

Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

1st Quarter 2019
(January to March 2019)

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) 4 February 2019: **First Bureau call and in-person meeting in the new Bureau composition**, Geneva, Palais des Nations. On the agenda: preparations for the 16 May 2019 informal, open-ended Committee session featuring requests from countries concerning the future structure and priorities of the subprogramme, enhancing impact and efficiencies of the expert groups and pathways to sustainable energy. The last activity report of the subprogramme and Bureau minutes can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-bureau.html>
- (b) 20-21 March 2019: **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region**, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG): Theme: "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnership for the Goals). <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49755>
- (c) March – September 2019: **Continuous multi-stakeholder dialogue**. Pathways to Sustainable Energy project approach is strengthened by a continuous dialogue among countries and other stakeholders on how to attain sustainable energy. The Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies have been important stakeholders in a series of policy dialogues. All Group of Experts and Pathways Project's Advisory Board will continue to be actively engaged in the consultation process and to provide inputs into the development and validation of policy pathways.
- (d) May – December 2019: **Project: Deep-dive on Gas - Role of Natural Gas in Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement**. The project will complement the ongoing UNECE flagship project Pathways to Sustainable Energy and the work of the Group of Experts on Gas to explore in-depth role that natural gas could play in the strategic options that countries will consider meeting their commitments. In cooperation with an International Consultant the UNECE will embark on a series of studies on: i) Role of gas in displacing competing fuels; ii) Role of gas in supporting the uptake of renewable energy; iii) Penetration of gas into new markets through small-scale liquified natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG); iv) Addressing environmental issues associated with natural gas.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 4 April 2019: **Webinar** on Preliminary Key Findings from the Consultation Process with Groups of Experts – Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project. The objective of the Webinar is to gain better understanding about the perspectives of respective Groups of Experts and initiate an inclusive dialogue on how can the UNECE region attain sustainable energy which will be continued at Pathways Consultations Workshop from 14 – 15 May 2019, in Geneva.
- (b) 8-9 April 2019: The **Day of Cities** will bring together Mayors, urban managers and other key municipal practitioners for an exchange of views and knowledge sharing of good practices and successful planning strategies on the 2030 Agenda and sustainable cities. In two roundtables, participants will discuss approaches on how to create smart sustainable cities, focusing on ways to improve the quality of life of people and on improving efficiency of urban operations, services and competitiveness. The exhibition "Smart Sustainable Cities" will complement the programme and the **68th session of the Economic Commission for Europe**. Member States, International Organizations, cities and private businesses are invited to come together to showcase their work, present innovative concepts, effective approaches in support of the SDGs at the municipal, national and regional level in the framework of an information fair. <http://www.unece.org/housing/dayofcities.html>
- (c) 12 April 2019: **Next Bureau** call in preparation of the Committee's informal consultation on pathways, strategic options and ways of working. On the agenda: outcomes from the contributions of the expert groups to the Committee deliberations on Pathways to Sustainable Energy. **Future Bureau meetings** will be announced soon, likely on 24 June (before the document deadline of the Committee), in early September and during the Committee session.

- (d) 14-15 May 2019: **Consultation workshop in the context of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy** Project. Discussion of policy recommendations and key messages resulting from the first phase of the Pathways project; brainstorming on future phases of the Pathways project, **subregional workshop on capacity building for Central Asia and discussion on the role of gas in sustainable energy**.
 - (e) 16 May 2019: The Committee requested a **consultation process with member States** on its strategic direction, mission and vision with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Energy and in parallel wished to be consulted on adaptive policy pathways derived from the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy it oversees. See also 1(a).
 - (f) 25-27 September 2019: **28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva: this meeting will seek new mandates and work plans for the six expert groups and conclude on the consultation process with member States as per above.
3. Main Challenges
- (a) Staffing and recruitment.
 - (b) Attracting UNECE member States to meetings and cannibalizing effect of meeting invitations to experts.
 - (c) Funding situation of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”.
4. Resources
70% P5, 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has continued the implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2018-2019.
- (b) Capacity-building activities in energy efficiency have been carried out by the Regional Adviser (see Regional Adviser section).
- (c) Members of GEEE and its Bureau participated in the following events:
 - United Smart Cities: implementing smart sustainable cities approaches worldwide, Kiev, 29 January 2019 (in the framework of the of the Business for Smart Cities ExpoCongress, 29-31 January 2019).
 - European Energy Efficiency Conference 2019. Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference 28 March-1 February 2019 (in the framework of World Sustainable Energy Days, 26 March-1 February 2019).
 - Workshop on Outcomes of the UNECE project on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings - Fifth Meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, Yerevan, 14-15 March 2019.
 - World Smart Energy Summit, Moscow, 26-27 March 2019.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - Workshop on Energy Performance Buildings Standards, Tbilisi, 12 April 2019
 - Promoting Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Capacity Building Workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, Geneva, 15 May 2019.
 - Training Workshop on housing management and energy efficiency in buildings. Promoting Sustainable Development Goals on Urban Development Housing and Land Management in the Republic of Belarus, Minsk, 21-23 May 2019.
 - Workshop Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries, Kiev, 27-28 May 2019.
 - Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Due to the selection of the secretary of GEEE to the post of Regional Adviser, the Chief of Section is the secretary of GEEE *ad interim*.
- (b) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan, particularly for 2019-2020.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (d) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (20%), 1 P4 (vacant as of November 2018), 1 P2 (until 31 January 2019), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (CES)
Former 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) continued to implement its 2018-2019 work plan.
- (b) Following the Committee's decision to change the name of the Group of Experts on CEP to the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (CES), activities have been initiated in this direction to make sure that UNECE's work on electricity is expanded in the area beyond fossil fuels. This includes work on an expanded work plan and terms of reference.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 1st session of the new Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, November 2019.

