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Quarterly Report

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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) 19 January 2017: **Resumed 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva.** The Committee continued to explore how to deliver the national commitments in support of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. The emphasis of the resumed session was about agreeing potential solutions to be presented to an energy ministerial at the outset of the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 11 June 2017 (agenda item VI). The Committee endorsed the ministerial outcome document with changes recognizing that further changes will be made by attending ministers to the last minute (ECE/ENERGY/2016/9.Rev.1). The meeting further concluded the considerations of Agenda items IX to VII. The adopted report of the 25th session and all supporting documents can be found on our website, here: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/energycommitteemeetings/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/2017/25th-session-of-the-committee-on-sustainable-energy-resumed/docs.html#/>
- (b) 9-25 January 2017: **Exhibition on energy transition in UNECE member States in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.** Germany kindly sponsored exhibition space to allow countries to showcase achievements related to energy transition, transition to diversification and greener economies and similar issues. The result was a 10 day long exhibition in the Palais des Nations led by four countries and their examples and experiences with energy transition towards a greener economy, namely Azerbaijan, Germany, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Three articles were published here: <https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/sustainable-energy/2017/exhibition-on-case-studies-on-energy-transition-in-unece-countries/doc.html>
- <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/sustainable-energy/2017/committee-on-sustainable-energy-endorses-set-of-options-to-implement-the-sdgs/doc.html>
- http://azertag.az/en/xeber/Energy_from_past_to_future_Azerbaijan_through_the_lens_photo_exhibition_opens_at_UN_Geneva_Office-1028370

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 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. The Chair has accepted an invitation to the Chair's breakfast session on 26 April 2017 about how the respective Committees address the implementation of the SDGs.
- (b) 30-31 May 2017: **Kick-off workshop of modelling agencies in the context of Pathways to Sustainable Energy** in Germany.
- (c) 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 have been sent. Registration is open. Details can be found on the website here: <http://energyministerial.kz/> The Bureau will receive an invitation to a meeting to be held on the side of the 8th Forum and in preparation of the 26th session of the Committee.
- (d) 26-28 September 2017: **26th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva.** Preparations will begin. The deadline for all supporting documentation including the agenda is 17 July 2017. The Bureau will be kept informed.

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.
- (b) Workshop Policy Maker Meets the Engineer was held in Geneva on 18 January 2017. 60 business leaders, government officials, academics, and representatives of civil society and international organizations participated in the workshop. All materials are posted at: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44310#/.](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44310#/)
- (c) A conference call of the GEEE Bureau was held on 7 February 2017. Materials from the call are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>.
- (d) Preparations are ongoing for the Energy Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development to be held on 11-14 June 2017 in Astana under the auspices of EXPO 2017 “Future Energy”. A number of events are planned under track Energy Efficiency and are under preparation: workshop Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Framework Guidelines; workshop Creating the Business Case for Energy Efficiency: Engaging Governments with Industry; and workshop Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches. Other Forum events will also include energy efficiency component. The website: <http://energyministerial.kz/>.
- (e) Staff member is finalizing a report on the research project on the topic “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – a policy analysis”, which was conducted at the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency from 15 November 2016 and to 14 March 2017). About 340 responses to the survey Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency have been received and are being analysed.
- (f) Work continued with potential donors (Denmark, Germany and the Russian Federation) on securing funding for the extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE Region”. The first phase of the project with funding from Denmark has been approved by EXCOM (Forests, Housing and Land Management Division is leading the first phase). Framework Principles for Building Standards was presented at the 25th resumed session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and continues to be updated based on comments received at the session and afterwards.
- (g) Research work has started to shed light onto the business of generating, distributing and consuming energy. As traditional utility companies are developing new service models catering to an empowered and more informed consumer, a lot of questions open on the impact. The research is focusing on the drivers for change and the impact for countries, in particular: how new and emerging opportunities for energy consumers are disrupting utility markets; what role new technologies for generating, storing, distributing and managing energy are playing in creating a new energy future and what we need to do to optimize these opportunities.
- (h) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - Workshop Policy Maker Meets the Engineer, Geneva, 18 January 2017.
 - 25th resumed session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 19 January 2017.
 - Workshop How to Achieve Economic Prosperity through Industrial Energy Productivity Improvement?, Riyadh, 28 March 2017

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - The Sustainable Energy for All Forum, New York, 3-5 April 2017.
 - Conference Reducing Energy Poverty by Energy Efficiency Projects in Residential Buildings: The Case for Eastern Europe, Brussels, 24-25 April 2017.
 - International Passive House Conference, 28-29 April 2017.

- Fifth Geneva Energy Conversation, 11 June 2017, Geneva, in partnership with the Graduate Institute http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/executive/events.html/_/events/executive/2017/the-future-of-energy
- Energy Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, 11-14 June 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) The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (CEP) has continued the implementation of its work plan 2016–2017.
- (b) Early preparations for the 13th session of the CEP started.
- (c) The secretariat prepared an early draft of the Group's 2018–2019 work plan that is to be sent to the Bureau and the Group for comments through a written procedure as agreed in October 2016.
- (d) CEP, in collaboration with the World Coal Association and the IEA Clean Coal Centre is preparing a workshop on high efficiency low emissions (HELE) power plants.
- (e) CEP experts and the secretariat are working on expanding the report on opportunities for coupling wind with flexible coal-fired power plants.
- (f) CEP experts and the secretariat are working on a case study in sustainable electricity system development (PJM Interconnection, a regional transmission organization in the United States).

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 June 2017
- (b) 13th session of CEP, Geneva, October 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 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

1. Activities

2.

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) A conference call of the GERE Bureau was held on 20 January 2019. Relevant documents and report are available at <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/gere-bureau.html>.
- (c) A draft Work Plan 2018-2019 was prepared by the Chair and the Secretariat with inputs from Bureau members before and after the GERE Bureau call on 20 January. Bureau members provided initial positive comments to the direction and content provided in the draft Work Plan which will be submitted within next quarterly period for review and approval by the Group of Experts by written procedure subject to a minimum comment period of 21 days.
- (d) The work continued to prepare the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 together with REN21. Data and responses to a questionnaire were gathered and first draft prepared and public/peer review opened
- (e) Preparations for the Energy Ministerial Conference and the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development has continued in close cooperation with the local partners/ authorities in Astana and other international partners (e.g. UN Regional Commissions, IEA, IRENA, REN21, EU) to organize a renewable energy track of sessions. The new UNECE RE Status Report will be launched at the Forum. More on the Forum at: <http://energyministerial.kz/>.
- (f) Work continued with donors that supported GERE, in particular with Germany (BMWi and BMUB) for tracking the progress of renewable energy through the UNECE RE Status Report 2017 and preparing and conducting a policy and business dialogue together with Dena (the German Energy Agency) to ensure transfer of know-how, best practices and lessons learned. In addition, an event that seeks to match project developers and financiers with policy makers is foreseen at the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, 11-14 June 2017, implemented with support of the European Union's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Central Asia.
- (g) The Chair of GERE participated in the resumed 25th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19 January 2017 and, via audio-conference, at the 4th session of the Group of Experts on Gas on 27 March to discuss possible ways of cooperation between the two Group of Experts.
- (h) Staff members actively participated in the following events:
 - High-level Workshop on Energy and Development, organized by IEA in Paris on 27 March 2017 in view of the preparation of the IEA World Energy Outlook (WEO) which will include this year a special report titled "Energy Access Outlook: from Poverty to Prosperity". UNECE outlined the quality aspects, in terms of reliability, affordability and sustainability of the energy access patterns of the UNECE region.
 - Workshop on "Scaling-up Renewables through Decentralised Energy Solutions" organized by IEA, Paris, on 28 March 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Final Workshop for the "Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin" 19-20 April 2017 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in Central Asia organized by IRENA on 26 – 27 April 2017, IRENA Headquarters, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

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 future activities and cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

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 the deliverables prescribed in the 2016–2017 work plan.
- (b) The secretariat in cooperation with the Chair of the Group developed a zero draft of the 2018–2019 Work Plan, which is to be sent for review to the Bureau and the Group through a written procedure.
- (c) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - A hard copy version of the revised and updated BPG has been printed and officially released.
- (d) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - A capacity-building workshop was held in Ranchi, India, in March (273 attendees). Conclusions and recommendations were developed together with a co-organizer (CMPDI).
 - A capacity-building workshop in Katowice, Poland, is scheduled for June. The secretariat together with the hosts of the future ICE-CMM is in the process of preparing the event.
 - A 2-year-long (2018–2019) extrabudgetary project on *Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane* has been agreed upon with the US EPA. The project document has been developed and approved by the donor. The project obtained EXCOM's approval in March 2017. The agreed sum of \$200,000 is to be received in April 2017.
- (e) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centre of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - The opening of ICE-CMM in Katowice, Poland is set for June 2017. A legal form of ICE-CMM has been agreed upon and it is to be legally established under Polish law in April 2017.
 - The MoU on establishing ICE-CMM in China is to be signed between UNECE and Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd in May 2017.
- (f) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - 21 new presentations delivered at the workshop in Ranchi were 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.
 - Results of the survey on methane management in extractive industries were received, analysed and presented during the workshop on Methane Management during the Fourth Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, in March 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - The secretariat together with the Group of Experts on CMM is preparing a two 1,5-hour-long segments on integrated methane management to be presented at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD) , in June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan
- (h) The secretariat continues to cooperate with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI). A session of the GMI Coal Subcommittee has been scheduled to take place during with the twelfth session of the Group of Experts on CMM in October 2017.

