



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
Day Month 2017

Original: English

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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Fourth session

Geneva, 2 - 3 November 2017

Item ... of the Provisional Agenda

Renewal of Mandate and Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018–2019

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018–2019

I. Introduction

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) established the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (the Group of Experts) which is mandated to carry out concrete result-oriented activities that, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.
2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will focus on a) regulatory and policy dialogue and b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.
3. The mandate and the Work Plan 2018-2019 of the Group of Experts is requested to be renewed until December 2019, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete activities

4. Building on the activities of the Work Plan 2016–2017 and the recommendations from the Group of Experts and its Bureau, the Group of Experts will undertake the following activities in the ECE region. Deliverables which require extra-budgetary funding for implementation are highlighted as “dependent on extra-budgetary funding”, and do not fall into the set of core activities to be delivered by the Group of Expert:

A. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources

Description: The Group of Experts will continue to monitor the progress on the uptake of renewable energy in the region, following the baseline established in 2015 and updated report in 2017. This work will continue in collaboration with key partners, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), and the World Bank Group. The expected results will help to improve the understanding of renewable energy globally and contribute to existing global monitoring systems already in place by partners including the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework (GTF). The Group of Experts will further contribute to future ECE initiatives in assessing progress and prospects of sustainable energy within the region, such as for the 2017 GTF UNECE Regional report

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Review the state of development and monitor the progress of renewable energy update in the region. This will include building on key findings from the Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 for selected countries and further investigating a selected number of key issues as well as contributing to existing global monitoring frameworks, in particular the GTF;
- (ii) Identify ways to strengthen national action plans regarding renewable energy drawing on experience with best practices on framework conditions and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region;
- (iii) Promote the application of a unified system of renewable energy indicators for a more comprehensive assessment - at regional, national and international level - of the status of renewable energy, including obstacles and opportunities. Such a system should allow the development of strategic actions to achieve specific goals and may contribute to or benefit from the in-depth review of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its indicators in 2018. As part of this, review of methodology to determine renewable energy shares in gross final energy consumption (GFEC) should be undertaken and, in case of inconsistencies, further work explored and, eventually, initiated on harmonisation and developing common approach in definition of key indicators of renewable energy development (dependent on extra-budgetary funding).

Deliverables:

- (i) A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts at the annual meeting;
- (ii) A report on the status of the implementation of renewable energy national action plans;
- (iii) A set of recommendations on renewable energy indicators as instrument to assess the renewable energy status and progress.

Timeline: 2018-2019

B. Exchange of experiences and good practices on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy

Description: The Group of Experts will continue to serve as platform for exchanging experiences and good practices on renewable energy development among member States, relevant international organizations and other stakeholders on how to increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate

change mitigation, in an integrated approach that considers cross-cutting and nexus issues. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organisations, such as IRENA, IEA, REN21 and the World Bank Group, the other United Nations Regional Commissions and other relevant organizations. A set of capacity development activities will be implemented to increase know-how on renewable energy stakeholders among stakeholders from public and private sector in the region.

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Organize a discussion within the Group of Experts for exchanging information on already developed renewable energy policies and measures across countries in the region, aiming to meet renewable energy targets and to develop/ implement their renewable energy national action plans. This includes inputs to discussions around policy options to achieve sustainable energy in the future as facilitated by the Committee overseen flagship project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”;
- (ii) Promote information sharing activities within workshops, seminars, roundtables, develop documentation/briefs etc. for exchange of experience on best practices and policies, such as in the context of the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
- (iii) Organize specific Hard Talks, upon country request and fund availability, to use the results of the Renewable Energy Status Report for an open dialogue among stakeholders, including through inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation with relevant organizations; (dependent on extra-budgetary funding)

Deliverables:

- (i) Ad hoc workshop or discussion within the annual session of the Group of Experts; written contributions on adaptive and cross-cutting policy options;
- (ii) Present information on policies, experiences and good practices in countries of the region during four workshops and seminars organized by relevant organizations (dependent on both regular and extra-budgetary funding for travel costs);
- (iii) Organize Hard Talks in UNECE countries on a demand-driven basis with the participation of key stakeholders (dependent on extra-budgetary funding)

Timeline: 2018–2019

C. Matchmaking Activities to Support Renewable Energy Investments

Description: The Group of Experts will work to support countries in the creation of market conditions and build capacities for the identification, development and promotion of renewable energy investment projects in selected countries. This work is based on the findings of the status report 2017 which demonstrates how several countries in the ECE region lag in global developments both technically and financially despite significant untapped renewable energy resources.

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Organize the activities to strengthen the capacity of the counties to specific needs on renewable energy - investment promotion, policy and financial framework development, technological adaptation, and project proposal writing and financial

evaluation of renewable energy projects, through different opportunities including the development of information materials on relevant examples (online and print), organisations of workshops, and other relevant measures (dependent on extra-budgetary funding);

- (ii) Support in the further development of a renewable energy project pipeline in selected countries of the Eastern part of the UNECE region, and realisation of matchmaking events to bring together project developers, investors and technology providers (dependent on extra-budgetary funding).

Deliverables:

- (i) Capacity building workshop(s), information materials
- (ii) Project pipeline; matchmaking event(s)

Timeline: 2018-2019

D. Cross-Cutting Cooperation to Strengthen Integration of Renewable Energy in Future Sustainable Energy Systems

Description: The Group of Experts will work to improve the integration of the various renewable energy technologies into present and future energy supply systems and different sectors, including electricity generation, heating and cooling, gas and liquid fuel distribution as well as autonomous energy supply systems.

This activity is implemented in cooperation with other UNECE bodies, with the Group of Experts leading or contributing to the work:

- The Group of Experts will cooperate with the Expert Group on Resource Classification to enhance the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy resources (Lead: Expert Group on Resource Classification);
- The Group of Experts will cooperate with the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production, in the implementation of activities related to renewable energy within the respective work plans, supporting possible synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels, especially gas in energy production, and in the grid integration of renewable energy (Lead: Group of Experts on Gas; Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production);
- The Group of Experts will assess opportunities for more sustainable and environmentally friendly renewable energy through inter-sectoral synergies (nexus), in cooperation with other relevant sub-programmes of the ECE, notable the UNECE Environment Committee on the energy-water-food nexus, and the Forestry Committee on biomass resources (Lead: Environment Committee, Forestry Committee).

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Develop or update of specifications for the application of UNFC to the various renewable energy technologies (bioenergy; solar, hydro, wind) (under the lead of Expert Group on Resource Classification);
- (ii) Develop recommendations produced in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production on how to overcome key obstacles and identify opportunities for synergies on renewable energy; (under the lead of the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production)

Draft 2 June 2017

- (iii) Develop recommendations on inter-sectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy and support the relevant Sustainable Development Goals within an integrated nexus approach and future energy system (under the lead of the Environment Committee and the Forestry Committee).

Deliverables:

- (i) Documentation that supports UNFC to be applied to renewable energy sources;
- (ii) Documentation on good practices and policies of renewable energy within future energy systems;
- (iii) Documentation on water-energy nexus challenges that include renewable energy development.

Timeline: 2018-2019