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Quarterly Report

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This document is an informal document submitted to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to assist the Bureau in its oversight of activities under this sub-programme.

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Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)

1. Activities

- (a) 16 September 2016: The **UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM)** approved the extrabudgetary funding for the project *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* from the Russian Federation. The project is now supported by Germany, United States and the Russian Federation. A public tender will be launched for the selection of the modelling agency. The Bureau will be kept informed of further developments.
- (b) 28-30 September 2016: **25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**. Theme: Meeting the challenge of Sustainable Energy. More than 130 participants discussed options for pathways to attain the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) requires countries to pursue concerted and accelerated action on sustainable energy in their national programmes, and important gaps are immediately apparent. Over the 2.5 days delegates explored the challenges and needs of member States in this context. Highlights comprised a series of distinguished keynote speakers from government, civil society, academia, and business on the 2-degree pledge stemming from the Paris Agreement.

Further highlights constituted the report by the Chairs of the Groups of Experts on how the Committee's subsidiary bodies contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, a joint session between the UNECE sustainable energy and environment subprogrammes to explore the water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus and the transition to a green economy in the pan European region, a dialogue about the forthcoming 7th and 8th International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial in Baku and Astana, respectively.

It was in this context that the Committee decided to adjourn the 25th session to 19 January 2017 and to reconvene after an informal public consultation process to consider the endorsement of the revised document ECE/ENEREGY/2016/9.rev at that time.

The Committee further discussed complexity and decision-making in conditions of uncertainty, energy efficiency in the built environment, and approved documents from the Groups of Experts on Gas and Resource Classification. The draft report as approved at the end of the first part of the 25th session (as of 30 September 2016) can be found on our website.

All documents and presentations are now online on the Committee website:

<http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/energycommitteemeetings/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/2016/25th-session-of-the-committee-on-sustainable-energy/docs.html#/>

- (c) 27 September 2016: **Informal consultation with member States about document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9**. Countries participated in an informal consultation process concerning document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9 in preparation of the session on 29 September 2016. Comments will be included in the document published on the website for the on-line consultation and included type of meeting and ministerial, length, type of recommendations and concrete actions and outcomes.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 21 October 2016: **4th Workshop in the context of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy**. This workshop will be organised as part of the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (see also Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency) to provide further context to the project about the options that are available to countries to attain Sustainable Development Goals through a sustainable path on energy. Countries have been invited to explore what sustainable energy means in their countries' contexts and how energy policies address national energy and climate pledges. The focus will be on the regional circumstances in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Other regional workshops will be organised when the occasion arises.
- (b) 17 -21 October 2016: Public and private meetings will be organised with the partners of the **Global Tracking Framework** while in Baku, Azerbaijan. This time the regional focus has contributed to enhance the contributions of the five United Nations Regional Commissions, including ECE, to the next edition of the Global Tracking Framework. The meetings will explore how to optimise the

integration of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals into SE4All objectives and the development of more adapted and adequate indicators of progress. With a publication date in April 2017, the results of the Global Tracking Framework will be ready for consideration by the participants of the Energy Ministerial in Kazakhstan in June 2017. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA) lead the work, supported by 20 other organizations.

