



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
19 July 2016

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Twenty-fifth session

Geneva, 28–30 September 2016

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

#### Opening and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session<sup>1</sup>

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 September 2016

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.

#### II. Policy dialogues: Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy

3. Defining the gap to attain sustainable energy.
4. Report on how the subsidiary bodies contribute to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Energy and Environment in a green economy.
6. International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial.
7. Complexity and decision-making in conditions of uncertainty.
8. Energy efficiency in the built environment.

---

<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42240#/>), if possible at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva 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. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



### **III. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

9. How can the Committee best respond to the needs of member States going forward?
10. Approval of documents.
11. Any other business.
12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

### **IV. Annotations**

#### **A. Provisional agenda**

##### **1. Opening and adoption of the agenda**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/106 – Annotated provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda is based on decisions taken by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/98) and on progress made since then in implementing the 2016–2017 programme of work. The provisional agenda is presented to the Committee for adoption.

##### **2. Election of officers**

2. The Committee will be invited to elect Vice-Chair(s) as appropriate.

#### **B. Policy dialogues: Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy**

3. As an enabler for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainable energy combines environmental, economic and social aspects to ensure a sustainable future. Such a system addresses all aspects of sustainable development in line with national priorities and concerns, including climate change and natural resource use, job creation and energy security, social tolerance, health and energy access, among others.

4. Since its twenty-third session, the Committee has been investigating and assessing options for pathways to attain the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and subsequent pledges made during the Paris climate meetings in December 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) requires countries to pursue concerted and accelerated action on sustainable energy in their national programmes in order to reconcile the world's growing need for energy services with mitigating the impacts of energy resource development and use.

##### **3. Defining the gap to attain sustainable energy**

5. Important gaps to address the 2030 Agenda are immediately apparent. There is a first gap between current actions taken by governments and the commitments they have made and a second gap between their commitments and the ambition of limiting temperature rises to well below 2°C. Over half of the 2°C budget has been “spent”, and at current emission levels the remainder will be spent within the next five years. This situation calls for profound and immediate changes in how energy is produced and consumed. The challenge is reconciling the tight 2°C emissions pathway with development aspirations.

6. To understand the full implications of the sustainable development imperatives, countries need to recognize what has been agreed both in their own national contexts and

from others' perspectives. Only then can different but equally effective development pathways be pursued efficiently and collaboratively.

7. This session seeks to set the scene for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee about meeting the challenge of sustainable energy. Due to its diversity and technological and financial strength, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region has an important contribution to make to the current dialogues about energy for sustainable development. Can the world collectively reach 2°C? What contributions can ECE and its member States make? Which gaps between actions and desired outcomes need to be addressed first? ECE and its member States can come to a better understanding about the challenges ahead based on latest scientific research. The Committee will be invited to explore what sustainable energy means for the ECE region and the possible pathways that exist.

#### **4. Report on how the subsidiary bodies contribute to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/16 – Mapping of the sustainable energy subprogramme processes and activities that support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

8. ECE's work on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. It promotes international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. The current focus, in line with ECE/EX/7, is on energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, natural gas, and classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources through the work of six subsidiary bodies. Sustainable Development Goal 7<sup>2</sup> is most relevant for the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme as it is directly related to energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, but the Committee's work contributes directly or indirectly to all of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals.

9. The six subsidiary bodies will present the contributions of the expert groups to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and how the activities offer support in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and thus aim to help countries develop national action plans for Sustainable Development Goal implementation. The Committee will also be briefed on the activities undertaken by the subsidiary bodies since its twenty-fourth session and the plans for the coming year.

#### **5. Energy and Environment in a green economy**

10. Energy is one of the main themes underpinning all Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goal 7 is directly or indirectly linked to all others and to development and greening of economies, pointing to its cross-cutting nature. The transition to a sustainable energy system is an opportunity to improve energy efficiency from source to use, minimize environmental impacts, reduce carbon intensities, and correct energy market failures to drive the diversification and greening of oil and gas based economies and help countries meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. This session, jointly organized by the ECE sustainable energy and environment subprogrammes, will bring actors together from both sectors to explore the water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus and the transition to a green economy in the pan European region in the context of a circular economy and increased resource efficiency.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

12. Both subprogrammes offer mechanisms and tools to help ECE member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The session seeks to highlight the need to capitalise on synergies across sectors within governments and within ECE in addressing energy issues in the nexus area, and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences and lesson learned. The session will allow the exchange of views on integrated approaches to policy making and collaboration, building on such examples as the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6) and its focus on sustainable consumption and production, increased resource efficiency, new business models promoting sustainable value chains and the transition away from fossil fuels, as well as the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) (ECE/BATUMI.CONF./2016/13) comprising commitments from member States to advance the transition to a green economy in the pan European region.

