



23rd Session UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

Energy for Sustainable Development

19-21 November 2014 - Geneva



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

3rd Quarter 2014 (July-September 2014)

This document is an informal document submitted to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to assist the Bureau in its oversight of activities under this sub-programme.

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Committee on Sustainable Energy

1. Activities

- (a) The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy met twice in Geneva, complemented by two phone calls in order to define draft agenda and supporting documents for the 23rd Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) session.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 5th International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development, Hammamet, Tunis, 4-6 November 2014 (UNECE in cooperation with other UN Regional Commissions).
- (b) Preparations for the Sustainable Energy Week 1 (20-23 October 2014) are in the final stages. Activities comprise a pre-session cleaner electricity production workshop and stakeholder meeting, the 10th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production, a joint UNECE and Global Methane Initiative meeting, and the 9th Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
- (c) The Sustainable Energy Week 2 (17-21 November 2014) is under preparation. It comprises the 1st Session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, the 1st Session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, a Workshop on UNFC-2009 Classification for Renewable Energies, and the 23rd Session of the CSE. An overview of the week is attached in Annex 1.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and Recruitment.

4. Resources

50% P5, 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities

- (a) An informal preparatory meeting of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency was held on 1 September 2014 in Geneva. Meeting materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36358>. Information on the meeting was published in the UNECE Weekly: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36612>.
- (b) The secretariat continued preparations for the first session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. The parliamentary documents for the session (Provisional Agenda and Draft Work Plan for 2014-2015) have been issued. A conference call with the nominated members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts to discuss preparations was held on 18 September 2014.
- (c) Preparations for the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Hammamet, 4-7 November 2014 continue in cooperation with the other UN Regional Commissions.
- (d) Implementation of the project “Promoting the implementation of the regional action plan and recommendations on development and implementation of energy efficiency policies in the CIS countries” began. The first activity under the project – a mission to Yerevan for participation in and presentation at the High-Level International Capacity Development Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development in CIS Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition” organized by UN DESA and UNDP will take place in October 2014.
- (e) The project “Application of clean, renewable and/or alternative energy technologies in rural areas in Central Asian countries” was approved by EXCOM, and implementation began. Terms of reference for consultants to conduct studies under the project were developed.
- (f) The second draft of the study “Analysis of National Case Studies on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency Investments” was prepared by the consultant (under the UNDA project Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development). It has been reviewed and approved by the secretariat and will serve as the basis for a publication with the same title.
- (g) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Exam creation exercise as a member of Specialized Board of Examiners for the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) 2014 in Economic Affairs, New York, 4-8 August 2014.
 - Workshop on Energy Efficiency Policies, Financing and ESCOs organized by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC), Varese, 25-26 September 2014.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - UN DESA and UNDP High-Level Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development”, Yerevan, 8-10 October 2014.
 - Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Hammamet, 4-6 November 2014 (UNECE in cooperation with other UN Regional Commissions).
 - First session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Geneva, 17-18 November 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Implementation of the draft work plan which will only be formally approved following the first meeting of the Group of Experts. The secretariat seeks engaged involvement of experts and government officials for the Bureau and for the expert group itself.

4. Resources

1 P5 (30%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (50%), 1 G5 (50%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

