



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 September 2012

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Twenty-first session

Geneva, 28-30 November 2012

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

Regional advisory services in the field of energy

## Regional advisory services in the field of energy

### I. Introduction

*Documentation:* ECE/EX/2006/L.22 - Decisions on Matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Executive Committee.

1. In the Decisions on Matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the UNECE Executive Committee established the Programme of Work for 2007–2008 and Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Subsidiary Bodies requiring the Sustainable Energy Committee to monitor and coordinate the work of its subsidiary bodies and where possible to seek opportunities to consolidate and streamline the activities of these bodies. In view of this mandate, this paper reviews the work of the Regional Adviser which is an integral part of the Sustainable Energy Programme of Work. The main responsibility of the Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy is to promote sub-regional cooperation and strengthen inter-state collaboration and partnerships among countries in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as other developing countries of the UNECE region in order to more fully integrate the energy systems and infrastructure of countries at the sub-regional and regional level. In his duties, the Regional Adviser provides senior Government officials with expertise and advice on energy issues, promotes capacity and institution-building aimed at raising the overall effectiveness and efficiency of energy sectors, as well as promotes effective sustainable energy policies. These activities, carried out by the Regional Adviser within the Sustainable Energy Division, are linked to UNECE's normative work, limited to those particular areas where the UNECE has recognized expertise, and aim at ensuring effective and efficient responses to the particular demands of UNECE member States.

2. The activities undertaken by the Regional Adviser are mandated by the General Objectives of the UNECE's Programme of Work on Energy outlined and adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe 60th Anniversary Session, Geneva, 25–27 April 2007 (Item 8: Promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region: Some decisive factors (a) Sustainable energy policies: the key to energy security).

During its Nineteenth session, the Committee on Sustainable Energy of the Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, 24–26 November 2010 (Report ECE/ENERGY/84) took note of the work of the Regional Advisor during the reported period as well as of his contribution to the activities under the Committee’s energy security dialogue and of the Ad Hoc Group of Expert (AHGE) on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and other Fossil Fuels. The Committee recommended the Regional Advisor to take active part in implementation of the project “Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuels technologies” financed by the Development Account and approved the Regional Adviser’s work orientation for the year 2011.

3. During the current year, the Regional Adviser on Energy participated in different activities and projects implemented by the Sustainable Energy Division (SED) and promoted these on-going activities and experiences in Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. The Regional Adviser assisted national officials and experts of these countries in developing programmes and projects to facilitate implementation of energy policies and strategies; helped to plan and implement programmes for capacity and institution-building; participated in meetings to understand training needs, in particular for sustainable energy market formation, energy efficiency project development and access to financing; gave advice and participated in workshops and seminars on renewable energy policy reforms in the CIS countries. The Regional Adviser also assisted in the implementation of projects financed by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA).

4. The funding for the Regional Adviser comes from the Regional Advisory Services budget (Section 21), and from extra-budgetary resources, in particular from the donor countries and countries with economies in transition. Due to limited staff resources, activities continue to be focused on a limited number of countries taking into account their priority areas for development, government support, as well as the availability of extra-budgetary financing.

## II. Energy efficiency

5. The key advisory services and activities related to the EE21 Project can be outlined as follows:

6. In 2012, the Regional Adviser has continued his contribution to implementing the UNECE Project “Mitigating Climate Change Through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies” funded by the United Nations Development Account in the following form:

(a) The Regional Adviser contributed to organizing the Regional and Technical Workshop under the Project on 16–17 May 2012 in Kiev, Ukraine on “Attracting Investments in Clean Fossil Fuel Technologies in Ukraine”.

7. The Regional Adviser has also greatly contributed to the development of the Project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security”:

(a) The project budget for the whole implementation cycle 2011–2013 was financed by the Russian Federation with USD 150,000.-. The UNECE provided an ‘in kind’ contribution, which includes the role of the Regional Adviser as Manager of the project;

(b) CIS countries participating in the Project include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan;

(c) The project is designed to enhance synergies in CIS countries national energy programmes to promote energy efficiency and energy saving (EE&ES) improvements, to

support planning and implementation of various EE&ES initiatives by concerned stakeholders and as a result to strengthen countries' energy security;

(d) The key objective of this project is to develop and implement Regional Action Plan on the basis of analysis of national programs and priorities of national policies. This Regional Action Plan is to be based on strategic policy priorities of the countries, lessons learned and possibilities to get the synergy effect through regional cooperation. It is highly desirable to agree on the Regional Action Plan with the authorized national governmental bodies of all participating countries aiming to implement best EE&ES practices in the CIS region. The project will also explore how the experience of national and international EE&ES programmes can be applied throughout the CIS region with the assistance of the UNECE;

(e) The National Experts were nominated by the governments of 9 participating countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) was established. The network of national experts for identifying and developing energy efficiency improvements in the production, transportation and use of energy resources and enhancing energy cooperation from 9 participating countries was established;

(f) Following the work plan the Inception Meeting for the National Experts under the Project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security” was held on the 05–06 July 2012 in Minsk, Belarus;

(g) Selection of the International Consultant responsible for preparation of Regional Analysis and Regional Action Plan is envisaged for the end of September - October 2012;

(h) National Reports are expected to be prepared by the National Experts by the end of the year 2012.