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 P3 (25%), 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 continued the implementation of the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) The UNECE Renewable Energy Hard Talk took place in Serbia on 21-22 March (see at: <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/unece-hard-talks.html>). A special focus was devoted to biomass related topics and back-to-back with the final conference of a UNDP/Global Environment Facility project “Reducing Barriers to Accelerate the Development of Biomass Markets in Serbia”.
- (c) Preparatory work continued with Ministry of Energy and organizers of the Green Energy Week on 12-18 June in Moscow for the organization of the Renewable Energy Hard Talks in the Russian Federation within this context. The GERE Vice-Chair is coordinating the organization of this multi-stakeholder dialogue for the host country.
- (d) Development of the GERE Work Plan 2020-2021 started at the Bureau call on 7 March and subsequently, the Chair and other Bureau members, supported by the secretariat, are working at a draft for consideration and approval by GERE through written procedure before endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Development at its annual session;
- (e) Staff member participated in the following events:
 - 29-30 January 2019, Regional conference on Middle East North Africa Sustainable Electricity Trajectories MENA-SELECT project, in Jordan. Speaker in specific session on Regional and integrated perspectives, including water-energy nexus approach presenting global and regional data and trends in UNECE countries as well as information on various water-energy-food-health and ecosystem nexus projects implemented by UNECE.
 - 14-15 March 2019, Central Asia Regional Workshop Agenda Long-term Capacity Expansion Planning with a High Share of Renewables organized by IRENA. Speaker in session on Technical assistance initiatives by partners on long-term planning with a high share of renewable energy.
 - 21-22 March 2019, organization and participation in the UNECE Renewable Energy Hard Talk in Serbia from a water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus perspective, fostering transboundary cooperation on renewable energy and action across sectors among the riparian countries of the Drina river: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Bioeconomy Governance Workshop, Utrecht, May 23. Participation in a specification panel session on “Regulatory experiences and roles of international organizations in fostering sustainable bioeconomy governance”;
- Hard Talk on Renewable Energy in the Russian Federation within the Green Energy Week on 12-18 June 2019;
- Workshop on “Validation of unified methodology for assessing potential of wind and solar energy in the CIS countries” in collaboration with UNDP, within UNECE project “Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7”, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 26.27 June 2019 (tbc).

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Resources (financial, human and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Possible impact of the UN Reform/ UNECE Budget on the SE Division and subsequently on the RE activities.
- (c) Renewal of mandate and approval of the Work Plan 2020-2021.

4. Resources

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

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

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on the deliverables prescribed in its 2018-2019 work plan.
- (b) Activity A: Disseminate and Expand the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
- An unofficial translation of the BPG into Polish based on an in-kind contribution by the International Centre of Excellence on CMM (ICE-CMM) in Poland has been completed and posted on-line (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44133&L=0>).
 - ICE-CMM in China received an UN HQ's approval to delay publication of an unofficial translation of the BPG into Chinese based on the Centre's in-kind contribution until 30 June 2019.
 - A one-day-long seminar on *Coal Mine Methane as a Valuable Energy Source* was delivered within the framework of the XXVIII School of Underground Mining in Cracow, Poland. The event organized in cooperation with Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and ICE-CMM in Poland featured 24 presentations, which are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51165>.
 - Large parts of the first draft of the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines* have been completed. A call for case studies was made. The first one was received from Germany.
- (c) Activity B: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
- ICE-CMM in Poland co-organized a one-day-long seminar *Coal Mine Methane as a Valuable Energy Source* held within the framework of the XXVIII School of Underground Mining, Cracow, Poland, 27 February.
 - A donor's agreement between UNECE and ICE-CMM Poland necessary for providing funds for a project titled *Strengthening national capacity of the UN member States for environmentally responsible methane management through coordination of activities of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland* is being negotiated.
 - Application materials required for formal registration of ICE-CMM in China as a separate non-governmental entity operating under the Chinese law, were provided to and examined by the Government. The final approval is expected in Q2.
 - The process of an unofficial translation of the BPG into Chinese based on an in-kind contribution by ICE-CMM in China continues. The document is to be published by 30 June.
- (d) Activity C: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
- 24 presentations delivered at the events in Cracow, Poland were posted on the CMM website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51165>).
- (e) Activity D: Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development.
- The first draft of a document on best practices in efficient monitoring, reporting, verification and mitigation of methane emissions in the oil and gas sectors developed within the framework of the XB project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries* was presented at the workshop on *Managing Methane Emissions in the Gas Sector* held alongside the 6th Session of the Group of Experts (Geneva, 27 March) and submitted for public review, which is to last until 31 May (<http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/methane-management/activities/methane-management-in-extractive-industries/upstream-oil-and-gas-downstream-gas/unece-gmi-project.html>).
- (f) Activity E: Further engage, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition the coal industry in the ECE region
- Concept notes for two workshops on modernization of the energy sector were prepared.
 - A possibility of holding an event promoting the project on modernization of the energy sector is being discussed with Ukrainian Authorities and the organizers of the 3rd conference *Trends and Prospects for Coal Mining and Use in Ukraine and the World* that is to be held in Dnipro, Ukraine on 12-14 June.

