



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 July 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 26–27 September 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 September 2018

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
 - (a) Election of officers.
3. Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems.
 - (a) Keynote address and discussion.
 - (b) Pathways to sustainable energy: status update.
4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development:
 - (a) Methane management in extractive industries.
 - (b) Sustainable resource management.
 - (c) Transition to sustainable energy systems.
5. Regional outreach.
 - (a) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.
 - (b) Progress on regional advisory services.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48583>, 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 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 5:00 p.m.

6. Consultation on the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
7. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
 - (a) Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process.
 - (b) Approval of documents.
 - (c) Any other business.
 - (d) Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/118 – Annotated provisional agenda

The provisional agenda is based on decisions taken by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) at its twenty-sixth session (ECE/ENERGY/113) and on progress made since then in implementing the 2018–2019 programme of work. The provisional agenda is presented to the Committee for adoption.

2. Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

(a) Election of officers

The Committee will be invited to elect Vice-Chair(s) as appropriate.

3. Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems

Countries will choose different pathways to meet commitments they have made, including under the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Climate Agreement. Nevertheless, some common aspects have emerged - evidenced by the way energy system forecasts have shifted recently. As societies begin to embrace system change, some uncertainties no longer appear so uncertain: for instance, a genuine push for clean energy, the importance of reliable, resilient and modern energy infrastructure and the role of energy efficiency as an enabler for cost-effective transformation. There is far less agreement on the question of what the changes of the energy sector will look like.

The twenty-seventh session will shed light onto some of the consequences of the ongoing energy transition and the role that the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies can play to accelerate further and deepen the transition to sustainable energy systems. The objective of the session is to sharpen and reorient the structure of the Committee's work in response to shifting needs and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences.

(a) Keynote address and discussion

The meeting will begin with a keynote address on driving forces, critical uncertainties and unknowns with influence on energy systems development. Remarks will allude to global and regional energy challenges and stories on where the world is headed with an emphasis on innovative technologies, digitalization, and materials management.

In a moderated discussion, the Committee will then be invited to share views about opportunities and limitations of emerging business models and technology innovation and to offer thoughts on disruptive factors, uncertainties and possibilities of response in the context of the "Pathways to Sustainable Energy" project it oversees.

(b) Pathways to sustainable energy: status update

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy
ECE/ENERGY/2018/1 – Pathways to sustainable energy – status report

With the initiation of the modelling work and the organisation of stakeholder workshops, the implementation of the extrabudgetary project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” is well underway. Overseen by Committee, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (see also document ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 for background information). On this occasion, the Committee will be informed on the preliminary results of the first phase of the project, which began in early 2017.

The Committee will be requested to recommend steps to accelerate progress towards attaining the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals based on different options. Such recommendations could outline demands for future deep dive analysis within the modelling and scenario work, the implementation of an early warning system, the tracking of progress of energy indicators in line with the 2030 Agenda, and the planning of a high-level political dialogue in 2019.

4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

Through a series of panels and discussions over the two days, 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 concretise its reputation as a credible and relevant partner. This is especially important with regards to the opportunities and challenges of the fast-paced and unpredictable challenges of the ongoing energy transition.

In this context, the Committee will be briefed on the outcomes of the review of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on sustainable energy by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York on 9–18 July 2018 and will have an opportunity to reflect on implications for the work of the Committee².

(a) Methane management in extractive industries

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/2 – Report of the twelfth session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2018/2 – Report of the fifth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

Status and impact of methane management activities

A panel comprised of international thought leaders on methane management and representatives of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and on Gas will share views on managing and reducing fugitive methane.

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane will update the Committee on the progress made to the cross-cutting project on the modernization of the energy sector. The Committee will be asked to consider the project’s implementation and next steps for a cross-regional pilot project.

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas will update the Committee on the critical role of gas in attaining relevant Sustainable Development Goals in the region through activities that mitigate methane emissions along the gas value chain, improve urban air quality, and promote synergies between renewable energy and gas as the best combination to enhance the efficiency of the energy system.

The Chairs of the Bureaux of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and on Gas will report on the implementation of their respective work plans for 2018-2019, Bureau work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session.

(b) Sustainable resource management

- Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2018/4 – Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves (GB/T 19492-2004) and UNFC
- ECE/ENERGY/2018/5 – Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (GB/T 17766-1999) and UNFC
- ECE/ENERGY/2018/6 – Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/2 – Report of the ninth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

A panel of international experts will discuss the role that the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) could play in framing and guiding natural resource management. The role and importance of sustainable resource management in attaining the 2030 Agenda will be explored.

The Chair of the Bureau of Expert Group on Resource Classification will report on the development of specifications for the application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources and on the progress made to bridge the Chinese national systems on petroleum and minerals to UNFC. The Committee will be invited to endorse the newly developed UNFC specifications for anthropogenic resources and the bridging documents.

The Chair of the Bureau of Expert Group on Resource Classification will report on the implementation of the work plan for 2018–2019, Bureau work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session. In this context, the Committee will be invited to endorse the change of name of the Group to the Expert Group on Resource Management based on decisions made at the ninth session of the Expert Group to widen the focus towards the development of a comprehensive resource management tool that can help improve systemic efficiency in resource production and environmental performance.

(c) Transition to sustainable energy systems

- Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2017/2 – Report of the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy on its fourth session
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its fourth session

ECE/ENERGY/2018/10 - ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2018/3 – Exchange of experience to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry sector³

Deep transformation of the energy system through electricity

As energy is widely considered a golden thread underpinning all Sustainable Development Goals, the same can be said for electricity from production to consumption. Transformative activities are only as rapid and far reaching as the grid infrastructure and the electricity system can follow. As the fast-paced energy transition is affecting all aspects of electricity, both opportunities and threats continue to emerge. A multistakeholder panel comprised of international experts will discuss the role of electricity in achieving the 2030 Agenda through promoting interconnectivity, grid resilience, energy security and, overall, increasing the share of renewable energy in electricity generation. The focus of the discussion will be the cost of transformation and the need to support the transition of countries and sectors and promote investment to a cleaner electricity system for enhanced decarbonisation and grid resiliency.

The session, jointly led by the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels and on Renewable Energy, will allow an exchange of views on all aspects of systems transformation and resiliency to low-carbon energy supply. The Committee will be asked to consider a widened mandate for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels in this new context.

Energy efficiency in industry

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee endorsed the activities to develop standards related to energy efficiency in buildings (ECE/ENERGY/113, para. 53). This time, the Committee will be informed of progress related to energy efficiency in industry through a newly established Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (ECE/ENERGY/2018/10 - ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2018/3). The Committee will be invited to endorse the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the ECE Region for 2019–2020.

The Chair of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency will report on the implementation of the work plan for 2018–2019, Bureau work and the main developments since the twenty-sixth session.

5. Regional outreach

(a) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/3 – Concept note and draft outcome document of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

The Committee will be consulted on the preparations for the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, to be hosted by Ukraine in Kiev on 12–15 November 2018 (ECE/ENERGY/113, para. 30).

The focus of the event will be about closing the gap between action and ambition in the context of accelerating efforts. The intent is to agree on a balanced set of options of what countries could do concretely and effectively and to inform the programme of work of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme.

The discussion will extend to the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, likely hosted by a member State of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) in 2019.

³ Background paper on the Concept Note and Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the ECE Region for 2019–2020.

(b) Progress on regional advisory services

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/9 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

The Committee will receive an update of regional advisory services, extrabudgetary projects and projects under the United Nations Development Account since its last session. Emphasis will be given to gender issues, empowering women in energy policy, the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and cooperation with other stakeholders.

6. Consultation on the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/2 – The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in meeting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

The Committee will be invited to draw conclusions and issue recommendations for the work of the subprogramme on sustainable energy and its subsidiary bodies, taking into consideration the deliberations of the twenty-seventh session.

7. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**(a) Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process**

In December 2017, at the Seventy-second Session of the General Assembly Member States approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis from the beginning of 2020 onwards. The Committee will be informed of developments regarding the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2020 and implications for the work of the Committee.

(b) Approval of documents

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2018/7 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2019
ECE/ENERGY/2018/8 – Draft publications plan for 2020

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

The Committee will be invited to agree to the provisional calendar of meetings for 2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/7) and the draft publications plan for 2020 (ECE/ENERGY/2018/8).

(c) Any other business

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

(d) Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/119 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-seventh 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,
26 September 2018**

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 10.00-10.30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda. 2. Matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Election of officers. |
| 10.30-12.50 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Keynote address and discussion. (b) Pathways to sustainable energy: status update. |
| 12.50-13.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (introduction) |
| <i>13.00-15.00</i> | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 15.00-18.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda (continued) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Methane management in extractive industries. (b) Sustainable resource management. |
| <i>18.00-20.00</i> | <i>Reception</i> |

**Thursday,
27 September 2018**

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 10.00-12.30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The role of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies in supporting the 2030 Agenda (continued) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Transition to sustainable energy systems. |
| 12.30-13.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Regional outreach <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. |
| <i>13.00-15.00</i> | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 15.00-15.30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Regional outreach (continued) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Progress on regional advisory services. |
| 15.30-16.30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Consultation on the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies |
| 16.30-18.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Reform of the United Nations planning and budgeting process. (b) Approval of documents. (c) Any other business. (d) Adoption of the report and close of the meeting. |