

**Committee on Sustainable Energy****Bureau Meeting/Call****Geneva, 29 January 2018, 17.00-18.30****Bureau Report No. 2018/1****Present/WebEx, Bureau:**

Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair, Mr. Hubert Schwarz, Mr. Francisco de la Flor, Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Mr. Talyat Aliev, Mr. Sergio Garribba, Mr. Ray Pilcher, Mr. Barry Worthington, all Vice-Chairs  
Ms. Miriam Gutzke, Germany, Ms. Oleksandra Kozlovska, Mr. Valeriy Pysarenko, Mr. Taras Shevchenko for Ms. Nataliya Boyko, Ukraine  
Ms. Heather Greenley with Barry Worthington

**Apologies:**

Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Mr. Jarad Daniels, Mr. Ron Adam, Mr. Jean-Christophe Füg, all Vice-Chairs

**Present, secretariat, Sustainable Energy Division (SED):**

Mr. Scott Foster, Ms. Stefanie Held, Mr. Branko Milicevic, Mr. Hari Tulsidas, Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Mr. Michal Drabik

**Present, modellers:**

James Edmonds, PNNL

**Action points****SED secretariat:**

- Invite for next Bureau meeting/call, likely 20 March 2018, 14.00-18.00 – *done*
- Provide glossary and definitions for the pathways project to Bureau for information and reactions – *done*
- Prepare stakeholder meeting with modellers, possibly outside Geneva (due to Geneva car week) – *done, the meeting will be hosted by the Energy Community in Vienna with support from GIZ*
- Provide information to the Bureau on process and inputs into the SDG7 review process; link to policy briefs - *done*

**Outstanding:**

- Inform of dates for regular Bureau meetings/calls in 2018 (outstanding from meeting 4/2017)
- Further develop the document on strategic priorities; possibly integrate into concept for 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee (outstanding from meeting 4/2017)
- Develop strawman for potential UNECE energy ministerial (outstanding from meeting 3/2017)

**Bureau:**

- Discuss the guidelines on fossil fuel investments at the next Bureau meeting
- Group of Experts on Clean Electricity Production to liaise with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for collaboration on the investment guidelines (Messieurs Ramazanov and Worthington)
- Provide reactions/input into the strategic directions of the Committee to the secretariat
- Modernisation of energy infrastructure: Provide ideas for alternative funding sources and approaches to the secretariat or to the Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

## **Main discussion points**

### **1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda**

- The Chair welcomed the participants, including the Vice-Chairs who had joined through WebEx and audio and the representative from the modelling group.
- The agenda was adopted as presented; however, the Bureau then discussed the review of SDG7 before the fossil fuels investment guidelines.

### **2. Pathways to Sustainable Energy**

- Objective of the discussion: Presentation of data sets and approach; agree on who sets metrics, targets and key performance indicators; ranges; next steps.
- Presentation and slides by PNNL in the name of the modelling partners to explain the modelling approach and outstanding questions. The presentation included the reference to a glossary that has specifically been developed for the project. Therefore, definitions might differ from others that can be found in literature. This is an important document for project management, as it forms the basis for the development of materials and all further deliverables. The Bureau requested to receive the latest glossary for information and input. Reactions and suggestions to the secretariat asap, best before the stakeholder workshop (5-6 March 2018).
- Discussion about SSP2 (reference for pathways project) and the Sustainable Development Scenario developed by the International Energy Agency (IEA) (WEO 2017): how do they relate? Can the Pathways project use the IEA scenarios as a reference scenario?
- Bureau concluded that the SSP2 and the IEA scenario are not comparable as the objectives and underlying assumptions are different, however, the Pathways project should take on board as much as possible conclusions and findings from the IEA considerations. The IEA approach is scenario based, aiming to define policy impact. The Pathways project is based on technology drivers/innovation and the willingness to cooperate across borders. Our project seeks to describe the world that we are in and the options that technologies provide to countries to meet set objectives. Output of the Pathways project is not a simple scenario. Its strength derives from the continuous involvement of experts from various domains and multistakeholder dialogues to test assumptions and solutions. Bureau remarked further that the timeframe of the Pathways project is significantly shorter than that of IEA (2100).
- SSP2 as reference had already been agreed during the first kick-off workshop in 2017; information had been circulated previously to the Bureau and the Committee at several instances, and can at this stage not be changed any more.
- SSP2 is itself the result of a long and robust process involving renowned research organisations and experts. It contains many of the considerations important for the UN: nexus, social and economic aspects. It is further not an extreme case but believed to be an achievable, middle of the road scenario for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Information can be made available upon request, but the Bureau has received background material (will be resent for the next meeting/call).
- The discussion about metrics, KPIs and setting ranges will continue in the stakeholder workshop in March, but will be based on the glossary and agreed terms. Input and agreement about the glossary is therefore vital.

### **3. 9<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development**

- Ms. Oleksandra Kozlovska, Head of International Cooperation and European Integration, Department of Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine confirmed that preparations for the 9th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development have begun.
- She confirmed dates and location: 6-9 November 2018 in Kiev, followed by a potential site visit. She also stressed the importance of an introductory energy ministerial on 6 November for Ukraine.

