



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

4th Quarter 2017
(October to December 2017)

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 October 2017: **5th Meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy – Ecosystems Nexus**, Geneva. The secretariat participated to drive a discussion among countries on energy-nexus related considerations that should play a role in developing holistic, cross-cutting and adaptive policy options under the **Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project**. There is a lack of awareness about the fundamental importance of energy in society and its contribution to climate change. The agenda and supporting documents can be found on line here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43626>.
- (b) 18-20 October 2017: **Preparatory meeting on the review of SDG7**, Oslo. The Director of the Sustainable Energy Division participated along with other Regional Commissions in the discussions of the Ad hoc technical advisory group on SDG7 and the Symposium on SDG7, which are meetings held in the context of the indicator review in spring 2018, organized by DESA, UNOSD, Norwegian Research Council, (SINTEF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The event united global experts from inside and outside the UN system to discuss the implementation of SDG7 and its interlinkages and progress on challenges/opportunities/and recommendations for the process, which is overseen by the High Level Political Forum. The contribution of the sustainable energy subprogramme focused on outcomes from the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial and presented outcomes from the recent global and regional reports of the Global Tracking Framework, carried out jointly with the other Regional Commissions, SEforAll and the World Bank. The Bureau discussed the outcomes in its meeting on 11 December 2018.
- (c) 8-10 November 2017: **78th session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and Ministerial Meeting**, Geneva. The subprogramme participated in the session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management, which also included a Ministerial Segment on 9 November 2017. The Ministerial was organised as a forum for a high-level exchange of experiences related to the implementation of international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter for Sustainable Housing. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. Part of the agenda was a discussion on the Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, developed by the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and already endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy. All documents and information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44635>
- (d) 14 - 17 November 2017: The Chair participated in the **23rd session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy** in Geneva. The objective was to exchange views among four Committee Chairs on collaboration across the Committees, specifically related to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. The Chair reported briefly on the meeting during the Bureau meeting on 11 December.
- (e) 11 December 2017, 11.00-17.00, **the Bureau** met at the auspices of the **95th meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee**, where the Chair presented his report and informed the Executive Committee of progress, political messages and documents for approval, as per request of the delegates during the 26th session. The Bureau agenda featured process and content for future Bureau interactions and strategic priorities. It is the first time the new Bureau met in this composition. Bureau minutes have been sent for information and can be found on our website here: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-bureau.html>

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 29 January 2018: **First Bureau call** of the year to discuss first findings of Pathways to Sustainable Energy. An agenda will be sent in preparation.
- (b) 21-23 February 2018: **Global SDG7 Conference in Bangkok**: The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will undertake the first global review of SDG7 in July 2018, under the auspices of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). To help provide a solid substantive foundation for the review of SDG7, a global preparatory meeting will be organised by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This conference is supported

by the Governments of Norway, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Germany, The Netherlands, and the European Commission, among others. Registration is now open to participation from all stakeholders. More information about the conference can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference>. Registration to the Conference (deadline: 15th January 2018) <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference/registration>

- (c) 26-28 September 2018: **27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva. Details will be provided as soon as possible. The secretariat reminds of the 10-week deadline before the meeting for all official documents. The Bureau will be invited to recommend strategic areas of discussion for the Committee in the next biennium.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Staffing and recruitment.
- (b) Attracting UNECE member countries to Committee meetings and manage cannibalizing effect of meeting invitations to experts.

