bodies, notably:

- (a) Energy Security Dialogue:

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2008/1 - Energy security dialogue.

- (b) Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project:

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2008/4 - Report on its nineteenth session.

- (c) Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, and Gas Centre:

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2008/2 - Report of the Working Party on its eighteenth session.

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2008/2 - Report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on its ninth session.

- (d) Ad Hoc Group of Experts Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology:

Documentation: ENERGY/GE.3/2008/2 - Report on its fifth session.

- (e) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane:

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2008/2 - Report on its fifth session.

- (f) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and other Fossil Fuels on its First Meeting:

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2007/5 – Report on its first meeting.

6. The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided, in particular in relation to consideration of the programme of work for 2009-2010 under item 8.

7. Following review and assessment of activities of the subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Sustainable Energy would need to recommend for approval to the Executive Committee the extension or discontinuation of mandates related to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and other Fossil Fuels.

Item 6: Regional advisory services programme in the field of energy

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2007/3 - UNECE Regional Advisory Services programme in the field of energy (February 2005-August 2007, submitted to the sixteenth session of the Committee)

ECE/ENERGY/2008/3 – UNECE Regional Advisory Services programme in the field of energy

8. The Committee will be informed about the UNECE's activities delivered through the Regional Advisory Services for energy.

9. The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided.

10. The Committee may also wish to discuss and agree upon the priorities for future activities to be undertaken through the Regional Advisory Services for energy.

Item 7: Cooperation and coordination with other Sectoral Committees of the Commission

11. The secretariat will inform the Committee on the activities of common interest of other Sectoral Committees of the Commission.

Item 8: Programme of work in the field of energy for 2009-2010 and assessment of the Programme Performance of the sustainable energy subprogramme

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2008/4 - Cooperation with international organizations

ECE/ENERGY/2008/5 - Draft programme of work for 2009-2010 in the field of energy and assessment of the programme performance of the sustainable energy subprogramme.

12. The Committee should review and adopt its programme of work for 2009-2010. In view of the preparation of the United Nations programme budget cycle, the programme narrative 2010-2011 would need also to be considered on the basis of a conference room paper prepared by the secretariat.

13. The Committee should approve the provisional calendar of meetings for 2009.

Item 9: Other business

14. Delegations may wish to raise any other points relevant to the meeting. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 10: Adoption of the report of the meeting

15. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat will summarize the Committee's conclusions and decisions for the report of the seventeenth session for circulation to member countries.

III. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Wednesday 19 November

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| 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Agenda items 1 and 3, including Special Session on “Energy Security Dialogue: Strategic Alliances for Energy Security” |
| 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Special Session on “Energy Security Dialogue: Strategic Alliances for Energy Security” continues |
| 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Draft conclusions and recommendations |

Thursday 20 November

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| 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Agenda item 4 |
| 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Agenda items 5 and 6 |

Friday 21 November

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| 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Agenda items 7, 8, 9 and 10 |
| 1 p.m. | Close of meeting |