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- An Organising Committee has been created to oversee the preparations on the Ukrainian side and to manage the funds that have been set aside. The Organising Committee reports directly to the office of the first vice premier minister to stress the importance that Ukraine gives to the event.
- Topics of interest for Ukraine comprise:
  - Ways to achieve SDGs
  - Energy reform and sustainable development strategy
  - Energy independence and energy efficiency
  - Challenges regarding energy security
  - Nuclear energy
- The Bureau welcomed this initiative and stressed the importance that Ukraine's leadership has in the region at this time. It also suggested to report outcomes from the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum into COP 24, which will be held only shortly thereafter in Poland.
- The Bureau recommended taking a novel approach/theme in the context of energy transition, e.g. similar to what was done in the recent symposium titled "CEECs – China Cooperation and One Belt, One Road" on 5 May in Budapest. That meeting focused on economic opportunities along the Silk Road and China's links with the west; the interplay on technology, policy and trade.
- The Bureau further stressed that the energy ministerial should be hosted entirely by the Ukrainian Government in the context of the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum and could not be a UNECE energy ministerial. It reinforced the same messages as in the context of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum and Energy Ministerial in Astana.
- The secretariat will keep the Bureau informed of developments.

#### **4. Review of SDG7, policy briefs and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

- The Bureau received an update about the ongoing process of the review of SDG7. A pre-meeting for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is ongoing (at the time of writing the minutes) on 21-23 February 2018 in Bangkok, for a final review in summer 2018, managed by UN DESA. More information about the global conference and background documents can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference>
- 27 policy briefs have been drafted for information and input into the process. UNECE was in the lead to develop two of these: number 20 and 27 on energy indicators and on the UNECE region. The Bureau's comments have been integrated. The policy briefs are now open for public consultation. They can be accessed here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference/documentation>
- UN DESA is in the lead as they are the secretariat to the HLPF, which will review SDG 7 together with other SDGs in July 2018. Topics have been defined through a consultation with all interested UN bodies. Norway has an advisory role and leads the discussions in the run up to HLPF.
- UNECE's upcoming Regional Forum provides further opportunities for input into the HLPF through the Chair of the Regional Forum (Switzerland). The Bureau has also been invited to a meeting on 28 February at the auspices of the Regional Forum to inform UNECE member States of the outcomes from Bangkok. Further meetings will be convened by agencies, including by the IEA. The Bureau will be kept informed as soon as information reaches the secretariat.
- Member States are requested to liaise with their New York representatives in the missions for further input into the SDG7 review. The group 'Friends of Energy' might convene in April 2018 under the leadership of the sustainable subprogramme.

#### **5. Investment guidelines from the Group of Experts on Clean Electricity from Fossil Fuels**

- Bureau continued the deliberations of the discussions from meeting 4/2017.
- The Chair of the Group of Experts reintroduced the investment guidelines/principles on clean fossil fuel infrastructure to the Bureau, as distributed earlier. This piece of work is proposed by

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the Group of Experts on Clean Electricity to work with international financial institutions and NGOs to develop ways to secure investments into an aging infrastructure, which in the medium-term will remain fossil based. The guidelines are also supported by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and sparked interest by the Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy offered to support work on the guidelines within a wider concept of sustainable energy and the interplay of fossil and renewable energy. The two Chairs will discuss possibilities and report at the next Bureau meeting.

- The Group of Experts on Clean Electricity Production would like the Committee to adopt the guidelines in its 27<sup>th</sup> session, as they are already approved by two expert groups.
- The Bureau sees the interplay between fossil fuels, clean industries and decarbonisation to be of high political relevance. In particular, it would like to make the case between CCS, HELE technologies and reducing the carbon burden. The Bureau stressed the role of the Committee to provide a neutral platform for all technologies and solutions, therefore would like to continue the discussions with more time at the next Bureau meeting before deciding how to present the full Committee with the guidelines. There were also voices that requested a more fundamental discussion about what the Committee and the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme stand for and which topics to drive forward in the policy agendas.

### **6. Frequency of CSE meetings dates for 27th and 28th Committee sessions:**

- The Bureau continued its discussion from meeting 4/2017 to streamline activities and meetings and possibly hold shorter, more frequent Committee meetings in the next biennium. The argument being that concentrated, shorter meetings of no more than 1.5 days might appeal more to a busy high-level policy audience. Sessions could be divided to allow to address new developments throughout the year and to seek regular feedback from member States.
- For some Bureau members the opposite reasoning applies, i.e. high-level participants can only be mobilised to come to Geneva once a year, and long-term planning is necessary for optimal preparation. Furthermore, the desire of countries was now to reduce the number of meetings to decrease the financial burden on donor countries. However, the Bureau could meet as often as necessary and desired.
- The Bureau decided to maintain the status quo, i.e. to hold its 2019 meeting in the autumn. The secretariat offered to look into the possibility of an open-ended, informal consultation of the Committee in the spring 2019. This meeting could be convened at relatively short notice and on any topic, including Pathways to Sustainable Energy, if rooms are available. A mandate for this meeting would have to be requested from the Committee at its 27<sup>th</sup> session.

### **7. AOB**

- Next Bureau meeting: : Likely 20 March 2018 14.00-18.00.

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