

## **Bureau Meeting Report – GERE BMR N. 2017/1**

### **UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) Geneva, 20 January 2017**

#### **Report of the Meeting**

##### **Present:**

Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Chair

Mr. Valeriy Pysarenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chair

Ms. Natali Jamburia on behalf of Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Vice-Chair

Mr. Paolo Frankl, Vice-Chair, and Ms. Ute Collier (IEA)

Ms. Christine Lins, Vice-Chair, and Mr. Martin Hullin (REN21)

Ms. Isabel Cabrita, Chair of the Scientific Council, Head of Research Studies and Renewable Division of Direção Geral de Energia e Geologia

##### **Secretariat:**

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, GERE Secretary, SED

Ms. Lisa Tinschert, Junior Professional Officer, SED

#### **Item 1. Chair's welcome**

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. Ramazanov, conveyed welcome remarks to the call's participants.

#### **Item 2. Approval of the agenda**

2. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

#### **Item 3. On-going projects: REN21-UNECE Status Report/ Hard Talks/ Water- Renewable Energy Nexus**

3. Mr. Martin Hullin from REN21 briefed the Bureau Members on the on-going process of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report. Data and information has been gathered and a first draft prepared by the authoring team. Now various steps are undertaking, including peer and public review. The final document should be ready for editing and printing by mid of April and the report will be formally launched at the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development on 12-14 June 2017.
4. Ms. Christine Lins briefed colleagues on the recent Hard Talks held in Tblisi (12-13 December) and in Kiev (15-16 December) to promote the debate on the renewable energy future among major stakeholders, namely representatives from policy and decision-makers, energy companies, NGOs, academia and the private sector. At the end of each hard talk, the discussions were summarized in terms of recommendations for jumpstarting investments in renewable energy, improving a projects' bankability and simplifying procedures in project development; overarching issues were deeply considered.

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5. The Secretariat informed Bureau members on the work undertaken in cooperation with Environment Division, within the context of the Water Convention activities, on the nexus between renewable energy and water related issues. A specific report on “Good practices and policies for intersectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy: the water-energy-food ecosystems nexus approach to support the Sustainable Development Goals” was presented at the Third session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy on 20-21 October in Baku, Azerbaijan. A deeper analysis which will lead to specific recommendations for concrete cooperation activities are under development and will be made available both for consideration and discussion at the forthcoming Forum in Astana and the next GERE session in Geneva.

### **Item 4. Renewal of mandate and Draft Work Plan 2018-2019**

6. The Secretariat briefed Bureau members and other participants on the steps requested to renew the mandate of the Group of Experts and approve its Work Plan 2018-2019. At the second session of the Group of Experts on 12-13 October 2015 agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2016–2017 and at the third session on 20-21 October, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to work with the Bureau of the Group of Experts to develop a draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2018–2019 and submit it for review and approval by the Group of Experts by written procedure. The Group of Experts agreed that, in order to expedite submission of a draft Work Plan and other possible documentation for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, it can work by written procedure subject to a minimum comment period of 21 days. No response or feedback is taken to be tacit approval.

7. The draft Work Plan circulated by the Chair and the Secretariat among Bureau members before the call was prepared in accordance with these decisions. Bureau members provided initial positive comments to the direction and content provided in the draft work plan. Bureau members had the time to provide specific comments by the 27 January 2017.

8. The Group of Experts will orient its activities towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on Energy, as part of a new sustainable development agenda and in support to the achievement of renewable energy targets of member States within the context of the Paris Climate agreement.

9. Mr. Valeriy Pysarenko, Vice-Chair, suggested to include a link to the proposal of Ukraine to the Outcome Document of the Energy Ministerial in Astana and therefore include a text along these lines: “Promote the application of a unified system of renewable energy indicators for a more comprehensive assessment - at regional, national and international level - of the status of renewable energy, including obstacles and opportunities. Such a system should allow the development of strategic actions to achieve specific goals”.

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### **Item 5. Follow-up to the 25th resumed session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on cross-cutting issues and cooperation among UNECE Groups of Experts: views from Bureau members**

10. The Chair briefed the other Bureau members on the outcome of the discussion held the day before at the 25th resumed session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on cross-cutting issues and cooperation among UNECE Groups of Experts. He shared the outcome of a meeting had with the Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas to strengthen the cooperation between the two groups of experts on concrete synergies between renewable energy and gas.

### **Item 6. Astana, Kazakhstan, 11-14 June 2017: 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development/ Renewable Energy/ Matchmaking/ Green Technology Centre**

11. The Secretariat informed Bureau members on the on-going preparations related to the Energy Ministerial and the 8<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development which is scheduled on 11-14 June 2017 in Astana. An initial framework is under preparation and will be soon available. The Forum will contain various sessions related to renewable energy and the GERE work, including the launching of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report and a matchmaking facility for developing and promoting renewable energy investment projects and, for the longer term, the launching of a green technology centre in Astana. The Chair provided main information on this process, pointing out that GERE would support to and benefit from the future work of this new centre.

### **Item 7. AOB**

12. There was no other business