- (c) October 2016: **Launch of the informal public consultation process on document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9** and invitation to member States to join the second part of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19 January 2017 in Geneva.
 - (d) 18 November 2016: **Traditional Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy** by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). Activities, conclusions and recommendations of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be presented.
 - (e) 19 January 2017: **Second part of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva**. Invitations will be issued shortly.
 - (f) 16-27 January 2017: **Exhibition on energy transition in member States in the Hall des Pas Perdus, Palais des Nations, Geneva**. Germany has kindly agreed to rent exhibition space to allow countries to showcase achievements related to energy transition, transition to diversification and greener economies and similar issues. The secretariat is waiting for interested parties to come forward.
 - (g) 25-27 April 2017: The next **UNECE Commission session** is being planned for 26-27 April and will be preceded by the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 25 April 2017. The sustainable subprogramme will be involved as the topic will be regional collaboration and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Bureau will be informed as new information will be available.
 - (h) 11-14 June 2017: **8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial** (11 June 2017). Preparations have started and invitations to the ministerial audience will be sent shortly.
3. Main Challenges
- (a) Staffing and recruitment.
4. Resources
- 50% P5, 50% JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017 approved at the 2nd session of GEEE (5-6 November 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of EXCOM (14 March 2016). Current status of the implementation is reflected in the official documents of the 3rd session of the GEEE (see paragraph (e)).
- (b) A conference call of the GEEE Bureau was held on 7 September 2016. Materials from the call are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>.
- (c) Work has continued on expanding the menu of policy options according to the criteria and key attributes of the best practices as reflected in the publication “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” available on the website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41058> (in English, French and Russian). Expanded menu of options is included in the document “Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency”: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee3_Oct2016/ECE_ENERGY_GE.6_2016_6BarriersEE_Final-OD.pdf.
- (d) Preparations for the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku on 18-21 October 2016 and the 3rd session of the GEEE to be held in the framework of the Forum on 18-19 October 2016 has continued. All available materials are posted at the website of the Forum: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643>. Provisional Agenda of the Forum continues to be updated. Over 290 participants have registered for the Forum.
- (e) The provisional agenda and official documents of the 3rd session of the GEEE have been developed and posted at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42244#/. Documents of the session contain intermediate results of the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE.
- (f) Work continued with potential donors (Germany and the Russian Federation) on securing funding for the extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region”.
- (g) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - IEA Forum Integrating Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Least-cost solutions for a clean energy future, 8 September 2016.
 - 77th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, 13-15 September 2016, Geneva.
 - Conference call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 15 September 2016.
 - 25th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 28-30 September 2016.
- (h) The Chair of GEEE participated in the 25th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy. He reported on how GEEE contributes to meeting energy related SDGs. He also moderated the session “Energy efficiency in the built environment” where the concept of the principles based performance standard was reviewed and discussed.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Baku, 18-21 October 2016.
 - 3rd session of GEEE, Baku, 18-19 October 2016.
- (b) Staff member will conduct a research project on the topic “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – a policy analysis” at the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency for a period of four months from mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017.

3. Main Challenges
 - (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
 - (b) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.

4. Resources
1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (20%), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP)

1. Activities

- (a) Bureau reviewed draft of report on the role of thermal power plants in global electricity systems with a focus on three regional systems: Nord Pool, MIBEL and Korea's electricity system. This will be updated and presented at the 12th Session in October with a request for more countries to add to the report.
- (b) A list of university programmes that offer CCS related studies or focus has been compiled and circulated to the Bureau. It will be circulated to CEP membership for input. This will be posted on the UNECE website following the 12th Session in October.
- (c) Bureau call was held on 4 July 2016. The work of all task forces was reviewed, plans for 12th Session were discussed and administrative items were highlighted (see points discussed under (d))
- (d) Administrative matters: The Bureau discussed the need to request a mandate and develop a work plan for 2018–2019. The secretariat communicated the need for an electronic/written approval process due to the timing of the Committee on Sustainable Energy meetings over the next year, relative to the GEG meetings. The secretariat has consulted internally within the UN and proposed a process for consideration by the Bureau. This has been added to the draft conclusions and recommendations to be circulated to the Group of Experts in preparation for the 12th session.
- (e) The secretariat has developed a draft of a report on Flexible Opportunities for coupling wind and coal-based generation in the electricity sector. This has been reviewed by CEP Vice-Chair Vladimir Budinsky, who sees this as an initial contribution to the work of the task force. Further discussion on this will be held at the 12th Session.
- (f) The CEP Chair and secretariat participated in a web conference: Delivering Cost Effective CCS in the 2020s: Wales, 22 July 2016. This was led by CEP Vice-Chair Jon Gibbons.
- (g) The CEP Chair has developed and presented on the topic of Policy Parity for CCS at a number of events, including the Clean Coal Day in Japan 2016 International Symposium with a talk entitled: Coal's Tasks and Vision on COP21 Paris Agreement - UNECE Perspective.
- (h) The CEP Chair attended the 25th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and contributed to discussions on the Astana Energy Ministerial and 8th Forum on Sustainable Energy. The Chair emphasised the need to include the role of fossil fuels in sustainable energy systems, especially with respect to the role of CCS.
- (i) The CEP Chair has highlighted potential support to CEP from USEA.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Chair to participate in the 2016 CSLF Annual Meeting, Tokyo, 3–7 October 2016
- (b) Participate in the World Energy Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 11 October 2016
- (c) Participate in the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI) European CCS Forum, Oslo, 13 October
- (d) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, 12th session, Geneva, 26–27 October 2016.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in substantive activities of the Group.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P4 (30%), 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017, approved at the 2nd GERE session (12-13 September 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of the UNECE EXCOM (14 March 2016).
- (b) A conference call of the GERE Bureau was held on 6 September. Report of the call is available at: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/GERE_Bureau/GERE.BMR.N.2016.2.pdf
- (i) Preparations for the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku on 18-21 October 2016 and the 3rd GERE session to be held in the framework of the Forum on 20-21 October 2016 has continued in close cooperation with the host country. Concept note, on-line registration and all available materials are posted at the website of the Forum: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643>. Provisional Agenda of the Forum continues to be updated. Over 340 participants have registered for the Forum.
- (j) The provisional agenda and official documents of the 3rd GERE session have been developed and posted at: [https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42246#/#/](https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42246#/). Documents of the session contain intermediate results of the implementation of the Work Plan of GERE and analysis of the renewable energy status and sharing of best practices.
- (k) Work continued to discuss with potential donors the update of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report and subsequent updates as a basis for promoting renewable energy projects, providing technical assistance and training programmes, and exploring the establishment of one or more sub-regional Centres of Excellence in collaboration with other partners in member States at their request and upon the availability of resources.
- (c) Funding for the update of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report (<http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-status-report.html>) - issued in 2015 jointly with REN21, in cooperation with IEA) has been approved by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany and work will start with REN21 in November to gather and analyse new data from the considered countries.
- (d) At its twenty-fifth session on 28-30 September, the Committee on Sustainable Energy requested the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy - *inter alia* - to submit a request for extension of its mandate and a draft Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2018-2019 at its twenty-sixth session. The Chair of GERE participated in the 25th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- (e) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Conference call of the Bureau of GERE, Geneva, 6 September 2016
 - Conference call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 15 September 2016.
 - 25th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 28-30 September 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on renewable energy will be presented:

- 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Baku, 18-21 October 2016.
- 3rd session of GERE, Baku, 20-21 October 2016.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
- (b) Encourage the broader participation by UNECE member States and other stakeholders, including renewable energy associations, industry, international and financial institutions and investors, in the substantive activities of the Group of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO (30%), 1 G5 (30%).

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE on CMM)

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on all deliverables of its 2016–17 work plan.
- (b) Preparations for 11th session proceed as planned. The draft agenda finalized. Presentations and draft conclusions and recommendations prepared.
- (c) The revision and update of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG) is finalized. The new version of the BPG will be formally launched in early October and presented at the 11th session, 24–25 October 2016.
- (d) GoE continues to implement the extrabudgetary project: “Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane”. For the first capacity-building workshop on 4 October 2016 in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, the secretariat arranged for participation of four international experts, and a number of local and regional ones, who will present various aspects of methane management, such as pre- and post-mining drainage, explosion prevention, and methane utilization. A survey to identify challenges in methane management in Karaganda coal mines has been designed and circulated among stakeholders. Several challenges in gas outburst in Karaganda coal basin have already been identified and will be addressed during the 4 October workshop. The workshop’s results, findings and recommendations will be compiled by UNECE into a report and disseminated to the workshop participants and other interested parties.
- (e) Preparations for another capacity-building workshop, funded from the same extra-budgetary project, have commenced. The workshop is tentatively planned to be held in India in early 2017. The secretariat identified potential principal partners for the workshop: the Ministry of Coal of India, Coal India Limited, and the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI). A high-level delegation from the three Indian institutions will visit Geneva to participate in the 11th GoE session. On this occasion further formal and practical steps will be agreed upon.
- (f) GoE continues its support to the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE on CMM). On 8 July, the Polish Geological Institute (PIG) and the Polish Oil and Gas Company (POCG) acceded to the Memorandum of Understanding originally signed in 2015 with the Polish Ministry of Energy. On 29 September, a POCG delegation presented to the Chair and the secretariat the 2017 work plan of the ICE on CMM, with a budget and indicators of achievement. Discussions on ICE on CMM activities will continue before and during the GoE 11th session.
- (g) The UNECE/Columbia report "The Challenges of the US Coal Industry and Lessons for Europe" is finalized and will be posted on the CMM website in October. The report is related to, and will be used towards achieving, the GoE's work plan deliverable (e) (ii): "Recommendations on the enabling role of coal mine methane projects in restructuring coal mining industry", due by October 2017.
- (h) The secretariat continues to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on joint activities, including on practical and substantive elements for the 6th joint session of UNECE and GMI Coal Subcommittee, to be held as part of the GoE 11th session, 24 October 2016.
- (i) The GoE Chair and a Vice-chair participated in the 25th Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Chair presented opportunities for greater cooperation among CSE subsidiary bodies. It was recommended that representatives of the GoEs meet virtually to develop a common understanding of how to achieve sustainable development goals through better collaboration among the subsidiary bodies.
- (j) The secretariat continues to perform its role of the liaison-A with the International Standards Organizations Technical Committee 263 (coalbed methane). The planned plenary meeting of ISO TC 263, planned originally for September 2016, was postponed until further notice.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane organized within the framework of the US EPA-funded project, Karaganda, Kazakhstan, 4 October 2016.
- (b) Group of Experts' eleventh session, Geneva, 24–25 October 2016.
- (c) Workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane organized within the framework of the US EPA-funded project, tentatively in India, Q1 or Q2 2017.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) None.

