

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
20 July 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Sustainable Energy****Twenty-fifth session**

Geneva, 28–30 September 2016

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

How can the Committee best respond to the needs of member States going forward?

Draft proposal for the programme of work for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Sustainable Energy Subprogramme for 2018-2019**Note by the Secretariat***Summary*

The present document represents the draft proposal for the programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) sustainable energy subprogramme for the biennium 2018–2019. It is based on the strategic framework for the period 2018–2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 17)) and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 20)). The document was prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the template for the programme of work established by the Executive Committee of ECE (EXCOM).

The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy has requested to discuss the draft proposal for the programme of work for 2018–2019 at its twenty-fifth session. Based on the comments provided by the Committee, the secretariat will be invited to submit the draft programme of work for 2018–2019 for adoption by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session. Subsequently, the programme of work will be submitted to EXCOM for approval.

I. Objective, strategy and external factors

1. The objective of the Organization is to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

2. The Sustainable Energy Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through: (a) International policy dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development in States Members of the United Nations, improve their access to affordable and clean energy for all and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector, in line with the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals; (b) Development and extension of ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and (c) Assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects to build capacity for applying the normative instruments, and the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in the areas of its work.

3. The work of the subprogramme falls under three broad and critical areas: (a) reconciling the reality of fossil fuels' enduring share of the energy mix with the need to address climate change; (b) enhancing integration of energy markets in the region; and (c) facilitating the transition to a sustainable energy system. The subprogramme will focus on issues related to energy security, energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production, renewable energy, coal mine methane, natural gas and the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources. The subprogramme will also continue its policy dialogue on energy security.

4. The work of the subprogramme will strengthen regional cooperation, promote activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of energy

II. Outputs/activities to be delivered during the biennium 2018–2019

A. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(i) *Committee on Sustainable Energy*

a. *Substantive servicing of meetings*

5. Committee on Sustainable Energy (12); Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (8); Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (8); Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (8); Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (8); Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (8); Expert Group on Resource Classification (16); Group of Experts on Gas (8).

b. *Parliamentary documentation*

6. Reports of the annual sessions of the Committee (2); set of documents for the Committee (approximately 20 documents) (1); reports of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (2); set of documents for the Expert Group on Resource Classification

(approximately 20 documents) (1); reports of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (2); set of documents for the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (approximately 12 documents) (1); reports of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (2); set of documents for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (approximately 12 documents) (1); reports of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (2); set of documents for the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (approximately 15 documents) (1); reports of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (2); set of documents for the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (approximately 12 documents) (1); reports of the Group of Experts on Gas (2); set of documents for the Group of Experts on Gas (approximately 15 documents) (1).

B. Other substantive activities

(i) Non-recurrent publications

7. Pathways to Sustainable Energy (1); Methane Management in Extractive Industries (1); United Nations Framework Classification for Energy Reserves and Resources – Revised Edition (1); Coal Mine Methane Management as a Tool for Achieving Sustainable Energy Objectives (1); Pathways for Fossil Fuels in Sustainable Energy Systems (1); Renewable Energy Status Report in the UNECE Region (1); Overcoming Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency (1); Promoting Policies and Measures for Energy Efficiency Implementation (1); Implementing Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE Region (1); Promoting Renewable Energy Investments in UNECE Countries (1); United Nations Framework Classification for Energy Reserves and Resources – Case Studies (1).

(ii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits

8. Booklets on topics to be identified, including on energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy security, sustainable energy development, natural gas, electricity, coal mine methane, and United Nations Framework Classification (6).

(iii) Press releases, press conferences

9. Annual set of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications (2).

(iv) Technical material

10. Maintenance of a website with meeting documents, publications and information on activities related to this subprogramme (2).

C. Technical cooperation

(i) Training courses, seminars and workshops

11. United Nations Framework Classification workshops (4); capacity-building seminars on energy efficiency measures; energy efficiency accelerators; energy efficiency standards (2); interregional cooperation on renewable energy project development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation (2).

Annexes

Annex I

**The expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement
and performance measures for 2018–2019**

| <i>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</i> | <i>Indicators of achievement</i> | | <i>Performance measures</i> | | |
|--|---|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | <i>2018-2019</i> | <i>2016-2017</i> | <i>2014-2015</i> |
| (a) Improved policy dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders on sustainable energy issues, in particular energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, mineral resource classification, natural gas and energy security | (a) (i) Increased number of recommendations on sustainable energy issues agreed by ECE intergovernmental bodies | Target | 12 | 8 | – |
| | | Estimate | | 8 | – |
| | | Actual | | | – |
| | (a) (ii) Increased number of measures on affordable and clean energy for all taken by member States | Target | 10 | 6 | – |
| | | Estimate | | 6 | – |
| | | Actual | | | – |
| (b) Increased awareness of the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in achieving sustainable energy development | (b) (i) Increased number of member States implementing measures to raise the uptake of energy efficiency | Target | 5 | - | – |
| | | Estimate | | - | – |
| | | Actual | | | – |
| | (b) (ii) Increased number of member States implementing measures to raise the share of renewable energy in energy mixes | Target | 5 | - | – |
| | | Estimate | | - | – |
| | | Actual | | | – |
| (c) Strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines, best practices and other normative instruments for sustainable energy development | (c) (i) Increased number of Member States applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources | Target | 23 | 20 | 14 |
| | | Estimate | | 20 | 14 |
| | | Actual | | | 18 |
| | (c) (ii) Increased number of Member States applying the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines | Target | 2 | - | - |
| | | Estimate | | - | - |
| | | Actual | | | - |

Annex II

Details of proposed publications for 2018–2019

A. Non-recurrent publications

| <i>Item no.</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Mandate</i> | <i>Print and/or electronic</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>No. of pages</i> | <i>Original language(s)</i> | <i>Translated language(s)</i> | <i>No. of copies and language(s)</i> |
|-----------------|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Pathways to Sustainable Energy | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | F, R | 500E |
| 2 | Methane Management in Extractive Industries | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 100 | E | F, R | 200E, 100F, 200R |
| 3 | United Nations Framework Classification for Energy Reserves and Resources - Revised Edition | ST/SGB/2012/2. ECOSOC Decision 2004/233 | Print and electronic | A4 | 400 | E | A, C, F, R, S | 600A, 1500C, 12000E, 3000F, 1500R, 3000S |
| 4 | Coal Mine Methane Management as a Tool for Achieving Sustainable Energy Objectives | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | C, R, S | 1000E, 500C, 500R, 100S |
| 5 | Pathways for Fossil Fuels in Sustainable Energy Systems | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | F, R | 200E |
| 6 | Renewable Energy Status Report in the UNECE Region | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 100 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 7 | Overcoming Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | F, R | 500E, 100F, 400R |
| 8 | Promoting Policies and Measures for Energy Efficiency Implementation | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 90 | E | | 500E |
| 9 | Implementing Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE Region | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | A, C, F, R, S | 100A, 400C, 500E, |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|----------------------|----|-----|---|---|------------------|
| | | CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | | | | | | 100F, 400R, 100S |
| 10 | Promoting Renewable Energy Investments in UNECE Countries | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 80 | E | - | 500E |
| 11 | United Nations Framework Classification for Energy Reserves and Resources – Case Studies | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 300 | E | - | 1500E |

B. Promotional material

| <i>Item no.</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Mandate</i> | <i>Print and/or electronic</i> | <i>Size</i> | <i>No. of pages</i> | <i>Original language(s)</i> | <i>Translated language(s)</i> | <i>No. of copies and language(s)</i> |
|-----------------|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Booklet on Sustainable Energy Development in the UNECE Region | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 300E, 200F, 300R |
| 2 | Booklet on Natural Gas | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 300E, 200F, 300R |
| 3 | Booklet on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 300E, 200F, 300R |
| 4 | Booklet on Resource Classification | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 1000E, 200F, 300R |
| 5 | Booklet on Renewable Energy | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 300E, 200F, 300R |
| 6 | Booklet on Coal Mine Methane | To be specifically mandated at the 25 th session of the ECE CSE on 28-30 September 2016. | Print and electronic | A4 | 20 | E | F, R | 300E, 200F, 300R |

Annex III

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

| | |
|--------|--|
| 66/288 | The future we want |
| 67/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community |
| 67/226 | Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 69/8 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative |
| 69/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States |
| 69/11 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization |
| 69/13 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 69/83 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe |
| 69/111 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 69/142 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 69/143 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 69/225 | Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy |
| 69/272 | Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat |
| 69/277 | Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations |
| 69/313 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 70/133 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| 70/184 | Information and communications technologies for development |

| | |
|---|--|
| 70/201 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development |
| 70/204 | International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| 70/205 | Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind |
| 70/221 | Operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 70/222 | South-South cooperation |
| <i>Economic and Social Council resolutions</i> | |
| 2006/38 | Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission |
| 2013/1 | Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe |
| 2015/12 | Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system |
| 2015/15 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| <i>Economic Commission for Europe decisions</i> | |
| A (64) | The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe |
| A (65) | Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE |
| A (66) | Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region |

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

General Assembly resolutions

| | |
|--------|--|
| 69/225 | Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy |
| 70/213 | Science, technology and innovation for development |

Economic and Social Council decisions

| | |
|----------|--|
| 1997/226 | United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities |
| 2004/233 | United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources |
| 2011/222 | Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines |

Annex IV

Terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies¹

I. Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on Sustainable Energy is mandated to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below.

A. Objectives

2. The Committee on Sustainable Energy is an intergovernmental body that provides member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation and is mandated to carry out a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will carry out concrete and results-oriented activities with the aim to achieve the specific objectives identified for each priority area and they will work in accordance with the “Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies” as adopted by the Commission session on 11 April 2013.

3. The objectives, areas of work and concrete, results-oriented activities indicated in each of the subsequent mandates will orient the work of experts, who may suggest additional areas of work and activities within agreed mandates. All activities should have a clear demonstrable value added, be coordinated with and complementary to the work of other relevant international actors without duplicating their work or mandates². Specific activities to be carried out within the overall framework of the objectives and areas of work mentioned in the agreed mandates shall be decided in a member States driven process and be carried out in an efficient and transparent way.

B. Areas of work

4. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will focus on:

1. Energy efficiency

- (a) In line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;
- (b) ECE should help strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ The Terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies will be updated after the extension of mandates in the twenty-sixth session.

² See document on modalities of the 2011-2012 Review of the 2005 ECE Reform (ECE/EX/6, para 11).

2. Cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels

ECE should focus on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. Activities aimed at cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels should be developed and implemented with the active participation of ECE member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts and academia.

3. Renewable energy

In line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the ECE should focus on activities that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region.

4. Coal mine methane

ECE should promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

5. United Nations Framework Classification

ECE should continue its work on the classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.

6. Natural gas

ECE should provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of gas in the ECE region.

7. The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue

5. The Committee will evaluate the work of its subsidiary bodies on the basis of an annual report prepared by each body that sets out in a succinct way the activities undertaken, the resources used, and the results achieved (with hyperlinks to the outcomes).

II. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

6. The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is mandated until December 2017, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency will make a request for mandate extension to December 2019.

A. Objectives

- (1) In line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;
- (2) Strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Areas of Work

- (1) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency;
- (2) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the ECE region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and on standards.

C. Concrete Activities

- (1) Exchange of know-how and best practices in selected economic sectors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region;
- (2) Exchange of know-how and best practices in the ECE on the role of standards and guidelines to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region;
- (3) Exchange of approaches and best practices for utilities and energy services companies to improve energy efficiency in the ECE region, including quality of service regulation;
- (4) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency; and
- (5) Facilitate engagement in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform.

7. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates, including specific projects at regional level, aimed at improving regulatory and institutional frameworks and knowledge exchange for energy efficiency.

III. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

8. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels is mandated until December 2017, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels will make a request for mandate extension to December 2019.

A. Objective

9. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels will focus on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. Activities aimed at cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels should be developed and implemented with the active participation of ECE member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts and academia.

B. Areas of Work

- (1) Regulatory and policy dialogue;
- (2) Sharing best practices in the field of cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;
- (3) Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), as well as carbon utilization;
- (4) Enhanced oil recovery with CO₂;
- (5) Advanced fossil fuels technologies for power generation;
- (6) Evaluation of efficiency enhancing measures for coal-fired power plants including steam generators, air and flue gas systems, steam turbines, generators.

C. Concrete activities

10. The Bureau of the Group of Experts and the Task Forces, on the basis of the outcomes during the implementation of the Work Plan for 2014–2015 and consultations through an inclusive electronic process, are proposing that the Group of Experts undertakes the following activities under an agreed and self-imposed deadline of the next two years (2016–2017):

- (1) Assess a future role for thermal power plants in sustainable electricity systems;
- (2) Increasing flexibility in coal power generation;
- (3) Decreasing emissions and increasing efficiency from new and existing coal power generation using best practices across the ECE region and globally;
- (4) Assess means for development and deployment of carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) technology and know-how;

11. The Committee will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States in order to attract investments in advanced fossil fuels technologies for electricity generation with a view to supporting industrial and economic competitiveness and achieving low-carbon sustainable development.

12. Work on cleaner electricity production is not limited to the above activities. ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

IV. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

13. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is mandated until December 2017, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will make a request for mandate extension to December 2019.

A. Objective

14. In line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” Initiative of the United Nations Secretary General, the Group of Experts will focus on activities that help significantly

increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region.

B. Areas of Work

15. Regulatory and policy dialogue and sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

C. Concrete Activities

- (1) Tracking of the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy sources in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
- (2) Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy; and
- (3) Integration of Renewable Energy in Future Sustainable Energy Systems in the region.

16. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to and implemented in cooperation and coordination with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber subprogramme.

V. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

17. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is mandated until December 2017, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane will make a request for mandate extension to December 2019.

A. Objective

18. To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

B. Areas of Work

19. Best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane.

C. Concrete activities

- (1) Disseminate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines;

- (2) Launch and support the work of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
 - (3) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;
 - (4) Expand the Group of Experts' scope of work to cover integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development; and
 - (5) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms.
20. If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal coal mine safety issues unrelated to drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane, these will not be addressed in the ECE context but they may communicate these to other relevant organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration in the framework of its coal mine safety guidelines.

VI. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

21. The Expert Group on Resource Classification is mandated until December 2019 to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

22. Classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.

B. Areas of Work

23. United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC).

C. Concrete activities

- (1) UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application;
- (2) Governance of UNFC-2009;
- (3) Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources;
- (4) Accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC-2009;
- (5) Education and outreach;
- (6) Use of UNFC-2009 in classifying injection projects;
- (7) Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources;
- (8) Financial reporting; and
- (9) Resourcing Strategy.

24. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

VII. Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Gas

25. The Group of Experts on Gas is mandated until December 2017, with possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below. At the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy the Group of Experts on Gas will make a request for mandate extension.

A. Objective

26. Provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of gas in the ECE region.

B. Areas of Work

27. Policy dialogue and exchange of information and experience among ECE member countries on:

- (1) Gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix;
- (2) The relation between natural gas and the environment.

C. Concrete activities

28. Concrete activities that member States agreed for the Group of Experts included studies, delivered in a timely way, on the sustainable and clean production, transport, and use of gas, including on issues that emerge from natural gas market studies carried out in the past, and methods of preventing gas losses and leakages during production and distribution:

- (1) Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain;
- (2) Best 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;
- (3) Best Practice Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas;
- (4) Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

29. Maintain a transparent dialogue between governments and the gas industry through the extrabudgetary Gas Centre to give gas companies the opportunity to meet and liaise with and report to the Group of Experts to exchange relevant information and views.

30. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.