



NATIONS UNIES

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR
L'EUROPE

ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
КОМИССИЯ

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

1st Quarter 2016
(January-March 2016)

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.

Table of Contents

Page I-2	Committee on Sustainable Energy
Page I-4	Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency
Page I-6	Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels
Page I-7	Group of Experts on Renewable Energy
Page I-9	Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Page I-11	Expert Group on Resource Classification
Page I-12	Group of Experts on Gas

Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)

1. Activities

- (a) 11 February 2016: Scott Foster, director of sustainable energy at UNECE, gave a TED talk on sustainable energy as part of TEDx PlaceDesNations *Transforming Lives* – seeking to bring together innovators, health and energy experts, human rights activists and humanitarians. The video has now been posted under the following links:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReBCv-yys4k>
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsRNoUx8w3rPLascs_SdCZxk5uSPjAQ5G

The main theme of the talk is that we must rethink energy by changing our mind-set from energy as a commodity to energy as a service. This shift can be made in one generation, thereby lowering emissions and elevating the quality of service, but only if we think innovatively. Such a shift is critical if we are to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris agreement on Climate Change. Rethinking Energy is a talk for everyone who cares about climate change, and the ways to balance the needs of the developing and developed world regarding energy. The other fascinating videos can also be watched: <http://www.tedxplacedesnations.ch/> once they have been uploaded.

- (b) Scott Foster's article on *An Energy System Based on Value Not Volume* was published in *Commodities Special Edition 2016*, p. 19:
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/media/Agafi.special.commodities.2016.pdf>.
- (c) 14 March 2016: 83rd UNECE Executive Committee Meeting: The secretariat presented the outcomes from the 24th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. EXCOM approved all recommendations of the Committee about its 2017-2017 programme of work and the mandates and work plans of its subsidiary bodies as requested. The presentation, speaking notes and links to parliamentary documents were shared with the Bureau prior to the event. The minutes of the 83rd EXCOM meeting will be circulated as soon as available.
- (d) 15 March 2016: The first in-person Bureau meeting of the year discussed themes and objectives of the 25th and 26th sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and linkages to events in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (7th and 8th International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and energy ministerial held by Kazakhstan in Astana). The Bureau further focused on operationalising the project *Pathways to Sustainable Energy*. The next Bureau meeting has been confirmed for 15 June pm to 16 June (all day). Draft minutes of the Bureau discussion and relevant decisions have been sent to the Bureau and will be posted on the website.
- (e) 17 March 2016: The secretariat participated in Inogate conference: "EU Energy Cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia" in Brussels. The European Commission (EC) marked 20 years of energy cooperation with its Eastern partners by holding the high-level conference at the eve of a new stage in energy cooperation between the EC and the region, which is largely comprised of UNECE's member States in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is SED's intention to become a partner in the four year project, which will address the following themes: pathways to sustainable energy, energy policies and data, and energy security. Scott Foster was a panellist in the session on markets and tariffs. Participation allowed meeting key officials from the International Energy Agency, DG Energy, DG NEAR and Ukraine.
- (f) 22 March 2016: Scott Foster presented about *iEnergy: Reinventing the Energy System for the Future* at the Graduate Institute Geneva. He provided thoughts about how to move beyond the engineering culture that created today's energy system to a service culture that can meet our development and climate goals to the general public and interested students. His performance was supplemented with a question and answer session and is part of an on-going engagement that the United Nations have with the institute, including the *Geneva Energy Conversations*.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 19-20 April 2016: 3rd Workshop in the context of the *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* project. More than 35 participants from the scenario and modelling arena have registered to shape the future project about the options that are available to countries to implement the sustainable development goals through a sustainable path on energy. The Bureau will be informed of the outcomes in preparation of the final proposal, concept note and terms of reference.
- (b) 30 May 2016: As every year representatives from the secretariat will teach a session at the Geneva Graduate Institute for the Executive Certificate in Environmental Governance. This time, the session will feature about 30 students from all over the world interested in pathways to sustainable energy and the role of fossil fuels in a sustainable energy future. The event will be complemented by the *fourth Geneva Energy Conversation* about how to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (c) 15 June pm to 16 June (all day) 2016: 2nd in-person Bureau meeting in Geneva. This meeting is the last Bureau meeting before the deadline of the Committee parliamentary documents on 24 June 2016. On the agenda: a) parliamentary documents for the 25th session b) evaluation and next steps resulting from the 3rd workshop on *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* and c) key inputs for the 7th and 8th International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development.
- (d) 28-30 September 2016: 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Main theme: Towards tomorrow's energy system.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and recruitment.

