



Seventh

International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

18 - 21 October 2016, Baku, Azerbaijan

JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel

Session co-organized by United Nations Economic Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

International Conference on Renewable Energy and UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable

The interplay between renewable energy and fossil fuels: the post-Paris agenda

21 October 2016, 10:00 -11:15

Political support for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change is unprecedented. Meanwhile 2016 is set to be the warmest year ever recorded. Many scientific voices are advocating that, if we take factors such as ocean warming and melting permafrost into account, the 1.5-degree level has already been reached, and if 2 degrees is the target 14,000 of the estimated 15,000 Giga tonnes of CO₂ that are still in the ground in form of fossil fuels have to remain where they are. This situation calls for profound changes in how energy is produced and consumed. The challenge is reconciling the tight emissions pathway with development aspirations and modernization/diversification of fossil based economies in a strategic and forward-looking fashion.

Role of fossil fuels in a sustainable future. Energy for sustainable development has to be looked at in a comprehensive and integrated manner that considers where current energy systems are today, where they should be in the medium- to long-term to meet sustainability and climate change goals, and how the world can transition to a sustainable energy future efficiently. A realistic and achievable outlook will recognize that improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix will be insufficient to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It is necessary to engage in a dialogue on the role of fossil fuels in the coming decades. By 2050 the share of fossil fuels in the global energy mix will be at least 40% even under a climate change scenario that meets a 2°C target. Finding solutions for the most effective use of fossil fuels with minimal possible environmental and climate change impact is crucial if the world is to meet its sustainable development and climate goals.

The session seeks to discuss the needed paradigm shift that fossil based economies are faced with and the role that energy efficiency, renewable energy, big data, strategic investments and economic diversification can play to ease the tension between the climate goals and a sustainable exit strategy for fossil based economies. Participants are invited to share experiences and views on the outlook in the coming decades and discuss opportunities and synergies towards a future energy system.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
Draft 21st October, 2016

Sessions	Duration	Title	Speaker
Session: 75 minutes 10:00 – 11:15	5 min	Chairperson, Moderator	Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch

	10min	Future energy outlook, major challenges and uncertainties	Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) – ESCWA
	10 min	Towards a sustainable energy future: what role for fossil fuels in the renewable energy transition	Ms. Ute Collier, Senior Programme Manager, Renewable Energy Division, International Energy Agency (IEA)
	10 min	Key issues for fossil fuels to enable clean and sustainable energy: <i>developing new projects, investing in flexible/dual use infrastructure, aligning extractives sector and power sector policies, pricing for progressive emissions reductions</i>	Ms. Glada Shona Lahn, Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources, Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, United Kingdom
	10 min	Potential natural gas and renewable energy partnership for sustainable development	Mr. Mostefa Ouki, Vice President Energy & Chemicals, Nexant, United Kingdom
	10 min	The interplay between renewable energy and fossil fuels: the post-Paris agenda.” Case of UAE	Mr. Toufic Mezher, UN-ESCWA Consultant
	25 min	Open discussion: Questions and Answers. Chair: Conclusions and Recommendations	