

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

First session

Geneva, 18-19 November 2014

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Report of the meeting

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy First Session¹

Draft for discussion

Agenda item 2: Elections of Officers

1. The Group of Experts elected Mr. (name, Germany) as its chair, and Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Ms. Maria Raytcheva (Bulgaria), Mr. Zeliko Jurić (Croatia), and Mr. Marcin Scigan (Poland) as vice chairs for two years.
2. The Group of Experts agreed to invite other stakeholders to strengthen its activities. The following persons have agreed to join the Bureau for two years: Mr. Paolo Frankl (International Energy Agency), Mr. Jeffrey Skeer (International Renewable Energy Agency) and Ms. Christine Lins (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century).
3. The Group of Experts appreciated the invitation by the Acting Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to strengthen the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy by integrating its work with the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies *ex officio*, and other stakeholders.

Agenda item 3: Status of development of renewable energy in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

4. The Group of Experts expressed appreciation for the report on the renewable energy status in the ECE region which has been prepared for the first session of the Group of Experts with the support provided by the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), acknowledged important data gaps for the region and recommended future work with relevant partners, including the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
5. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to prepare a Renewable Energy Status Report for the ECE Region in 2015 in collaboration with key partners as a concrete tool aimed at further increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the region and invited governments and other organizations to provide financial and/or in-kind expert support to the preparation of this Report.
6. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to explore possible ways and means to prepare a study on the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technology in the ECE region in cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), additional key

1. ¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Experts Group after each agenda item and updated as needed

international stakeholders and other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, subject to the availability of funding.

7. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to prepare during the biennium 2016-2017 a tracking progress report of renewable energy deployment in the ECE region as follow-up to the Renewable Energy Status Report, and to explore possible ways and means to raise funds for the preparation of this report on a regular basis.

Agenda item 4: Energy access in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

8. The Group of Experts took note of the paper prepared on the energy access in the ECE region and noted the challenges identifying those communities with no access to energy and subsequently, suggesting concrete ways to support those communities.

9. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to include the consideration of data and information on the communities with no access to energy in the Renewable Energy Status Report for the ECE region 2015 through a questionnaire sent to interested member States to collect data and information as well as to initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue with the help of the private sector, academia, civil society and other international actors.

10. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to work with a range of stakeholders in renewable energy to identify best practices on the use of renewable energy in areas not connected to a grid.

Agenda item 5: Best practices in renewable energy in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

11. The Group of Experts noted the development of matrices with key action areas to encourage the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices between experts of member States as a step to significantly increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

12. The Group of Experts recommended to set up a Task Force on Best Practice Policies with representatives of main stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia to identify best practices, high-impact measures and procedures on how to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy, with a possible view of establishing ECE standards for renewable energy in the long-term.

13. The Group of Experts invited the Task Force on Best Practice Policies to develop Best Practice guidelines for sustainable renewable energy deployment during the biennium 2016-2017.

Agenda item 6: Cross-cutting issues and coordination of work on renewable energy

14. The Group of Experts agreed to strengthen the cooperation and synergies with other subsidiary bodies of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, in particular with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, the Group of Experts on Gas and the Expert Group on Resource Classification, as well as with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber subprogramme, the Housing, Land Management subprogramme and the Statistics subprogramme, and within the overall ECE contribution to the post-2015 development process.

15. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the strengthened cooperation between ECE and relevant partners, including through specific agreements such as the Memorandum of Understanding with the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), Memorandum of Understanding with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Letter of Agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA).

16. The Group of Experts invited the Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas to explore ways to strengthen the cooperation for the implementation of the respective work plans, and it further recommended that they develop a proposal for

joint work that would benefit from synergies of both groups and avoid duplication, bearing in mind that renewable energy and gas are inextricably linked.

Agenda item 7: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's role in achieving the objectives of the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative

17. The Group of Experts endorsed the Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions at the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, on 4-7 November 2014 and requested the secretariat to submit the Joint Statement to the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy for further consideration and for possible submission to the Economic Commission for Europe for endorsement. The Group of Experts called upon the ECE Executive Secretary to bring it to the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council for further action.

18. The Group of Experts agreed to work closely with other Groups of Experts, in particular the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, to assist member States in the development of national action plans on sustainable energy that are tailored to their individual needs in the post-2015 development context and that contribute to global attainment of the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the sustainable development energy goals and targets.

Agenda item 8: Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015

19. The Group of Experts agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014-2015, and requested the secretariat to submit the work plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee of ECE.

Agenda item 9. Other business

20. At the time draft conclusions and recommendations were prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Agenda item 10. Report of the meeting

21. The report of the meeting was adopted, including conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

Agenda item 11. Dates of the next meeting

22. The Group of Experts noted the challenge to complete its work in one day and recommended that consideration be given to increasing the duration of future meetings of the Group of Experts to two days per year.

23. The second session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled to take place on 18-19 November 2015 in Geneva. The Group of Experts proposed that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.