4. Resources

60% P5, 40% JPO (from Germany), 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has successfully completed the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017.
- (b) The fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency was held on 31 October – 1 November 2017 in Geneva. All session documents are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45694>. The GEEE welcomed the extension of mandate of the GEEE until December 2019 and approval of its Work Plan for 2018-2019 by the CSE at its 26th session on 26-28 September 2017.
- (c) GEEE Bureau met on 1 November 2017. Report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>.
- (d) The First meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was held on 30-31 October 2017 in Geneva (back-to-back with the fourth session of GEEE). All meeting documents are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46402>. This was the first major activity under the extra-budgetary project *Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings* with two sources of funding (Denmark and Russian Federation) has continued. The project is being jointly implemented with Forests, Housing and Land Management Division.
- (e) The secretariat has developed a project proposal for additional funding (donor – Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization) for the extra-budgetary project *Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings*.
- (f) The second edition of the publication *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency* has been issued both electronically and in hard copy. Available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/publications.html>. Paper version in English can be requested from the secretariat.
- (g) The joint UNECE/Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency study *Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency* has been finalized and issued electronically. The publication is available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/publications.html>. Hard copy version is forthcoming.
- (h) Recent GEEE and GEEE-related events were reported as UNECE news items: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/housingand-land-management/2017/supporting-countries-in-achieving-low-carbon-economy-through-improving-energy-efficiency-in-buildings-in-the-unece-region/doc.html>; <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/sustainable-energy/2017/sustainable-energy-week-at-unece-explores-ways-to-improve-energy-efficiency-and-increase-share-of-renewable-energy/doc.html>; and <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/general-unece/2017/exploring-industry-40-and-its-potential-for-climate-solutions-at-cop23/doc.html>.
- (i) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - North American Passive House Network Annual Conference (NAPHN 2017), Oakland, CA, 4-8 October 2017.
 - XXII Belarusian Energy and Ecology Forum, Exhibition and Congress "Energy. Ecology. Energy Saving. Electro", Minsk, 10-13 October 2017.
 - Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG) workshop on financing energy efficiency in industry organized by DG Energy - European Commission, Brussels, 19 October 2017.
 - National Capacity Building Workshop on Developing and Implementing Energy Efficiency Policies organized by the Energy Charter Secretariat, Baku, 24-25 October 2017.
 - Seventy-eighth session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, Geneva, 8-10 November 2017.
 - Twenty-seventh session of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), Geneva, 28 - 30 November 2017.
 - Workshop Achieving growth in Saudi Arabia and China through joint leadership on industrial energy efficiency and economic diversification organized by KAPSARC, Beijing, 7 December 2017

- Ninth EEEFIG meeting organized by DG Energy - European Commission, Paris, 12 December, 2017.

Members of GEEE participated on behalf of UNECE in the COP23 side event The United Nations system, Industry 4.0 and its potential for climate solutions, Bonn, 12 November 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Workshop 'Energy sufficiency: key messages for policy makers' organized by eceee, Geneva, 1 February 2018.
- First Cooperation and Coordination Conference, IFIs, Donors and the Secretariat, “Working Together – Achieving More” organized by the Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna, 27 March 2018.

3. Main Challenges

(a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan.

(b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.

