



Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 26-28 September 2017

**Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its
 twenty-sixth session**

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I. Introduction and attendance

1. The Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) held its twenty-sixth session in Geneva on 26-28 September 2017.
2. About one hundred experts from the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States participated: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Monaco, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and United States of America. A representative of the European Union also participated.
3. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) Regional Office of Europe, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Istanbul, UNDP Regional Office for Europe and CIS, and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).
4. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions were in attendance: Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Energy Forum, International Sustainable Energy Organization (ISEO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues (IPIECA), Covalence SA – Covalence Ethical Quote, Energy Efficiency Foundation, Katowicki Wegiel Sp. z.o.o. Polish Chamber of Ecology, Solar Impulse Foundation, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), World Coal Association, Imperial College London and Climate KIC, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnical Institute”, Technische Universitaet Wien, University of Neuchatel.
5. Independent experts, representatives of academia and the private sector also attended, at the invitation of the secretariat.

II. Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/112 – Annotated provisional agenda.

6. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, opened the meeting and presented the provisional agenda, which was adopted without any changes. He stressed the importance of political relevance for the work of the Committee and the role of the subsidiary bodies in priority setting.
7. The Chair informed the Committee that he would chair Items 1, 3a, 3b, and 5 of the provisional agenda. Item 3c would be chaired by Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. Item 3d would be chaired by Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. Item 4a would be chaired by Mr. David McDonald, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Expert Group on Resource Classification. Item 4b would be chaired by Mr. Ray Pilcher, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane. Items 4c and 4d would be chaired by Mr. Jarad Daniels, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

8. The Committee agreed to consider recommendations and conclusions after each agenda item, followed by the adoption of the report of the Committee at the end of the twenty-sixth session.

III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

9. The Committee elected Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) as Chair and Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ron Adam (Israel), Mr. Sergio Garribba (Italy), Mr. Hubert Schwarz (Poland), Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation), Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland), and Ms. Nataliya Boyko (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairs until the end of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee.

10. The term of office of the already-elected officials Mr. Ramazan Zhampiissov (Kazakhstan) and Mr. Jarad Daniels (United States) as Vice-Chairs was for two years from the date of their election until the end of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Committee underscored the desirability, for the sake of ensuring continuity of the Bureau, that not all officers be elected at the same time.

11. The Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies have been Vice-Chairs *ex officio* since the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Mr. Barry Worthington, Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production, Mr. Ray Pilcher, Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, Mr. Francisco de la Flor, Group of Experts on Gas, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. David McDonald, Expert Group on Resource Classification).

IV. Accelerating the delivery of energy for sustainable development (agenda item 3)

12. Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, ECE, welcomed participants to the twenty-sixth session introducing the main theme "accelerating the delivery of energy sustainable development." Referring to the gaps that remain for countries between the commitments they have made and the actions that are happening on national, regional and global level, she emphasised the urgency to act and the importance of cooperation to achieve sustainable energy. She focused on country leadership and the recently held Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial as examples to move forward with the implementation of ambitious goals and targets. She called for the Committee's involvement in the review of Sustainable Development Goal 7, of which the progress will be reviewed in the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)¹ in 2018.

13. Dr. Sun Xiansheng, Secretary General, International Energy Forum (IEF) subsequently discussed the power of dialogue and multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. He focused on the priorities of IEF's member countries on energy transition and energy security and explained how the countries cooperate to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of energy interests. He mentioned the ambitions of the IEF to bridge differences, enhance transparency, accelerate efficiency, overcome hurdles and identify synergies through a regular producer consumer dialogue in

¹ The establishment of the HLPF was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) "The Future We Want". (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>).

four key areas: 1. energy transition, 2. knowledge sharing, 3. energy access in Africa and Asia and 4. completeness, visibility and use of energy databases.

A. Regional cooperation on energy for sustainable development

14. Panellists reacted to the two keynote presentations building on the experience from their respective organizations and communities. Leaders and experts from the Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Societal Issues (IPIECA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) underscored that a sustainable development agenda must be built on multi-stakeholder collaboration and that the private sector should be involved fully.