4. Resources

1 P5 (15%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2016–2017](#) are either completed or being worked on. The Bureau met on 1 September to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to start preparations for the EGRC 8th session. The Technical Advisory Group met on 18 July, 22 August and 30 September, including to review UNFC documentation issued for public comment and provide recommendations thereon to the Bureau. The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) and other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) On 18 July, EGRC issued its first guidance note: [Guidance Note to Support UNFC-2009 Definition of a Project](#) in English, French and Russian.
- (c) [UNECE-IAEA Interregional Workshop ‘Uranium, Coal, Oil and Gas: Towards a better understanding of energetic basins & application of UNFC’](#), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 16–19 August. Over 100 participants from more than 30 countries. Press Release issued before and after the event. Over 20 UNFC case studies proposed.
- (d) Discussions underway with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) on an MoU regarding application of UNFC as the continental system or “AMREC” (African Mineral Resource Classification) called for in the Africa Mining Vision (AMV).
- (e) UNFC Solar Working Group has produced a [video](#) providing a short introduction to the application of UNFC to solar energy and the benefits it will bring, in particular to investors in energy projects.
- (f) Scott Foster, SED Director, presented on UNFC Delivering on Sustainable Energy for All in Ministerial Session of CHINA MINING 2016, Beijing, 23 September.
- (g) UNFC now operational for renewable energy, geothermal energy and injection projects and bridged to Russian Federation Oil & Gas Classification following Committee on Sustainable Energy approval of the following UNFC documents on 30 September:
 - [Bridging Document between 2013 Russia Oil & Gas Classification and UNFC-2009](#) finalized following public comment (June-August). First national classification to be bridged to UNFC. [Press Release](#) issued on 30 September
 - [Specifications for Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy](#) finalized following public comment (June-August)
 - [Generic Specifications for application of UNFC to Renewable Energy](#)
 - [Specifications for application of UNFC to Injection Projects](#).
- (g) Colombian National Mining Agency is considering applying UNFC for solid minerals. EGRC Chair will present on UNFC, Bogota, Colombia, 10–13 October 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE and European Federation of Geologists Workshop on UNFC, Brussels, Belgium, 17–18 November 2016
- (b) UNECE Resource Classification Week 2017, Geneva, 24–28 April 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and eleven sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (50%) and 1 G6 (30%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) Several conference calls were held between Chair and secretariat to support progress following the Third Session in April 2016.
- (b) The GEG Chair, together with several Vice-chairs attended the 25th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE), and contributed to discussions on the Astana Energy Ministerial and 8th Forum on Sustainable Energy. The Chair emphasised the need to include the role of fossil fuels in sustainable energy systems, especially with respect to the role of gas and addressing methane emissions.
- (c) The GEG work plan for 2014–2017 was finalised at the 3rd Session of the GEG and was approved by the CSE at the 25th Session. It will be submitted to EXCOM for endorsement on 18 November 2016.
- (d) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain:
 - A draft survey has been developed with the objective to provide an initial snapshot of how methane emissions in extractive industries are monitored, measured, recorded, and reported. Comments have been provided by the expert community and the survey and will be incorporated prior to being circulated during the Q4.
 - The secretariat and Chair attended the Methane Emissions Industry Meeting in Brussels in July. The meeting included a broad range of both public and private sector stakeholders working in the area of methane emissions. The work of UNECE was presented and a discussion was held to find a way to coordinate the efforts from the respective stakeholders
- (d) Activity B: Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region:
 - Total has agreed to take the chairmanship of this task force and will begin supporting this effort in September 2016. Follow-up has occurred, but formal arrangements have not yet been established.
- (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):
 - No work to report on this activity during the quarter.
- (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel:
 - The road portion of the report has been completed
 - DNV GL, as well as the Bureau member from Croatia have offered support to develop the marine portion of this report.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Participate in IGU Strategy Committee meeting 26–28 September 2016, Athens, Greece
- (b) Participate in IGU Council Meeting, 18–20 October 2016, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- (c) 4th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, Geneva, 27–28 March 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Having sufficient resources for secretariat to service GEG, its Bureau and task forces; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%).