1. Upcoming Events

- (a) Signing of the MoU on establishing ICE-CMM in China, May 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.
- (b) Inaugural ceremony of the ICE-CMM and a workshop on Best Practices in Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines, Katowice, Poland, June 2017.
- (c) Two 1.5-hour-long sessions on integrated methane management at the 8th IFESD, Astana, Kazakhstan, 11–14 June 2017

2. Main Challenges

- (a) None.

3. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 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 26 January and 28 February to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to oversee preparations for the EGRC 8th session (25–28 April 2017). The Technical Advisory Group met on 27 January, 22 February and 23 March. The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) and other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) The [UNECE Resource Classification Week “Beyond classification – managing resources sustainably”](#) will be held 24–28 April, incorporating the EGRC eighth session. More than 200 experts have registered. 10 official documents have been submitted and six informal documents are being prepared.
- (c) Discussions have progressed with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) on an MoU regarding application of UNFC as the African Mineral Resource Classification.
- (d) The Working Group on Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources is now active and has developed draft specifications to apply UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources
- (e) UNECE is represented on the Stakeholder Council of the EU-funded GeoERA project which aims to establish a European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe (GeoERA). UNFC offers value to the project as a tool for harmonizing diverse data.
- (f) UNECE and European Federation of Geologists Conference “International cooperation on natural resources: geoscientists’ contribution to enhanced governance, policy making and attainment of the SDGs” was held in Brussels, Belgium, 9–10 February 2017. UNFC is seen as potential tool to harmonize diverse data and information on natural resources of Europe as well as to foster international cooperation.
- (g) Progress has been made on the UNFC and Chinese solid minerals and petroleum bridging documents. A senior delegation from the Ministry of Land and Resources of China will meet with EGRC experts on 24–25 April to further progress the documents ahead of their presentation to the EGRC on 26–28 April.
- (h) The UNFC Nordic Project has developed draft guidance on the use of UNFC for Finland, Norway and Sweden.
- (i) UNFC was presented and discussed at the workshop on Coal Mine Methane (CMM) held in Ranchi, India, 9–10 March. UNFC was viewed as a tool for assessment and classification of CMM resources and plans for their commercial utilization.
- (j) UNFC was presented and discussed at the International Fertilizer Industry Association Global Safety Summit, Amman, Jordan, 27–30 March. UNFC was seen as a potential tool for managing secondary resources such as phosphogypsum and thus assessing their sustainable utilization in line with the best practices associated with the circular economy.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Resource Classification Week 2017, Geneva, 24–28 April 2017, including EGRC
- (b) UNFC Workshop, Moscow, 30–31 May 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) The 4th session of GEG was held on 27–28 March with around 90 participants and 35 speakers and presenters.
- (b) The GEG Bureau was very active, with six conference calls and in-person meetings (on 19 January, 17 February, 1, 23, 27 and 28 March) to discuss preparations for the 4th session, the 2018–2019 work plan, and other ongoing activities. At the 4th session the Bureau was strengthened by two new members, representing the United States and the International Gas Union.
- (c) The 2018–2019 early draft work plan finalized by the Bureau and is to be sent to the Group for comments through a written procedure agreed at the 4th session.
- (d) The 4th session of GEG featured the workshop: “Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas”, with leading international organizations and associations presenting their work. The UNECE survey on methane management identified some critical gaps in information on methane emissions. GEG recommended that future work on reducing methane emissions should be carried out in close collaboration with the International Gas Union.
- (e) The role of gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy was also presented at the 4th session, with participation of the Chair of GERE. GEG recommended that its future work on the interaction between the gas and renewable energy sectors be carried out in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels.
- (f) The report “Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas” was printed (ECE/ENERGY/101 and ECE Energy Series No 48) and distributed to 4th session’s participants. A number of good practices, including on small scale LNG, were presented at the 4th session.
- (g) DNV GL, an international accredited registrar and classification society, drafted recommendations on removing barriers to the use of natural gas in maritime transport for GEG. The text was presented as a room document at the 4th session.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Round table on the role of gas in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, June 2017, Astana
- (b) 5th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, March 2018, Geneva

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding secretariat to service GEG, its Bureau and 4 task forces.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contribution by experts.