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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) 21 October 2016: **4th Workshop in the context of the *Pathways to Sustainable Energy***. The workshop was organised as part of the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (7th Forum) (see also Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency) to provide further context to the project about the options that are available to countries to attain Sustainable Development Goals through a sustainable path on energy. Countries participated in the one-day event and explored what sustainable energy means in their countries' contexts and how energy policies address national energy and climate pledges. The focus was on the regional circumstances in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and a summary can be found in the summary document of the 7th Forum, online here: <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/meetings-and-events/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency/2016/seventh-international-forum-on-energy-for-sustainable-development/docs.html#/>. Other regional workshops will be organised when the occasion arises.
- (b) 17 -21 October 2016: Public and private meetings were organised with the partners of the **Global Tracking Framework** in Baku, Azerbaijan, during the 7th Forum. This time the next edition of the Global Tracking Framework will have a regional focus, building on the contributions from all five Regional Commissions. The meetings explored how to optimise the integration of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals into SE4All objectives and the development of more adapted and adequate indicators of progress. With a publication date in April 2017, the results of the Global Tracking Framework will be ready for consideration by the participants of the Energy Ministerial in Kazakhstan in June 2017. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA) lead the work, supported by 20 other organizations. A further workshop under the leadership of the World Bank and the IEA was held on 15-16 December 2016 at the IEA offices in Paris, and UNECE participated. UNECE was also the first Regional Commission to submit the regional chapter for input into the publication.
- (c) November 2016: **Launch of the informal public consultation process on document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9** and invitation to member States to join the resumed 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19 January 2017 in Geneva. The invitation to participate was sent to the all UNECE member States, members of the Committee, the networks of the Groups of Experts, all Regional Commissions and partners. Comments can be found here: https://www.unece.org/energy/cse_consultation_process.html
- (d) 18 November 2016: **Traditional Meeting with the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy** by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). Activities, conclusions and recommendations of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy were presented. EXCOM approved the extension of the work plan for the Group of Experts on Gas and further supported the proposed approach to prepare for the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial to be hosted in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-14 June 2017. The Bureau will be kept informed of further developments.
- (e) 12 December 2016: **Call of the Committee Bureau** in preparation of the 25th resumed session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Minutes can be found here: <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-bureau.html>

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 19 January 2017: **Resumed 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva**.
- (b) 9-25 January 2017: **Exhibition on energy transition in UNECE member States in the Palais des Nations, Geneva**. Germany has kindly agreed to rent exhibition space to allow countries to showcase achievements related to energy transition, transition to diversification and greener economies and similar issues. The secretariat is waiting for interested parties to come forward.
- (c) 27-28 February 2017: **Kick-off workshop of modelling agencies in the context of Pathways to Sustainable Energy** in the Palais des Nations. The workshop is subject to the selection of the third modelling agency by UN procurement. The Bureau will be kept informed when this has happened.

- (d) 25-27 April 2017: The next **UNECE Commission session** is being planned for 26-27 April and will be preceded by the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 25 April 2017. The sustainable subprogramme will be involved as the topic will be regional collaboration and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Bureau will be informed as new information will be available.
 - (e) 11-14 June 2017: **8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial** (11 June 2017). Preparations have started and invitations to the ministerial audience will be sent shortly.
 - (f) 26-28 September 2017: **26th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva.
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 continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017. Current status of the implementation is reflected in the official documents of the 3rd session of the GEEE (including its report) and presentations delivered at the session.
- (b) Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (18-21 October 2016) and the 3rd session of the GEEE (18-19 October 2016, in the framework of the Forum) were held in Baku. All Forum materials, including the outcome document (Baku Call for Action) and the Forum Summary are posted at the website of the Forum: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42643>. Energy efficiency discussions were among the main topics of the Forum. Over 500 delegates from 43 countries attended the Baku Forum.
- (c) The official documents and presentations made at the 3rd session of the GEEE are posted at: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42244#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42244#/). Documents and presentations of the session contain intermediate results of the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE. 240 delegates attended the session. In its framework, two workshops were organized with partner organizations: on promoting energy efficiency in Azerbaijan and other countries of the region (jointly with UNDP and GEF) and on Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform and progress in industrial energy efficiency accelerator (jointly with UNIDO and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency).
- (d) Work continued with potential donors (Germany and the Russian Federation) on securing funding for the extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region”.
- (e) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Baku, 18-21 October 2016.
 - 3rd session of GEEE, Baku, 18-19 October 2016.
- (f) Staff member is conducting a research project on the topic “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – a policy analysis” at the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (started on 15 November 2016 and will continue until mid-March 2017). A survey Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency has been developed and will be distributed to potential respondents in first half of January.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - Workshop: Policy Maker Meets the Engineer, Geneva, 19 January 2017.
 - 25th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (resumed), Geneva, 19 January 2017.
- (b) Staff member will continue conducting a research project on the topic “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – a policy analysis” at the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency for a period of four months from mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017.