15. The Committee then explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation across and within regions, governments, and the United Nations system to address cross-cutting energy issues and discussed partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences. DESA invited the Committee and its sustainable energy subprogramme to participate in the forthcoming review of Sustainable Development Goal 7 through the HLPF, in particular through the preparatory meetings in Oslo and Hong Kong in October 2017 and February 2018, respectively.

16. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

17. Endorsed the collaboration with the other four United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank Group, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), SEforAll, and the International Energy Charter on tracking progress towards attainment of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets and requested the secretariat to seek funding for the activities on an ongoing basis. Encouraged the secretariat to engage with other organizations and groups with relevance for ECE energy activities to ensure complete coverage of relevant data and analysis, including deepened collaboration with organizations comprising UN Energy² and with other intergovernmental, industrial, and civil society organizations.

18. Emphasized the need to create shared understanding among all stakeholders of the nexus areas and opportunities for accelerated action. Noting that a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society (as called for in Sustainable Development Goal 17), requested that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies work to establish cooperation and effective partnerships with governments, the private sector and civil society in accordance with United Nations rules, regulations and procedures.³

19. The Committee further thanked the private sector for its continued contributions to the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme and renewed its wish to involve the private sector in its activities and meetings, referring not only to Sustainable Development Goal 7, but also to 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17.⁴

² <http://www.un-energy.org/>

³ Further to a request from the ECE Executive Committee, a “Framework for the Engagement with Private Sector Entities” was developed for consideration by member States at its meeting on 26 September 2017. The Committee is mindful of these discussions and is looking forward to integrating the outcomes into its recommendations.

⁴ A list of all Sustainable Development Goals can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

20. Noting the global value and use of many the products and outputs of the sustainable energy subprogramme and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decisions supporting global application of the “United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009” (UNFC) and the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines”, requested that the Groups of Experts cooperate and share experience and knowledge with the other Regional Commissions where it makes sense to do so and when extrabudgetary funds are available.

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

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/2 – Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: Building on Regional Cooperation

21. Mr. Bekbergen Kerey, Deputy Director, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan, informed the Committee of the outcomes from the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (Eighth Forum), hosted by Kazakhstan on 11-14 June 2017 in Astana under the auspices of EXPO 2017 “Future Energy.” Participating ministers adopted a declaration about how to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy system based on seven voluntary actions. The outcome from the Eighth Forum is summarised in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/2 “Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: Building on Regional Cooperation.”

22. Ms. Nataliya Boyko, Deputy Minister of Energy and Coal Industry for European Integration, Ukraine, then presented the state of preparations for the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (the Ninth Forum), to be hosted in Kiev in fall 2018. The Committee welcomed and appreciated the preparatory efforts currently underway and invited member States to disseminate broadly the information to potential participants.

23. The session also provided an opportunity to 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 goals and targets.

24. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

25. Thanked Kazakhstan for hosting the Eighth Forum in Astana on 11-14 June 2017 and congratulated the Country for the timely agenda focusing on advancing practical solutions that included energy efficiency, renewable energy, fossil energy and regional collaboration. Stressed the importance of leadership by countries on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), and invited member States to disseminate the outcomes of the Eighth Forum for broad-based action.⁵

26. Thanked the co-organizers of the Eighth Forum: the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Regional Commissions. Also thanked the supporting organizations of the Eighth Forum: UNDP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), DESA and other international organizations, namely the IEA, IRENA, SEforAll, the World Bank, the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

⁵ At the time of drafting, the outcomes of the Eighth Forum are still to be integrated into a “Manifesto of Values of Expo 2017”, which is planned to consolidate proposals of private sector, governments, academia and environmental organizations, business-structures to create a new model of energy after the closure of EXPO 2017 in September 2017.