(c) Identification and prioritization of the 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 for 2016-2017.
- (b) The 13th session of the CEP held on 26-27 October 2017 in Geneva, with around 40 participants.
- (c) Building upon documents presented at the session, CEP discussed and agreed a short document “Principles for Financing Clean Fossil Fuel Projects in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
- (d) The Group agreed to propose to the Committee to change The Group’s name to the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity from Fossil Fuels (CEFF).
- (e) Publication: Coordinated Operations of Flexible Coal and Renewable Energy Power Plants: Challenges and Opportunities – published electronically in December 2017
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47666>.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 1-2 March): session on the role of fossil fuels in transforming energy sector to support attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- (b) 14th session of CEFF, Geneva, October 2018.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources.
- (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 contributions by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has completed its work on the deliverables prescribed in its Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) The fourth session of GERE was held on 2-3 November 2017 in Geneva with around 60 participants. Report and all session documents are posted at: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45697> . During the session, the Group of Experts discussed various issues that member countries are facing in deploying renewable energy and will be supported by activities foreseen in the new biennium starting in 2018, see at https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm26/ECE_ENERGY_2017_4e_GE_7_2_017_6e.pdf ;
- (c) A third UNECE Renewable Energy Hard Talk took place with key stakeholders in Baku, Azerbaijan, 19-20 October 2017. The dialogue led to specific recommendations and priorities for unblocking investments in renewable energy. Recommendations covered the following aspects: market risks; renewable energy support schemes; tariffs, permitting; transmission and distribution grids; resource and technology risk; bankability; Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) terms. See more at: <https://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-ren21-hard-talks.html> ;
- (d) Two GERE workshops, organized with dena (German Energy Agency) support, took place in conjunction with COP23 in Bonn on 13-14 November, “Fostering renewable energy in UNECE countries’ electricity sectors” and “Fostering renewable heat in the UNECE region”. Under the project RE-Uptake, the objective of both workshops was to offer a platform for exchange of information within the region on the barriers to the deployment of renewable energy sources in the heating and electricity sector, with a focus on the Eastern part of the UNECE region. Collaboratively, decision makers from governments, market regulators and businesses discussed challenges and identified possible solutions for addressing them. See more at: <https://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/best-practices-and-lessons-learned-to-increase-the-uptake-of-renewables.html> ;
- (e) A UNDA Project Closing Workshop: “Renewable Energy UNDA project conclusions and way forward” was organized by ESCWA with UNECE support in Beirut on 13-14 December 2017. The objective of this regional workshop was to conclude the UNDA project on by providing closing remarks about the implemented activities, an update on the RE projects portfolios from selected UN ESCWA and UNECE Member countries, and indications about the way forward to continue promoting RE investments in the two regions, using available instruments, and particularly, the IRENA Sustainable Energy Marketplace platform.
- (f) Staff member participated in the following events:
 - 4th GERE session, Geneva, 2-3 November 2017;
 - UNECE RE Hard Talk, Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-21 October 2017;
 - Two workshops “Fostering renewable energy in UNECE countries’ electricity sectors” and “Fostering renewable heat in the UNECE region”, Bonn, Germany, 13-14 December 2017;
 - UNDA Project Closing Workshop: “Renewable Energy UNDA project conclusions and way forward”, Beirut, 13-14 December 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Hard Talk on Renewable Energy, Astana, Kazakhstan, first half of 2018 (date tbc);
- 3 Hard Talks on Renewable Energy, with a water-energy nexus angle, foreseen in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia June-October 2018
- 5th session of GERE, within 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development Kiev, Ukraine, 6-9 November 2018 (tbc);
- GERE Bureau meetings in 2018.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (c) Strengthening cooperation and planning future joint activities with key actors despite limited resources, e.g. REN21, IRENA, IEA, EU-DEVCO, as well as with current and potential bilateral donors and new partner organizations.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO (30%), 1 G6 (20%).

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

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM has completed its work on the deliverables prescribed in its 2016-2017 work plan.
- (b) The 12th session of the GoE on CMM was organized in Geneva, 24–25 October (78 attendees).
 - A report with conclusions and recommendations was adopted (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/2).
- (c) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - The official translation of the BPG into Russian and French is in progress.
 - The first draft of the unofficial translation into Polish based on in-kind private sector contributions was completed and delivered to the secretariat. The text is currently under revision.
 - The unofficial translation of the BPG into Indonesian based on in-kind private sector contributions was completed. It will be presented to the Bureau who will decide on further action.
- (d) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - A workshop on *Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy* was held in Geneva, 23 October 2017 (40 participants). 12 presentations were delivered and are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46315>
 - Budget for 2018 for extrabudgetary project on *Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane. Phase II* was prepared, approved, and funds were released
- (e) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - The 2018-2019 work plans for ICE-CMM in Poland and China were officially approved by the Group of Experts.
- (f) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - 12 presentations delivered at the workshop in Geneva 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.
 - Budget for 2018 for extrabudgetary project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas/Downstream Gas)* was prepared, approved, and funds were released.
 - ToR for a consultancy job opening were prepared. The position was announced and it will be filled in Q1 2018.
- (h) Cross-cutting issues
 - Kazakhstan provided the secretariat with *Note Verbale* indicating its interest in hosting the project on *Modernization of the energy sector*.
 - Secretariat engaged with European Commission (EC) to explore synergies between the project on *Modernization of the energy sector* and the *Coal Regions in Transition Platform* launched by EC.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Technical workshop on *Coal Mine Methane as a Valuable Resource* to be organized jointly with ICE-CMM Poland within the framework of the School of Underground Mining organized in Krakow, Poland, 26-28 February 2018.
- (b) Global Methane Forum, 16-18 April 2018, Toronto, Canada – UNECE is a co-organizer.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding for the secretariat to service GoE on CMM and its Bureau.

