

Pathways to Sustainable Energy: National approaches to a global challenge

Workshop Concept Note

Marriot Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan, 09.00 - 13.00, 21 October 2016

Concept:

- 1st part: Inputs by selected countries about their understanding and approach to achieving sustainable energy in 2050.
- 2nd part: Group work with some fifteen participants to
 - identify key regional trends, messages and milestones driving the sustainable energy transition within their sub-region as well as on national scale,
 - define key elements of sustainable energy, and to share national and sub-regional perspectives.
- 3rd part: Presentation of group work, summarizing key regional distinctions and drivers for sustainable energy futures.

Target group:

- Primary: Policy makers from energy, environment and other cross-cutting ministries (such as agriculture, economy, trade, infrastructure, finance and planning)
- Secondary: Energy experts from academia, private sector, and civil society / NGOs

Speakers:

- Mr. Mohammed Abdel Fattah Mofleh Al Dabbas, Ministers Advisor for Energy Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan
- Mr. Sergiu Robu, Energy planning expert, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Institute of Energy, Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Matija Vajdic, Senior Engineer, Department for Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency, Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar, Croatia
- Mr. Roman Zakhidov, Head of the Department, Academy of Sciences, Institute of Power Engineering of Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan

Workshop brief:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires countries to pursue concerted and accelerated action on sustainable energy in their national programmes in order to reconcile the world's growing need for energy services with mitigating the impacts of energy resource development and use. This situation calls for profound and immediate changes in how energy is produced and consumed. The challenge is reconciling the tight 2°C emissions pathway with development aspirations. To understand the full implications of the sustainable development imperatives, countries need to recognize what has been agreed both in their own national contexts and from others' perspectives. Only then can different but equally effective development pathways be pursued

efficiently and collaboratively. This session will explore how governments interpret key elements of sustainable energy and potential action forward. The stage shall be given to government representatives from different regions to share their view and approach towards a sustainable energy future. The input shall inform the subsequent group discussions during which participants will work in sub-regional groups to identify regional trends, messages and milestones driving the sustainable energy transition towards 2030 and 2050. Furthermore, participants are invited to explore the different conceptions of sustainable energy today and in the future. The collected inputs will be integrated in an ongoing UNECE project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” that seeks to explore how countries can attain sustainable energy in 2050.

Key questions to explore:

- What is sustainable energy, in the context of national and sub-regional perspectives?
- What are key regional messages, trends and milestones driving the sustainable energy transition?
- What is the role of energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies (renewable energy, nuclear, others), and fossil fuels in future energy mixes?
- How are countries integrating international developments into national energy policies?
- What are the interconnections between energy and other areas such as climate, quality of life, economic growth, and how to link cross-cutting concerns such as the food-energy-water nexus in policy design?
- What policy options may be chosen to enter a sustainable energy pathway?
- What are the gaps between policies in place today and the targets set for a sustainable energy future?
- How can uncertainty about the future energy system be reflected in policy making, such as in the formulation of adaptive policy pathways?

Desired outcomes:

- Understanding the key elements of energy systems in different UNECE sub-regions today
- Vision of sustainable energy in 2030 and 2050 in different sub-regions
- Identification of differences and similarities between countries’ and regions’ approaches and understandings of sustainable energy today and in the future
- Identification of key milestones, regional messages, trends, and risks in different countries and sub-regions
- Collection of ideas for policies to support achievement of sustainable energy

Timetable Workshop:

Time	Content	Speaker
09.00-09.10	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief tour de table (Name, country, institution) 	UNECE
09.10-09.30	Project Introduction: Pathways to Sustainable Energy. Review: Defining Sustainable Energy.	UNECE
09.30-10.15	Country Presentations: Pathways to Sustainable Energy - National approaches to a global challenge 4 presentations a 10 minutes	Country representatives from Azerbaijan, Croatia, Jordan, Moldova, Uzbekistan (see above)

10.15-10.45	Group Work – Part I: Regional Insights: Key drivers & regional trends towards the 2050 energy system	UNECE All participants
10.45-11.15	Coffee Break	
11.15-12.15	Group work - Part I continued Group work - Part II Defining Sustainable Energy	UNECE All participants
12.15-12.50	Plenary Discussion	UNECE All participants
12.50-13.00	Wrap-up and closing	UNECE