27. Took note of the recommendations outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/2 “Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: Building on Regional Cooperation” and adopted at the Eighth Forum, and endorsed the following steps for their implementation (Annex I, para. 3), to be reflected in the sustainable energy subprogramme 2018-2019:

- (a) Accelerating the transition to a sustainable energy system;
- (b) Accelerating the uptake of renewables;
- (c) Improving energy efficiency in buildings;
- (d) Improving energy efficiency in industry;
- (e) Understanding the role of natural gas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (f) Valuing coal mine methane;
- (g) Extending deployment of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources;
- (h) Reducing the environmental footprint of fossil energy through deployment of high-efficiency, low-emissions technology and carbon capture use and storage;
- (i) Building on international cooperation and collaboration; and
- (j) Improving data quality and indicators.

28. Stressed that the establishment of an international centre for technology and investment could to be a major stepping-stone to attract policy, finance and technology knowledge to the Central Asian region and requested its subsidiary bodies to provide know-how and expertise in support of its implementation. In this context, the Committee recommended to seek international expertise and partners to support the operations of the centre (document ECE/ENERGY/2017/2, Annex II, V. Track IV: Regional Cooperation, p.11).

29. Agreed to support the implementation programme and called upon the ECE Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Committee to bring it to the attention of the President of ECOSOC and the Chair of the ECE for further action. Invited the other Regional Commissions to consider doing likewise.

30. Welcomed the invitation from Ukraine to host the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Kiev in the fall 2018, and asked the secretariat to proceed with the preparations in collaboration with the other Regional Commissions and partners.

C. Tracking progress on sustainable energy

- Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2017
Key findings: from bottlenecks to opportunities
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/11 – Draft programme of work for the UNECE Sustainable Energy Subprogramme for 2018-2019
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 – Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/4–ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/6 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018-2019

31. The pace of progress on sustainable energy goals on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency is falling short of what is needed to meet global objectives by 2030. This was the key message presented by a multi-stakeholder panel kicking off the session on tracking progress on sustainable energy. The panel focused on data quality and gaps and a refined set of energy indicators required to track progress. Experts from ECE, ECA, IEA and DESA discussed practical, measurable and timely indicators to track energy for sustainable development with a view to the opportunities during the review of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in 2018 (see also paragraphs 12 and 15).

32. Findings of two initiatives, the “ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017”⁶ and the regional chapter of the “Global Tracking Framework”⁷ provided the basis for the discussion about meeting the 2030 Agenda. The secretariat also presented a brief overview of the status of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”, which the Committee oversees.

33. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018-2019. Ukraine presented the “Five Minute Guide: Unified System of Renewable Energy Indicators.”

34. In the light of the discussions, the Committee:

35. Stressed the importance of developing concrete pathways and solutions towards sustainable energy in the ECE region and continued the support of the project it mandated during the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions on “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” (ECE/ENERGY/2014/96 and ECE/ENERGY/2015/99).

36. Recommended to build on this opportunity to strengthen ECE’s and the Committee’s role as a neutral platform for policy and technology dialogues on the attainment of the Sustainable Development goals and targets and to continue to collaborate with the other Regional Commissions for accelerated progress, for example through the international fora process. For “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” it recommended strong emphasis on parallel policy dialogues to strengthen the modelling results and encouraged countries to contribute. It further requested a report on progress and preliminary results in 2018 for presentation at its twenty-seventh session.

37. Requested the active participation of the Committee and the sustainable energy subprogramme in the 2018 review process on progress of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the HLPF, including the Regional Sustainable Development Forum to be held in Geneva in March 2018. Given the overarching theme of the review “Transformation towards

⁶ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46155>

⁷ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/energy/publication/global-tracking-framework-2017>

sustainable and resilient societies” involving Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, and 17⁴, the Committee stressed the importance of a holistic approach for implementing the 2030 Agenda and recommended a broader view of energy for sustainable development, as is reflected in the international fora process. Inputs could be based on joint work among all Regional Commissions, the United Nations Statistical Commission and the “Global Tracking Framework” to develop a broader set of energy indicators.