4. 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 completed. The Bureau met on 1 November and 12 December to review progress on implementation of the work plan, start organization of the EGRC 9th session (24-27 April 2018), and discuss the UNFC revision process. The Technical Advisory Group met on 10 & 11 October, 23 November and 19 December. All other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) Jointly with the African Mineral Development Centre, UNECE organized a Workshop on “Harmonization, Adaptation, Implementation and Development of UNFC in line with the African Mining Vision (AMV)”, Cairo, Egypt, 2-6 October 2017. The workshop finalized the structure of the UNFC African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System: [UNFC-AMREC for the management of energy and mineral resources of Africa](#).
- (c) UNECE, ESM Foundation and EIT Raw Materials jointly organized a Workshop on Strategic Raw Materials and Sustainable Development during the World Resources Forum, Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 October 2017. [The workshop concluded that](#) sustainable development is fundamentally linked to the access to strategic raw materials and potential bottlenecks must be considered across the entire value chain, addressing raw materials, processing capacities, semi-finished as well as finished products.
- (d) IAEA in cooperation with UNECE organized an Interregional training course on “unconventional uranium resource assessment, UNFC classification and reporting with particular emphasis on uranium as co- or by-product” in Salta, Argentina, 13-17 November 2017. The workshop discussed how UNFC could be used to discover “new economic resources” [that can be associated with uranium mining](#).
- (e) The publication “Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy Resources - Selected Case Studies” (ECE ENERGY SERIES No. 51) was issued in November. A set of [14 UNFC geothermal case studies are included](#).
- (f) The publication “Guidelines for Application of UNFC to Uranium and Thorium Resources” (ECE ENERGY SERIES No. 55) has been issued. This publication provides guidance for the [application of UNFC to uranium and thorium resources](#).
- (f) Extrabudgetary projects: (i) Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources (2017-2019), US\$ 161,000, funded by Russian Federation has been approved; (ii) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (2018-2021), US\$ 490,000 from UN Development Account 11th Tranche. Preparations are being undertaken to start both the projects early in 2018.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Resource Management Week 2018 “UNFC for Sustainable Development” (incorporating EGRC 9th Session), Geneva, Switzerland, 23-27 April 2018.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and 20 sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences etc.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (40%), 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 GEG Bureau held three conference calls in October, November and December to discuss the ongoing activities and the preparations for the 5th session of the Group of Experts in March 2018.
- (b) Following its offer to host an industry workshop on methane emissions, the Bureau and the secretariat started preparations for the next meeting on 21 March 2018 in Geneva.
- (d) The implementation of the extrabudgetary project “Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas / Downstream Gas)” continues. The secretariat published a vacancy announcement to contract a consultant to develop a draft of best practices in monitoring, reporting and verification as well as in mitigating emissions.
- (c) Publication: “Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) - Case Study: Small Scale LNG – Truck Loading” sent to printing in December 2017. Also available electronically at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47686>.
- (d) Publication: “Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as Maritime Transportation Fuel” sent to printing in December 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Industry workshop on reducing methane emissions from the gas sector, 21 March 2018, Geneva.
- (b) 5th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, 22-23 March 2018, Geneva.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Insufficient regular budget resources to service GEG, its Bureau and 4 task forces.
- (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 (15%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

(a) Advisory mission to Belgrade, Serbia, 16-17 November 2017

Meetings with Serbia officials on cooperation with UNECE and support of national sustainable energy policies to meet SDG 7 and meeting with NGO representative on new project(s) development. Meetings were held in the Ministry of Mining and Energy with Ms. Antonela Solujić, Head of Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of Mining and Energy; Mr. Milanko Savić, Head of Geology and Mining Department, Ministry of Mining and Energy; Mr. Aleksandar Puljević, Adviser, Ministry of Mining and Energy; Ms. Milena Đakonović, Head of Group for Environmental Protection in TPPs and CHPs, EPS (Elektroprivreda Srbije) state-owned electric utility power company.

