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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) 18-20 November 2015: 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy with a focus on pathways to sustainable energy. This year's session offered an opportunity to member States to explore what sustainable energy means for the UNECE region, both from the perspective of reducing the environmental footprint of energy and from the perspective of assuring needed energy for sustainable development. Close to one hundred representatives from UNECE member States participated. A representative of the European Union also participated. Further, the following representatives from non-ECE member States attended: India and Malaysia. All documents and presentations as well as the adopted reports of the 23rd and 24th sessions can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/> The link and documents have been sent to Committee members and participants.
- (b) 17 November 2015: Workshops on carbon capture and storage and fossil fuels in sustainable energy systems were organised as well as the third edition of *Geneva Energy Conversations* on the same topic in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute. Members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production featured in the public event. 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 led the organisation of the UN Systems side event on pathways to sustainable energy in a climate friendly world. Mr Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE, participated in the high-level panel moderated by Mr K. Yumkella and highlighted the role of the regional commissions in implementing the climate agenda. Mr Bach also moderated a ministerial roundtable jointly organised by Nordic Energy Research and the International Energy Agency on the launch of a report featuring achievements of the Nordic region: Decoupling GDP and GHG – Lessons learned. Further activities included the launch of the *UNECE Status Report on Renewable Energy* with partners Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) and the International Energy Agency are described under the relevant Groups of Experts.
- (d) Work on a joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management has begun in form of a project proposal to fund the initial work of the Task Force. The co-chairs will likely be a representative from the German Energy Agency (DENA/DENEFF) and Mr Marko Nokkala from the VTT Technical Research Center of Finland, nominated by the Finish Government for the Committee on Housing and Land Management.
- (e) Work continues on the implementation of the proposal on pathways to sustainable energy. The next step will be to contact potential future modelling agencies. The Bureau will be informed of the status in its next meeting.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 11 February 2016: TEDx PlaceDesNations will be back at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The main topic will be about: *Transforming Lives* – seeking to bring together innovators, health and energy experts, human rights activists and humanitarians. Scott Foster has been selected to share stories on sustainable energy that transform people's lives and bring solutions around the globe to highlight the impact of International Geneva all around the world. The event will be webcast and recorded and will be shared with the Bureau in its meeting on 15 March.
- (b) 14 March 2015: Mr Keinhorst, Chair of the Committee, will present the outcomes of the 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). This might be an opportunity to seek guidance from the EXCOM about pathways to sustainable energy.
- (c) 15 March 2015: In-person Bureau meeting in Geneva. The Bureau has been invited.

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) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) successfully completed 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 2nd session of the GEEE was held on 5-6 November (all materials, including the report of the session are available on the website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38546#/>). It approved the draft Work Plan for 2016-2017. The Workshop on best policy practices for promoting energy efficiency was held as part of the session.
- (b) A session on energy efficiency was held at the 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. It included a panel discussion on Best practices for energy efficiency and a report on the implementation of the work plan for 2014–2015 and proposed work plan for 2016-2017. The Committee extended the mandate of GEEE and endorsed its work plan for 2016-2017.
- (c) The Committees on Sustainable Energy and on Housing and Land Management established the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. The Committee on Sustainable Energy mandated GEEE to lead the activities on energy efficiency standards in buildings for the Committee.
- (d) 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” continued to be distributed and promoted. 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 French version of the publication is now also available in hard copy, and the Russian version is to be printed soon. Electronic versions in French and Russian are to be posted on the website (above) as they become available.
- (e) The 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Yerevan, Armenia on 29 September – 2 October 2015 (reported in Q3, website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/>). The Summary of the Forum has been prepared in Q4 and is available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/eneff/6th_Forum_Yerevan_Sept.2015/IFSD.6_Summary_Yerevan.pdf.
- (f) Staff members participated in the following events:
- The 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 29 September – 2 October 2015, Yerevan.
 - Policy Stakeholders Conference on Energy Research and Innovation in Eastern Partnership, 12-13 October 2015, Minsk.
 - 2nd 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.
 - 6th meeting of the Inter-institutional Technical Working Group for updating of the National Energy Saving Program (NESP) and the National Strategy for development of Renewable Energy Sources (NS RES) of the Kyrgyz Republic, 3 December 2015, Bishkek.
 - 76th session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, 14-16 December 2015, Geneva.
 - 8th session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, 16-17 December 2015, Geneva.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
- Annual Conference of DENEFF (German Industry Initiative for Energy Efficiency) 2016 – Next Generation, 24 February 2016, Berlin, Germany.