4. Resources

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

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has started the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017 approved at the 2nd session of GEEE (5-6 November 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of EXCOM (14 March 2016).
- (b) A conference call of the GEEE Bureau was held on 19 January 2016. Materials from the call are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>. Five Bureau members will be informal leaders of the activities in the Work Plan. Dr. Burkhard Schulze Darup was nominated as a Co-chair of the Joint Task Force with the Committee on Housing and Land Management on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region.
- (c) 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, French and Russian) is available on the website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41058>. Hard copies in all three languages are available and are being distributed at appropriate events and on demand. The work has started on expanding the menu of policy options according to the criteria and key attributes of the best practices. Webinar Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency was held jointly by UNECE and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency on 16 March 2016.
- (d) Azerbaijan has confirmed that it will host the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku on 18-21 October 2016. Preparations for the Forum have started. The 3rd session of the GEEE will be held in the framework of the Forum on 18-19 October 2016.
- (e) UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach delivered keynote address at the annual conference of DENEFF (the major German business association working on promoting energy efficiency) on 24 February 2016, which was attended by over 300 government and private sector representatives. He also had meetings with a number of high-level Government officials from Germany, including H.E. Dr. Barbara Hendricks, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and H.E. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety,
- (f) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Meeting of the World Bank RISE Energy Efficiency Advisory Group, Brussels, 8 February 2016.
 - Briefing and workshop Regional Roadmap for the UNECE Region for HABITAT III Conference and preparations for the “European Habitat”, Geneva, 22 February 2016.
 - DENEFF “Next Generation” Energy Efficiency Conference, Berlin, 24 February 2016.
 - Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 15 March 2016.
 - Webinar Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency organized jointly by UNECE and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, 16 March 2016.
 - EU Energy Cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia (INOGATE Programme, Brussels, 17 March 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P) launch event, Brussels, 5 April 2016.
 - International Passive House Conference 2016, Darmstadt, 22-23 April 2016.
 - 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Baku, 18-21 October 2016.
 - 3rd session of GEEE, Baku, 18-19 October 2016.

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.
- 4. Resources
1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 P4 (10%), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP)

1. Activities

- (a) Organized and held a workshop entitled “Supporting Sustainable Development in Kazakhstan through Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies” in Astana, Kazakhstan on 9-10 March, 2016.
- The Workshop was organized by UNECE, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kazakh Ministry of Energy, General Electric and KAZENERGY.
 - The Workshop was attended by 60 participants from government, industry, research centres, academia and NGOs from Kazakhstan, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, UK, and USA as well as representatives from International Agencies.
 - Key speakers from outside Kazakhstan included Mr. Barry Worthington (Chair of CEP), IEA Clean Coal Centre, Japan Coal Energy Center, World Coal Association and General Electric.
 - The workshop was followed by bilateral meetings with representatives from KazEnergy and a visit to the control centre of KEGOC.
 - The meeting report, highlighting various recommendations can be found at:
 - English:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/clep/ws_Astana_09.03.2016/ws_Astana_Report_e.pdf
 - Russian:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/clep/ws_Astana_09.03.2016/ws_Astana_Report_r.pdf
 - Meetings between the CEP Chair and the World Coal Association resulted in a desire to increase collaboration and develop a MOU to articulate opportunities to work together.
- (b) The work plan for 2016–2017 was endorsed by the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2015. Mandate of the Group extended to 31 December 2017 (details of the work plan can be found as appendix to [ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2015/2](#)).
- (c) Held bureau call on 22 February 2016. Strong support for work plan and leadership from the bureau has been determined for 2 out of 4 task areas. Interest in the remaining task areas has been expressed.
- (d) Meeting between CEP Chair and SED Director and CEP Secretary was held in Washington DC during week of 31 March. Progress was discussed and consideration was given to two tasks in support of the work plan:
- Compiling a list of university programmes that offer CCS related studies or focus
 - Better development of the concept of policy parity for CCS.
- (e) Work on task entitled “Assess a future role for thermal power plants in sustainable electricity systems” has begun within the secretariat and will be sent for bureau review in the second quarter.
- (f) 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.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Participation at the Energi@21 congress held in cooperation with the Polish Energy Association (PKEE) to be held in Poznan, Poland on 10–12 May, 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 substantive activities of the Group.
- (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) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has started the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017, approved at the 2nd GERE session (12-13 September 2015), 24th session of CSE (18-20 November 2015), and 83rd meeting of the UNECE EXCOM (14 March 2016).
- (b) The report from the conference call of the GERE Bureau held on 22 January 2016 is available at: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/gere-bureau.html>. The Chair went through the Work Plan 2016-2017 and identified champions among the Bureau members and other key actors to lead areas of the Work Plan: 1. REN21 on the area “A Tracking of the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy sources in the UNECE Region”; 2. Dena on area “B. Exchange of know-how and best practices in the UNECE region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy”; and 3. IEA on area “C. Integration of Renewable Energy in future Sustainable Energy Systems in the region.”
- (c) Azerbaijan confirmed at the GERE Bureau call that funds have been liberated for hosting the organization of an international conference focused on renewable energy and the 3rd GERE session on 18-21 October 2016. Following a request from Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Secretary, Azerbaijan accepted to enlarge the scope of the planned Baku events into the 7th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and to host the annual sessions of the GERE and the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.
- (d) Proposal for outreach activities of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report (<http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-status-report.html>) - issued jointly with REN21 and in cooperation with IEA and launched at COP21/UNFCCC in December 2015, also presented in the format of a *Renewables Interactive Map* (<http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-interactive-map.html>) – was developed with REN21 colleagues and it is now under consideration by GIZ/Germany.
- (e) First outreach activities of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report:
 - Sarajevo and Belgrade, 27-29 January 2016, within the context of a project on the nexus between water and energy in the Sava river basin, promoting the consideration of renewable energy deployment in the area;
 - Brussels, 8-9 February 2016, at Europeaid, during a mission to participate in a World Bank RISE Advisory Group meeting;
 - Vienna, 2-4 March 2016, at the 1st meeting of the Renewable Energy Coordination Group of the Energy Community and the IRENA-Energy Community workshop on Cost-effective renewable energy in South East Europe;
 - Brussels, 17 March 2016, at the Inogate Programme high level conference, participation by both UNECE and REN21 representatives.
- (f) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Berlin, 24 February 2016, Annual DENEFF conference (the major German business association working on promoting energy efficiency) held in Berlin on 24 February 2016;
 - Paris, 14 March 2016, workshop on Renewable energy policies Post-COP21, hosted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) Renewable Energy Working Party (REWP).

