

**UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)
Bangkok, Thailand, 8 October 2019**

Report of the Meeting

Present:

Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Chair
Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Vice-Chair
Mr. Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Vice-Chair
Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Vice-Chair
Mr. Georgy Ermolenko (Russian Federation), Vice-Chair
Mr. Milos Banjac (Serbia), Vice-Chair
Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine), Vice-Chair
Mr. Prasoon Agarwal on behalf of Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Vice-Chair (IRENA)
Ms. Laura Williamson on behalf of Ms. Rana Adib, Vice-Chair (REN21)

Secretariat:

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, GERE Secretary, SED

Item 1. Chair's welcome

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. Ramazanov, conveyed welcome remarks to the participants in the meeting held in Bangkok within the context of the 6th GERE session and the 10th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019).

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

Item 3. Ongoing work for the publications on (i) Hard Talks in ECE countries on how to increase renewable energy uptake and (ii) Towards sustainable renewable energy investments – trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment

3. The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of implementation of the two GERE publications that are scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2019, namely on (i) Hard Talks in ECE countries on how to increase renewable energy uptake and (ii) Towards sustainable renewable energy investments – trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment. The

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two publications are quite advanced and will be submitted by the end of 2019 for being issued as part of the Energy Series.

Item 4. Practical steps for implementation of the Work Plan for 2020-2021

4. The Chair and the secretariat briefed the other Bureau members on the new Work Plan during the biennium 2020-2021, within the three main pillars of activities, namely: (i) Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources; (ii) Exchange of experiences, good practices and multi-stakeholder dialogues on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy, (iii) Cross-cutting cooperation to strengthen integration of renewable energy in future sustainable energy systems. The Chair and the other Bureau members expressed appreciation on the work done by the secretariat in the proper and successful implementation of the work plan during the current biennium. The Chair asked the Bureau members to actively contribute to the implementation of the next cycle.

5. The Work Plan 2020-2021 has been developed by the GERE Bureau, reviewed and approved by the Group of Experts for 2020-2021 by written procedure and subsequently endorsed, together with the renewal of mandate, by the Committee on Sustainable Energy in September 2019.

Item 5. Launch of dena/ REN21 project to support market development of renewable energies in selected UNECE countries - Renewable Energy Hard Talks in 2020

6. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the on-going work by dena (German Energy Agency) to support the market development of renewable energies in ECE countries through the identification of obstacles to renewable energy uptake and promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue.

7. This new project will be supported by the Government of Germany, notably the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) for tracking progresses and exchanging best practices and experiences in the ECE region and, through this collaborative process, to overcome barriers through the work with dena and in close collaboration with REN21 and the ECE secretariat. Other three renewable energy Hard Talks are foreseen within this new project in 2020.

8. These “Renewable Energy Hard Talks” to member States on problem solving and priority identification are aiming to increase the uptake of renewable energy through the enhancement of the dialogue between governments and business to strengthen policy, institutional, normative and regulatory frameworks and, subsequently, promoting a suitable environment for investments, to increase significantly the deployment of renewable energy.

Item 6. Launch of the process for the REN21 UNECE RE Status Report 2020

9. Within the new project with dena, (German Energy Agency) a new edition of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report is foreseen in 2020, jointly prepared with REN21 with the support from dena and in close collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other key partners.

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10. As BMWi will approve the overall programme, preparatory work will start as soon as possible with a coordinator to secure the authoring team and launch the process, if possible by the end of the year. This process will use an informal methodology adopted by REN21 to get data and information when not officially available and, at the same time, it will also include building capacity for gathering data.

11. Previously, the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 was launched at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 12 June 2017. This report has been recognized by Bureau members as a useful instrument for informed decisions by major renewable energy stakeholders in UNECE countries.

Item 7. AOB

12. The Vice-Chair of the Russian Federation briefed the other Bureau members on the implementation of a project supported by the Russian Federation on “Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7”. Implementation of the project started in September 2018. The active implementation phase of the project in the last months included: (i) The development of a methodology for assessing wind and solar energy potential; (ii) Definition of key requirements for information on wind and solar energy potentials; (iii) Identification of key principles for development of regional wind and solar energy programmes; and (iv) Organization of a workshop on 26-27 June in Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan to discuss, review the methodology and provide the recommendations for its finalization.

13. In the next phase of the project, an analytical study will be carried out on the experience of large-scale development of RE and the impact (including negative) of this process on the electricity market, the network infrastructure and the prospects for the development of generation on traditional energy sources of the EU, US and Asian Pacific Region countries. This study will lead to propose recommendations, as section to be included to draft National Action Plans to meet SDG 7, related to the implementation of renewable energy in the energy system, taking into account the experience of intensive development of renewable energy sources in the world