## **6. International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy  
ECE/ENERGY/2016/8 – Draft outcome document of the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development  
ECE/ENERGY/2016/9 – Concept note and draft outcome document of the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial

13. The International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, an annual event organized by all of the United Nations Regional Commissions since 2010, has made major contributions to the global dialogue on sustainable energy. The Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Hammamet, Tunisia in 2014. The Committee at its twenty-third session endorsed the intent of the Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions<sup>3</sup>, and requested that the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme deliver concrete results on the different elements of the statement in accordance with existing mandates and work plans of its subsidiary bodies. The Committee was informed of the outcomes of the Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup>, held in Yerevan, Armenia on 29 September–2 October 2015, at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/99, paras 82 to 89).

14. On this occasion, the Committee will be informed of the preparations for the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 18–21 October 2016. It is jointly organized by the Government of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Regional Commissions, the United Nations Development Programme Office in Azerbaijan, the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The objective of the Forum is to explore how to deliver on the national commitments, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions in support of achieving the climate change mitigation and adaptation goals outlined in Paris, and to discuss possible further commitments to close the gaps with countries' aspirations.

15. The expectation is that ministers participating in the energy ministerial conference at the Eighth Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11 June 2017 commit to concrete actions to accelerate achievement of the ambitious energy-related Sustainable Development Goals

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35706#/> (shorter link to the Hammamet Forum) or [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/ee21/Forum\\_November\\_Tunisia/Joint\\_Statement\\_Fifth\\_International\\_Forum\\_Final\\_All.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/ee21/Forum_November_Tunisia/Joint_Statement_Fifth_International_Forum_Final_All.pdf) (direct link to the Joint Statement)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/>

(ECE/ENERGY/99, para. 87 to 89). The Seventh Forum will also include the annual sessions of the ECE Groups of Experts on Renewable Energy and on Energy Efficiency.

16. Building on contributions from the previous day, the session will provide an opportunity to further discuss national action plans and holistic energy policy making, especially in the context of the role of fossil fuels in future sustainable energy systems and the impacts of the rapid decarbonisation required to meet the ambitious 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee will receive an update on the status of Pathways to Sustainable Energy, a project overseen by the Bureau to achieve the objectives of sustainable energy in the context of the United Nations Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative (SE4All) (ECE/ENERGY/99, paras. 73 to 81) and be invited to provide recommendations and reactions to the ECE collaboration with SE4All and the World Bank on the 2017 edition of the SE4All Global Tracking Framework.<sup>5</sup>

17. The third edition of the Global Tracking Framework will refine earlier updates on how fast the world has progressed on achieving sustainable energy goals, this time with a regional focus and building on the contributions of the five United Nations Regional Commissions, including ECE. The refined process needs to integrate the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals into SE4All objectives and consider more adapted and adequate indicators of progress. Fundamentally, the report assesses whether the world is moving fast enough to achieve 2030 Agenda goals. With a publication date in April 2017, the results will be ready for consideration by the participants of the Energy Ministerial in Kazakhstan in June 2017. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA) lead the work, supported by 20 other organizations. The United Nations Regional Commissions are ideally placed to contribute with solutions and to implement recommendations into national action plans to accelerate progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. Following the exchanges, the Committee will be invited to discuss the impact of the two main outcome documents (ECE/ENERGY/2016/8 and ECE/ENERGY/2016/9) and will be requested to recommend steps for their implementation, in particular in relation to the regional implementation of SE4All Global Tracking Framework, the sixty-seventh session of the ECE Commission in April 2017 and the Energy Ministerial.

## 7. Complexity and decision-making in conditions of uncertainty

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy

19. Current systems of energy provision and demand need to change significantly in order to address the so-called energy 'trilemma' – how to consistently provide affordable energy services, achieve security of energy supplies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy conversions to mitigate climate change. This will require substantial deployment of low-carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures, the costs and benefits of which are often highly uncertain. Moreover, energy systems consist of a range of actors – producers, generators, suppliers and end users who will frequently have conflicting objectives. These actors and technologies interact through physical and social networks governed by institutional and political structures, the development of which is also uncertain. Together, these features make energy systems examples of complex systems, the study of which has become a fruitful area of research and application over the last 30 years.

20. The concepts developed in this domain are only just beginning to be applied to the understanding of energy systems. Complex systems modelling differs from standard economic modelling and offers capabilities beyond those of conventional models. There is

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/energy/publication/Global-Tracking-Framework-Report> and <http://www.se4all.org/tracking-progress>

significant potential for progress in understanding those challenges that reside at the interface of technology and behaviour. Some of the computational methods that are currently available are agent-based and network modelling. The keynote introduction will focus on such tools and their application.

21. This session aims to explore the ways in which complex systems thinking and modelling could be useful in understanding the complexity of energy systems and how these systems change, in order to address current and future policy challenges. Recommendations by the Committee will further inform the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy and outcome documents for consideration at the Energy Ministerial in Astana, June 2017.

## **8. Energy efficiency in the built environment**

22. Buildings are responsible for approximately one third of total energy consumption and account for almost 40 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from combustion. Standards are an effective instrument for addressing energy efficiency in buildings and to support the achievements of the targets set by several international initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, SE4All, and the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing<sup>6</sup>.

23. The Committee discussed the importance of energy efficiency and energy productivity in buildings during its twenty-fourth session and endorsed the creation of a joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management with the participation of the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (ECE/ENERGY/99, para. 67 and 68).