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Podgorica, Montenegro, 21-22 April. Follow-up to outreach activity, using info/data from the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status report in the context of the UNECE project “Assessing the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the Drina River Basin”;
- Rabat, Morocco, 2-3 May 2016, training workshop within the context of the UNDA project on renewable energy investments; national case studies in beneficiary countries on the experience of renewable energy policy reforms are under preparation within this project;

- Series of outreach events on UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report in countries considered by the report and relevant international events, as resources will allow it;
- Baku, 18-21 October 2016, 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development,.
- Baku, 20-21 October 2016, 3rd session of GERE.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources are needed for outreach activities and the implementation of activities within the Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) Encourage the broader participation by UNECE member States and other stakeholders, including renewable energy associations, industry, financial institutions and investors, in the substantive activities of the Group of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO, (50%), 1 G5 (30%).

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

1. Activities

- (a) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - The Stakeholders Group's comments on the updated and revised version of BPG are being reviewed and incorporated by the BPG Steering Committee and Drafting Team.
- (b) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - UNECE Executive Secretary, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division, and GEG Secretary, participated in the Global Methane Forum (GMF) (Washington DC, USA, 28–30 March 2016). Scott Foster presented on the Importance of Best Practices for Successful Project Development.
 - A session on CMM Best Practices was organized alongside the GMF on 30 March.
 - Preparations for the workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane have started. The event will be held in Q3/Q4 2016 in Karaganda, Kazakhstan.
 - A session on CMM Best Practices is being organized at the World Mining Congress (Rio de Janeiro, October 2016) by the Chair and Vice Chair of the CMM Group of Experts (GoE).
- (c) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE on CMM)
 - The secretariat has been closely monitoring progress on the opening of ICE on CMM in Katowice through regular contact with the Polish Central Mining Institute (GIG), Polish Permanent Mission in Geneva, as well as the Polish Ministry of Energy (MoE), and remains active in undertaking steps aiming at expediting the process of setting up the Centre.
 - A Senior Expert from the Mining Department, Polish MoE, provided an update on the ICE on CMM in Katowice at the informal CMM GoE and Bureau meeting in Washington, 30 March.
- (d) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - Four case studies (from Kazakhstan and China) were posted on the UNECE CMM website. Eleven others will be posted once the updated BPG is published.
- (e) Activity E: Expand the Group of Experts' scope of work to cover integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development
 - Paper on transformation of the coal industry is being prepared by Columbia University students under UNECE guidance as a contribution to the background paper under development in support of potentially expanding the current mandate of the GoE to encompass work on the transition of traditional mining companies to become integrated energy providers and services companies, as requested by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 24th session, November 2015.
- (f) US EPA funded extrabudgetary project on “Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane” is being implemented: the budget was approved and organization of the first workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane has started.
- (g) UNECE continues to work with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) on joint activities, including through liaising with other GMI sub-committees.
- (h) A Task Force on Methane Management in Extractive Industries was created.
 - A Draft Project Document was developed and shared with the key UNECE partners invited to participate in the project on Methane Management in Extractive Industries.
 - An initial meeting of the Task Force on Methane Management in Extractive Industries was organized alongside the GMF, Washington, 29 March.
- (i) An informal CMM GoE and Bureau meeting was organized alongside GMF, Washington, 29 March.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts eleventh session, Geneva, 24–25 October 2016.

- (b) Workshop on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane organized within the framework of the US EPA funded project, Karaganda, Kazakhstan, Q3/Q4 2016.
3. Main Challenges
- (a) Programme officer continued his secondment to another agency throughout Q1 2016.
 - (b) Challenges of a political nature in Poland are slowing down the opening of the ICE in Katowice.
4. Resources
- 1 D1(10%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 temporary P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) All deliverables of the [work plan for 2016–2017](#) are being worked on. The Bureau met on 14 January and 3 March to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to continue overseeing preparations for the EGRC 7th session. The Technical Advisory Group met on 5 January, 10 February and 11 March to review documentation for the EGRC 7th session and provide recommendations thereon to the Bureau. The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) met on 3 March. The other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) [EGRC 7th session](#): the following official documentation has been submitted:
 - (i) Provisional agenda
 - (ii) Draft Specifications for Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources
 - (iii) Report on development of draft guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC-2009
 - (iv) Draft Guidance Note to support UNFC-2009 Definition of a Project
 - (v) Application of UNFC-2009 to phosphate rock - uranium resources: A case study of the El-Sebaeya Projects, Nile Valley, Egypt
 - (vi) Case study: Considerations related to application of UNFC-2009 to uranium projects and associated resources in Paraguay
 - (vii) Case study: Application of UNFC-2009 to the Gurvanbulag Uranium Deposit, MongoliaThe following documents, as well as room documents, are being prepared:
 - (viii) Draft Specifications for application of UNFC-2009 to Geothermal Energy Resources
 - (ix) Draft Specifications for Application of UNFC-2009 to Injection Projects
 - (x) Draft Bridging Document between Russian Federation Classification of Reserves of Oil and Combustible Gases of 2013 and UNFC-2009.
- (c) An extrabudgetary project proposal for USD 1.9 million per annum for four years has been prepared seeking funding for additional secretariat support for governance, maintenance, further development, dissemination, capacity-building, branding and marketing of UNFC.
- (d) Cooperation was enhanced with the UN Statistics Division and the OECD Statistics Directorate in relation to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Central Framework (SEEA-CF, 2012) and the International Recommendations on Energy Statistics and the relationship with UNFC.
- (e) Outreach undertaken to renewables stakeholders (incl. DENA, Global Solar Council, IRENA, IEA, REN21) to seek engagement in application of UNFC to renewables, especially solar, wind & hydro.
- (f) CSC is preparing a series of webinars on UNFC.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE and IAEA Consultancy Meeting "Best Practices in the Application of UNFC-2009 for Uranium and Thorium Projects", Geneva, 25–26 April
- (b) UNECE Workshop on UNFC-2009, Geneva, 26 April.
- (c) EGRC 7th Session, Geneva, 27–29 April *incl.* screening of [SWITCH](#), UN Cinema, 27 April
- (d) UNECE “Train the Trainers” UNFC Workshop, Geneva, 29 April
- (e) UNECE and SPE Swiss Section Lecture “Results from Comprehensive, Integrated Analysis of Six Major US Shale Gas Basins and Shale Oil Basins, Geneva, 28 April
- (e) UNECE-IAEA Interregional Workshop ‘Uranium, Coal, Oil and Gas: Towards a better understanding of energetic basins & application of UNFC’, Ulaanbaatar, 16–19 August

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and eleven sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Securing extrabudgetary funding and maintaining the level of in-kind contributions needed

4. Resources

1 P5 (50%) and 1 G6 (40%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) A bureau meeting and several conference calls were held between Chair and secretariat to support progress leading up to Third Session in April 2016.
- (b) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain:
 - SED Director and GEG Secretary participated in the Global Methane Forum held in Washington DC from 28 March – 1 April 2016.
 - Meetings were held to discuss stronger collaboration between the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Several meetings were held and there was strong support for increased collaboration.
 - US EPA suggested an annual meeting of the Oil and Gas sector be held in Geneva (hosted by the UN) on methane management. This aligns well with the broader work by SED on this topic, as well as the GEG.
 - A task force meeting was held with strong attendance and very productive discussion highlighting how efforts can be best deployed in the near term, while keeping consistency with long term goals to develop best practice guidance. Topics suggested will be presented at the GEG meeting on 21-22 April.
- (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:
 - Ongoing efforts have been carried out to find a new Chair. There is significant interest, but there have been delays in confirming the position. It is hoped that this position can be confirmed by the 3rd Session of the GEG.
- (e) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):
 - A meeting was held on 17 February 2016 and it was agreed to update the reported drafted in mid-2015 entitled: Assessment of Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas.
- (f) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel:
 - A plan has been finalized 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) 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.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Group of Experts on Gas, Third Session, 21–22 April 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%).