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.
- (c) Identify most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, 1 G5 (40%).

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

1. Activities

- (a) 12th session of the CEP held on 26–27 October 2016 in Geneva, with around 40 participants. Volunteers for the Four Task Forces to implement the 2016–2017 work plan have been identified.
- (b) As part of the 12th session, the workshop “The Sustainability Credentials of Coal and its Role in the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7” was held on 26 October, in collaboration with the World Coal Association (WCA).
- (c) A Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and WCA agreed and endorsed by EXCOM. Formal signing will probably take place during the 25th session of CSE in January 2017.
- (d) The secretariat engaged with the four Task Forces to ensure their effective and productive work in 2017.
- (e) The secretariat is working to update and expand the report on opportunities for coupling wind with flexible coal-fired power plants. The report will be published in 2017 as an ECE Energy Series publication.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) A workshop on decreasing emissions and increasing efficiency from new and existing coal power plants, CCS, or other relevant topics within the Group’s mandate, during the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, 12–14 June 2017

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 continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) Work has continued on reviewing the state of renewable energy development; and analyse case studies on key drivers for renewable energy within future energy systems. Within a nexus approach in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), good practices and policies for intersectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy were analysed and discussed at the Baku meetings. Relevant documents are available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42246#/> .
- (c) Preparations for the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and the 3rd GERE session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 18-21 October 2016), has continued in close cooperation with the local partners/ authorities in Baku and in support of this process a Host Country Agreement on the entire Forum was signed. Official documents and report of the 3rd GERE session have been posted at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42246#/> . Documents of the session contain intermediate results of the implementation of the Work Plan. The annual meeting of the Group of Experts was attended by 270 experts.
- (d) Work continued with donors that supported the organization in Baku of the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and of the annual sessions of GERE and GEEE – Host Country Agreement signed (Azerbaijan); the update of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 and Hard Talks on unblocking private sector in renewable energy (Germany); and on cross-cutting issues related to the nexus water-renewable energy (Italy). Work started in November 2016 to gather and analyse data of the considered UNECE countries for the update 2017 of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report.
- (e) The Chair of GERE participated in the global workshop on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, the 4th meeting of the Water Convention, and a side event on joint activities held in Geneva on 6-8 December 2016. The Chair of GERE participated in the Hard Talks in Ukraine on 15-16 December 2016.
- (f) Staff members actively participated in the following events:
 - 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and the Third GERE session held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 18-21 October 2017;
 - Workshop on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, the 4th meeting of the Water Convention and side event on intersectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy, held in Geneva on 6-8 December 2016.
 - Hard Talks for unblocking private sector investments in renewable energy in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 12-13 December and in Kiev, Ukraine, on 15-16 December 2016.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- 2nd Part of the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 19 January 2017;
- GERE Bureau meeting/ call 20 January 2017;

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan/ Lack of resources to participate in relevant events, e.g. IRENA Assembly 14-15 January 2017; IEA thematic workshops.
- (b) Encourage broader participation in GERE work by UNECE member States and other stakeholders, including renewable energy associations, industry, IOs and IFIs and foreign investors.
- (c) Considering limited resources, GERE Bureau members, supported by the secretariat, would have to identify/ continue key activities for the GERE Work Plan 2018-2019 responding to needs of member States in close cooperation with key existing international actors and donors.

4. Resources

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

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE on CMM)

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on all the deliverables of its 2016–2017 work plan.
- (b) The 11th session of the GoE on CMM was organized in Geneva, 24–25 October (64 attendees).
 - A report with conclusions and recommendations was adopted (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2016/2).
- (c) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - An electronic version of the updated BPG was released and published on the CMM website.
 - A paper version of the BPG was approved for publication and sent for printing.
- (d) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - A capacity-building workshop was held in Karaganda, Kazakhstan in October (37 attendees). Findings and recommendations were compiled and disseminated to the interested parties.
 - A capacity-building workshop in Kolkata, India is scheduled for March 2017. The secretariat developed agenda, secured logistics and is arranging for participation of international experts.
- (e) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centre of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - The opening of the ICE-CMM in Katowice is set for June 2017. In October the Polish Oil and Gas Institute-National Research Institute (INiG-PIB) signed a Letter of Intent to join the 2015 MoU on ICE-CMM. This was cleared by EXCOM in November, the MoU with INiG-PIB waits to be signed.
 - The Bureau and secretariat engaged with Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd (SCCG) in discussions on establishing an ICE-CMM in China. The MoU between UNECE and SCCG was developed, presented to, and cleared by EXCOM in December. The document is to be signed by the parties in early 2017.
- (f) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - Ten new case studies have been developed and posted on the CMM website.
- (g) Activity E: Expand the GoE scope of work to cover integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development.
 - The UNECE/Columbia University report "The Challenges of the US Coal Industry and Lessons for Europe" was finalized and posted on the CMM website.

(h) The secretariat continues to cooperate with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI).

(i) A secretary of ISO/TC-263 attended the GoE 11th session. Future cooperation is being explored.

(j) A survey on methane management was prepared, sent to targeted audience and posted on the web.

2. Upcoming Events

(a) Workshop on Best Practices in Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines, Kolkata, India, March 2017

(b) Workshop on “Methane Emissions” during the 4th Session of the GEG, 27 March 2017

(c) Inaugural ceremony of the ICE on CMM in Katowice, 7 June 2017

3. Main Challenges

(a) None.

4. Resources

1 P5 (15%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2016–2017](#) are either completed or being worked on. The Bureau met on 1 November and 14 December to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to accelerate preparations for the EGRC 8th session (25–28 April 2017). The Technical Advisory Group met on 3 November and 19 December. The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) and other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) Discussions have progressed with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) on an MoU regarding application of UNFC as the African Mineral Resource Classification.
- (c) The UNFC and Renewables Task Force held a workshop in Cranfield, UK, 5–6 December, to strategize, develop a stakeholder management plan and agree on how best to manage the workload involved in developing the full suite of documentation that will allow UNFC to be applicable to bioenergy, hydro, solar and wind. Work on application of UNFC to solar is progressing. Experts from IEA and IRENA have recently joined the Solar Working Group.
- (d) A Working Group on Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources has been established.
- (e) UNECE is represented on the EU-funded “Towards a World Forum for Raw Materials” (FORAM) Project Advisory Board. UNFC is included in Work Package 1.
- (f) UNFC was presented at over 56 events worldwide in 2017.
- (g) Extrabudgetary project proposals were submitted for funding under the UNDA 11th Tranche (title: Strengthening national capacities of middle-income countries in South-East Europe and Central Asia to implement integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development) and the Russian Federation 2017 funding (title: Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement an internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources).
- (h) The EGRC Chair met the Russian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment in Moscow on 5 December, including to discuss the UNFC and RF-2013 Bridging Document.
- (i) UNFC and Chinese solid minerals and petroleum bridging documents are under development. The Ministry of Land and Resources of China is considering organizing a workshop in Beijing in February to progress the documents ahead of the EGRC fourth session.
- (j) The UNFC Nordic Project has started. Finland, Norway and Sweden are active.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE and European Federation of Geologists Conference “International cooperation on natural resources: geoscientists’ contribution to enhanced governance, policy making and attainment of the SDGs”, Brussels, Belgium, 9–10 February 2017
- (b) UNFC Anthropogenic resources workshop, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 23–24 February 2017
- (c) UNFC Solar Workshop, London, 20–21 March 2017
- (d) UNECE Resource Classification Week 2017, Geneva, 24–28 April 2017, including EGRC
- (e) UNFC Workshop, Moscow, end-June 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and twelve sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (30%), 1 P4 (100% - temporary) and 1 G6 (30%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) Preparations for the 4th session of the GEG in progress. First round of invitations sent. Draft agenda finalized and sent to be translated and published as a parliamentary document.
- (b) A Bureau conference call to discuss preparations for the 4th session and the 2018–2019 work plan held on 20 December 2016. The Bureau identified potential activities for the Group’s 2018–2019 work plan.
- (c) The 2014–2017 work plan was reviewed and endorsed by EXCOM on 18 November 2016.
- (d) Activity A: Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain
A survey was sent out to the gas community. First responses received. Survey results will be presented at the 4th session in March 2017, during the workshop “Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas”.
- (e) 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 secretariat and the Chair followed up with Total who has agreed to take the chairmanship of this task force effective September 2016.
- (f) Activity C: Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
“Assessment of Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas” was sent for formatting and publishing as an ECE Energy Series publication
- (g) Activity D: Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel
The road portion of the report has been completed.
The secretariat held a meeting with DNV GL, who is considering drafting the marine portion of the report.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 4th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, 27–28 March 2017, Geneva

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 (20%), 1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%).