



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

##### Sixth session

Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

##### Report of the meeting

## Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy Sixth Session,

### Draft for discussion

#### The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy:

### I. Adoption of the agenda

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2018/1 – Annotated provisional agenda.

1. Adopted the Agenda as presented.

### II. Election of officers

2. Elected Mr./ Ms. ...., and Mr. Miloš Banjac (Serbia) as Vice-Chairs for two years<sup>2</sup>. In 2018, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan) as its Chair, Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Mr. Tibor Fisher (Germany), Mr. Felice Cappelluti (Italy), Ms. Ainur Sospanova (Kazakhstan), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairs were elected for two years and other stakeholders who previously served on the Bureau were invited to join the Bureau for two years to strengthen its activities.

3. The Bureau of the Group of Experts has the following members: Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan) as Chair, and Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Mr. Admir Softić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Mr. Tibor Fischer (Germany), Mr. Felice Cappelluti (Italy), Ms. Ainur Sospanova

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<sup>1</sup> The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed and agreed by the Group of Experts after each agenda item and updated as needed

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Milos Banjac nominated by Serbia for the election of officers during the 6th GERE session

(Kazakhstan), Ms. Isabel Cabrita (Portugal), Mr. Georgy Ermolenko (Russian Federation), Mr. Miloš Banjac (Serbia), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine), Mr. Paolo Frankl (International Energy Agency), Mr. Gurbuz Gonul (International Renewable Energy Agency), Ms. Rana Adib (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), and Michela Morese (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) as Vice-Chairs.

### **III. National sustainable energy action plans – from commitments to actions (workshop)**

*Documentation:* ECE-ENERGY/GE.6/2019/3-ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/3 – Workshop on the national sustainable energy action plans – from commitments to actions. Background paper on Sustainable Energy for All in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

4. Expressed appreciation with the main outcomes of the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia” by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (lead agency) the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) ~~ESCAP~~ and the beneficiary countries of the project – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.
5. Took note of the potential that National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAPs) have in achieving SDG7 and other energy-related sustainable development goals and targets by the countries that develop, adopt and implement NSEAPs and encouraged other ECE member States to consider developing, adopting and implementing NSEAPs.
6. Encouraged Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan to adopt their draft NSEAPs (with modifications as appropriate) and begin their implementation.
7. Requested that the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy assists interested countries in developing, adopting and implementing NSEAPs in its area of competence and based on the availability of resources.
8. Requested that ECE secretariat assists Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in implementation of NSEAPs after their adoption in coordination with other international organizations and other partners based on the availability of resources.

### **IV. Tracking progress and exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2018/3 – Perspectives for renewable energy in the ECE region.

ECE/ENERGY/2019/1 – Pathways to sustainable energy – Status Report.

9. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2018/3 – Perspectives for renewable energy in the ECE region and noted with appreciation the on-going work by dena (German Energy Agency) to support the market development of renewable energies in ECE countries through the identification of obstacles to renewable energy uptake and promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue.
10. Expressed gratitude to the Government of Germany, notably the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) for supporting the tracking progress and exchange of best practices and experiences in the ECE region to overcome barriers through the work with dena as well as for a new edition of the ECE Renewable Energy Report with REN21, International Energy Agency (IEA) and other key partners.

11. Expressed appreciation on the implementation of the last phase and overall outcome of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” overseen by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and agreed to support further development and follow-up to facilitate member States engage in a policy dialogue on possible pathways, taking into account the possible role that renewable energy can play in a future energy system.

12. Outlined the intention to engage, within the scope of the expertise of the Group of Experts, in the joint work with other subsidiary bodies on transition of the energy sector in line with the results of the ECE project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”, supporting member States to assume the obligations under international agreements and in support to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

## **V. Hard Talks and opportunities to support renewable energy investments**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/4 – Hard Talks in ECE countries on how to increase renewable energy uptake

13. Noted with appreciation the support provided by the so-called “Renewable Energy Hard Talks” to member States on problem solving and priority identification to increase the uptake of renewable energy and requested to develop further work and analysis to increase the understanding of renewable energy resource characteristics and availability, while increasing investments in enabling infrastructure.

14. Requested the secretariat to organize additional Hard Talks, upon country request and fund availability, as instrument to enhance the dialogue between governments and business to strengthen policy, institutional, normative and regulatory frameworks and, subsequently, to increase significantly the deployment of renewable energy.

15. Requested the secretariat to further explore the development of an Umbrella Programme for an integrated and medium-term support to the ECE countries, in particular in South East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

16. Took note of the findings and conclusions from the series of “Renewable Energy Hard-Talks” that took place in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, and Ukraine between 2016-2019.

## **VI. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/5 – ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/5 Sustainable renewable energy investments and development: accounting for water resources and the environment with a nexus approach.

17. Recognized the contribution of implemented and on-going activities towards a better integration of renewable energy into energy systems, considering in an integrated and cross-cutting manner the aspects of interlinkages with fossil fuels, particularly natural gas.

18. Expressed appreciation for the cooperation with other sectoral activities of the ECE in helping to achieve a better management of resources, including the increase of the renewable energy share sustainably, taking into consideration intersectoral opportunities and effects in the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. It requested to strengthen the potential role of renewable energy in promoting the nexus approach as well as links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implications for climate change mitigation. On this, it supported continuing the cooperation with the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the Water Convention to develop and publish a resource document

on capitalizing on intersectoral synergies and considerations in developing renewable energy – outlining a tool for policy makers – and to promote its trial and application (subject to availability of resources), using experience from the Drina basin and the Hard Talks.

19. Expressed gratitude for the delegates' presentations on their experiences and views on how to better integrate renewable energy into energy systems, in particular on the interlinkages and synergies between renewable energy and natural gas and cleaner electricity production.

## **VII. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2020-2021**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2019/9 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2020-2021.

20. Noted with appreciation the concrete activities the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has been implementing since the end of 2014 to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

21. Noted that it had delivered on the concrete activities of the mandate and work plan for 2017–2019 and reported achievements and key milestones at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

22. Requested the secretariat to work at the implementation of the Work Plan 2020-2021 as approved at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy under a renewed mandate and explore possible ways and means of funding by potential donors and partner organizations for specific projects, including for sustainability certification/standards of solid biofuels and/or technical standards for feeding hydrogen, bioenergy into the gas grid.

## **VIII. Other business**

23. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

## **IX. Dates of the next meeting**

24. The seventh session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 24-25 September 2020. The Group of Experts confirmed its proposal from previous sessions that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.

## **X. Report of the meeting**

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

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