38. Welcomed the invitation by the IEA to identify synergies on energy statistics and policy capacity building in the region through better coordination of activities and processes, notably through the EU4Energy project, which is being implemented by the IEA as the secretariat.⁸

39. Took note of the work undertaken in the context of the “Global Tracking Framework” and recommended to continue the work related to tracking of sustainable energy progress in the ECE region, subject to available funding.

40. With respect to the **Group of Experts on Renewable Energy**, the Committee:

41. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2016-2017.

42. Approved the request of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2019 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.

43. Recommended to use key findings from the “ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017” to promote renewable energy investments through enhanced dialogue among stakeholders, technical assistance and training programmes in member States at their request and upon the availability of resources.

44. Supported activities to enhance dialogue between governments and business to increase significantly the deployment of renewable energy, in particular to promote renewable energy investments through so called “Hard Talks” in selected countries on policy, normative and institutional measures and matchmaking services to identify, develop, promote and implement investment projects according to its Work Plan.

45. Requested the Groups of Experts on Renewable Energy and on Energy Efficiency to deepen their collaboration on improving energy efficiency in deploying renewable energy sources. A strengthened collaboration to enhance uptake of renewable energy is also recommended for other subsidiary bodies, in particular the Group of Experts on Gas, the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, and the Expert Group on Resource Classification on the application of the UNFC to renewable energy.

⁸ EU4Energy is a regionally-focused programme implemented by the IEA and the European Union, along with the Energy Community and the Energy Charter. It concentrates on eleven countries in the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It is designed to support the goals and aspirations of these countries to implement sustainable energy policies and foster co-operative energy sector development at the regional level (<https://www.eu4energy.iea.org/>).

D. Framework guidelines for energy efficiency guidelines in buildings

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4 - Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings

ECE/HBP/2017/3 - Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings⁹

ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 – Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

ECE/ENERGY/2017/5–ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/7 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018-2019

46. Buildings are responsible for approximately one-third of total energy consumption and account for almost 40 per cent of CO₂ emissions from combustion. Therefore, at its twenty-fifth session, the Committee endorsed activities to develop standards on energy efficiency in buildings. This session informed the Committee of progress related to the collaboration with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the joint Task Force between the two Committees. Experts have worked on a principles-based performance standard (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4).

47. Mr. Jim Gannon, Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), presented the Committee with “Framework guidelines for energy efficiency in buildings” that will provide guidance for national policy and building codes, for participants in the building delivery chain, and across the building and community life cycle. The concept that was presented focused on a holistic approach, which includes systems and subsystems, integration of buildings with the built environment within which they are located, and energy efficiency improvements that are not incremental but transformational. The document was presented to the Committee for endorsement.

48. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018-2019.

49. With respect to the **Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency**, the Committee:

50. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016-2017.

51. Approved the request of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2019 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.

⁹ Document of the Committee on Housing and Land Management for endorsement at its seventy-eighth session on 8-10 November 2017 in Geneva.

52. Approved the Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region and extended its mandate for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.¹⁰

53. Endorsed the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4) and recommended their dissemination and uptake by member States through the implementation programme. It welcomed the collaboration with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies for deployment of the framework guidelines.

54. Recommended the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency explore the possibility of cooperation with the ECE Inland Transport Committee on selected issues in energy efficiency in the transport sector (pending availability of resources).

55. Supported activities to enhance dialogue between governments and business to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry.

56. Supported activities to address barriers to improve energy efficiency based on the outcomes of the study “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency.”

57. Requested the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy to deepen their collaboration on deploying renewable energy sources in conjunction with energy efficiency measures.

V. Improving the environmental footprint of energy systems (agenda item 4)

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

A. Resource classification and management

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2017/2/Add.1 – Work plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2018-2019

ECE/ENERGY/2017/15 – Specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to Bioenergy Resources

58. Waste to energy technologies have been employed worldwide over the past few decades to process and reduce wastes with significant success. Anthropogenic resources are major contributors to the circular economy, and UNFC can be a useful tool for assessment and management of projects that create value, including energy from wastes. A panel

¹⁰ The Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the proposal to establish a joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management with participation of the ECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, other ECE bodies and international partner organizations. It mandated the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to lead the activities on energy efficiency standards in buildings for the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/99, paras. 67 and 68). The framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings developed under the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency provide a framework for the work of the Joint Task Force. This document represents a starting point for mapping energy efficiency standards and for training and capacity building.

discussed technologies and case studies that have demonstrated the recovery of energy and valuable material from waste and noted the valuable role that UNFC can play.

59. The Chair of the Expert Group on Resource Classification reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2018-2019. Reference was made to the development of specifications for the application of UNFC to bioenergy, a document that the Committee was requested to endorse (ECE/ENERGY/2017/15).

60. With respect to the **Expert Group on Resource Classification**, the Committee:

61. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Expert Group on Resource Classification has made on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan for 2016-2017.

62. Approved the Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2018-2019.

63. Approved the change of name of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) as recommended by the Expert Group at its eighth session.

64. Endorsed the following document: “Specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to Bioenergy Resources” (ECE/ENERGY/2017/15). Requested the Expert Group on Resource Classification to develop guidelines for application of UNFC to bioenergy, in particular, to define terms such as replenishment rate (for different bioenergy sources).

65. Noted the increased significance in managing waste under the Sustainable Development Goals and requested the Expert Group on Resource Classification to explore possibilities to develop UNFC guidelines and best practices to manage energy and material recovery from waste projects.

B. Methane management in extractive industries

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 – Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

ECE/ENERGY/2017/7–ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/3 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2018-2019

ECE/ENERGY/2017/10–ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2018/3 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2018-2019

ECE/ENERGY/2017/8 – Current practices in monitoring methane emissions in extractive activities: survey results and analysis

ECE/ENERGY/2017/9 – Methane management in extractive industries – best practices in the gas sector

66. Methane is a significant driver of global warming, and reducing methane emissions can help slow the rise in global temperatures. A panel comprised of international thought leaders on methane management and representatives of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and on Gas shared views on managing and reducing fugitive methane. Reference was made to the survey practices (ECE/ENERGY/2017/8) and a model framework for reducing methane emissions along the gas value chain (ECE/ENERGY/2017/9).

67. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2018-2019.
68. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Group of Experts on Gas for 2018-2019.
69. With respect to the **Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**, the Committee:
70. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2016-2017.
71. Approved the request of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2019 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.
72. Noted with appreciation the active engagement of the Group of Experts in establishing International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane.
73. Supported the activities to address sustainable management of abandoned coal mines, recognizing the relevance of this in attaining a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommended that a publication on best practices in this field be issued.
74. Noting with appreciation the progress made on the cross-cutting project on the transformation of the energy sector, endorsed development of a case-specific model for transition of a specific old industrial site. Requested all its subsidiary bodies to contribute to this initiative.
75. Requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development. The work would be carried out by the task force it has established at its twenty-fourth session, with representatives of the Groups of Expert on Coal Mine Methane and Gas and other stakeholders (ECE/ENERGY/99, para. 44).
76. With respect to the **Group of Experts on Gas**, the Committee:
77. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Gas has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2016-2017.
78. Approved the request of the Group of Experts on Gas for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2021 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.
79. Noting that a proposal was made at the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Gas to upgrade the Group of Experts into a Working Party, requested the secretariat to prepare a concept note with more information for submission to the fifth session of the Group of Experts. Further requested the Group of Experts to report its recommendation(s) on this proposal to the Committee's twenty-seventh session.
80. Noting that a publication on "Best Practice Guidance to Reduce Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain" is included in the Publications Programme for 2016-2017 (item number 71/1885), endorsed the recommendation that this publication be issued instead on "Guidelines for Application of the United Nations Framework Classification Resources for Uranium and Thorium Resources", which is in line with the work of the Expert Group on Resource Classification.

81. Noting that a publication on “Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas to Support Renewables Uptake” is included in the Publications Programme for 2016–2017 (item number 72/1887), endorsed the recommendation that this publication be replaced by “Coordinated Operations of Flexible Coal and Renewable Energy Power Plants: Challenges and Opportunities”, which is in line with the work of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels.

C. The critical role of carbon capture, use and storage in achieving climate objectives

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/6–ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2017/3 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2018-2019

ECE/ENERGY/2014/5/Rev.1 - Revised recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how carbon capture and storage in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

82. Ms. Trude Sundset, Chief Executive Officer, Gassnova, delivered the keynote address for the session focusing on commercial carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) projects. Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst contributed with a short introductory statement on the political relevance of CCUS. A multistakeholder panel comprised of international experts on CCUS exchanged views on the role of CCUS in achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreements and the commitment to limit temperature rises to well below 2 degrees. Aspects included an overview of technology and policy progress, the need to support commercial scale CCUS projects and challenges and obstacles to uptake.

83. The Committee then discussed the next steps for ECE in CCUS, based on its previous work from 2014, when recommendations were made to the United Nations Framework Classification on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on how carbon capture and storage could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (ECE/ENERGY/2014/5/Rev.1).

84. In the light of the discussions, the Committee invited member States to consider providing the necessary extrabudgetary funds to continue the work on recommendations on removing obstacles to implementing carbon capture use and storage facilities.

D. Fossil fuels in the energy system

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 – Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

ECE/ENERGY/2017/6–ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2017/3 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2018-2019

85. The share of fossil fuels in total primary energy supply in the ECE region is 80 per cent, approximately equal to the global share (81 per cent). Addressing the sustainable management of fossil fuels is critically important for achieving the developmental, societal and environmental objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

86. After a short briefing on the energy policy in the United States, a multistakeholder panel discussed the current and future roles of fossil fuels in the energy system with a specific focus on the high-efficiency, low emission (HELE) technologies, integrated resource

management, CCUS and potential synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels. The Committee then discussed if international financial institutions should invest to improve the energy efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants.

87. The Chair of the Committee for this session, Mr. Jarad Daniels, then reviewed the implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017 and presented highlights of the future work plan for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2018-2019.

88. With respect to the Group of Experts on **Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels**, the Committee:

89. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels has made on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2016-2017.

90. Approved the request of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2019 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.

91. Noted that the Group of Experts is considering changing its name to something more broadly focused on electricity systems. Requested the Group of Experts to explore at its next session possible additional activities, such as development of standards, recommendations for financing new and retrofitted coal-fired power plants, and/or other activities to enhance the overall efficiency of the electricity system. Further requested that the Group of Experts submit its recommendation to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee.

VI. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 5)

A. Summary of activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme to accelerate energy for sustainable development

92. Sustainable Development Goal 7 is directly related to energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and is therefore relevant for the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme. However, the Committee's work contributes directly or indirectly to all of the Sustainable Development Goals. The secretariat briefly presented remaining items of the sustainable energy subprogramme with reference to the discussions of the previous two days.

93. Following collective input by the Regional Advisor and the Chairs of the Groups of Experts on opportunities for greater cooperation among the subsidiary bodies, the Committee discussed perspectives about how it could best respond to the needs to member States going forward.

94. In this context, the Committee stressed the importance of regional advisory services for its work and requested to issue document "Regional advisory service programme in the field of energy and housing" (ECE/ENERGY/2017/16) as a post-session document in the three official languages as soon as possible after its twenty-sixth session.

95. The Committee also requested a report on regional advisory services at its twenty-seventh session and at all following sessions.

