
Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 26-28 September 2017

Item 5(d) of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Committee on Sustainable Energy Twenty-sixth Session¹

The Committee on Sustainable Energy:

Agenda Item 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation:

ECE/ENERGY/112 – Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adopted the Agenda as presented.
2. 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.

Agenda Item 2. Election of officers

3. 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. The term of office of the already elected officials Mr. Ramazan Zhampiisov (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.
4. 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).
5. Underscored the desirability, for the sake of ensuring continuity of the Bureau, that not all officers be elected at the same time.

¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy after each agenda item and updated as needed.

Agenda Item 3. Accelerating the delivery of energy for sustainable development

(a) Regional cooperation on energy for sustainable development

6. 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), Sustainable Energy for All (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 Energy and with other intergovernmental, industrial, and civil society organizations.

7. Emphasized the need to create a 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.² 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 17.³

8. Noting the global value and use of a number of the products and outputs of the sustainable energy subprogramme and the ECOSOC Decisions supporting global application of UNFC and the CMM 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, in particular, when extrabudgetary funds are available.

9. Noted the information provided on regional advisory services and requested a report on regional advisory services at its twenty-seventh session. Stressed the importance of regional advisory services for its work and requested to issue room document “Regional advisory service programme in the field of energy and housing” (CSE-26/2017/INF.9) as a post-session document in three official languages as soon as possible after its twenty-sixth session.

(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

² 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.

³ A list of all Sustainable Development Goals can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

10. Thanked Kazakhstan for hosting the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (Eighth Forum) in Astana on 11-14 June 2017. Congratulated Kazakhstan for the 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 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.⁴

11. 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: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and other international organizations, namely the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the World Bank, the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

12. 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.

13. Stressed that the establishment of an international center for technology and investment could 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 establishment and implementation. Stressed equally the importance of good preparation and planning for the establishment of such a center and recommended to seek international expertise and partners (document ECE/ENERGY/2017/2, Annex II, V.).

14. 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 the

⁴ 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.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Chair of the ECE Commission for further action. Invited the other Regional Commissions to consider doing likewise.

15. 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

16. 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). 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. Recommended strong emphasis on parallel policy dialogues to strengthen the modelling results and encouraged countries to contribute. Requested a report on the progress and preliminary results in 2018 for presentation at its twenty-seventh session.

17. Requested the active participation of the sustainable energy subprogramme in the 2018 review process on progress of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). Given the overarching theme of the review “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” involving Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, and 17, 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 and the Global Tracking Framework to develop a broader set of energy indicators.⁵

18. 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 funding.

⁵ The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (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>).

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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 United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to renewable energy.

(d) Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards 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 buildings⁶

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

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

24. 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.

25. 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.

⁶ Document of the Committee on Housing and Land Management for endorsement at its seventy-eighth session on 8-10 November 2017 in Geneva.

26. 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.⁷

27. Endorsed the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and recommended their dissemination and uptake by member States through the implementation programme. Took note of 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.

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

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

30. 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.

Agenda Item 4. Improving the environmental footprint of energy systems

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

Expert Group on Resource Classification

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

31. 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.

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

33. 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

⁷ 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 and 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 on energy efficiency standards in buildings. This document represents a starting point for mapping energy efficiency standards and for training and capacity building.

Classification for Resources (UNFC) as recommended by the Expert Group at its eighth session.

34. Endorsed the following document: Specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to Bioenergy Resources (ECE/ENERGY/2017/15).

35. 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

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. Noted with appreciation the active engagement of the Group of Experts in establishing International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane.

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. 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).

Group of Experts on Gas

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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 issued instead on 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 crucial 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

46. Invited member States to consider providing the necessary extrabudgetary funds to continue the work on recommendations on removing obstacles to implementing small-scale carbon capture and storage.

(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

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. 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 that would justify such a change of name, such as development of standards for high efficiency, low emissions (HELE) power plants and/or recommendations for financing new and retrofitted coal-fired power plants. Requested that the Group of Experts submit its recommendation on this to the next meeting of the Committee.

Agenda Item 5. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

(a) Summary of activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme to accelerate energy for sustainable development

50. Acknowledged the important work of the six subsidiary bodies to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. Requested further analysis on how the activities offer support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional level.

51. 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 3.a) Regional cooperation on energy for sustainable development.

52. 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.

(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

53. 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.

54. Endorsed the Draft programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/11) with the requested change(s) [as reflected in ECE/ENERGY/2017/11.Rev.1 or annexed to the report], and equally reflected in the Revised draft publication plan for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/13.Rev.1) and recommended it for approval to the ECE Executive Committee.⁸

55. 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.

56. Endorsed the Provisional calendar of meetings for 2018 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/12).

57. 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.

58. 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

[59. Requested the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau to prepare draft rules of procedure for the Committee on Sustainable Energy, taking into account the Guidelines on Procedure and Practices for ECE bodies adopted by ECE in 2013 (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, annex III, appendix III) and to present a draft for approval at its twenty-seventh session.]⁹

(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

60. Adopted the report of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/113) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

⁸ A request for added language translations will be made.

⁹ To be discussed with the Bureau at the meeting on 26 September 2017 in Geneva.