8. The Regional Adviser has also greatly contributed to the development of the Project “Enhancing energy security and improving access to energy services through development of public-private renewable energy partnerships” (The Project is in line with the initiative of the UN General Secretary “Sustainable Energy for All”):

(a) The Project is led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with participation of all Regional Commissions and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) with UNECE contribution under SED Regional Adviser’s management. The total project budget for the implementation cycle 2010-2013 is US\$ 1,006,500, of which US\$ 59,500 is allocated to the UNECE;

(b) The objective of the project is to improve access to energy services for the rural poor and promote the application of renewable energy through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). At the same time, it also promotes social inclusiveness (including gender responsiveness) as one of the key requirements for developing PPPs;

(c) The project will build the capacity of policymakers, civil society and the private sector for engaging PPPs to enhance and improve access to affordable energy services in an integrated manner utilizing locally available renewable energy resources;

(d) The project is implemented through learning by doing approach to increase awareness and understanding of the issues on widening access to energy services for the rural poor;

(e) A set of guidelines and tools to build up PPPs for rural areas was developed to replicate good practices in support of the development of strategies/projects/policies,

which are focused on energy services for cooking, lighting and productive use of renewable energy resources for sustainable and inclusive development in rural areas:

- the Training Manuals were prepared by UNECE and disseminated to all participants of the project in August 2012;
- it will serve as a basis for creating an interactive e-learning platform to be prepared and presented to all Regional Commissions during the Workshop in Bangkok in November 2012;

(f) Various activities including policy dialogues, gap analysis, workshops and study tours will be organized at the national, regional and inter-regional levels, and pilot projects based on business models will be conducted in selected countries;

(g) Collaboration with existing regional and subregional institutions and centres of excellence is expected to sustain and enhance project impacts and ensure sharing of good practices at the regional and inter-regional levels.

### **III. Cooperation with subregional organizations**

#### **A. Energy Power Council of CIS**

9. During the reviewed period the Regional Adviser developed cooperation with the Energy Power Council of the CIS countries (EPC CIS):

(a) The concept of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and EPC CIS was elaborated and respective document was prepared and reviewed by both sides;

(b) Regional Adviser was invited and participated in the Meeting with the Energy Power Council of the CIS countries held in Moscow on 02 March 2012. The Council meeting found the MOU with UNECE very relevant to sustainable energy development in the region. As a result of the meeting the list of state legal documents related to energy efficiency and renewable energy prepared by the Council was acquired;

(c) The representative of the Energy Power Council of the CIS participated in the Inception Meeting under the Project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security” held on the 05–06 July 2012 in Minsk, Belarus making a meaningful contribution to the Project development.

### **IV. Ad Hoc requests on specific topics**

#### **A. Workshops and advisory missions**

10. The Regional Adviser participated and provided advisory services during the Workshop organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and RCREEE (Regional Centre for RE and EE) “Scaling up the use of Renewable Energy in rural areas in ESCWA Member Countries” on February 02–03, 2012 in Beirut, Lebanon.

11. The Regional Adviser participated and provided advisory services during the Seminar “Sustainable Development: A key factor for stability and peace in Central Asia” organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Tashkent on March 01–02, 2012.

12. The Regional Adviser participated, made presentation and shared UNECE experience during Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Conference held on 24–25 April 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

13. The Regional Adviser contributed to organizing, participated and provided advisory services during the Regional and Technical Workshop on 16–17 May 2012 in Kiev, Ukraine on “Attracting Investments in Clean Fossil Fuel Technologies in Ukraine” held under the Project “Mitigating Climate Change Through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies”.

14. The Regional Adviser organized and conducted the Inception Meeting in a form of Workshop for the National Experts under the Project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security” held on the 05–06 July 2012 in Minsk, Belarus.

## **B. Consultations**

15. In March 2012, the Regional Adviser and the secretary of the Committee on Sustainable Energy had a meeting with Mrs. Elizabeth Press, the Deputy Director of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn, Germany, and other colleagues to explore ways of cooperation with IRENA on activities related to renewables and energy efficiency, in particular on preparation of training material and guidelines to build up PPPS in renewable energy sector within the DA project "Enhancing and improving access to energy services through development of public-private renewable energy partnerships and in line with the E185 project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security”.

## **V. Future work orientation**

16. Primary attention shall be given to cooperation with sub-regional organizations in the implementation of energy projects under sub-regional programmes.

17. The Regional Adviser shall continue his cooperation with UN agencies and international organizations, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN ENERGY, including ESCAP, UNDA, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), IRENA, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, EurAsEC Integration Committee Secretariat, Energy Power Council of CIS, CIS Executive Committee, CAREC, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) the Regional Network for the Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources (RENEUER) and other regional and sub-regional organizations as well as with the Commission of the European Union (EC).

18. The Regional Adviser on Energy shall continue to respond to the specific needs and priorities of countries with economies in transition in strategic areas of sustainable energy development, such as rational and efficient use of energy; energy security; analysis of new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium-term; pricing policies and security of supply; restructuring of the energy sector; energy infrastructure, including interconnection of electric power networks; normative activities in the energy field; and renewable sources of energy.

19. Assistance shall be provided to identify the needs in further development of the energy sectors of economies in transition, assisting national experts to prepare plans, programmes and projects to facilitate the implementation of their energy strategies, providing assistance in capacity and institution-building and in the realization of the UNFCCC.

20. Special emphasis shall be given to energy efficiency investment, training on project financing and management, small and medium-sized company start-ups, including energy services companies (ESCO), utilization of new environmental clean energy technologies, networking and information exchange, energy efficiency standards, and the development of business contacts.

21. With regard to specific projects that are currently being realized and newly-established projects to be implemented in the future, the following examples of the Regional Adviser activity can be noted:

- (a) 2010–2012 phase of the “Energy Efficiency 21 Programme”;
  - (b) “Global Energy Efficiency 21” Project;
  - (c) United Nations Development Account 7th Tranche: Enhancing and improving access to energy services through development of public-private renewable energy partnerships;
  - (d) The Russian funded project Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security.
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