96. With respect to the individual subsidiary bodies, the Committee:
97. Acknowledged the important work of the six subsidiary bodies to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and requested further analysis on how the activities offer support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional level.
98. Requested that future mandates and work plans for the subsidiary bodies give special attention to joint activities across sectors within governments and within ECE in addressing energy nexus issues, and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences and lesson learned as discussed under agenda item 3a) Regional cooperation on energy for sustainable development.
99. With respect to future meetings, the Committee requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 26-28 September 2018 in Geneva, including a draft agenda, draft report, and all supporting documents necessary for the implementation of the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018-2019 and the work plans of its six subsidiary bodies.
100. Requested that the Bureau consider alternative and innovative approaches for the structure and agenda of future Committee meetings.
101. Requested that the Bureau consider how to collaborate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

B. Approval of documents

- Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 – Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/11 – Draft programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018-2019
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/12 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2018
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/13 – Draft publications plan for 2018-2019
- ECE/ENERGY/2017/14 – Draft Strategic Framework 2020-2021 of the ECE Subprogramme on Sustainable Energy
102. The Committee was presented with a range of documents to support the implementation of the previously mandated areas of work and after discussion:
103. Endorsed the “Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy” as reflected in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/3 and as discussed under separate agenda items above, and recommended it for approval to the ECE Executive Committee.
104. Endorsed the “Draft programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019” (ECE/ENERGY/2017/11) with the requested changes as reflected in ECE/ENERGY/2017/11.Rev.1, and equally reflected in the “Revised publications plan for 2018-2019” (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13) as annexed to the report, and recommended it for approval to the ECE Executive Committee.
105. Endorsed the “Strategic framework 2020-2021 of the ECE subprogramme on sustainable energy” (ECE/ENERGY/2017/14) and recommended it for approval to the ECE Executive Committee.
106. Endorsed the “Provisional calendar of meetings” for 2018 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/12).

107. Invited governments and other organizations to provide financial and/or in-kind expert support to strengthen the implementation of its programme of work for 2018-2019.

108. Renewed its request to member States of ECE and other participants of the meeting to provide expert focal points to the secretariat.

C. Any other business

109. No business was raised under this agenda item.

D. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/113 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-sixth session

110. The Chair summarized the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee.

111. The Committee adopted the report of its twenty-sixth session (ECE/ENERGY/113) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

112. The twenty-sixth session was adjourned on 28 September 2017 at 16.30 hours.

Annex

Revised publications plan for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13)

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Publication title</i>	<i>Planned date of issue</i>	<i>Issue format (print and/or electronic)</i>	<i>Number of pages in original language</i>	<i>Original language</i>	<i>Language for translation</i>	<i>Number of copies and languages for reproduction</i>
Non-recurrent publications							
1	Pathways to Sustainable Energy	2019	Print and electronic	100	E	F, R	500E, 100F, 400R
2	Methane Management in Extractive Industries	2019	Print and electronic	100	E	F, R	200E, 100F, 200R
3	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources - Revised Edition	2019	Print and electronic	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	2019	Print and electronic	80	E	C, R, S	1000E, 500C, 500R, 100S
5	Pathways for Fossil Fuels in Sustainable Energy Systems	2019	Print and electronic	80	E	F, R	200E, 100F, 200R
6	Renewable Energy Status Report in the ECE Region	2019	Print and electronic	100	E	F, R	500E, 100F, 400R
7	Overcoming Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency	2019	Print and electronic	80	E	F, R	500E, 100F, 400R
8	Promoting Policies and Measures for Energy Efficiency Implementation	2019	Print and electronic	90	E	F, R	500E, 100F, 400R
9	Implementing Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in the ECE Region	2019	Print and electronic	80	E	A, C, F, R, S	100A, 400C, 500E, 100F, 400R, 100S
10	Promoting renewable energy investments in ECE countries	2019	Print and electronic	80	E	F, R	500E, 100F, 400R
11	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources – Case Studies	2019	Print and electronic	300	E	F, R	1500E, 1000F, 1000R