- The work of the Ministry in ECE Expert Group on Resource Classification was discussed. Mr. Savić noted that national system of resource classification was related to the former USSR classification. The Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) might be useful for Serbia. However, the country intention to meet EU standards includes development of new national resource classification, which will be in compliance with EU. Mr. Savić requested to provide with technical assistance on topics related to shutdown of underground mines: economic, environmental and social problems.

- The discussion with Mr. Puljević was mainly related to intention of Serbian Government to meet EU legislation requirements. In particular, how this obligation of Serbia can affect energy sector. It would be difficult for Serbia to meet requirements related to renewable energy share in the energy mix. At the same time increase of energy efficiency would help to decrease power generation from thermal power plants. Serbia has considerable potential for renewable energy (hydro, wind, solar, biomass and geothermal). Currently only hydropower is the RES for electricity production. Considerable consumption in the country of wood for heating purposes is ineffective way to use this biomass. The legal framework for renewable electricity production has been introduced but complicated licensing and permitting procedures slow down successful development of RE. At the same time, the Government has adopted feed-in tariffs for power generation from renewable energy sources. There was a discussion on the list of RE projects, opportunities for investors and how electricity tariffs are still a barrier to attraction of investment. Due to low electricity tariffs in Serbia, which remains below the full cost price level, there is no return on capital that would ensure the long-term financial viability of the electricity system, including the financing of the investments necessary for guaranteeing the security of supply. The Government should implement appropriate steps for raising the level of electricity tariffs toward full cost recovery to ensure the development of power sector.

- Ms. Milena Đakonović noted that EPS Company provides electricity generation, distribution and supply. During the discussion, it was stressed that the electricity market for large consumers, which are directly connected to the transmission network, was liberalized. Around 65% of company's power generation based on coal combustion. It's a burden for company because Serbia aims at EU standards, which are too tough for the national economy now. The Government should introduce emission development strategy with an action plan and secure funding for the strategy's implementation. Ms. Đakonović requested to provide her Government with the review of world best practices on Carbon Capture and Storage.

Also the staff member held a meeting with Ms. Branislava Jovičić, who represents Center for Promotion of Sustainable Development. She noted that Balkan Green Energy News. She is also a project of the Centre for Promotion of Sustainable Development, a non-profit CSO from Belgrade, Serbia. Centre for Promotion of Sustainable Development partners with and makes networks of relevant sustainability developers, i.e. companies, organizations, institutions and individuals whose strategies, activities and programs contribute to sustainable development promotion. Taking into account Centre's experience on gender related issues, it was decided to develop mutual project proposal to be submitted to donors on energy and gender topic. The proposed project would share exiting experience in Balkan countries with countries in Central Asia.

Result of the mission:

- The Government was provided with the updated review of world best practices on Carbon Capture and Storage;
- The project proposal on energy and gender topic is under preparation.

(b) Workshop “Strengthening national capacity of Central Asia and Caucasus in transitioning to sustainable energy policy and practices based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review” and advisory mission to Astana, Kazakhstan, 29-30 November 2017.

Staff member in cooperation with UNECE Environmental Division conducted a workshop on strengthening national capacity of Central Asia and Caucasus in transitioning to sustainable energy policy and practices based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review. Its main objective was to strengthen the capacity of experts and government officials in the energy sector in targeted countries to identify and apply best practices, measures and procedures of sustainable energy in order to adapt policy and practices that support transition to sustainable energy. The participants included experts from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). High-level representatives (Vice Minister and Director of Department) from the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan also were presented in the workshop and benefited from it. The event increased understanding of Governments’ officials, experts and other stakeholders in economies in transition of the SDG7 objectives, and in particular how to create favourable regulatory frameworks and incentives for renewable energy development, diversify energy supplies, tackle the GHG emissions from the energy sector, enhance the energy efficiency of buildings, use waste for the production of energy and promote public awareness on energy efficiency and energy saving.

