



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE/ SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DIVISION  
PROJECT PROPOSAL UMBRELLA CONCEPT NOTE**

**1. Programme title:**

- **Support attainment of Sustainable Energy in the UNECE region**

**2. Objective and brief summary of the programme**

The Committee on Sustainable Energy's activities are conceived with a view to ensuring access to affordable and clean energy to all and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. Under its current programme, UNECE has begun developing normative instruments, including its work on standards and best practice guidances in energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas, clean electricity, and coal mine methane. Proper management of methane from source to use in extractive industries will be an effective means of reducing emissions of an intensive greenhouse gas. UNECE is helping countries improve management of their natural endowments through the United Nations Framework Classification and has recently published recommendations to policy makers on carbon capture and storage.

In the longer term and to affirm its value added, UNECE will need to continue and expand its work in three critical areas: reconciling the reality of fossil fuels' enduring share of the energy mix with the need to address climate change, enhancing integration of the region's energy markets, and facilitating the transition to a sustainable energy system. The transition to a new, sustainable and reliable energy system can be accelerated if member States implement in a concrete fashion the relevant measures called for in the Hammamet Declaration.

Each technology and innovation has a role to play since there is no single solution to all problems. The world is changing rapidly in terms of population dynamics, wealth and resource needs, environmental quality, technological progress, and economic globalization. Because the world is changing rapidly, governments cannot afford to gamble on specific technologies. The focus should rather be on the holistic, complementary and sustainable energy system of the future and efficient pathways to get there. Also, governments and industry must complement one another, with governments using their instruments to secure a functional legal, regulatory, fiscal and infrastructural framework within which industry interests align with those of government and that allows it to deploy its technology, management and finance to full capacity. Under the right framework conditions, industry and investors will be in a position to produce what is needed by government and society effectively and efficiently.

The Committee and its six subsidiary bodies cover energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner electricity production, coal mine methane, natural gas, resource classification, and energy security. In order to achieve its objectives across the range of activities, additional extra-budgetary resources will be required. This umbrella programme has been developed to provide EXCOM with a context within which it can consider individual projects that may be proposed. This programme is conceived initially for a period of 5 years:

- a) to assist member States with projects that accelerate their transition to sustainable energy and in developing national sustainable energy action plans,
- b) to develop relevant standards and best practices across the range of UNECE energy activities,
- c) to conduct outreach activities to enhance the impacts of UNECE's work in energy (enhance visibility; publish reports; participate in or organize conferences, seminars, workshops, capacity building exercises; and prepare films/videos); and
- d) to ensure the quality and hence impact of written products by hiring in translation and editing services.

Member States have approved a solid work programme in sustainable energy and there is an effective structure of the Committee and its Groups of Experts in place. Regular budget resources are limited and unfortunately the activities do not have the desired, commensurate impact – the limitations can be seen in the work on standards and best practices throughout the Committee's activities. Individual components under this umbrella programme will be submitted for EXCOM approval. Sample projects that would fall under this project are listed in Annex 1, When they are fully developed they will be submitted to EXCOM individually for approval). Where possible, the Committee's activities are to be undertaken in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, which may involve funding of collaborative work.

**3. Methodology**

- a) Upon request, the programme will develop and pursue projects to support member States, whether in the development of national sustainable energy action plans or in the application of specific work. The projects will include concrete activities to accelerate progress to a sustainable energy system in the region, drawing notably on the initiatives set forth in the Hammamet declaration and working with experts in the relevant fields. The programme will aim to identify those policies and measures that could be applied under specific national conditions, initiate experience-sharing with experts in implementing and deploying the measures, and provide regular reviews of the effectiveness of their application. In the short-term to mid-2017, the programme will adapt

the Hammamet declaration's suite of recommendations to the UNECE's needs and identify specific actions that could be taken. This process will engage experts from member States to identify successful policies and measures that suit the local economic, cultural and political context and that respond to the economic, environmental and social development objectives of countries. Throughout the duration of this programme, participating countries will be supported in their efforts to achieve the energy-related sustainable development goals through experience sharing, capacity building, and performance benchmarking as well as with assistance in preparing and implementing national energy action plans.

b) In line with the mandates, terms of reference, and work plans of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies, UNECE undertakes to develop best practices, standards, and other normative instruments in the area of sustainable energy. Work is underway on energy efficiency and renewable energy guidances and standards, and the existing best practice guidance on coal mine methane is being enhanced in areas not covered by the current document. Current activities in the areas of natural gas and cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels could likewise result in development of normative instruments. Finally, the further development of the United Nations Framework Classification system (UNFC 2009) to embrace uranium and renewables is ongoing. In each of these areas, this project aims to provide the needed support to experts and capitals to ensure their full engagement and sound foundations for the resulting products and to both produce and disseminate the outcomes.

c) There is a need to conduct outreach activities to enhance the impact and usefulness of UNECE's work in energy (enhance visibility; publish booklets/reports; participate in or organize conferences, seminars, workshops, capacity building exercises; and prepare films/videos). In order to enhance the work done by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies, it is necessary to undertake outreach activities to disseminate results, to train national experts in methods, and to demonstrate the benefits of the work. At its last meeting the Committee on Sustainable Energy benefitted from a special presentation on the importance and relevance of carbon capture and storage. That presentation helped set the stage for endorsement by the Committee of the UNECE recommendations to the UNFCCC on the treatment of CCS in a post-Kyoto process. This programme would involve preparation of similar videos or films highlighting the benefits of the other areas of work. In addition, it will provide support to staff and experts in disseminating results through a range of channels as noted and it will allow for publication of booklets and reports of UNECE work for use by stakeholders.

d) To ensure the quality and impact of written products by hiring in translation and editing services. The Sustainable Energy Division does not have an editor on its staff, and most editing is done by management. This proposal will allow for hiring of staff (either as XB staff or as external consultants) to edit and/or translate documents.

**4. *Timeline:*** Initially 5 years from start date

**5. *Expected results of the programme:***

- a) improved capacity of member States to attain the objectives of energy for sustainable development
- b) dialogue, development, and dissemination of standards and best practice guidance in support of sustainable energy
- c) improved visibility of the work of UNECE in the area of sustainable energy
- d) improved quality and impact of final products

**6. *Target group and beneficiaries of the programme:***

Governments, energy industries and other private sector, non-governmental organizations and international organizations involved in the achievement of the SE4All objectives in the ECE region. The formulated strategy will strengthen the capacities of a broad range of private and public key market enablers in the sustainable energy sector.

**7. *Justification of programme and its relationship to the programme of work:***

The UNECE member States have mandated to Committee on Sustainable Energy to undertake activities with a view to ensuring access to affordable and clean energy to all and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. More on the UNECE Sustainable Energy Sub-Programme can be found at <http://www.unece.org/energy.html>

**ANNEX 1****List of project proposals under development or consideration**

- Development of National Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the UNECE region.
- Scenarios for attainment of sustainable energy in the UNECE region
- XB support for UNFC
- Energy pricing and tariff systems - case study on successful phase-out of energy subsidies in the UNECE region, how to get it right
- Conceiving intelligent energy systems with a view to RE and gas
- Controlling fugitive methane emissions
- Best practices for shale gas in the UNECE region
- REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy status report 2016
- New generation policies in the UNECE region
- Capacity building workshops in the UNECE region on integrating RE into the grid
- Energy Efficiency standards
- Renewable Energy standards
- R&D and innovation in sustainable energy in the UNECE region