



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

2nd Quarter 2019
(April to June 2019)

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) 4 April 2019: The **webinar** on Preliminary Key Findings from the Consultation Process with Groups of Experts – Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project set the stage for an intense collaboration and allowed to gain a better understanding about the perspectives of respective Groups of Experts and initiate an inclusive dialogue on how can the UNECE region attain sustainable energy. A subsequent workshop (see below) allowed to refine first proposals (14 – 15 May 2019).
- (b) 8-9 April 2019: The **Day of Cities** brought together Mayors, urban managers and other key municipal practitioners for an exchange of views and knowledge sharing of good practices and successful planning strategies on the 2030 Agenda and sustainable cities. In two roundtables, participants discussed approaches on how to create smart sustainable cities, focusing on ways to improve the quality of life of people and on improving efficiency of urban operations, services and competitiveness. The exhibition "Smart Sustainable Cities" complemented the programme and the **68th session of the Economic Commission for Europe**. Member States, International Organizations, cities and private businesses are invited to come together to showcase their work, present innovative concepts, effective approaches in support of the SDGs at the municipal, national and regional level in the framework of an information fair.
<http://www.unece.org/housing/dayofcities.html>
- (c) 12 April 2019: The **Bureau** came together to prepare the Committee's informal consultation on pathways, strategic options and ways of working. On the agenda were: outcomes from the contributions of the expert groups to the Committee deliberations on Pathways to Sustainable Energy. **Future Bureau meetings** will likely be held in early September and during the Committee session. Please do not forget to send nomination letters for re-election on 25 September 2019.
- (d) 14-15 May 2019: **Consultation workshop in the context of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy** Project. Discussion of policy recommendations and key messages resulting from the first phase of the Pathways project; brainstorming on future phases of the Pathways project, **subregional workshop on capacity building for Central Asia and discussion on the role of gas in sustainable energy**. Results were reported into the informal meeting of the Committee on 16 May 2019.
- (e) 16 May 2019: The Committee held an informal, open-ended **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. See also 1(a). Information can be found here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51075>
- (f) May – December 2019: **Project: Deep-dive on Gas - Role of Natural Gas in Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement**. The project will complement the ongoing UNECE flagship project Pathways to Sustainable Energy and the work of the Group of Experts on Gas to explore in-depth role that natural gas could play in the strategic options that countries will consider meeting their commitments. In cooperation with an International Consultant the UNECE has embarked on a series of studies on: i) Role of gas in displacing competing fuels; ii) Role of gas in supporting the uptake of renewable energy; iii) Penetration of gas into new markets through small-scale liquified natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG); iv) Addressing environmental issues associated with natural gas.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 3 September 2019: **Bureau meeting/call in preparation of the 28th Committee session**. Dial in details will be provided in an email.
- (b) 24 September 2019: **Workshop on the understanding of the role of natural gas in achieving the 2030 Agenda**: Experts will come together to see the results of the ongoing project with the following deliverables as explained under 1(f).
- (c) 25-27 September 2019: **28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva: this meeting will seek new mandates and work plans for the six expert groups and conclude on the consultation process with member States as per above.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and recruitment.
- (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” and related staffing.

4. Resources

70% P5, 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) Preparations for the 6th session of GEEE (to be held on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development) are on-going. Official documents for the session have been prepared and will be submitted on time. The Work Plan for 2020-2021 has been approved by written procedure.
- (c) Publication Progress in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Selected Countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and in Russian Federation has been drafted and will be submitted in Q3.
- (d) A number of capacity-building activities in energy efficiency have been carried out by the Regional Adviser (see Regional Adviser section).
- (e) Members of GEEE and its Bureau participated in the following events:
 - Workshop on Energy Performance Buildings Standards, Tbilisi, 12 April 2019
 - Promoting Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Capacity Building Workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, Geneva, 15 May 2019.
 - Training Workshop on housing management and energy efficiency in buildings: Promoting Sustainable Development Goals on Urban Development Housing and Land Management in the Republic of Belarus, Minsk, 21-24 May.
 - Workshop Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries was co-organized with UNIDO, Kyiv (Kiev), 27-28 May 2019.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - 28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 25-27 September 2019.
 - Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Chief of Section serves as the secretary of GEEE *ad interim*. Recruitment process for the RB post (secretary of GEEE) is on hold due to the budget freeze.
- (b) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (d) 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 (vacant as of November 2018), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (CES)