24. In this session, the Committee will be informed of a collaboration with the passive house community to develop a principles-based performance standard, ultimately leading to an ECE building energy standard that can provide useful guidance to civic, industry, and thought leaders. The standard seeks to be outcome-based and be designed to project a vision of holistically designed and operated, ultra-high performance buildings as part of an integrated sustainable energy system. It seeks to provide the full range of factors that need to be addressed by an operational or technical building energy standard in order to make the technical standard both transformational and effective for a sustainable energy system. The final goal of the ECE standard is to help usher in a progressive transformation of the world's commercial and residential building stock and many of the elemental principles on which the overwhelming bulk of buildings in the developed and much of the developing world are conceived, designed, constructed, employed, maintained, renewed, and retired.

25. The Committee will be invited to provide guidance to the Task Force and its partners that can shape work done within a wide range of circumstances across the region.

## **C. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

### **9. How can the Committee best respond to the needs of member States going forward?**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/10 – Draft proposal for the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019

ECE/ENERGY/2016/11 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2017

ECE/ENERGY/2016/12 – Draft publication plan for 2018–2019

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.unece.org/housing/charter.html>

ECE/ENERGY/2016/13 – Budget and resourcing of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme

ECE/ENERGY/2016/14 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

ECE/ENERGY/2016/15 – Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

26. Taking into account the previous deliberations during the twenty-fifth session, the Committee will be invited in a moderated discussion to provide perspectives about how it can best respond to the needs to member States going forwards. Topics will include, but not be limited to, length of meetings, attendance by officially-nominated representatives of member States in the work of the Committee, country focal points and role of the Bureaux as well as future budget and resourcing strategy and extrabudgetary projects and resources, as requested by the Committee in its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/99, para.111).

27. In the light of the discussions, the Committee will be invited to consider the draft proposal for the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/10). The draft proposal is based on the strategic framework for the period 2018–2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 17)). It was prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Bureau of the Committee. Based on the comments made by the Committee, the secretariat will be invited to submit the draft programme of work for 2018–2019 for adoption at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee. Subsequently, the programme of work will be submitted to EXCOM for approval.

28. Further, the Committee will be invited to take note of the budget and resourcing strategy of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme (ECE/ENERGY/2016/13), the report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy (ECE/ENERGY/2016/14) and the document outlining the cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (ECE/ENERGY/2016/15).

29. The Committee will be invited to agree to the provisional calendar of meetings for 2017 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/11) and the draft publication plan for 2018–2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/12) and to recommend their submission to EXCOM for subsequent approval.

## 10. Approval of documents

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/1 – Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2017

ECE/ENERGY/2016/2 – Methane management in extractive industries - update

ECE/ENERGY/2016/3 – Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009)

ECE/ENERGY/2016/4 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources

ECE/ENERGY/2016/5 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to geothermal energy resources

ECE/ENERGY/2016/6 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage

ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2016/2 - Report of the Seventh Session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2016/2 - Report of the Third Session of the Group of Experts on Gas

30. The Committee will be requested to note or approve a range of documents to support the implementation of the previously mandated areas of work.

31. Member States are asked to endorse the proposed approach to methane management and to encourage their national institutions and companies to collaborate in this work, and to provide extra-budgetary funding to support this activity. Document ECE/ENERGY/2016/2 reports progress with reference to decisions taken during the Committee's twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/99, para. 41, 44, 45) and describes a draft survey about methane management that has been developed with the support of stakeholders. Despite a lack of extra-budgetary resources dedicated to methane management in extractive industries there is now a defined programme for developing best practice guidance for the monitoring, measuring, recording, and reporting of methane emissions in the extractive industries.

32. The Committee will be briefed on the closure of the ECE Gas Centre on 31 December 2015 and to consider inaugurating a new activity, the Gas Industry Advisory Board, that would provide a platform for transparent dialogue among the gas industry and government representatives in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate agreements.

## **11. Any other business**

33. Member States may raise any other issues under this agenda item.

## **12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/107 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-fifth session

34. The Chair will summarize the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee.

35. The Committee will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

---

## V. Provisional timetable

---

**Wednesday,**

**28 September 2016**

**I. Provisional agenda**

10.00-10.30

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.

**II. Policy dialogues: Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy**

10.30-11.30

3. Defining the gap to attain sustainable energy.

11.30-13.00

4. Report on how the subsidiary bodies contribute to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals.

13.00-15.00

*Lunch break*

15.00-18.00

5. Energy and Environment in a green economy.

18.30-20.00

*Reception (tbc)*

**Thursday,**

**29 September 2016**

10.00-13.00

6. International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial.

13.00-15.00

*Lunch break*

15.00-16.30

7. Complexity and decision-making in conditions of uncertainty.

16.30-18.00

8. Energy efficiency in the built environment.

18.30-20.00

*Reception (tbc)*

**Friday,**

**30 September 2016**

**III. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

10.00-11.00

9. How can the Committee best respond to the needs of member States going forwards?

11.00-12.00

10. Approval of documents.
11. Any other business.

12.00-13.00

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.
-