1. Activities

- (a) Finalized provisional agenda for the 10th session of the Group of Experts in cooperation with the Bureau.
- (b) Continued substantive and practical preparations for the 10th session and the related stakeholder workshop (speakers, presentations, background documents, mailing lists).
- (c) Continued to work with prospective partners in co-organizing the October workshop on carbon capture and storage (CCS) and cleaner electricity production (IEA Clean Coal Centre, USEA, University of Arizona, UNECE Environment Division, UNEP, and UNFCCC).
- (d) Activity A of the work plan: Prepared a draft survey of CCS: landscape, recent developments and stakeholders. The draft is to be circulated to the Bureau.
- (e) Activity B of the work plan: Assist UNFCCC in assessing CCS technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Continued the work on the recommendations to the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An outline of the recommendations is posted to the UNECE website.
 - Discussed with various CCS stakeholders (IEA Clean Coal Centre, World Energy Council, US Energy Association) draft recommendations on CCS from UNECE to UNFCCC.
 - On 1 July 2014, consultations were held in Washington, DC with US-based stakeholders, including the US Department of Energy and the US Energy Association. Among others were present, Coal Utilization Research Council, Global CCS Institute, General Electric, IBEW, North American Carbon Capture and Storage Association, Solar Turbines Incorporated, and Swift Global Results. The Chair of the Group of Experts and the secretariat also participated.
 - On 23 July 2014, consultations were held in London with various stakeholders including: CVO Consulting, Global CCS Institute, IEA Clean Coal Centre, the International Energy Agency, Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operating Company JSC, SD-Severoceske doly A.S., Swift Global Results, the US Energy Association, the World Coal Association, and the World Energy Council. The Chair of the Group of Experts, the Vice Chair from Kazakhstan and the secretariat participated.
 - Continued to liaise with UNFCCC on progress under this activity.
- (f) Activity C of the work plan: Assess the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the UNECE region.
 - Continued work on a baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the UNECE region, with in-kind contribution from experts.
 - Drafted the outline of a room paper to be prepared for Group of Experts 10th session and requested IEA Clean Coal Centre to provide input.
- (g) Updated the website to reflect upcoming October events.
- (h) Continued to work on updating the mailing list for the Group of Experts.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Pre-session stakeholder workshop on practical aspects of CCS (activities A and B), improving conversion efficiencies (activity C), and emerging issues (activity D), Geneva, 20 October 2014.
- (b) 10th session of the Group of Experts, Geneva, 21 October 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) To encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.
- (b) To identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.
- (c) Recruitment of needed support staff. The staff post providing administrative support for the section has been vacant since June.

4. Resources

1 P5(10%), 1 P4 (60%), 1 P3(30%), 1 G4 (30%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. Activities

- (a) Informal preparatory meetings for the first Group of Experts session in November took place with selected experts from member States and thought leaders on 26 June 2014 and on 11 July 2014, respectively. Participants included experts from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, European Union, Central European Initiative, European Climate Foundation, International Energy Agency, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), HgCapital, International Renewable Energy Agency, Low Carbon Finance Group (Chatham House), Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean (RES4Med), The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS), UNEP and various UNECE divisions. The meetings identified data gaps and needs in the UNECE region as well as defined next steps for the publication of a joint Renewable Energy Status Report for the UNECE region in 2015 with key partners.
- (b) GIZ recruited two consultants to work on key international renewable energy actors and a report on the status of renewable energy development in the UNECE region.
- (c) The draft work plan of the Group and the provisional agenda of the first session were submitted on 8 September after consideration and inputs from the CSE Bureau, the Bureau candidates of the Group of Experts and international experts.
- (d) Two meetings took place in August and September at the German mission together with UNHCR colleagues to further develop the idea of launching a Renewable Energy Award on innovative, affordable renewable energy solutions for areas without grid access.
- (e) A conference call with Bureau candidates and experts took place on 4 September to consult on forthcoming activities of the Group of Experts and meeting preparation;
- (f) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNECE and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was signed on 25 September 2014 at the recent Climate Summit in New York. The press release is attached in Annex 2.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) First session of the Group of Experts on 18-19 November 2014 and renewable energy segment of the Committee session on 21 November 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Progress on the work plan.

4. Resources

70% P4, 20% of a G5, 10% of a P5 Chief of Section.

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities

- (a) Draft conclusions and recommendations for Group of Experts ninth session were prepared in consultation with the Bureau and the draft was circulated to ECE member States.
- (b) Continued substantive and logistic preparations for the ninth session on 23 October (speakers, presentations, background documents, mailing lists).
- (c) Continued to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on the joint UNECE-GMI Meeting on 22 October, including a GMI-sponsored reception on 22 October.
- (d) Activity A: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - Consultant contracts in place and translation of the BPG into Spanish and Mongolian started. Spanish version is expected to be finalized by 8 October 2014.
 - An early draft of the BPG in Serbo-Croatian was sent to partners in Bosnia to initiate peer review and was presented at a coal mining conference on 11-12 September 2014.
- (e) Activity B: Update and further development of the BPG
 - Task Force is finalizing its presentation to the Group of Experts on the content and structure of an updated BPG. Experts from China have also been invited to contribute suggestions.
- (f) Activity C: Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by XB resources, on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - Drafted project document for the extrabudgetary project: Application of Best Practices in Specific Coal Mines, funded by the Russian Federation, to comply with new requirements.
 - Received a new XB project proposal from the Russian Ministry of Energy, which could be linked to activity D: establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM in Poland.
 - Taking the above into consideration, extensive consultations continued with the Russian Ministries of Energy & Foreign Affairs, the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Group of Experts, ILO, and the UNECE Programme Management Unit, to make sure the project falls within the Group of Experts' terms of reference and meets expectations.
 - Liaised with the Vice-Chair of the Bureau from Poland regarding the above.
 - Project proposal to be resubmitted to EXCOM after review and endorsement of Group of Experts in October and the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November.
- (g) Activity D: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM
 - Continued to liaise with relevant Polish actors in order to move forward with this initiative.
 - Task Force is preparing its report to the Group of Experts at its ninth session.
- (h) Activity E: Continue to provide advice to UNFCCC and to other international, national and regional market-based CMM emission reduction mechanisms and CMM related standards
 - Followed activities of the California Air Resources Board regarding its initiative to allow the use of reductions of methane emissions from coal mines as a way to comply with the State's clean energy law; developments will be presented to the Group of Experts ninth session.
 - Visited ISO and established working relationship with the ISO Secretariat and ISO Technical Committee 263. Both confirmed their participation in the 9th session of the Group of Experts.
- (i) Updated (i) website to reflect upcoming October events: (ii) Group of Experts' mailing list.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts 9th session, 23 October 2014;
- (b) Joint UNECE-GMI meeting, 22 October 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing: the regular budget P-3 post supporting the CMM work programme has only recently been filled on a temporary basis (from 4 August for five months).
- (b) The staff post providing administrative support for the section has been vacant since June.

4. Resources

1 P4 (40%), 1 P3 (50%) and 1 G4 (20%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification

1. Activities

- (A) **Specifications for UNFC-2009:** Specifications for UNFC-2009 were published end-December 2013 and continue to be circulated as new language versions are issued. Phase one of a sub-group of the EGRC Bureau now established to work on development of guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in “UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application”.
- (B) **Technical Advisory Group (TAG):** TAG met in August; extensive email correspondence during period. Following detailed review, issued two recommendations to EGRC Bureau on (i) 2013 CRIRSCO Template and implications for the CRIRSCO and UNFC-2009 Bridging Document; and (ii) final version of the Uranium Bridging Document.
- (C) **Testing and review of UNFC-2009:** case studies have been prepared on application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuels in Argentina, Brazil, India, Malawi and United States.
- (D) **Education and Outreach:** UNFC presented at more than five conferences by Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) members during the period. Work on development of series of standard UNFC presentations ongoing. Communications Sub-Committee working on a UNFC conference for the financial and legal sector.
- (E) **Use of UNFC in classifying injection projects:** Task Force continues to meet regularly and has agreed on the structure of the documentation for application of UNFC to CO₂ reservoirs.
- (F) **Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources:** Final version of the Bridging Document between the Nuclear Energy Agency/IAEA Uranium Classification and UNFC-2009 finalized and submitted as an official document for endorsement by CSE 23rd Session. Task Force has started development of Guidebook on Application of UNFC-2009 to Uranium and Thorium Projects.
- (G) **Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy projects:** UNECE MoU with International Geothermal Association for development of UNFC specifications for geothermal resources signed on 19 September. Renewables Task Force continues to hold two-weekly conference calls and met face-to-face in The Hague, 4 September. Format for specifications for geothermal, bioenergy and hydro/ wind/ solar now agreed. Feedback received during the public comment on the Renewables Specifications, that closed 12 September posted to the website. Task Force organizing Workshop in Geneva, 17-18 November. Task Force is on track to submit final draft of generic renewable specifications and one set of commodity-specific specifications, most probably bioenergy, to EGRC Sixth Session.
- (H) **Financial reporting:** Bureau continues to review developments of relevance to the EGRC and is currently considering a proposal from a Bureau member to establish a financial reporting sub-group.
- (I) **Collaboration and cooperation with other bodies:** new stakeholders continue to be identified, in particular in the area of renewables and more recently deep sea minerals.
- (J) **Electronic communication:** ongoing update of EGRC mailing list. Recent communications to EGRC have related to the generic renewable specifications public comment.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE will present extensively on UNFC at the International Seabed Authority and Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences Workshop on Classification of Deep Sea Minerals, Goa, India, 13–17 October 2014. This is an important and new area of cooperation for the EGRC.
- (b) Joint UNECE and IAEA Regional Workshop on “Application of UNFC-2009 for Uranium Projects”, Johannesburg, South Africa, 10–14 November 2014. 30 African countries expected.
- (c) UNECE Workshop on UNFC & Renewables, Geneva, 17pm–18am November 2014.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau and six sub-groups; respond to requests for information and technical advice; organize workshops; update web pages; identify speakers for conferences globally. Need to secure extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions.
- (b) The staff post providing administrative support for the section has been vacant since June.

4. Resources

1 P5 (50%) and 1 G4 (20%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant in-kind contributions from EGRC members/stakeholders (time, travel & sponsorship of events).

Group of Experts on Gas

1. Activities

- (a) In April, ECE member States approved *ad referendum* the report of the first session of the Group of Experts. Following extensive consultations, the report was agreed and issued on 5 September.
- (b) Group of Experts' work plan, annexed to the above report, was posted on 5 September.
- (c) Initiated substantive preparations for the Group of Experts second session (January 2015).
- (d) Bureau of the Group of Experts held a teleconference on 26 September to discuss the four task forces to carry out the four activities of the work plan.
- (e) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain
 - Nominations to the Bureau of the Group of Experts were formally endorsed by member States. The secretariat and the Bureau are setting up the Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force has been identified.
- (f) Activity B: Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region.
 - The nominations to the Bureau of the Group of Experts have been formally endorsed by member States. The secretariat and the Bureau are setting up the Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force has been identified.
- (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
 - The nominations to the Bureau of the Group of Experts have been formally endorsed by member States. The secretariat and the Bureau are setting up the Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force has been identified.
 - The secretariat held a conference call with Columbia University and is now working on the terms of reference that will define collaboration between the Group of Experts and Colombia, which may serve as a precedent for similar collaboration with other academic and research institutions.
- (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel
 - The nominations to the Bureau of the Group of Experts have been formally endorsed by member States. The secretariat and the Bureau are setting up the Task Force for this activity. The Chair of the Task Force has been identified.
 - The secretariat has identified a number of experts – members of the UNECE World Forum on Vehicles Regulations (WP.29) and its subgroup dealing with natural gas vehicles – as well as the NGVA who will be invited to join the Task Force on activity D.
- (g) Natural gas web pages were redesigned and updated.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) The second session of the Group of Experts on Gas is scheduled for 20-21 January 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Increase involvement of the private sector in the activities of the four Task Forces.
- (b) Better coordination of the Group of Experts on Gas with the activities of the Gas Centre.

4. Resources

1 D1 (10%), 1 P4 (60%), 1 P3 (10%), 1 G4 (20%).

Gas Centre (XB)

1. Activities

- (a) Substantive and logistical preparations for the the 5th UNECE Gas Centre Industry Forum were organized jointly with Gazprom and ExpoForum (Russian Federation). This Forum has been postponed to early 2015.
- (b) Beginning of the preparations for the 4th meeting of a Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation, (Brussels, December 2014).
- (c) Continued work on the updating the list of focal points and mailing lists of the Gas Centre.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) The 5th UNECE Gas Centre Industry Forum, including celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Gas Centre. Proposed topics include the outlook for long term contracts in a globalizing market and the role of natural gas in the international and European energy mix.
- (b) 4th meeting of a Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation, Brussels, December 2014.
- (c) 20th meeting of the Executive Board of the Gas Centre (January 2015, Geneva).

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Replacing the previous Programme Manager, re-defining the purpose of the Gas Centre in light of the reform review, attracting new members, identifying speakers for events, reinforcing dialogue among gas companies, and initiating new links with stakeholders interested in the Gas Centre.

4. Resources

1 XB P3 (vacant, temporarily filled by a consultant) and 1 XB G4 (long-term sick leave); in-kind contributions from Gas Centre members (meetings hosted by companies).

**Annex 1: Overview Sustainable Energy Week 2:
Energy for Sustainable Development: Trends and Milestones**

Start	17 November Monday	18 November Tuesday	19 November Wednesday	20 November Thursday	21 November Friday
			CSE Extended Bureau breakfast (by invitation only) 7.30-9.30		CSE Extended Bureau breakfast (by invitation only) 7.30-9.30
10:00	<p><u>Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key note address and panel discussions: Options to improve energy efficiency • Administration and election of officers • Tracking progress: Report back on activities • Outcomes from 5th International Forum: Energy for Development (Tunis) and Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions 	<p><u>09:00-13:00 Workshop on UNFC-2009 Classification for Renewable Energies continued</u></p> <p><u>GEEE continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding administrative issues • UN Development Account Project • Supporting SE4All • Approval and implementation of draft work plan • Coordination of work with others • Summary and next steps • Reporting into the CSE 	<p><u>GERE continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy access and quality of supply • Cross-cutting issues: sustainable housing, gas • How can a competitive market environment for renewables be created? • Addressing renewable energy finance and investment • Approval of draft work plan • Next steps • Reporting into the CSE 	<p><u>CSE continued</u></p> <p>General segment</p> <p><u>How can energy efficiency uptake be accelerated?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key note address and panel discussion: How can energy efficiency uptake be accelerated? • Report back from the GEEE, including presentation of the work plan 	<p><u>CSE continued</u></p> <p><u>How can renewable energy help optimise energy systems?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key note address and panel discussion: How can renewable energy help optimise energy systems? • Status of renewable energy in the UNECE region • Which actions would have the biggest impact? • The role of gas in increasing the uptake of renewables • Report back from the GERE, including presentation of the work plan
13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Speakers' Lunch with keynote address (by invitation only)	Lunch	Lunch CSE Extended Bureau working lunch
15:00	<p><u>14:00-18:00 Workshop on UNFC-2009 Classification for Renewable Energies: Opportunities and Challenges</u></p> <p><u>GEEE continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected panel discussions related to the draft work plan • Best-practices in energy efficiency • Addressing barriers: Market formation for energy efficiency: the private sector perspective • Cross-cutting issues: sustainable housing, smart cities, industry, renewable energy • Smart grids • Recommendations for the draft work plan 	<p><u>Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key note address and panel discussions • Administration and election of officers • Tracking progress: Report back on activities: • Status of renewables in ECE • What is the "right way" to develop and deploy renewables? • Best-practice policies • Recommendations for the draft work plan 	<p><u>23rd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration and election of officers <p>High-level segment:</p> <p><u>Energy for Sustainable Development: Must reality conflict with ambition?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote addresses and panel discussion: • How to redirect current trends • Securing affordable and sustainable energy: accelerating what works • Reinforcing the links among natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable energy system 	<p><u>CSE continued</u></p> <p><u>From source to use: The role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key note address and panel discussion • Resource management • Methane management • Carbon capture and storage • Gas as a transition fuel • Unconventional fuel sources • Report back from the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production, Coal Mine Methane, Gas, and Resource Classification • Report back from the Gas Centre 	<p><u>CSE continued</u></p> <p><u>Remaining Administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding administrative points, remaining documents • Discussion: How can the Committee increase its role and visibility in shaping energy for sustainable development? • Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions • Chair's Summary • Adoption of conclusions and recommendations • Meeting report
18:00	18:15: Reception for Renewable Energy Workshop participants	<p>Joint Reception GERE and GEEE with keynote address(es)</p> <p>Dinner for the Extended Bureau of the CSE (by invitation only)*</p>	18:30-21:00: Geneva Energy Conversations about a sustainable energy system followed by networking* (with the Graduate Institute Geneva)		End

It is planned to approach administrative matters progressively throughout the five half-days and not to have a formal administrative session only.

*Funding options need to be explored.

Annex 2: Press Release IRENA-UNECE Memorandum of Understanding 25 September 2014

UNECE signs MoU with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today in New York, in the aftermath of the 2014 Climate Summit. With this MoU the two organizations formalize their cooperation with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix and to providing access to affordable and clean energy for all.

The two organizations will promote the exchange of know-how and best practice among relevant experts to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy as affordable and scalable means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This cooperation will include, inter alia, the exchange of information on tools and mechanisms for renewable energy investments, capacity building as well as the support for policy and regulatory reform.

UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach said “ strengthened cooperation between our two organizations will facilitate the development of renewable energy standards, which will be key for the deployment of these technologies at the mass scale needed to provide sustainable energy for all while combatting climate change”

IRENA Director-General Adnan Z Amin said: “this cooperation agreement will provide an effective platform for engaging UNECE's member States in IRENA's broad knowledge framework designed to advance the deployment of renewable energy worldwide and build a sustainable energy future.”

The cooperation will facilitate an expert discussion on a possible roadmap for the UNECE region for achieving the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) goal of doubling the share of renewables by 2030, as well as highlighting obstacles, gaps and opportunities at national, subregional and regional level.

The next step of this dialogue will be the first session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy which will take place in Geneva, on 18-19 November 2014.

For further information please visit <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/gere.html>