



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2023

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 13-15 September 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-second session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 September 2023

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. High-level segment: Building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region - Launch of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems.
3. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
4. Securing access to critical raw materials in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities.
5. Enhancing energy connectivity through technology interplay and regional cooperation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
6. Promoting systemic efficiencies and digitalization in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
7. Follow up on the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.
8. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities:
 - (a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities;
 - (b) Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects.
9. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1005837/>, if possible at least three weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Sustainable Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.



- (a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning;
 - (b) Approval of documents.
10. Election of officers.
 11. Any other business.
 12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/148 – Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-second session

The theme of the thirty-second session is “Building Resilient Energy Systems”. The provisional agenda is based on decisions taken by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) at its thirty-first session, decisions taken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at its seventieth session and on developments since those sessions.¹

2. High-level segment: Building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region - Launch of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/11 – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan
ECE/ENERGY/2023/12 – Advanced concept for the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

The ECE region is facing a number of crises that have exposed the vulnerability of energy systems in North America, Europe and Central Asia. Based on the discussion at the thirty-first session, a resilient energy system is one that reflects potential impacts of climate change on energy supply and demand in its planning and operations; makes an optimal contribution to a country’s social, economic, and environmental development; is able to prevent, withstand and recover quickly from any unanticipated shocks, including military or climate disaster shocks, which cause disruptions to energy systems; and is decentralized at all levels – regional, state and local – with widely deployed capacities (including reserved capacities) for alternative energy generation and transmission.

At the thirty-first session, the ECE expert community concluded that a resilient energy system is based on: (i) energy security that ensures energy needed at any time through diversity of supply; (ii) affordability of sustainable energy that reduces the costs of electricity, heating, cooling, and transport while increasing systemic energy efficiency; and (iii) environmental sustainability that lowers the carbon footprint and enhances efficiency across the energy supply chain in line with the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Policymakers across the region are in need of tools that will enable them to make informed decisions to design and build resilient energy systems and prepare for the uncertainties that the future brings. This plenary session will report on the progress made with regard to building resilient energy systems within the ECE region and will introduce and launch the

¹ The ECE Subprogramme on Sustainable Energy assists member States in integrating the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 by reducing the environmental footprint of energy, accelerating deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development.

ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems that is tailored for effective policymaking. Member States and Platform partners that include international organizations, such as European Investment Bank (EIB), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), etc., will be invited to share their thoughts on how to further shape and build the Platform together and to recommend actions that the Committee can take to (i) respond to the priorities and needs of member States, and (ii) collectively promote specific actions, speeding up the attainment of resilient energy systems that deliver a secure, affordable and sustainable energy future.

3. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

This segment will provide an overview of the activities, accomplishments and priorities of the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies since the thirty-first session of the Committee.

4. Securing access to critical raw materials in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/13 – Securing access to critical raw materials in the ECE region: challenges and opportunities

CSE-32/2023/INF.2 – Policy brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development

To deliver on climate change and sustainable development, the ECE region must optimize the management of natural resources, including critical raw materials (CRMs). A resilient, sustainable and ethical supply of CRMs is essential for clean energy, the decarbonization of the mobility sector, and digital transformation. Resiliency in resource supply requires careful attention to several important environmental, economic and social considerations. Governments, industry, the financial sector, and civil society must cooperate to share relevant social and environmental information and knowledge.

This session will discuss the issue of access to CRMs in the ECE region, which is essential for low-carbon energy transition, and will assess the main challenges and risks that affect the supply and demand of CRMs, such as geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes. It will also explore the policy alternatives that could enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain, such as diversifying sources, promoting a circular economy, fostering innovation and cooperation, and strengthening governance and transparency.

The special focus of this session will be on Central Asia - a region that is rich in natural resources, including renewable energy and critical raw materials. Countries across the region need to act now to develop national frameworks that will be compatible with European Union legislation. ECE tools, such as the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), when nationally applied, can help the region unlock its potential and upscale green investments in CRMs.