1. Activities

- (a) Consultations with the Chairman of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (CEP) were conducted.
- (b) The algorithm of the WP 2018-19 implementation, new WP for 2019-20 and agenda of the session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems were discussed and agreed.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 1st session of the new Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, 5-6 November 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 P3 (25%), 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 for the 6th session of GEEE (to be held on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development) are on-going. Official documents for the session have been prepared and will be submitted on time. The Work Plan for 2020-2021 has been approved by written procedure.
- (c) Preparations of the two publications on “Hard Talks in ECE countries on how to increase renewable energy uptake” and on “Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment” have progressed with the issuing of two related parliamentary documents. The two publications will be submitted in Q4.
- (d) Preparatory work continued with Ministry of Energy and organizers of the Russian Energy Week on 2-3 October in Moscow for the organization of the Renewable Energy Hard Talks in the Russian Federation within this context. The GERE Vice-Chair is coordinating the organization of this multi-stakeholder dialogue for the host country.
- (e) Bureau and staff member participated in the following events:
 - 29 April-3 May 2019, Geneva, active participation and coordination with the renewable energy working group of the EGRM within UNECE Resource Management Week 2019.
 - 23 May 2019, Utrecht/ NL, speaker at the IEA Workshop - Governing sustainability in biomass supply chains for the bioeconomy - World Café Round 2 on “The way forwards bioeconomy is strengthening national efforts in global processes, in particular to meet climate change commitments and sustainable development goals and targets”.
 - 26-27 June 2019; Nur-Sultan, organization and participation in the workshop on “Validation of unified methodology for assessing potential of wind and solar energy in the CIS countries” in the framework of within the UNECE project “Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- 28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 25-27 September 2019, dedicated joint (GERE&GEG) session on gas and renewable energy synergies.
- Hard Talk on Renewable Energy in the Russian Federation within the Russian Energy Week on 2-3 October 2019 in Moscow.
- 5th GERE session and Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Resources (financial, human and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Possible impact of the UN Reform/ UNECE Budget on the SE Division and subsequently on the RE activities.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (d) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 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)
- Additional 300 copies of BPG in English have been printed and delivered to the Secretariat.
 - Unofficial translation of BPG into Chinese based on an in-kind contribution by the International Centre of Excellence on CMM (ICE-CMM) in China has been approved by UN HQ and was sent to printing.
 - The *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines* is in a final stage of preparation. The process of hiring a consultant for final editing of the document was completed. The consultant is to start work on 1 July 2019. The document is to be presented to CSE at its 28th session in September.
 - A one-day-long seminar on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* was delivered in Ankara, Turkey, 10 June 2019. The event organized in cooperation with Global Methane Initiative (GMI), Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, and the Turkish Coal Enterprises (TKI) featured 24 presentations, which are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51712>.
 - A two-day-long workshop on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* was delivered within the framework the 3rd International Coal Conference titled *Ukrainian Coal Mining Industry in the Times of Decarbonisation*, in Dnipro, Ukraine, 12-13 June 2019. The event organized in cooperation with GMI, Technical University of Dnipro, the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, and DTEK featured 28 presentations, which are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51712>.
- (c) Activity B: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
- ICE-CMM in Poland contributed to the events in Ankara, Turkey, and Dnipro, Ukraine.
 - A donor's agreement between UNECE and ICE-CMM Poland necessary for providing funds for a project titled *Strengthening national capacity of the UN member States for environmentally responsible methane management through coordination of activities of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland* is being negotiated.
 - ICE-CMM in China was formally registered as a separate non-governmental entity operating under the Chinese law.
 - A decision to provide the Secretariat with financial support for coordination of activities of ICE-CMM in China and the Group of Experts was formally taken by the former.
- (d) Activity C: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
- 52 presentations delivered at the events in Ankara, Turkey, Dnipro, Ukraine, and were posted on the CMM website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51712>).
- (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.
- The time for submitting comments to the first draft of a document on best practices in efficient monitoring, reporting, verification and mitigation of methane emissions in the oil and gas sectors developed within the framework of the XB project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries* has passed. Extensive comments received throughout the review process are being revised by the consultant. The final text of the document is to be prepared by the end of August and presented to CSE at its 28th session in September.
- (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
- A framework of the joint UNECE-Boston University project on modernization of the energy sector was prepared.
 - A draft proposal for funding of the project on modernization of the energy sector under the funding programmes within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the

German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) was developed.

