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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 (CSE)

1. Activities

- (a) 2 September 2015: 2nd workshop of the energy scenarios conundrum to strengthen the proposal on pathways for the region to attain sustainable energy for all. About 20 experts including a Bureau member participated. A booklet summarising the findings will be prepared.
- (b) 3 September 2015: In-person Bureau meeting in preparation of the 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and adjacent to the pathways workshop to facilitate participation of Bureau members in both events.
- (c) 8 September 2015: Deadline for documents and preparations for the 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. All documents can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/>
- (d) 6th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Energy, hosted in Yerevan, Armenia, 29 September-2 October 2015. More information please see Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency 1. (f).

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 24 October 2015: UN Open Day in Geneva. The event is part of both the UN70 celebrations and the rebranding International Geneva initiative. The Palais de Nations will be open to the public, with up to 10,000 attendees expected. The sustainable subprogramme will participate.
- (b) 18-20 November 2015: The 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy is in preparation. Workshops on carbon capture and storage and fossil fuels will be organised on 17 November as well as the third edition of *Geneva Energy Conversations* on the same topic in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute. Information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/>
- (c) 30 November 2015-10 December 2015: UNFCCC/COP21 in Paris. The sustainable energy subprogramme will participate in a UN Systems side event on energy and is seeking further exposure with country pavilions and partners. Joint events are being organised with the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) and the International Energy Agency, as well as Nordic Energy Research.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and recruitment.

4. Resources

50% P5, 1 JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities

- (a) GEEE continued implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015 approved at the first session of GEEE (17-18 November 2014), 23rd session of CSE (19-21 November 2014), and 75th meeting of EXCOM (10 February 2015). The status of implementation of the Work Plan is included in the document of the 24th session of CSE “Summary report on concrete and action oriented activities undertaken and results achieved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in sustainable energy” (ECE/ENERGY/2015/4): http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24/ECE.ENERGY.2015.4_e.pdf (pp. 2-3 and Annex I, pp. 7-8).
- (b) Study “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” has been published and is being distributed. The electronic version (in English) is available on the website: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/ECE_Best_Practices_in_EE_publication.pdf. The publication is being translated into French and Russian, as requested by numerous experts, and will be further promoted among the decision-makers and wider EE community.
- (c) Study “Electricity System Development: A Focus on Smart Grids” has been finalized. Website: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/eneff/eneff_h.news/Smart.Grids.Overview.pdf.
- (d) Study “Analysis of National Case Studies on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency Investments” has been published and is being distributed, including to the other UN Regional Commissions and UNDP who contributed to this publication. The electronic version (in English) is available on the website: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/ESE.44_ECE.ENERGY.97.pdf. The publication is being translated into French and Russian, as requested by numerous experts, and will be further promoted among the decision-makers and wider EE community.
- (e) The documents for the 2nd session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency have been issued and are available on the website: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38546#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38546#/).
- (f) The 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Yerevan, Armenia on 29 September – 2 October 2015. The Forum was organized by the Government of Armenia, the United Nations Regional Commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Armenia, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and Habitat for Humanity International. Over 260 participants from about 40 countries attended the Forum. The Forum adopted the Yerevan Statement of Common Action to initiate implementation of the provisions of the Hammamet Declaration. Several sessions and workshops were specifically focused on energy efficiency. Forum’s website: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/).
- (g) Staff members participated in the following event:
 - The 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Yerevan, Armenia on 29 September – 2 October 2015.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - Policy Stakeholders Conference on Energy Research and Innovation in Eastern Partnership, 12-13 October 2015, Minsk, Belarus.

- Second session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, 5-6 November 2015, Geneva.
 - High Level Workshop on Effective Energy Efficiency Policies, New Financing Instruments, and ESCOs, 10-11 November 2015, Varese, Italy.
 - 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 18-20 November 2015, Geneva.
3. Main Challenges
- (a) Renewal of mandate and approval of the Work Plan 2016-2017 at the annual session.
 - (b) Additional project sponsors for activities under the Work Plan.
 - (c) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts, including by organizing future meetings of the renewable energy and energy efficiency Group of Experts during the same week.
4. Resources
- 1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (20%), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

1. Activities

- (a) Preparation of the workshop on “Best Practices in Production of Electricity from Coal” that will be held in Geneva on 29 October. In partnership with global and regional stakeholders, UNECE is hosting a workshop on the best practices in power generation from coal. Focusing on the role of coal in energy systems, participants will discuss and debate options for new build and retrofits of existing power plants. The workshop will focus on the following themes:
 - The Role of Coal in Energy Systems
 - Cleaner Power from Coal: New-Build Thermal Plant Options
 - Cleaner Power from Coal: Retrofit Options and Limitations
 - Enabling CO₂ Mitigation Options with Thermal Efficiency and Flexibility.
- (b) Activities of the 2014- 2015 work plan and task forces initiated at the 10th Session were completed in preparation for the 11th session meeting.
- (c) Activity B of the work plan: Assist UNFCCC in assessing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions:
 - Secretariat, represented by David Elzinga, met with several members of the UN Secretary General’s Climate Change Support Team (CCST) in New York City to support the development of fossil fuel narrative development by UN. While in New York, attended several climate change related events in preparation for COP 21 and the New York Climate Summit.
 - While in New York City David Elzinga was interviewed by Aljazeera News in response to the Green Peace report on 100% renewables by 2050:
<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2015/09/world-rely-renewable-energy-150922200727082.html>
 - Scott Foster and David Elzinga co-authored an article for the UN Chronicle publication entitled: “The role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy system” to be published in late 2015.
- (d) Continued work by the Task Forces established at the Expert Group 10th session to develop proposals and recommendations for future concrete and result-oriented activities:
 - *Task Force on CCUS Technology Transfer and Task Force on CCS Readiness*: A draft report was finalised for posting in preparation for the 11th Session meeting.
 - *Task Force on Baseline Efficiency Analysis of Fossil Power Plants*: A draft was finalised to be posted in preparation for the 11th session meeting.
 - *Task force on Exploration of Collaborative Opportunities with Regional Development Banks*: A draft report was finalised to be posted in preparation for the 11th session meeting.
- (e) Following the input of comments from the bureau, the draft of the 2015-2016 work plan has been posted for broader consultation with this Group of Experts community.
- (f) Preparation of the workshop “Best practices in Coal Methane Management and Coal Gasification Technologies” to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 2–3 December. The workshop is being organized in partnership with the UNDP country office and Ministry of Energy, UNECE. Experts from Electric Power Research Institute (USA), USA Energy Association and other stakeholders will present international experience on CMM and coal gasification technologies. The secretariat has liaised with national governments and global stakeholders to identify appropriate experts and the specific issues to be addressed during the event.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, 11th session, 30 October 2015.
- (b) Workshop on “Best Practices in Production of Electricity from Coal”, 29 October 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P4 (30%), 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

1. Activities

- a) Progress made in preparing the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2015 with REN21 and IEA:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/UNECE_RE/TOR_UNECE_RE_Status_Report.pdf
- After the selection of the authoring team (EIR) in April 2015 and the first draft produced at the end of August, the draft report on the 17 selected countries was considered by the Expert Review Board and then opened for public expert review consideration until 23 September <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/sustainable-energy/2015/draft-unece-renewable-energy-status-report-open-for-peer-review-until-23-september/draft-unece-renewable-energy-status-report-open-for-peer-review-until-23-september.html>;
 - Comments from the two review phases will lead to a final version of the Status Report by the end of October. The Report 2015 is foreseen to be launched in December 2015 during UNFCCC/COP21.
- b) To complement the draft menu of technologies and policies to promote them which was developed with inputs by GERE Bureau members and other stakeholders, the secretariat has contributed to the development of a project which has been approved in September by the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and to be implemented by the German Energy Agency (DENA). The main goal of this new activity is to increase the uptake of renewable energy by exchanging relevant information and best practices that address key challenges and transform them into opportunities within a future energy system with high shares of renewable energies, considering different starting positions due to heterogeneous framework conditions of the UNECE Member states
- c) As cross-divisional cooperation, the UNECE work on renewable energy was visible with ad hoc posters at the exhibit in the Halle de Pas Perdus of the first week of September on Unlocking the Economic Potential for Sustainable Development: the role of trade, innovation and public-private partnerships (<http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2015/unlocking-the-potential-for-implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/unlocking-the-potential-for-implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals.html>). In addition, the renewable energy activities of the group are promoted at another exhibit on "More heat with less wood" which will take place in the Palais on 6 and 7 October (<http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/forestry-and-timber/2015/more-heat-with-less-wood-how-to-foster-the-sustainable-use-of-wood-energy/doc.html>).
- d) The activities of the Group of Experts were presented at the training course on business planning for renewable energy investment projects organized during the Sixth international Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development held in Yerevan Forum on 29 September – 2 October (<http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/meetings-and-events/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency/2015/sixth-international-forum-on-energy-for-sustainable-development/docs.html#/>). The Secretariat's presentation focused on issues related to improving data and information for investment promotion and complemented a pre-review from REN21 on key findings and messages from the report under finalization.
- e) A Bureau call on the preparation of the Second GERE session and its Conclusions and Recommendations took place on 17 September 2015.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/GERE_Bureau/Report_GERE.BMR.N.2015.3.pdf. Agreed draft Conclusions and Recommendations on the annual session were posted on 2 October.
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere2_12.10.2015/ECE.ENERGY.GE.7.2015.INF.1_e.pdf.

2. Upcoming Events

(a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on renewable energy will be presented:

- Second session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, 12-13 October 2015, Geneva (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38536>)
- 24th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 18-20 November 2015 (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/>)
- Event in Paris during UNFCCC/COP21 to launch the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report, December 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Renewal of mandate and approval of the Work Plan 2016-2017 at the annual session.
- (b) Additional project sponsors for outreach activities on the status report and other project to raise the profile of the Group of Experts.
- (c) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of this Group of Experts, including by organizing future meetings of the renewable energy and energy efficiency Group of Experts during the same week.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 G5 (30%).

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities

- (a) Activity A of the 2014-15 work plan: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - The activity has been accomplished.
 - In addition, activities towards translation into additional languages (Turkish, Romanian, and Polish) through various in-kind arrangements continued.
- (b) Activity B of the 2014-15 work plan: Update and further development of the Best Practice Guidance (BPG)
 - The activity has been accomplished.
- (c) Activity C of the 2014-15 work plan: 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
 - The new XB project: “Trust fund for dissemination of best practices in the emission abatement, recovery, and use of coal mine methane”, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, approved by EXOM on 30 June 2015. The project is to start on 1 January 2016.
 - Meanwhile, the donor agreement with the USEPA finalized and sent for signatures.
 - Continued to liaise with the donor in order to remove obstacles to and accelerate the transfer of funds.
 - Continued to liaise with the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation regarding another possible extrabudgetary project.
 - Two case studies on methane management in Chinese coal mines received, translated into English, and are currently being peer reviewed by the Group of Experts.
- (d) Activity D of the 2014-15 work plan: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM
 - Following the May visit to Katowice and Warsaw by the Chair and a Vice-chair of the Group of Experts, the MoU between UNECE and the Polish Government finalised.
 - A letter to the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, calling for signing the MoU drafted and sent.
 - The secretariat remains engaged in ongoing consultations with the Central Mining Institute regarding practical aspects of financing and functioning of the International Centre of Excellence, and the possible activities of the Centre in 2016, including a conference at which the Centre would be formally launched.
- (e) Activity E of the 2014-15 work plan: Continue to provide advice to UNFCCC and to other international, national and regional market-based CMM emission reduction mechanisms and CMM related standards
 - The Group of Experts invited representatives of the ISO’s Technical Committee 263 (coalbed methane) to participate in the 10th session of the Group of Experts on 28 October 2015.
 - In return, a Vice-chair of the Bureau will represent the Group of Experts at a meeting of the TC 263 on 21 October in Poland.
 - The Group of Experts continued its close collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). An invitation to ILO to nominate a Bureau member sent in July.
- (f) Continue to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on the fifth Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative, planned for 27 October 2015, and the possible follow-up meetings on 28-30 March 2016, in Washington, DC.

- (g) A draft work plan for 2016-17 finalized and will be further discussed by the Group of Experts at its 10th session on 28 October.
- (h) Invitations to serve on the Bureau sent. As of 25 September the secretariat received nine nominations.
- (i) Continued to work on the substantive preparations for the 10th session of the Group of Experts. The official documents – a provisional annotated agenda and the work plan for 2016-17 translated into French and Russian and posted on the website. The draft conclusions and recommendations are being reviewed by the Bureau. In response to previously sent invitations, 24 experts registered.
- (j) The Group of Experts started its preliminary preparations for the 11th session planned for 2016.
- (k) Preparation of the workshop “Best practices in Coal Methane Management and Coal Gasification Technologies” to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 2–3 December. The workshop is being organized in partnership with the UNDP country office and Ministry of Energy, UNECE. Experts from Electric Power Research Institute (USA), USA Energy Association and other stakeholders will present international experience on CMM and coal gasification technologies. The secretariat has liaised with national governments and global stakeholders to identify appropriate experts and the specific issues to be addressed during the event.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 5th Joint Meeting of UNECE/GMI Coal Subcommittee, 27 October 2015
- (b) 10th session of the Group of Experts, 28 October 2015.

3. Main Challenges

The programme officer will be on secondment to another agency in Q4 2015 and Q1 2016.

4. Resources

1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (20%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) [Draft guidelines for the application of UNFC to uranium and thorium resources](#) and eight case studies were issued for public comment from 25 June to 20 August. The Nuclear Fuels Task Force has reviewed all the comments and issued a revised text of the guidelines. Following review by the EGRC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Bureau, the guidelines will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement at its twenty-fourth session. The case studies once updated and reviewed by the TAG and Bureau will be issued as an electronic publication.
- (b) The [draft specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage](#) were issued for public comment from 7 July to 15 September 2015. The comments are being reviewed by the Injection Projects Task Force.
- (c) The EGRC Working Group (WG) on application and use of G axis was established by the Bureau. The WG held its first meetings on 23 July and 3 September and will meet every three weeks going forwards. The WG currently reports to the Renewables Task Force.
- (d) The work plan for 2013–2015 continues to be implemented and work has started on implementation of the recommended work plan for 2016–2017. The Bureau met on 25 August and will next meet on 7 October. The Technical Advisory Group met on 14 September. The Communications Sub-Committee met on 29 August. All other EGRC sub-groups have continued to meet and communicate regularly by email.
- (e) Cooperation with ISO is underway, in particular in relation to ISO Technical Committee 82 Mining and its current work proposal on a reporting template for the public reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Presentation on UNFC and its Application to Renewable Energy at Second Session of UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Geneva, Switzerland, 13 October 2015
- (b) UNECE and IAEA Regional training course on “Regional training course on UNFC-2009 for Evaluation of Uranium and Thorium Resources and to Leverage Transparent and Effective Communications”, Luxor, Egypt, 19–23 October 2015
- (c) National UNFC Workshop for Cuba organized by UNECE and Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Cuba and ECLAC, Havana, Cuba, 7–9 December 2015
- (d) UNECE Resource Classification Week, Geneva, Switzerland, 26–29 April 2016

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau and nine sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Need to secure extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions.

4. Resources

1 P5 (50%) and 1 G6 (25%). 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) Scott Foster and David Elzinga co-authored an article for the UN Chronicle publication entitled: "The role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy system" to be published in late 2015.
- (b) Following up on the memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Gas Union (IGU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, consultations with the IGU were followed up to operationalise increased engagement with Sustainable Energy Division efforts.
- (c) Activity A- Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain: Several meetings were held over the quarter by the Sustainable Energy Division Director, following up the previous quarter's missions to Washington, Paris (for the IGU hosted World Gas Conference) and Istanbul. Efforts are being used to increase engagement at the next Committee on Sustainable Energy meeting and are resulting in several bureau and task force nominations on this topic
- (d) Workshop on Methane Emissions hosted by Marcogaz was attended by secretariat staff on 30 June 2015. Marcogaz – Technical Association of the European Gas Industry - focuses much of their methane emission reduction efforts on transmission and distribution pipelines.
- (e) UNECE formalised membership in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and attended the Working Group of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition in Paris on 8 and 9 September, 2015. The focus of the meeting was to review and further elaborate on the 5-Year Strategic Plan that will outline the Coalition's strategy and actions for 2015 – 2020, discuss outreach strategy and communication plan focusing on the Road to Paris and CCAC's presence at COP21, as well as review and approve new funding requests from initiatives. The UNECE Executive Secretary, along with Sustainable Energy Division staff attended CCAC event as part of the New York City Climate Week in late September.
- (f) These secretariat continued discussions with the US EPA have focused on the potential role for UNECE in the Global Methane Initiative. Both in-person and teleconference meetings were held to determine ways to further collaborate on this topic. The US EPA will attend the Committee on Sustainable Energy meeting on 18-20 November, 2015.
- (g) 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: Work on renewable energy and gas has resulted in a draft report articulating various policies across the UNECE region and has been submitted to the lead of the task force for consideration.
- (h) Activity C- Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG): "Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG", which is part of the Best Practices on LNG, finalized in March and sent for peer review. Comments from the bureau on this paper has delayed publication, but ongoing work is continuing.
- (i) Activity D - Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: A plan has been finalised to complete a draft report for discussion at the next 3rd session meeting in 2016, the group is active and on schedule to complete activities.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) IPIECA – OGI Methane Workshop, 12-13 October, 2015, Paris France.
- (b) Group of Experts on Gas, Third Session, April 21-22, 2016.

3. Main Challenges
 - (a) Better coordination of the Group of Experts on Gas with the activities of the Gas Centre.
4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%).

Gas Centre (XB)

1. Activities

- (a) The task force on Supply, Infrastructure, and Markets was delayed to the 4th quarter, to be held in Aktau Kazakhstan in November.
- (b) The task for on Gas Market Regulation was scheduled for December 2 in Brussels.
- (c) The industry forum was scheduled for December 16 in Geneva.
- (d) The programme support that had been recruited turned out to have been ineligible. Likewise, the selected candidates for the programme manager could not begin until very late in 2015. It was decided instead to hire two consultants to manage the preparations for the various meetings

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets (SIM) – November 26/27, 2015
- (b) Gas Industry Forum (IF) – December 16, 2015
- (c) Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation (GMR) – December 2, 2015

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Member States have decided to discontinue the Gas Centre as it has operated and instead seek an alternative structure for engaging with the Gas Industry.

4. Resources

- (a) 2 consultants were hired to manage preparations for the Gas Centre events.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) Regional advisory budget was allocated to Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production staff members to support regional participation in workshop on “Best Practices in Production of Electricity from Coal” that will be held in Geneva on 29 October.
- (e) Regional advisory budget was allocated to Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane staff members to support regional participation in fifth Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative, planned for 27 October 2015.
- (f) The secretariat, represented by Victor Badaker, visited Astana, Kazakhstan on 17–18 September at the official invitation of the UNDP country office to discuss an opportunity to develop a joint project on coal gasification and implement the existing UNDP project on “Green Bridge” Initiative. A number of bilateral and multilateral meetings were conducted with UNDP, Vice Minister of Energy, EXPO-2017 Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders. The plan for development and implementation of these projects was agreed. Additionally, the EXPO-2017 Administration agreed to hold the Annual International Energy for Sustainable Development Forum in Astana in 2017 during the EXPO.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Missions to Central Asia and Caucasus.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing, lack of resources.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%).