- International Passive House Conference 2016, 22-23 April 2016, Darmstadt, Germany.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.
- (b) 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 (10%), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

1. Activities

- (a) Organized a workshop on the Best Practices in Production of Electricity from Coal, including a reception sponsored by the United States Energy Association on 29 October. The workshop focused 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) Organized the eleventh session on 30 October (48 participants).
- (c) Activities of the 2014- 2015 work plan and task forces initiated at the 10th Session were completed and presented for the 11th session meeting.
- (d) Adopted meeting report with conclusions and recommendations ([ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2015/2](#)).
- (e) Recommended a work plan for 2016–2017 that was endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-fourth session. Mandate of the Group extended to 31 December 2017 (found as appendix to [ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2015/2](#)).
- (f) 17 November 2015: Workshop on carbon capture and storage and fossil fuels in sustainable energy systems was organised as well as the third edition of Geneva Energy Conversations on the same topic in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute. Members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production and member from Group of Experts on Gas featured in the public event. Information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/>
- (g) Participated in the following events as part of COP 21 in Paris, France:
 - CCS High-level dialogue – International Energy Agency (IEA)
 - Powering Innovation for a Sustainable Future - Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership
 - CCS Debate hosted by Lorde Stern and the Global CCS Institute
 - Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) Innovation Focus, hosted by IEA, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)
 - Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground: the international movement to Ban Fracking
 - IEA/ADB High Level Event on post COP initiatives
- (h) Discussion on group of experts were held with:
 - IEA, Asian Development Bank, US Department of Energy, Enerdata, EDF, SANEDI, GCCSI, University of Waterloo and World Coal Association, Global Decision Point, IVL and CEPAL
- (i) The article written by Scott Foster and David Elzinga for the UN Chronicle entitled: “[The role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy system](#)” was published in December 2015.
- (j) Preparation of the workshop “Best practices in Coal Methane Management and Coal Gasification Technologies” to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 9–10 March, 2016. 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) Best practices in Coal Methane Management and Coal Gasification Technologies” to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 9–10 March, 2016.

- (b) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, 12th session, 26-27 October 2016.
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) Launch of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2015 - prepared jointly with REN21 and in cooperation with IEA - at COP21/UNFCCC, Paris on 7 December 2015 within a side event.
- (b) A parliamentary document on the Status Report - Key messages and progress (ECE/ENERGY/2015/8, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24/ECE.ENERGY.2015.8_e.pdf) and a press release on key report's findings (<http://www.unece.org/?id=41508>) were issued on 9 September and 19 November 2015 respectively.
- (c) Key messages and findings from the Status Report were presented at the International Congress REENCON-XXI "Renewable Energy XXI Century: Energy and Economic Efficiency", held in Moscow on 26-29 October 2015. The presentation on the report pointed to the decline of RE investments in the Russian Federation and in the region in the last five years. The audience was also informed about other key activities of the GERE (<http://reencon-xxi.ru/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%BC%D0%B0/?lang=en>).
- (d) Key data from the Status Report are also presented in the format of a *Renewables Interactive Map*. This is a REN21 research tool that allows tracking the development of renewable energy, tailored to the UNECE countries considered in the report. It offers a streamlined method for gathering and sharing information on economic development and policy frameworks in the field of renewable energies (available at <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-interactive-map.html>).
- (e) 2nd GERE session, Geneva, 12-13 October 2015: the Group of Experts noted that it had delivered on the concrete activities of the mandate and Work Plan 2014-2015, recommended the extension of the mandate to the end of December 2017 and the Work Plan 2016-2017 (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/gere2_12.10.2015/REPORT_GERE_EC_E_ENERGY_GE.7_2015_2_FINAL.pdf). The report, including conclusions and recommendations, was adopted at the meeting. The Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed these recommendations for subsequent approval by the UNECE Executive Committee (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm24/ECE.ENERGY.99_e.pdf).
- (f) The activities of the Group of Experts were further 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 2015 (<http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/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. The Forum was also an opportunity to develop cooperation activities with the other UN Regional Commissions (RCs) on how to assist member States in achieving SDG-7 and tracking related progress, including on renewable energy. The methodology applied by REN21 for the UNECE RE Status Report was proposed to be adopted by all RCs to track progress on renewable energy within a future joint project contributing to the World Bank/ SE4All Global Tracking Framework

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Series of outreach events on UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report in countries considered by the report and relevant international events. The first mission is foreseen on 27-29 January 2016 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia;
- (b) Preparation of the 3rd session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy outside Geneva; possibly together with an International Conference on RE, and if possible on other aspects of sustainable energy. Currently, these events are foreseen in Azerbaijan in October 2016, and are in preparation, to be further discussed with the GERE and the Committee.

3. Main Challenges
 - (a) Implementation of the Work Plan 2016-2017 with a view of developing a long-term strategy/path for the Group of Experts in order to contribute effectively to global processes, in particular to the achievement of SDG 7 on energy and to respond to the challenges/commitments of the COP21 Paris agreement.
 - (b) Limited resources: need to have additional project sponsors for outreach activities on the Status Report also to allow raising the profile of the Group of Experts.
 - (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the substantive activities of the Group of Experts.
4. Resources
1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 G5 (30%).

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities

- (a) Organized the tenth session on 28 October (52 participants).
- (b) Adopted meeting report with conclusions and recommendations (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2015/2).
- (c) Recommended a work plan for 2016–2017 that was endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-fourth session. Mandate of the Group extended to 31 December 2017.
- (d) Organized in collaboration with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Sub-committee, a joint UNECE-GMI Meeting on 27 October, including a GMI-sponsored reception on 27 October.
- (e) Continue to work with GMI on joint activities in 2016, including through liaising with other GMI sub-committees, in particular on UNECE participation in the Global Methane Forum to be held in Washington, 28–30 March 2016. The UNECE Executive Secretary and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division will both participate and deliver presentations.
- (f) Activity A: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG).
 - Initiated preliminary activities towards translation into other languages (Turkish, Romanian) through various in-kind arrangements as requested by the Group of Experts at the ninth session.
- (g) Activity B: Update and further development of the BPG.
 - The Task Force on Update and Further Development of the BPG has finalized its review of the draft revised BPG. The revised draft was circulated to the Stakeholder Group for its final review and comment on 30 December 2015.
- (h) 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.
 - A case study on applying new technologies for increasing degassing efficiency in Kazakhstan was published on the UNECE website and presented at the Group of Experts' tenth session.
 - Additional case studies on prevention of outbursts being prepared following discussions at the tenth session.
- (i) Activity D: Facilitate establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on CMM.
 - The UNECE Executive Secretary and the State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister Janusz Piechociński, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 30 October calling for the Centre to start operations in 2016.
- (j) 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
 - A Vice-chair of the Group of Experts participated in the plenary session of the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) Technical Committee 263 (Coalbed methane) held in Katowice, Poland, 21–23 October.
 - Representative of ISO presented at the tenth session of the Group of Experts.
 - In December, UNECE submitted a formal request to become a Category A liaison member of ISO/TC 263.
- (k) A cost plan for 2016 and other project documentation were finalized for the new extrabudgetary project funded by the US Environment Protection Agency "Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane". Implementation is expected to start in January 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Half-day session to be hosted by the Group of Experts during the Global Methane Forum, Washington, 28–30 March 2016.

- (b) Group of Experts eleventh session, Geneva, October 2016.
- 3. Main Challenges
 - (a) The programme officer is on secondment to another agency from Q4 2015 to end Q1 2016 or longer.
- 4. Resources
 - 1 P5 (20%), 1 temporary P3 (90%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) The [Guidelines for the application of UNFC to uranium and thorium resources](#) were finalized by the EGRC Nuclear Fuels Task Force and submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/2015/7). The Guidelines were endorsed by the Committee.
- (b) The publication “[Application of UNFC-2009 to Nuclear Fuel Resources – Selected Case Studies](#)” was finalized and issued as an English only electronic publication (ECE Energy Series 46). A [news article](#) was issued.
- (c) 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 7 October and 2–3 December. The Technical Advisory Group met on 11 November. The Communications Sub-Committee met on 27 October and 15 December. All other EGRC sub-groups have continued to meet and communicate regularly by email.
- (d) Cooperation with ISO continues, 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.
- (e) A presentation on UNFC and its Application to Renewable Energy was delivered by the Chair of the EGRC Renewables Task Force to the Second Session of UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Geneva, 13 October 2015.
- (f) UNECE and IAEA regional training course on “UNFC-2009 for Evaluation of Uranium and Thorium Resources and to Leverage Transparent and Effective Communications” was held in Luxor, Egypt, 19–23 October 2015. A [news article](#) was issued on 22 October. The event was attended by more than 50 experts, representing Governments and academia, from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and United Kingdom.
- (g) National UNFC Workshop for Cuba was held in Havana, Cuba, 7–9 December 2015. The event was funded by the Norwegian Oil for Development Programme (NORAD) and co-organized by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD), UNECE, Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM) of Cuba and National Office for Mineral Resources (ONRM) of Cuba and in cooperation with ECLAC. A [news article](#) was issued on 10 December. In 2014, the Minister of Energy and Mines of Cuba established an ad hoc National Committee to review and analyze UNFC and the benefits of applying the system nationally for solid minerals and petroleum. The workshop was held to assist the National Committee which will issue its recommendation to the Minister in 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Resource Classification Week, Geneva, Switzerland, 26–29 April 2016, including IAEA UNFC Consultancy Meeting (25–26 April), UNFC Workshop (26 April), EGRC Seventh Session (27–29 April)

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau and ten 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) The article written by Scott Foster and David Elzinga for the UN Chronicle entitled: “[The role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy system](#)” was published in December 2015.
- (b) Several conference calls were held between Chair and secretariat to support progress leading up to Third Session meeting in 2016.
- (c) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain:
 - Participated in the IPIECA-OGCI Methane Workshop. This participation provided an opportunity to promote the work of SED on methane management, in support of the Group of Experts on Gas (GEG). Presented in session entitled: Initiatives and Transparency of Efforts, alongside representatives from CCAC (which UNECE has just joined) and Global Methane Initiative (with whom the SED has worked in the CMM context).
 - Held task force meeting on 18 November, 2015 to discuss next steps. Continued interest expressed on this topic, but work has been delayed due to secretariat resource constraints.
 - These secretariat continued discussions with the US EPA have focused on the potential role for UNECE in the Global Methane Initiative. The US EPA attended the Committee on Sustainable Energy meeting on 18-20 November, 2015.
- (d) 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 chair of the task force has taken a new position that will limit involvement as chair of this task force. A commitment has been given by him to support finding a new chair.
- (e) Activity C- Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):
 - Task force meeting was held on 20 November, 2015. Presentation was given on by Mr. Karasevich on small scale LNG developments.
 - "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. Deadline for comments is 8 January, 2016.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 17 November 2015: Workshop on carbon capture and storage and fossil fuels in sustainable energy systems was organised as well as the third edition of Geneva Energy Conversations on the same topic in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute. Members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production and member from the Group of Experts on Gas featured in the public event. Information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38539#/>

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Global Methane Forum, 28-30 March 2016
- (b) Group of Experts on Gas, Third Session, April 21-22, 2016.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Having sufficient resources for secretariat to service GEG, its Bureau and task forces; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

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

Gas Centre (XB)

1. Activities

- (a) The [Eleventh Task Force Meeting on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets](#) was held in Aktau, Kazakhstan, 26–27 November.
- (b) The [Fifth Task Force Meeting on Gas Market and Regulation](#) was held in Brussels, 2 December.
- (c) The [Sixth Gas Centre Industry Forum](#) was held in Geneva, 16 December.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) The Gas Centre ceased operations effective 31 December 2015.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Member States are considering an alternative structure for engaging with the Gas Industry.

4. Resources

Two consultants were hired in October to manage preparations for the above mentioned Gas Centre events. Their contracts came to an end on 31 December 2015.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) Funds from the regional advisory budget were allocated to support regional participation in the workshop on “Best Practices in Production of Electricity from Coal” that was held in Geneva on 29 October 2015 back to back with the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, 30 October.
- (c) Funds from the regional advisory budget were allocated to support regional participation in the fifth Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative that was held in Geneva on 27 October back to back with the tenth session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
- (d) The secretariat, represented by Viktor Badaker, visited Astana, Kazakhstan on 17–18 September 2015 at the official invitation and funds of the UNDP country office to discuss an opportunity to develop a joint project on coal gasification and to 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) The travel plan for the Regional Adviser for 2015 is being prepared.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing, lack of resources.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%).