

**Committee on Sustainable Energy
Bureau Meeting/Call
Geneva, 4 February 2019, 15.00-18.00**

Bureau Report No. 2019/1

Attendance

In person:

Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair

Jean-Christophe Füeg, Vice-Chair

Lea Bigot, Germany, Megan McPhee, United States

From the secretariat: Scott Foster, Stefanie Held, Michal Drabik, Gianluca Sambucini, Branko Milicevic, Igor Litvinyuk, Oleg Dzioubinski, Iva Brkic

By WebEx/phone:

Jarad Daniels, Sergio Garribba, Talgat Karashev, David MacDonald, Francisco de la Flor, Raymond Pilcher, Aleksandar Dukovski, Vice-Chairs

Tibor Fischer, Vice-Chair Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, focal point Pathways

Nikolay Kolisnyk, Ukraine

From the secretariat: Charlotte Griffiths, Viktor Badaker

SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS

WELCOME

- The agenda was approved as distributed. All items were discussed
- The Vice-Chairs nominated by Israel and Poland have moved to other responsibilities and are no longer part of the Bureau

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROJECT

- The project *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* is entering its most exciting phase: the data received from the modelling team will be the basis for key messages and policy recommendations based on considerations for the UNECE region
- 6 Expert groups have nominated focal points (names see attachment *Pathways process document*, last page)
- Drafting of key messages and policy recommendations will culminate in the country and stakeholder consultation process on 14-16 May 2019 in Geneva (Pathways and capacity building workshops on 14-15 May are preceding the Committee informal meeting on 16 May). Expert groups, focal points and Bureau will be involved according to the schedule that was distributed (*Pathways process document*). Further input to be sought through a series of webcasts
- The concept of the early warning system is evolving, linkages to the project that examines the role of gas in sustainable energy need to be made (funds have been received and the project can begin, involving the Group of Experts on Gas)
- Recommendations must be technology neutral, provide a balanced view on all options, energy efficiency should be underlying driver
- Further funding is necessary to continue technology deep dives and additional subregional focus beyond Caucasus and Central Asia

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR No. 2019/1

- All Expert Groups need to submit requests for mandate renewals and future work plans in line with the Committee deadline (mid-July 2019) for Committee approval

Actions:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| • Provide framework and context for input | Secretariat | asap |
| • Involvement of focal points and expert groups | Secretariat | in progress |
| • Expert groups to develop mandate requests and work plans | All Expert Groups | Mid-July |

RESTRUCTURING THE WORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUBPROGRAMME

- Discussion based on the *Draft strategic review document 22 Jan 2019* provided by the secretariat. The objective of paper is to establish a more efficient, nimble structure of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to reflect the challenges of the region, the nexus propositions within UNECE as a whole, and the on-going reform of the UN Development System. The paper also explores the thematic objectives of the sub-programme and the resources needed to attain them. An updated paper based on discussions at the May meeting is to be submitted to member States by mid-July for approval at the 28th Committee session
- The draft document was appreciated as a good basis for further discussions on the strategic review. Operational details will have to be added to the paper following discussions at the May meeting to form the basis for substantive decisions by the Committee in September
- Bureau members requested an opportunity to submit comments in writing prior to its submissions to the groups of experts and member States for consultation. The Bureau requested that comments be shared in a transparent way. Bureau members also requested that more time be allocated at the May meeting to explore full the implications of the paper

Actions:

- | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| • Reactions to Strategic review paper | Bureau members | 15 Feb 2019 |
| • Refinement of paper and submission to MS and EGs | Scott Foster | 25 Feb 2019 |

INFORMAL OPEN-ENDED CONSULTATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: 16 MAY 2019

- Discussions at the informal consultation will be the basis for the agenda and invitees for the 28th session, in particular the high-level policy dialogue
- Gender aspect to be added to the agenda of the 28th Committee session

BUREAU MATTERS

- Chair and Vice-Chair elections will be held at the 28th session, an official invitation will be sent to member States
- Bureau supportive of some kind of empowerment for Bureau decision making between Committee sessions
- Secretariat to draft a suggestion to be discussed at 28th session

Actions:

- | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| • Invitation for Bureau member nominations | Secretariat | in February |
| • Drafting of decision-making document | Secretariat | for next meeting |

REGIONAL ADVISOR

- The newly appointed Regional Advisor gave a brief update of his plans
- 10th *International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development* will be hosted by Thailand, in conjunction with the second session of ESCAP's Committee on Energy in the first week October 2019. As this date overlaps with the forthcoming sessions of the Groups of Experts on Energy

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR No. 2019/1

Efficiency and Renewable Energy, consideration is being given to holding them in Bangkok. Details are being investigated. Bureau members were, in principle, in favour of this possibility, leaving the decision on where to hold the annual meeting directly to the Group of Experts and their Bureaux

AOB

- Discussion about potential involvement in climate negotiations, COP, UN Climate Summit or others. Strong arguments were made for contributing to all of the events given the depth of UNECE's potential contribution
- Recommendation to increase involvement of countries to carry the messages of the Committee and subsidiary bodies
- Announcement for a next phase of the *Global Tracking Framework* with regional involvement, sister Regional Commissions have already raised funding, UNECE still investigating funding possibilities

Next Bureau meeting:

- To be confirmed, likely early April, followed by a call/meeting in June to meet the Committee deadlines (mid July).