- Other opportunities for funding the project on modernization of the energy sector are being actively explored.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) A session on modernization of the energy sector at the 28th session of CSE, Geneva, Switzerland, 26 September 2019.
- (b) A session summarizing Group's past and future activities at the 28th session of CSE, Geneva, Switzerland, 27 September 2019
- (c) 14th annual session of the Group of Experts on CMM, Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 November.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding for the secretariat to service GoE on CMM and its Bureau.
- (b) Funding for organizing the events launching the project on modernization of the energy sector.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2018-2019](#) are being implemented. [The UNECE Resource Management Week 2019, including the EGRM tenth session \(29 April – 3 May\)](#) had over 360 registered experts from more than 60 countries, approximately 20 international organizations, several non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and industry. The week included events such as a two-day workshop on [UNFC and UNRMS: Tools for managing resources for sustainable development, 29-30 April](#), and sessions on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency; Workshop on UNFC for Africa and AMREC Working Group Meeting, 29-30 April; Workshop on [Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways](#), 29-30 April; and Renewable Energy Working Group Workshop, 30 April. Several EGRM Working Groups organized face-to-face meetings. A special lunchtime lecture on [“Uberizing Energy - How Digital Technologies will Change the Competitive Landscape of the Energy Sector”](#) was held on 2 May.
- (b) The highlights of the meeting include continuing development of [United Nations Resource Management System \(UNRMS\)](#) and specifications and guidelines for the application of UNFC to minerals, petroleum, [wind energy](#), [solar energy](#) and hydro energy. Work on application of UNFC to groundwater resources commenced. Regional approaches such as [“UNFC for Africa”](#) and [“UNFC for Europe”](#) were presented. Case studies included social and environmental focused [pilot study in Mexico](#), [Uganda petroleum case study](#), and from Ukraine, Portugal and other countries. EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021 was agreed and will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy meeting (25-27 September) for approval.
- (c) UNFC draft specifications for [wind energy](#) and [solar energy](#) were made available for public comments.
- (d) The Bureau met on 3 April, 2 May and 11 June to review progress on implementation of the work plan. The Technical Advisory Group met on 1 May and 14 June. All other EGRM sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (e) Work on the UNFC-related extrabudgetary projects is progressing and an update on both will be presented during the EGRM tenth session: (i) Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources (funded by the Russian Federation), and; (ii) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (funded by the United Nations Development Account). Under the later project, [Training on “Data collection related to sustainable energy and water resources management and monitoring and UNFC application”](#) was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 19-20 June
- (f) IASB UNFC Workshop for IFRS Project Teams and Board of Advisors was held in London, United Kingdom, 13 May 2019. A National Workshop on UNFC, Mexico City was held during 13-14 June.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2019: Accelerating and Deepening the Transition to Sustainable Energy Systems & 28th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 September, Palais des Nations, Geneva.
- (b) Tyumen Oil and Gas Forum featuring a workshop on “Promotion of UNFC and UNRMS for expansion of investment potential of Central Asian and BRICS countries”, Tyumen, Russian Federation, 17-19 September.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRM, its Bureau (23 members) and 21 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%) and 1G6 (25%). EGRM and UNFC and UNRMS development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) Following its 6th session held in March, the Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) continues to implement its work plan for 2018-2019.
- (b) The GEG Bureau held two conference calls to brainstorm on the work plan for 2020-2021. The process was wide and inclusive. The secretariat run a survey among the entire gas community and received a robust response that was used as a building block for the work plan.
- (c) Members of the Group, its Bureau and the secretariat participated in several events and presented some of the current work. In May 2019 The secretary participated in the 2nd Macedonian Energy Forum and presented GEG's work on small scale LNG. In June 2019 the secretary participated in the workshop "Power-to-X", organized by the World Energy Council. UNECE consultant participated in the Conference on Climate and Energy Transition at Skolkovo, Russia, in June 2019.
- (d) GEG and its Chair were very much involved in the x-b project: "Deep-dive on Gas - Role of Natural Gas in Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement" by providing comments to the written outputs of the project.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 24 September 2019: Workshop on the understanding of the role of natural gas in achieving the 2030 Agenda
- (b) 25-27 September 2019: 28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

3. Main Challenges

Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out an expanded work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 P4 (100%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) Workshop on Energy Performance Buildings (EPB) Standards was co-organized with the Energy Community Secretariat on 12 April 2019 in Tbilisi (30 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51632>. Advisory services were provided to government bodies in Georgia during the mission.
- (b) Capacity-Building Workshop Promoting Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia was organized on 15 May 2019 in Geneva (42 participants, including from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51113>.
- (c) Training Workshop on housing management and energy efficiency in buildings: Promoting Sustainable Development Goals on Urban Development Housing and Land Management in the Republic of Belarus was co-organized with the Forests, Land and Housing Division on 21-24 May 2019 in Minsk (52 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51412>. Advisory services were provided to government bodies in Belarus during the mission.
- (d) Workshop Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries was co-organized with UNIDO on 27-28 May 2019 in Kyiv (Kiev) (93 from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of North Macedonia, and Ukraine). The workshop served as the first meeting of the ECE Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE Task Force). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51482>. Advisory services were provided to government bodies in Ukraine during the mission.
- (e) The extrabudgetary project “Enhancing national capacities for development and implementation of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region” is undergoing evaluation by a consultant. The project materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/activities/energy-efficiency-in-buildings.html>.
- (f) Under the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”, consultants in Belarus, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan are developing draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP). The works is coordinated with ESCAP (co-implementing organization) for developing draft NSEAPs in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Advisory missions under the project were held in Minsk, Baku, Tbilisi, and Nur-Sultan. Preparations are on-going for the final validation workshop under the project to be held in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok.
- (g) Regional Adviser participated with a speech at the Fifty-Third Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PA BSEC) on 19-21 June 2019 in Baku. Regional Adviser participated with a presentation in the Workshop on validation of unified methodology for assessing potential of wind and solar energy in the CIS countries on 26-27 June 2019 in Nur-Sultan.
- (h) Information on past and planned meetings and events is posted at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/regional-advisory-services/meetings-and-events.html>.

2. Upcoming Events and Activities

- (a) 28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 25-27 September 2019.

- (b) Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Ensuring cooperation with SED colleagues in support of their activities.
- (b) Identification of synergies with other UNECE divisions and other international organizations to leverage limited resources.
- (c) Identification of additional extrabudgetary resources.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%), 1 G6 (30%).