5. Enhancing energy connectivity through technology interplay and regional cooperation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 - key findings

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/5 – Transitioning electricity supply systems to net-zero emissions power systems – common principles for reliability of supply

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/3 – Status of implementation of renewable energy action plans across 17 ECE countries

CSE-32/2023/INF.3 – Policy brief on advancing power system connectivity in support of SDG7

Enhancing regional energy connectivity and energy trade through technology interplay of low- and zero-carbon technologies and regional cooperation is a critical factor to improve the resiliency of the energy system and energy security in the ECE region.

In the ECE region, electricity currently accounts for 20% of the final energy mix. Attaining carbon neutrality by 2050 would require deep electrification and structural change across the energy systems resulting in doubling of electricity demand. However, while there is a trend in shifting from molecules to electrons, the carbon intensity of the electrons in the ECE region is still high and the existing electricity grid cannot absorb a vast additional capacity of renewable energy.

Electricity generation in the ECE region still heavily relies on fossil fuels – accounting for 50% of the power generation mix. The sector is responsible for over 4 gigatonnes of CO₂ annually, or 30% of total CO₂ emissions from the energy sector. To reach a net-zero energy system by 2050, the power generation sector will need to become carbon negative. Thus, it is necessary for the power sector to decarbonize swiftly and help prevent the worst effects of climate change.

The region needs to embrace the concept of cleaner electricity systems and enhance the systems' flexibility to decrease the carbon intensity of electricity production from conventional fossil fuels through deployment of low- and zero-carbon technologies as well as energy storage solutions. In addition to cutting the carbon footprint of the existing electricity systems, it is also necessary to address the systems' flexibility in order to attain decarbonized and resilient electricity systems. A system is deemed as flexible if it is able to respond to the demand and effectively manage the intermittency of non-dispatchable renewable energy, such as solar and wind, which is crucial for achieving a zero-carbon electricity grid.

An integrated and interconnected energy system, that encompasses electricity and gas grids, and is also compatible for the transportation and trade of sustainable hydrogen, can help create a more reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supply and allow deep decarbonization, as well as more effective integration of scaled renewable energy capacity into the energy system. Greater energy connectivity allows improved resource planning, energy pooling and resource diversification. All of this is expected to positively contribute to the economy, generate new jobs and improve gender parity.

This session will discuss how the ECE region can achieve deep decarbonization and electrification through greater regional cooperation and energy connectivity and by creating an enabling environment for scaling up renewables and directing investments into the projects of common interest.

6. Promoting systemic efficiencies and digitalization in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/14 – Progress report on High-Performance Buildings Initiative

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/3-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/3 – Key considerations and solutions to ensure cyber resiliency in the smart integrated energy systems

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/4 – Improving efficiency and reliability of energy systems by means of big data analytics

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/6 – Advancing energy resilience and decarbonization across the ECE region: unleashing the potential of energy storage and demand-side flexibility

To achieve energy system resilience in the ECE region, due consideration should be given to maximizing the implementation of systemic energy efficiency solutions to drive down energy produced and consumed while meeting economic and societal needs. Broadening and accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency and decarbonization measures across buildings, industry, transport, and other end-use sectors will help attain energy system resilience.

A digital green transformation of the energy system is urgently needed to address pressing challenges, including sustainable energy transition and deployment of low- and zero-carbon solutions, to fight climate change and build resilient energy systems in the ECE region. Embracing a sector-wide digitalization is required to seize the optimization opportunities throughout the value chains and manage the increasing complexity of the energy sector due to growing decentralized intermittent generation, the influx of electric vehicles, and other smart assets at the grid edge.

This session will include presentations on relevant activities implemented by ECE in its member States and will feature a discussion on regional cooperation in the energy efficiency area of work in light of the cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach. It will also provide an update on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI) that focuses on capacity development and impact in the field, developing the intellectual, material and financial resources to educate, advocate and advise for transformation to high-performance buildings, and on the outreach required to create a worldwide urban shift to sustainable buildings.

7. Follow up on the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: E/ECE/1503 – Economic Commission for Europe Biennial Report

The seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva on 18-19 April 2023. The seventieth session focused on digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region.

At its seventieth session, the Commission emphasized the need to further strengthen the work of the Commission in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources. It also requested the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to further explore possible collaboration across subprogrammes and to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices.

In addition, as a follow up to the seventieth session a number of actionable decisions related to the mandate of the Committee on Sustainable Energy have been submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for consideration and approval, namely: (i) Resolution G (70) that requests wide dissemination of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation; (ii) Resolution H (70) that requests appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the application of the United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements globally; and, (iii) Resolution I (70) that requests to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems. An update on ECOSOC's deliberations will be presented to the Committee.

The Committee will be invited to discuss next steps on sustainable energy subprogramme activities to operationalize decisions taken at the seventieth session of the Commission and will be invited to discuss potential themes for the seventy-first session of the Commission, planned for April 2025.

8. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities

(a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/4 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

The Regional Advisor will report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy and on cooperation with other international organizations.

(b) Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects

The Committee will receive an update of extrabudgetary projects and projects under the United Nations Development Account as well as other stakeholders since its last session.

9. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

(a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/1 – Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.1 – Outline of key components of the Programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025

The Committee will be invited to provide guidance on the future direction of its programme of work and an effective and streamlined role of the subsidiary bodies to support desired outcomes to accelerate the delivery of energy for sustainable development and further strengthen its capacity to be a credible and relevant partner. The Committee will be invited to discuss new areas of work that may have emerged as important topics since the thirty-first session of the Committee, including any that arose during the thirty-second session.

The secretariat will present the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/1). This document is consistent with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)) which was reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee in January 2023 and submitted for consideration by the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The programme of work document reflects the annual budget format approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 77/267 of 30 December 2022. The Committee is requested to adopt the proposed “Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024” and to recommend submission to the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) for subsequent approval.

The Committee will also be invited to consider the “Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025” (ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.1) and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those recommendations which are agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025.

(b) Approval of documents

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/2 – Provisional calendar of meetings of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

ECE/ENERGY/2023/3 – Revised publication plan for 2023 and draft publication plans for 2024 and 2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/5 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/6 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/7 – Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Management for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/8 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/9 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/10 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/15 – Update on the Hydrogen Task Force and the next steps

The Committee will be requested to approve a range of documents to support the implementation of mandated areas of work and to recommend their submission to EXCOM for subsequent approval if required.

The Committee will be invited to agree to the provisional calendar of meetings for 2024 and to the publication plan for 2024-2025.

The Committee will be invited to endorse the renewal of the mandates of the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, on Energy Efficiency, on Gas, and on Renewable Energy for the period 2024-2025 with the possibility of extension. The Committee will also be requested to approve the work plans for 2024-2025 of its six subsidiary bodies.

10. Election of officers

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/143 - Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session

At its thirty-first session, the Committee elected a Bureau to serve until the close of the thirty-third session in 2024. The Committee will be invited to elect any new nominations to join the Bureau and to serve until the end of the thirty-fourth session in 2025.

11. Any other business

Member States may raise any other issues under this agenda item.

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/149 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-second session

The Chair will summarize the significant decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee.

The Committee will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. Provisional timetable

Wednesday, 13 September 2023	
10.00-10.10	1. Opening and adoption of the agenda
10.10-13.00	2. High-level segment: Building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region - Launch of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems 3. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
<i>13.00-15.00</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
15.00-18.00	4. Securing access to critical raw materials in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities
Thursday, 14 September 2023	
10.00-13.00	5. Enhancing energy connectivity through technology interplay and regional cooperation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region
<i>13.00-15.00</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
15.00-18.00	6. Promoting systemic efficiencies and digitalization in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region 7. Follow up on the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe
Friday, 15 September 2023	
10.00-10.30	8. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities. (a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities (b) Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects
10.30-13.00	9. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning (b) Approval of documents
<i>13.00-15.00</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
15.00-16.30	9. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (continued) (b) Approval of documents
16.30-18.00	10. Election of officers 11. Any other business 12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting