

Informal Brainstorming Meeting about the Renewable Energy Status in the UNECE Region

**11 July 2014; 13.00-18.00
Paris, REN21 Offices**

REN21 Secretariat c/o UNEP

15, Rue de Milan ; F-75441 Paris CEDEX 09 • France ; Phone +33 1 44 37 14 50 90

Closest metro station Liege, closest station St Lazare

PROPOSED AGENDA

Renewable Energy (RE) is integrating progressively into the global energy mix, yet there is much more to be done. Renewable energy policies mean well but do not work well enough. The global architecture for energy is evolving, and so must both the vision for RE and the processes for enhancing their uptake. Improving system design including optimized use of RE could speed up implementation and improve our chances of attaining sustainable energy.

In this context, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) seeks to establish a long-term dialogue and targeted partnerships with already-established players in the RE field, notably the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), REN21 and regional and networking organisations. UNECE is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, providing analysis, policy advice and assistance to governments, in cooperation with other global players and key stakeholders, notably the business community.

In order to prepare the first meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts on RE in November 2014, an informal brainstorming was held in Geneva on 26 June 2014. The region is comprised of 56 countries of western, central and eastern Europe, central Asia, Israel, Turkey, and North America. The region has huge economic, cultural, and energy diversity, and it plays a large role in the current and future global energy architecture.

The main outcomes from the discussion were:

- A RE status report in the UNECE region is urgently needed. RE data in most concerned countries of the region is not readily available. REN21, IEA and IRENA have an ongoing data collection process (starting again now for the Global Status Report 2015). UNECE's efforts should complement these efforts instead of launching a parallel process.
- RE cannot be seen in isolation, but rather as part of existing or future energy systems. For the UNECE region this is also related to improving energy supply and quality as well as affordability. The question is can data for remote communities without access to energy actually be identified through the project?
- There is a need for best practice examples about how to "do RE right" and also how RE impacts private sector business models. Can standards be developed as value added?
- What is the long-term development of RE costs? Is there an impact on decision making today?
- Additional suggestions for work are cost of finance, the role of energy pricing structures and the relationship with the uptake of RE, and how RE can optimise existing energy systems.

ROADMAP

13.00-13.30	Setting the Scene and Tour de Table
13:30-15:00	Collaborating towards a RE Status Report in the UNECE region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the status of RE, including access to modern energy services?• Is this region different from other regions?• How to plan a RE Status Report in the UNECE region?• What are the challenges?• How can the process be started?• Roles of partners in the Regional Status Report• Funding of the Regional Status Report
15:00-16:00	Developing best-practice guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is “the right way” to develop and deploy RE?• What else needs to happen to boost RE uptake in the region and beyond?• Which next steps would have the biggest impact?
16:00-17:00	Identifying technology cost trends <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can a competitive market environment for RE investments be created?• What needs do investors have?
17:00-18:00	Drawing conclusions and developing a roadmap <p>This point seeks to summarize the recommendations and build an action oriented pathway forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can SE4All be strengthened?• Introducing a RE prize for off-grid low-cost applications• Who does what?• Next steps
18:00	Meeting ends

PARTICIPANTS

REN21	Christine Lins, Rana Adib
IEA	Paolo Frankl
IRENA	Michael Taylor
UNECE	Sustainable Energy Division: Scott Foster, Stefanie Held, Gianluca Sambucini Forestry and Timber Section by conference call (from 13:30 to 14:30): Florian Steierer and Alicja Kacprzak
UNEP	Mark Radka
Low Carbon Finance Group/ Chatham House	Kirsty Hamilton
Hg Capital	Tom Murley
GIZ	Marko Kosir