## Economic and Social Council

## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

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Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda
**Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:
Review of subprogramme performance and planning**

# Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

## Note by the secretariat

## Introduction

1.      The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme ("the subprogramme") for 2024. The Committee on Sustainable Energy ("the Committee") is invited to adopt it and recommend to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the programme.

2.      The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes a logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as 'results chain', the resources (human and financial) known as 'inputs', and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent achievement of the objective.

3.      The objective, the strategy, the planned results, and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge.[1] This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation

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[1]  The ECE nexus areas are as follows: (1) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (4) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.

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projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

4.      The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

# I.  Objective

5.      The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

# II.  Strategy

6.      The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; develop and deploy ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and provide capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE work on cross-sectoral collaboration areas, as described in paragraph 20.4 (a)–(e) above, and to priorities related to the circular economy.

7.      To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)      Further develop normative instruments (e.g., best practices and principles), awareness-raising campaigns and the deployment of ECE tools through workshops, seminars and technical projects to help member States to meet their commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement with regard to reducing their environmental footprint related to energy, accelerating the transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development;

(b)      Promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues;

(c)      Provide technical assistance and guidance on energy transitions in the context of sustainable development, disseminate best practices and improve information-sharing;

(d)      Promote collaboration among private and public stakeholders that are key to implementing national and regional policies, including with regard to normative instruments and their deployment and dissemination;

(e)      Coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the ECE region and provide an ECE platform on resilient energy systems for inclusive dialogue;

(f)      Explore and increase understanding on energy-related climate financing in the ECE region, including policies and mechanisms for increasing financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies, the critical raw materials needed for low-carbon transformations and sustainable infrastructure projects.[2]

8.      The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

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[2]  This language was agreed by ECE member States at the thirty-first session of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, held from 21 to 23 September 2022, and, subsequently, at the 125th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee. In particular, the Committee "agreed to the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/31/2022/INF.1) and requested the secretariat to reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024" (ECE/ENERGY/143, para. 76).

(a) More effective integration of sustainable energy across national policies and normative frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Enhanced and inclusive dialogue and cooperation among all energy actors to boost transformational investment in the energy sector, support the building of resilient energy systems and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries' sustainable development and climate commitments;

(c) Improved access of member States to frameworks and tools required for integrated and sustainable resource management that aid the progress towards a more circular economy and contribute to the food-water-energy nexus;

(d) Improvement in the performance of buildings from a health perspective (e.g., temperatures, comfort, effective air intake and recycling filters), which will improve the protection and resilience of populations;

(e) Increased understanding and implementation of climate-friendly policies and mechanisms by member States, which are aimed at addressing issues such as financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies and sustainable infrastructure, and the critical raw materials needed for such transformations.

## A. Programme performance in 2022

### 1. Enhanced understanding of the technology interplay for the power and energy intensive industries' transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region

9. The ECE region depends on fossil fuels for more than 80 per cent of its primary energy demand.[3] Energy-intensive industries account for approximately 25 per cent of total $CO_2$ emissions globally.[4] These industries are often crucial for modern economies, and they can assist in the post-COVID energy transition. Reducing emissions of hard-to-abate sectors is a priority for the region to meet the Paris Agreement targets.

10. In 2020, the subprogramme launched a technical assistance project[5] and initiated consultations on the theme, including conducting six capacity-building workshops for member States on technology interplay. In 2021, the subprogramme continued consultations, conducted research on the design of low-carbon and low-emission intensive energy systems and developed an ECE dedicated toolkit.[6] The subprogramme also conducted eight capacity-building workshops for member States on innovative technologies for energy transition.

11. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 1).

Table 1
**Performance measure**

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) |
|---|---|---|
| 30 member States nominated national focal points to the ECE project task force | Enhanced capacity of member States on innovative technology for energy transition | Countries of Central Asia and Ukraine deployed the ECE carbon neutrality toolkit |
| | Member States have access to research that identifies | |

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[3] ECE, "Carbon neutrality in the UNECE region: technology interplay under the carbon neutrality concept" page 21. Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Technology%20Interplay_final_2.pdf.

[4] Ibid., page 50.

[5] "Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050". Available at https://unece.org/e274-enhancing-understanding-implications-and-opportunities-moving-carbon-neutrality-unece-region.

[6] Available at https://carbonneutrality.unece.org.

