



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

3rd Quarter 2018
(July to September 2018)

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) 9-18 July 2018: The sustainable energy subprogramme took an interest in the deliberations of the **High-Level Political Forum in New York**, and in particular the review of SDG 7. UNECE was represented by its Executive Secretary, the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division and the JPO. A side event was held on energy efficiency in buildings. The Committee on Sustainable Energy received a summary of the meetings related decisions at its 27th session in Geneva.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>
- (b) 10 September 2018: **The Committee Bureau** met as is tradition the month before the Committee session to discuss outstanding issues, in this case the strategic direction of the Committee and the role of electricity in deep transformation. The Bureau also approved the draft conclusions and recommendations for the session to be reflected in the Committee report.
- (c) 25 September 2018: **Pathways to Sustainable Energy stakeholder information & consultation workshop: Intermediary modelling results & policy scenario scoping**, Workshop participants had the opportunity to discuss the interim modelling results and brainstorm next steps and adaptive policy pathways the day before the Committee. Presentations and documents can be found here:
<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48720>
- (d) 26-28 September 2018: **27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva. The Committee held its session with over 110 participants over two days. Focus this year was on deepening the transition, and the Committee based its deliberations on the preliminary results from the modelling of Pathways to Sustainable Energy and panels from resource management, methane management, electricity and energy efficiency. The report was approved and will be distributed over the next week. All details and presentations are on line. <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/com.html>

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 12-15 November 2018: Preparations have reached a high point for the **9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development**, this time hosted in Kiev, Ukraine. Deputy Minister for Energy Boyko presented news and developments to the Committee (ECE/ENERGY/2018/3) for endorsement.
- (b) **Future Committee Bureau meetings** will be announced soon, likely the first one during the week of the 9th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (13 November), followed by a meeting in January 2019.
- (c) The Committee requested a **consultation process with member States** on its strategic direction, mission and vision with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Energy and in parallel wished to be consulted on adaptive policy pathways derived from the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy it oversees. An informal open-ended consultation with the Committee is being planned for 16 May 2019.
- (d) 2-14 December 2018: **The Katowice Climate Change Conference will include the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC**, along with meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). COP 24 is expected to finalize the rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change under the Paris Agreement work programme (PAWP). The sustainable subprogramme will be present led by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and is also involved in the official joint UN side event on energy.
- (e) 14 December 2018: The Chair will present the main outcomes and decisions of the Committee 27th session to **the UNECE Executive Committee** with a deadline of 14 November. The secretariat will be in touch before with the necessary documents for approval.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and recruitment. End of JPO contract (3 October 2018).

- (b) Attracting UNECE member States to meetings and cannibalizing effect of meeting invitations to experts.
 - (c) Funding situation of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”.
4. Resources
70% P5, 10% JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2018-2019.
- (b) The fifth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is planned to take place in the framework of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development to be held in Kiev on 12-15 November 2018. All documents for the fifth session of GEEE are posted at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49016>. Preparations for the Forum and for the GEEE session are ongoing. The Forum websites: <https://energyforum.org.ua/> and <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49144>.
- (c) The secretariat continued implementation of activities under the Joint Task Force (JTF) on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (EESB). The study on the mapping of Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE region was finalized in August 2018 and is available in English and Russian at: <https://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/activities/energy-efficiency-in-buildings.html>. The preparation of a study on the mapping of technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the UNECE region is on-going; a draft of the study is available at the website above. Work on establishing an online database of experts in energy efficiency in buildings has started.
- (d) The secretariat organized Training seminar on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in St. Petersburg on 5-7 September 2018 under the project Promoting the application of high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Over 50 participants from 15 UNECE countries participated in the seminar (see: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48997>). Numerous requests to organize similar training seminars in the countries of the region have been received.
- (e) Preparations for the Third Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings-Workshop on the results of mapping the technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49005>) continued (the workshop was held on 3 October 2018). Meeting documents are available at the website above. The Fourth Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings-Workshop on energy efficiency in buildings will be held as part of the fifth session of GEEE in the framework of the Ninth Forum on 13 November in Kiev.
- (f) At the [27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy](#) on 26-27 September 2018, a segment on energy efficiency in industry and buildings was part of the agenda. Work of GEEE was commended as valuable for UNECE and its member States. The newly established Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency was endorsed.
- (g) The joint UNECE/Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency publication *Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency* has been issued both electronically and in hard copy in English and Russian. The publication is available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/publications.html>. Hard copies can be requested from the secretariat.
- (h) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Training seminar on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings, St. Petersburg, 5-7 September 2018.
 - Global Power & Energy Leaders' Summit and Global Power & Energy Exhibition (GPEX 2018), Barcelona, 17-20 September 2018.
 - Twenty-seventh session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-27 September 2018.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:

- Workshop on validation of results of mapping of technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings - Third meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, Geneva, 3 October 2018.
- OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, Vienna, 15-16 October 2018.
- Preparatory mission for organization of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, 17-18 October 2018.
- SDG7 Technical Advisory Group Meeting, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 2 November 2018.
- Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, 12-15 November 2018.
- Fifth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Kiev, 13-15 November 2018 (in the framework of the Ninth Forum).
- Fourth Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings-Workshop on energy efficiency in buildings, Kiev, 13 November 2018 (in the framework of the Ninth Forum and fifth session of GEEE).
- COP24 United Nations Side Event on SDG 7 Clean and Affordable Energy for Sustainable Urbanization and Development, Katowice, 5 December 2018.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan, particularly for 2019-2020.
- (b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (c) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P2, 1 G5 (40%).

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

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP) continued to implement its 2018-2019 work plan.
- (b) The 14th session of the Group of Experts on CEP was held during the Committee week on 28 September 2018. Noting the cross-cutting nature of electricity, the Group of Experts on CEP invited other subsidiary bodies of the Committee and other sectoral Committees of ECE to collaborate on electricity-related activities. Documentation and presentations for the meeting are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48532>
- (c) The Group of Experts committed to undertake a transparent and inclusive process for development of emissions and efficiency standards for electric power plants. The Group also agreed to pursue recommendations for power market design and develop best practices for electricity to play integrative roles in energy markets.
- (d) The electricity experts participated in the joint session of the Committee on 27 September titled “Deep Transformation of the Energy System through Electricity” and exchanged views on all aspects of systems transformation and resiliency to low-carbon energy supply. The focus of the discussion was the interplay between fossil fuels and renewable energy and the need to promote investments in cleaner electricity systems. The Committee asked the Group of Experts to change its name to the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems.
- (e) On 27 September the Group of Experts held an interactive workshop that explored several current mainstays of the Group of Expert’s work plan for 2018-2019, such as the principles for financing clean energy projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda or the mapping of the coal industry to SDGs. The workshop also introduced several emerging issues that may become cornerstones of the future Group of Experts on Electricity Systems. These issues include: energy consumption of electric vehicles, smart energy for smart communities, and blockchain technologies in sustainable energy.
- (f) The secretariat started preparations for the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 12-15 November 2018, Kiev, Ukraine, where the Group of Experts will lead the session on investments into clean energy technology.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, November 2018, Kiev, Ukraine.
- (b) Side event at UNFCCC - COP24, December 2018, Katowice, Poland.
- (c) 1st session of the new Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources.
- (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 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Preparations of the 5th GERE session and the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development are on-going (Kiev, Ukraine, 12-15 November 2018). The agenda and the other parliamentary documents are posted on GERE webpages. Nine sessions are dedicated to renewable energy topics relevant for the current GERE work plan and are organized with various partner organizations, including ESCWA, UNITAR, IEA, IRENA, EU DG DEVCO and EU DG NEAR.
- (c) Preparatory works continued for the UNECE Renewable Energy Hard Talk to take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 27-28 November from a water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus perspective, fostering transboundary cooperation on renewable energy and action across sectors among the riparian countries of the Drina river: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. Preparatory work continued also for the organization of the other two Renewable Energy Hard Talks in Montenegro and Serbia during spring 2019
- (d) Staff member participated in the following events:
 - 10 September 2018: participation in the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
 - 25 September 2018: participation in the Pathways to Sustainable Energy stakeholder information & consultation workshop: Intermediary modelling results & policy scenario scoping;
 - 26-28 September 2018: participation and support to the 27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
 - 27 September 2018, organization of the renewable energy component of the joint CEP-GERE session on Deep Transformation of the Energy System through Electricity. The session discussed two renewable energy related topics: (i) System flexibility and ability of the power grid to integrate renewable energy; and (ii) Increase the share of renewable energy in power generation.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Panel discussion during the 2018 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, Malaga, Spain, 25-26 October 2018, session on Connectivity, growth and cooperation: the role of energy;
- 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, Ukraine, 12-15 November 2018;
- 5th session of GERE, Kiev, Ukraine, 13-15 November 2018
- Hard Talk on Renewable Energy within the context of the Drina river project, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27-28 November 2018;

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) The support of the JPO to the renewable energy work will not be available anymore and additional resources/ support might be envisaged.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (d) Strengthening the work of GERE as contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as, in this direction, identification and prioritization of the most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts and other UNECE areas. Development of an Umbrella programme or development of other renewable projects for possible XB funding.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO (30%), 1 G5 (40%).

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

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on the deliverables prescribed in its 2018-2019 work plan.
- (b) Activity A: Disseminate and Expand the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
- The official translation of the BPG into Spanish has been sent to printing. 500 copies covered by the extrabudgetary funds are to be delivered in Q4.
 - The review of the official translations of the BPG into Russian has been completed. The document has been posted on-line at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44133&L=0>, and sent to print. Hard copies are to be delivered in Q4.
 - An unofficial translation of the BPG into Polish based on an in-kind contribution by the International Centre of Excellence on CMM (ICE-CMM) in Poland has been completed and awaits final approval from the UN HQ in New York.
 - An unofficial translation of the BPG into Chinese based on an in-kind contribution by ICE-CMM in China awaits final approval from the Chinese authorities and the UN HQ in New York.
 - The Secretariat participated in a dinner debate in the European Parliament titled *UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 7: Does coal have a role in providing affordable and clean energy?* organized by the European Energy Forum (EEF) and the European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) on 9 July in Brussels, Belgium. (<http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energysedocscmmx-long/energysecmm/news-4.html>).
 - A two-day-long workshop on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* was delivered on 24-25 July in Bogota, Columbia. The event organized in cooperation with GMI featured 18 technical presentations, which are posted at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49369>.
 - The 13th session of the GoE on CMM was organized in Geneva, 24–25 September (approx..60 attendees) (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48539>). A report with conclusions and recommendations was adopted (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2018/2).
- (c) Activity B: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
- ICE-CMM in Poland participated in the Emerging Europe Award ceremony held in the Headquarter of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, UK on 22 June. ICE-CMM in Poland was nominated in the category *Research & Development Initiative of the Year* and it took the second place (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49504>).
 - ICE-CMM in Poland contributed to the workshop on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* was delivered on 24-25 July in Bogota, Columbia
 - ICE-CMM China delivered the second stage of a pre-feasibility-study of methane drainage and use in Tenghui coal mine (28-31 August). The accompanying training for future trainers was attended by the selected 33 local practitioners.
 - ICE-CMM China contributed to the 276th session of the Chinese Academy of Engineering that was held in Taiyuan on 13 October.
 - The Secretariat continues to actively explore a potential for obtaining funds for an extra-budgetary project allowing for better coordination of activities of ICE-CMMs.
- (d) Activity C: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
- 32 presentations delivered at the events in Brussels, Bogota, and Geneva were posted on the CMM website.
- (e) Activity 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.
- A peer review process of an extensive outline of a document on best practices in efficient monitoring, reporting, verification and reduction of methane emissions in the oil and gas sectors developed within the framework of the XB project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries* has commenced. The first draft of the full document is to be ready by the end of Q4.

- (f) Activity 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
- Relevant stakeholders, such as IEA Clean Coal Centre, Boston University, ENavi Kopernikus project, UNDISD, and Innovationsregion Lausitz GmbH participated in the panel discussion on modernization of the energy sector held at the 13th session of the Group of Experts on CMM. Potential for cooperation within the framework of the UNECE project has been discussed.
 - A draft of a joint project on Modernization of the Energy Sector to be delivered together with the Boston University has been prepared.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 12-15 November, Kyiv, Ukraine, featuring:
- a. A session on Methane Management in Extractive Industries with participation of the representatives of the Group of Expert on CMM (12 November);
 - b. A session on Modernization of the Energy Sector organized by the Group of Expert on CMM (13 November);
 - c. Two sessions on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization in Ukraine* organized by the Group of Expert on CMM (15 November) (TBC).
- (b) COP24, 3-14 December, Katowice, Poland, featuring:
- a. A session on SDG7 titled *Clean and Affordable Energy for Sustainable Urbanization and Development* with participation of the representatives of the Group of Expert on CMM (5 December);
 - b. A side-event organized by ICE-CMM in Poland titled *Conventional and Unconventional Gas as a Destination Fuel for the Green Economy* with participation of the representatives of the Group of Expert on CMM and of ICE-CMM in China (10 December);
 - c. A side-event organized by GEIDCO on Transformation of the Energy System with participation of the representatives of the Group of Expert on CMM (10 December)

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding for the secretariat to service GoE on CMM and its Bureau.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 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 2018-2019](#) are being implemented. The Bureau met on 17 July and 23 August to review progress on implementation of the work plan. The Technical Advisory Group met on 21 September. All other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) A session on Sustainable Resource Management session was organized as part of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva on 26 September. The panel discussed the role UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) could play in framing and guiding natural resource management. The Committee was informed that UNFC will be maintained intact along with its bridging documents, while UNRMS will be developed with additional specifications, guidelines, application protocols, best practices and case studies as a voluntary tool to aid sustainable management of energy, raw materials and other resources. The Committee:
 - Noted with appreciation the progress that the Expert Group has made on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan for 2018-2019.
 - Approved the change of name of the Expert Group on Resource Classification to the Expert Group on Resource Management as recommended by the Expert Group at its ninth session, April 2018.
 - Approved the [Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management](#), which reflect the refocus to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, in particular, SDGs 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17 and emphasis on sustainable resource management.
 - Endorsed the [Bridging Documents between UNFC and the Chinese national mineral and petroleum systems](#).
 - Endorsed the [Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources](#).
- (c) As part of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-27 September, bilateral discussions were held with the Russian Federation and Chinese delegations to discuss enhanced support for and implementation of UNFC-UNRMS.
- (d) Workshop on Application of UNFC for Comprehensive Resource Management” 12 September was held in conjunction with the 4th Meggen Raw Material Days, Lennestadt-Meggen, Germany, 12–14 September 2018. Over 60 experts from 20 countries participated in the workshop.
- (e) An update/revision of UNFC has been initiated in response to (a) the need for full alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) the broadening scope of sectors covered by UNFC; and (iii) to the inputs from the Task Force on Social and Environmental aspects. The current alignments and bridging to other systems will not be impacted by this update.
- (f) Organization is progressing of the sessions on Critical Raw Materials for Sustainable Energy Systems; and Nuclear Energy at the 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, Ukraine, 12–15 November. The first workshop on “Application of UNFC for Sustainable Resource Management” under the project on Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (2018-2021) funded by the UN Development Account 11th Tranche will be held on 15 November.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) EuroGeoSurveys General Assembly Meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia, 16–17 October 2018. UNECE Executive Secretary will address the opening session.
- (b) 54th CCOP Annual Session, Busan, South Korea, 28 October – 1 November 2018. A UNFC Workshop will be held on 30 October 2018.
- (c) Second UNFC-African Mineral Resource Classification and Management System (AMREC) Technical Working Group Meeting, Dakar, Senegal, 4–7 November 2018.
- (d) Energy Ministerial & 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, Ukraine, 12–15 November. Critical Raw Materials Session on 12 November; Nuclear Energy Session on 13 November; and UNFC Training on 15 November.
- (e) UNECE and European Commission workshop on “[UNFC for Sustainable Resource Management in Europe](#)” on 16 November as part of the Raw Materials Week 2018, 12-16 November 2018, Brussels Belgium.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (23 members) and 20 sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences etc.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (40%), 1 P4 (100% - temporary) and 1 G6 (50%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) continues to implement its work plan for 2018-2019.
- (b) The GEG Bureau held an in-person Bureau meeting on 27 September. The principal topic was the preparation for the 6th session in March 2019. The Bureau approved a preliminary draft agenda.
- (c) The implementation of the extrabudgetary project “Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas / Downstream Gas)” continues. The consultant developed a 20-page extended outline that is currently being reviewed by the Steering Committee. The first draft will be ready by 31 December 2018.
- (d) The Bureau and secretariat are now preparing GEG’s participation in the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in November 2018 in Kiev. On 14 November GEG will host a roundtable on the role of gas in achieving SDGs and will participate in the workshop on methane emissions on 13 November.
- (e) The secretariat is coordinating with IGU and other partners GEG’s presence at COP24 where several Bureau members will participate in side events organized by various member States and other stakeholders.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, November 2018, Kiev, Ukraine.
- (b) UNFCCC - COP24, December 2018, Katowice, Poland
- (c) 6th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, 25-26 March 2019, Geneva
- (d) Joint workshop of UNECE and the Global Methane Initiative’s Oil & Gas Sub-committee, 26 March 2019, Geneva
- (e) Industry Workshop on Methane Emissions, 27 March 2019, Geneva

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources to service GEG, its Bureau and 4 task forces.
- (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 (15%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Regional Advisor

1. Activities

A field project “Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan” (sponsored by the Russian Federation) has been completed. The objective of the project is to introduce a cost-effective green technology biogas model in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. The project delivers concrete renewable energy solutions for rural application and targets the rural community near Kant town in Kyrgyzstan. The objective of the project has been achieved by installation of a biogas unit. The unit was launched on 19 September 2018.

The biogas plant with a methane tank of 25 cubic metres is producing around 116,650 cubic metres of biogas annually for heating purposes. Aside from biogas, the plant is producing 200 tonnes of organic fertilizers annually, which is sufficient to fertilize 200 hectares of arable farmlands. The production of bio-fertilizers helps replace mineral fertilizers and result in US\$ 14,000 savings annually. Moreover, the methane produced will substitute 6.4 tonnes of diesel fuel, which is now used to heat farms, and this will save US\$ 3,120 annually.

A capacity-building workshop on small scale renewable energy solutions in Central Asian countries has been conducted following installation of the unit. Forty participants from all Central Asian countries attended the workshop. The national Institute of Energy and Economy, which executed construction presented results and experience of the biogas unit construction; all participants considered Central Asian countries barriers, challenges and solutions to achieve sustainable energy in rural areas and defined next steps and phases to provide rural areas with sustainable energy solutions; UNECE presented overall results of the project.

A workshop on “Gender Policy in Energy Sector” was organized with UNDP on 1 October 2018 within the framework of the World Petroleum Council meeting in Astana. The workshop focused on how to promote clean and affordable energy to empower women through: (a) mapping gender gaps in women’s participation in energy related decision making and in the energy sector, including planning; (b) analysing the differences in access to energy resources and use of energy services by women and men in rural and urban settings, and (c) developing gender-responsive policy recommendations to ensure gender equality in access to sustainable energy, in participation in decision-making and management of the energy and related sectors, and in opportunities for jobs and career development. The workshop discussions, therefore, directly related to both SDG 7 and SDG 5, and account for the interlinkages between these two goals.

The event was opened with participation of members of Parliament of Kazakhstan, participants from key government bodies and NGOs. Also, the second part of the session was devoted to the Central Asian experience with active participation from all five countries of CA. The meeting was attended by more than 100 participants and was covered by the media.

2. Main Challenges

(a) N/A.

3. Resources

1 P5 (100%).
