

Bureau Meeting Report – GERE BMR N. 2017/2 - DRAFT 23 June 2017

**UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)
Astana, Kazakhstan, 14 June 2017**

Report of the Meeting

Present:

Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Chair
Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Vice-Chair
Mr. Ramazan Zhampiissov (Kazakhstan), Vice-Chair
Mr. Milos Banjac (Serbia), Vice-Chair
Mr. Valeriy Pysarenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chair
Mr. Paolo Frankl, Vice-Chair (IEA)
Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Vice-Chair (IRENA)

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 in Astana.

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

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

Item 3. Status of implementation of the Work Plan for 2016-2017

3. The Chair briefed the other Bureau members on the implementation status of the Work Plan during the biennium 2016-2017, within the three main pillars of activities. 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.

4. On **Tracking of the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy sources in the UNECE region**, the main output is the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, jointly prepared with REN21 and launched at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 12 June 2017. As the previous edition in 2015, this report is recognized by Bureau members as a useful

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instrument for informed decisions by major renewable energy stakeholders in UNECE countries.

5. **On the Exchange of know-how and best practices in the UNECE on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy.** In various meetings and workshops, including the two annual sessions of the Group of Experts and the last two editions of the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Baku in 2016 and Astana in 2017) as well as two Hard Talks in Georgia and Ukraine (December 2016), the Group of Experts exchanged information and experiences on how to significantly increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Case studies were presented on key drivers for renewable energy within future energy systems as well as case studies and good practices and policies for intersectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy, including on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus approach to support the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. **On Integration of Renewable Energy in Future Sustainable Energy Systems in the region.** Annual sessions of the Group of Experts, the Forum in Baku and Astana, and ad hoc workshops organized in 2016-2017 considered possible synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels in the energy production within a broader vision to integrate renewable energy within future energy systems. The Group of Experts cooperated with the Experts Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) to allow investments in renewable energy projects through the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to renewable energy resources. The Group of Experts cooperated and exchanged views with the Group of Experts on Gas to identify possible synergies for natural gas to be a key enabler for renewable energy. The Group of Experts participated in the assessment processes of the renewable energy potential made by IRENA in South East Europe (2016) as well as in Central Asia and the Caucasus (2017). Support activities for project developers, investors and policy makers were launched at the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Third session of the Group of Experts (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2016). Dedicated Matchmaking sessions and the opportunity for bilateral meetings were jointly organized by UNECE and the EU Technical Assistance Facility at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Astana, Kazakhstan, 13-14 June 2017).

7. On the holistic and integrated approach, the Secretary of the Group of Experts informed the Bureau members on a report on the “Deployment of renewable energy: The water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus approach to support the Sustainable Development Goals” which was presented at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development on 12 June in Astana.

8. Taking into account this exchange of experiences and considering key findings from the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report, Hard Talks in Georgia and Ukraine were organized with REN21 and the active participation of the Chair and the Bureau Members of Georgia and Ukraine in December 2016 to analyse specific issues and identify possible solutions and priorities as outcome of an open dialogue among all stakeholders. Concrete and specific recommendations came out from these Hard Talks, identifying possible solutions to concrete problems based on a shared perspective and consideration of the different interests expressed by major stakeholders. A new Hard Talk is foreseen in Azerbaijan during the second half of 2017.

Item 4. Outcomes of the Energy Ministerial and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and their implications for GERE

9. The Chair pointed out how the outcomes of the of the Energy Ministerial and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development did not have particular implications for GERE as in line with the draft Work Plan 2018-2019 currently under development, i.e. it strengthen the direction of work and main activities of the Group of Experts.

Item 5. Discussion on the draft Work Plan for 2018-2019

10. The revised draft Work Plan circulated by the Chair and the Secretariat among Bureau members before the meeting has been developed with the intention of the secretariat to harmonize the format of work plans of the Groups of Experts under the Committee on Sustainable Energy but maintaining the key direction and activities of the draft considered and agreed by Bureau members in January 2017.

11. Bureau members confirmed positive comments to the direction and content provided in the draft work plan. The current draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018–2019 was submitted for review and approval by the Group of Experts by written procedure by 29 June 2017. The representative of IEA and the representative of IRENA will explore if specific outputs within their respective programmes of work for the period 2018-2019 could be included in the GERE draft Work Plan and vice versa, when applicable. Both Vice-Chairs will be back with concrete proposals, if any, to the Chair and Secretariat by 29 June.

12. The Chair and the other Bureau members outlined how the Group of Experts has to orient its activities towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on Energy, as part of a new sustainable development agenda and support the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, this means that the Group of Experts has to respond to countries needs in the achievement of renewable energy targets of member States within the context of these global processes.

Item 7. AOB

13. There was no other business