The workshop assisted countries to meet common challenges: the restructuring of electricity tariffs to eliminate cross-subsidies and achieve the level of prices that reflects the costs of production in the power sector, while taking measures to protect vulnerable social groups, the lack of long-term planning in the energy sector and difficulties in operationalizing regulatory measures and incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy development, fossil fuels impact on environment. The workshop strengthened the national capacity of Central Asian and Caucasus economies in transition for effective implementation of the SDG 7. Staff members had meetings with a number of event participants as well as with Ms. Tuya Altangerel, UNDP DRR.

There were also meetings with the officials of the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Bakhytzhon Jaxaliev, Vice Minister;
- Ms. Aliya Shalabekova, Director of Green Economy Department;
- Ms. Olga Melnik, Head of Section;
- Mr. Nurzhan Mukaev, Chief Expert, Green Economy Department;
- Mr. Darhan Akhmetov, Chief of Section of Development of Power Engineering and Integration;
- Mr. Kairat Rakhimov, Chief Expert, Section of Development of Power Engineering and Integration.

During meetings with the Vice Minister Mr. Jaxaliev, there were discussions on the SDG7 implementation in Kazakhstan, mutual cooperation, in particular on EPR in Kazakhstan in 2018, on proposed project “Modernization of the energy sector – a pathway towards low-carbon energy and green economy” and involvement of the Ministry’s representatives in the Sustainable Energy Division Expert Group meetings.

Meetings with Ms. Olga Melnik, Mr. Nurzhan Mukaev, and Mr. Darhan Akhmetov gave an opportunity to discuss details of the proposed project “Modernization of the energy sector – a pathway towards low-carbon energy and green economy”. Staff member provided additional information to the Ministry’s officials who agreed that implementation of this project could be very beneficial for Kazakhstan and developed some list of further questions to be answered by the secretariat.

It was recommended that the Ministry continue to conduct policy and institutional reforms for the energy sector, aimed at SDG7. Particular importance for Kazakhstan at this stage is further development of a legal and regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy

projects and encouraging transboundary electricity market with other Central Asian countries. It was noted that attracting foreign direct investment to construct new renewable energy generation capacities requires guarantees by the Government that include appropriate feed-in tariffs and power purchase agreements.

(c) Workshop “Renewable Energy UNDA project conclusions and way forward”, 13-14 December 2017, Beirut, Lebanon.

The workshop was organized in cooperation with ESCWA. It was a final event to conclude the activities included in a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity-building project “Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development”, led by UN ESCWA in partnership with UNECE, aiming at enhancing renewable energy (RE) investments in Member countries in the context of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

The objective of this regional workshop was to conclude the UNDA project on by providing closing remarks about the implemented activities, an update on the RE projects portfolios from selected UN ESCWA and UNECE Member countries, and indications about the way forward to continue promoting RE investments in the two regions, using available instruments, and particularly, the IRENA Sustainable Energy Marketplace platform.

Participants of the workshop discussed the lessons learned from the RE policy case studies conducted in four UN ESCWA member countries and four UNECE member countries. These lessons learned are part of a Synthesis report on RE policies case studies prepared in the context of the DA project based on the eight case studies. Project developers from both UN ESCWA and UNECE member countries presented their RE project business development plans, and had the opportunity to explore potential financing avenues for their projects and establish initial contacts with potential investors. The workshop considered over fifteen RE projects from both UN ESCWA and UNECE Member Countries that would be the focus of the technical discussions. Fifteen participants from nine UNECE region MS attended the workshop.

2. Main Challenges

(a) N/A.

3. Resources

1 P5 (100%).