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) |
|---|---|---|
| | technology and policy options and to recommendations for creating a sustainable energy system | |

## III. Planned results for 2024

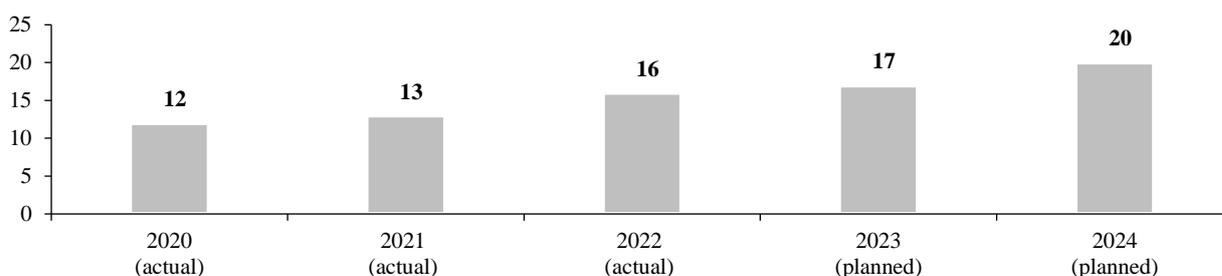### A. Result 1: Managing gases to implement the 2030 Agenda

**Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024**

12. The subprogramme's work contributed to the commitment of 16 Member States to applying ECE guidance to manage gases, which met the planned target.

13. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure I).

Figure I
**Performance measure: number of Member States applying ECE guidance to manage gases ($CH_4$, $H_2$ and $CO_2$) (cumulative)**



### B. Result 2: Digitalization of the energy sector as an enabler of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
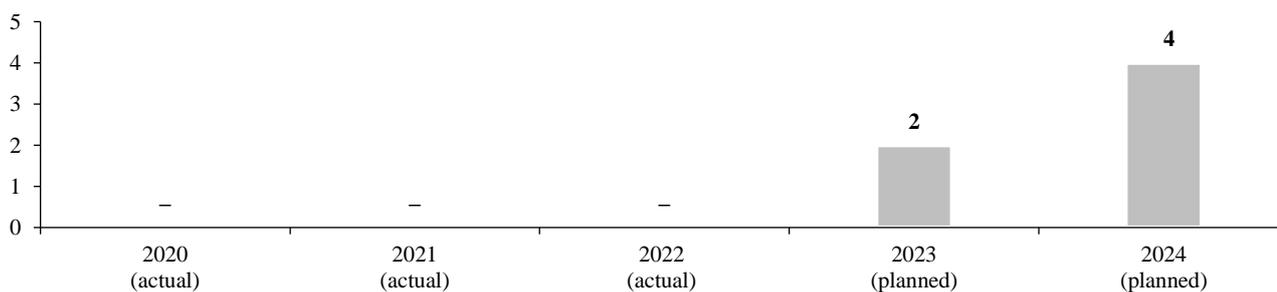
**Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024**

14. The subprogramme's work contributed to increased awareness of member States on the role that digitalization of the energy system may play in improving system efficiency, of existing sectoral opportunities and of the potential impact of digitalization in energy on the economy and society. This work laid the groundwork for Member States to develop national case studies in the future that apply recommendations on digitalization developed by ECE.

15. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure II).

Figure II
**Performance measure: number of Member States applying ECE recommendations on digitalization by developing national case studies (cumulative)**

## C. Result 3: Enhanced resilience of energy systems in the Economic Commission for Europe region

**Programme performance for 2024**

16. While the ECE region has made significant progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7, there remain areas to further strengthen member States' ability to ensure energy resilience, which supports energy security, economic recovery and affordability and environmental sustainability.

17. The subprogramme has developed several mechanisms to enhance the resilience of member States' energy systems and attain the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 7, including the carbon neutrality toolkit, renewable energy "hard talks", best practice guidance on methane reductions, the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and the newly established ECE platform on resilient energy systems to promote ECE mechanisms and inclusive dialogue among member States.
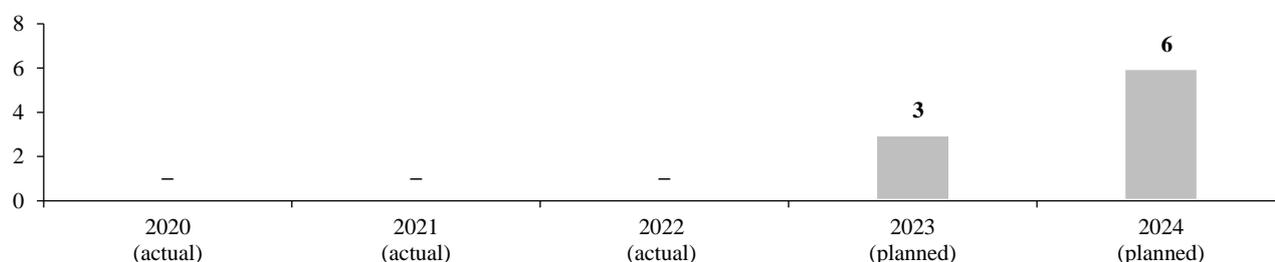
**Lessons learned and planned change**

18. The lesson for the subprogramme was that there was an increased demand to support member States in strengthening the resilience of energy systems. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will increase capacity-building, including through United Nations country teams, to help member States to better utilize the above-mentioned ECE mechanisms, promote international cooperation and dialogue on energy and raise awareness of how achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 can secure sustainable energy development and improve energy system resilience.

19. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure III).

Figure III
**Performance measure: number of member States using ECE mechanisms to enhance the resilience of energy systems in the ECE region (cumulative)**



## IV. Deliverables

20. Table 2 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 2
**Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory**

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies** | | | | |
| **Parliamentary documentation** (number of documents) | **45** | **45** | **45** | **40** |
| 1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies | 45 | 45 | 45 | 40 |
| **Substantive services for meetings** (number of three-hour meetings) | **38** | **38** | **38** | **38** |
| 2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| **B. Generation and transfer of knowledge** | | | | |
| **Field and technical cooperation projects** (number of projects) | **8** | **8** | **9** | **5** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | On sustainable resource management | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 4. | On reducing the environmental footprint of energy | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | On accelerating transformations of the energy sector | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 6. | On supporting member States in securing sustainable energy | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| **Seminars, workshops and training events** (number of days) | | **10** | **10** | **10** | **13** |
| 7. | Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 8. | Seminars on energy efficiency measures, accelerators and standards | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 9. | Seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 10. | International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 11. | Training and workshops on methane management | – | – | | 2 |
| 12. | Workshops and seminars on energy efficiency | – | – | | 2 |
| **Publications** (number of publications) | | **5** | **5** | **2** | **3** |
| 13. | On best practice guidelines, case studies and other publications related to sustainable energy | 4 | 3 | – | – |
| 14. | On hydrogen, the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 15. | On digitalization and best practices in methane management | – | – | – | 2 |

**D.    Communication deliverables**

**Outreach programmes, special events and information materials**: booklets on sustainable energy and related topics, for regional access.

**External and media relations**: press releases, keynote speeches and articles on the activities of the energy subprogramme.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content**: subprogramme's website for regional and global access.

# Annex I

## Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2024

| Item no. | Publication title | Mandate | Print and/or electronic) | Trim size | Number of pages | Original language | Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Non-recurrent publications** | | | | | | |
| 1 | Compendium of Case Studies on Digitalization in Energy in the UNECE Region | ECE/ENERGY/143 | Electronic | A4 | 100 | E | F, R (both RB) |
| 2 | United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System: Case Studies | ECE/ENERGY/143 | Electronic | A4 | 150 | E | A, C, F, R, S (F,R, RB) |
| 3 | Mapping Just Transition and Identifying Barriers to its Implementation and Progress in the ECE Region | ECE/ENERGY/143 | Electronic | A4 | 120 | E | F, R (both RB) |

# Annex II

## Legislative mandates

### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

**General Assembly resolutions**

| Res No. | Title |
| --- | --- |
| 66/288 | The future we want |
| 67/290 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community |
| 69/277 | Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development |
| 66/288 | Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations |
| 69/283 | Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 |
| 69/313 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 71/16 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 71/256 | New Urban Agenda |
| 72/279 | Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 73/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative |
| 73/195 | Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration |
| 74/122 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 74/128 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| 74/144 | Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility |
| 74/216 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development |
| 74/231, 76/215 | Development cooperation with middle-income countries |
| 74/235 | Women in development |
| 74/271 | Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat |

| Res No. | Title |
|---|---|
| 74/297 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 74/306 | Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic |
| 75/8 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM |
| 75/9 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States |
| 75/12 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 75/216; 76/204 | Disaster risk reduction |
| 75/221 | Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |
| 75/233 | Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 75/290 B | Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council |
| | Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level |
| | High-level political forum on sustainable development |
| 75/324 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 76/221 | South-South cooperation |

**Economic and Social Council resolutions**

| Res No. | Title |
|---|---|
| 1998/46 | Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields |
| 2006/38 | Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission |
| 2013/1 | Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe |

**Economic Commission for Europe decisions**

| Res No. | Title |
|---|---|
| A (64) | The work of the Economic Commission for Europe |
| A (65) | Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE |
| A (66) | Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region |

| *Res No.* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| A (69) | High-level statement |
| B (69) | Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources |
| C (69) | Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development |

## B.   Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

| *General Assembly resolutions* | |
|---|---|
| 69/225 | Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy |
| 70/213 | Science, technology and innovation for development |
| 72/224 | Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |

| *Economic and Social Council decisions* | |
|---|---|
| 1997/226 | United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities |
| 2004/233 | United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources |
| 2011/222 | Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines |
| 2021/249 | Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines |
| 2021/250 | Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources |