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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 26-28 September 2017

Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

#### Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

#### Approval of documents

## Request for extension of the mandates of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

### Note by the secretariat

#### I. Background

1. At its twenty-fifth session (Geneva, 28-30 September 2016 and 19 January 2017), the Committee on Sustainable Energy took note of the draft proposal for the programme of work for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/10), including the terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies (Annex IV of ECE/ENERGY/2016/10).

2. At its twenty-sixth session the Committee on Sustainable Energy is requested to consider the following mandate renewals and work plans of its subsidiary bodies, in connection with the draft programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme (ECE/ENERGY/2017/11):

(a) The renewal of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency until 31 December 2019 as contained in Annex I and its work plan for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/5-ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/7;

(b) The renewal of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels until 31 December 2019 as contained in Annex I and its work plan for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/6-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2017/3;

(c) The renewal of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy until 31 December 2019 as contained in Annex I and its work plan for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/6;

(d) The renewal of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane until 31 December 2019 as contained in Annex I and its work plan for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/7-ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/3;

(e) The renewal of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Gas until 31 December 2021 as contained in Annex I and its work plan for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/10-ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2018/3;

(f) The work plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2018-2019, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2017/2/Add.1.

## **II. Draft decision**

3. The Committee on Sustainable Energy hereby approves the renewal of mandates and the work plans of the above-mentioned subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

## Annex

### **Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies**

#### **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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 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 mandates<sup>1</sup>. 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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy

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<sup>1</sup> See document on modalities of the 2011-2012 Review of the 2005 ECE Reform (ECE/EX/6, para 11).

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.

**2. Cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels**

5. 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**

6. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 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**

7. 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**

8. ECE should continue its work on the classification and sustainable management of energy and raw material resources.

**6. Natural gas**

9. 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. Energy security**

10. The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue.

11. The Committee will evaluate the work of its subsidiary bodies on the basis of an annual report submitted by each body that includes the activities undertaken, the resources used, and the results achieved.

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

12. 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. The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency requests that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2019.

## **A. Objectives**

(a) In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;

(b) Strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## **B. Areas of Work**

(a) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency;

(b) 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**

(a) Exchange of experience to improve significantly energy efficiency in the industry sector;

(b) Exchange of experience on standards and guidelines to improve significantly energy efficiency in buildings; and

(c) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency.

13. 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**

14. 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. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels requests that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2019.

## **A. Objective**

15. 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, civil society, independent experts and academia.

## **B. Areas of Work**

- (a) Regulatory and policy dialogue;
- (b) Sharing best practices in the field of cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;
- (c) Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS),
- (d) Enhanced oil recovery with CO<sub>2</sub>;
- (e) Advanced fossil fuels technologies for power generation;
- (f) Evaluation of efficiency enhancing measures for coal-fired power plants including steam generators, air and flue gas systems, steam turbines, and generators.

## **C. Concrete activities**

- (a) Assess a future role for thermal power plants in sustainable electricity systems;
- (b) Draft report on good practices in increasing flexibility of coal-fired electricity generation in the ECE region;
- (c) Identify gaps in information on interactions and complementarities at the nexus of coal power plants and renewable power generation;
- (d) Drafts report on best practices in high efficiency low emissions (HELE) technologies in the ECE region;
- (e) Assess means for development and deployment of carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) technology and know-how;
- (f) Review opportunities in combined heat and power (CHP), gasification and use of coal to develop other technologies or products (such as liquids or chemicals) (with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy);
- (g) Analyze the role of fossil fuels in supporting renewable energy deployment;
- (h) Organize a round table on the role of gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in electricity generation (with the Group of Experts on Gas);
- (i) Review innovations in the extraction and use of coal mine methane for electricity production and other uses (with the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane).

16. The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of 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.

17. 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**

18. 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. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy requests that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2019.

##### **A. Objective**

19. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 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**

20. 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**

(a) Tracking of the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy sources in the ECE region;

(b) Exchange of know-how and best practices in the ECE region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy; and

(c) Integration of renewable energy in future sustainable energy systems in the region.

21. 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.

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

22. 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. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane requests that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2019.

## **A. Objective**

23. 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, mitigate climate change, and support sustainable development.

## **B. Areas of Work**

24. Best practices for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane.

## **C. Concrete activities**

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

(b) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;

(c) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;

(d) 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;

(e) Further engage, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition the coal industry in the ECE region; and

(f) 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. Engage and develop robust professional ties with the recognized expert entities operating in the field of fossil-based energy.

25. 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**

26. The Expert Group on Resource Classification is mandated until 31 December 2019 to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

## **A. Objective**

27. Classification and sustainable management of energy and raw material resources.

## **B. Areas of Work**

28. United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC).

## **C. Concrete activities**

(a) Conduct ongoing maintenance, governance and periodic updates of UNFC, including of its principles, specifications and guidelines, in order to ensure the system remains current, relevant, useful and operates efficiently as a tool to support sustainable development and management of energy and raw materials (including renewable energy, anthropogenic resources, minerals, petroleum and nuclear fuel resources) and mitigate climate change (including through support for carbon capture, use and storage);

(b) Provide technical advice to facilitate application of UNFC, including in the financial reporting sector;

(c) Accommodate environmental and social considerations in UNFC;

(d) Develop and conduct a capacity-building, promotion and outreach programme in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and subject to identification of extrabudgetary resources;

(e) Explore application of UNFC to management of other resources and cross-cutting activities within agreed mandates.

29. 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**

30. 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. The Group of Experts on Gas requests that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2021.

## **A. Objective**

31. 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**

32. The areas of work of the Group of Experts are policy dialogue and exchange of information and experiences among ECE member States on gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the ever-increasing share of gas in the total primary energy supply and its social and environmental impacts.

## **C. Concrete activities**

(a) Develop a policy dialogue on the enabling role of gas in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and mitigating climate change;

(b) Develop case studies and best practices in managing methane emissions along the gas value chain;

(c) Develop policy recommendations on the role of gas in improving urban air quality;

(d) Develop recommendations on renewable energy and natural gas as the best combination to enhance the energy efficiency in the whole energy system;

(e) Address emerging issues;

(f) Promote sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas and LNG in the ECE region.

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

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