- Opportunities for funding the project on modernization of the energy sector are being actively explored.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) A one-day workshop on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* co-organized by the Group of Experts on CMM and GMI, Ankara, Turkey, 10 June.
- (b) A one-day workshop on *Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization* co-organized by the Group of Experts on CMM and GMI, Dnipro, Ukraine, 13 June.
- (c) An event promoting the project on modernization of the energy sector, Ukraine (Kiev and Dnipro), 12-14 June

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Funding for the secretariat to service GoE on CMM and its Bureau.
- (b) Funding for organizing the events launching the project on modernization of the energy sector.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P3 (75%) and 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2018-2019](#) are being implemented. The Bureau met on 15 January and 21 February to review progress on implementation of the work plan and prepare for the [UNECE Resource Management Week 2019, including the EGRM tenth session \(29 April – 3 May\)](#). The Technical Advisory Group met on 8 January, 12 February and 26 March. All other EGRM sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) Six official documents have been submitted for the tenth session of EGRM, including the concept note on the design of the [United Nations Resource Management System \(UNRMS\)](#). Another three will be submitted shortly. These include a Concept note
- (c) Several workshops and side events are planned for the UNECE Resource Management Week. These include (i) Training on UNFC and UNRMS in cooperation with PETRAD (29 April); (ii) UNFC-African Mineral and Energy Classification and Management System meeting in cooperation with African Union Commission and African Minerals Development Centre (29-30 April); (iii) Workshop on UNFC and UNRMS: Tools for Managing Resources for Sustainable Development (29–30 April); (iv) Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group Meeting (29–30 April) and Renewable Energy Classification Working Group Meeting (30 April 2019). Several EGRM Working Groups will be organizing face-to-face meetings during the week. A special lunchtime lecture on *“Uberizing Energy - How Digital Technologies will Change the Competitive Landscape of the Energy Sector”* will be held on 2 May.
- (d) Work on the UNFC-related extrabudgetary projects is progressing and an update on both will be presented during the EGRM tenth session: (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 (funded by the Russian Federation), and; (ii) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (funded by the United Nations Development Account).
- (e) A side event on [UNFC-African Mineral and Energy Classification and Management System](#) was organized in cooperation with African Union Commission at the Fourth UN Environmental Assembly, 11-14 March, Nairobi, Kenya.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE Resource Management Week 2019, including the EGRM tenth session, Geneva, Switzerland, 29 April–3 May 2019

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRM, its Bureau (23 members) and 21 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%) and 1G6 (25%). EGRM and UNFC and UNRMS development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) continues to implement its work plan for 2018-2019.
- (b) The 6th session of GEG was held on 25-26 March in Geneva. The expert focused on the role of gas in attaining the SDGs; synergies between energy efficiency, gas and renewable energy; urban air quality; newly proposed pipelines; and new concepts such as renewable and decarbonized gases and hydrogen. The experts provided recommendations to ECE member States on how to manage gas economically and foster social development, inclusiveness and innovation (details available in the session's [report](#)).
- (c) The joint meeting of UNECE and the Oil and Gas Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative was held as part of the 6th session. Among other things, an update on UNECE project “Best Practice Guidelines for Methane Management in the Oil and Gas Sector” was presented.
- (d) On 27 March an [industry workshop](#) on methane emissions was organized jointly by UNECE, Marcogaz and Gas Infrastructure Europe. UNECE presented and opened for [public comments](#) the first draft of its best practice guidance for effective management of methane emissions along the gas value chain. The comment period closes on 31 May 2019.
- (e) The GEG Bureau met in person during GEG’s 6th session, to discuss its current work plan and brainstorm on the work plan for 2020-2021 and its participation in upcoming gas meetings and conferences.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Several meetings and conferences on natural gas, synergies with RE, LNG, and hydrogen

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out an expanded work plan and related capacity-building activities.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (15%), 1 P4 (100%), 1 P3 (20%), 1 G6 (25%) plus in-kind contributions by experts.

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) Workshop *United Smart Cities: Implementing Smart Sustainable Cities approaches worldwide* was organized in the framework of the Business for Smart Cities Expocongress jointly with UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit) on 29 January 2019 in Kiev: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50917>. Advisory services were provided to government bodies in Ukraine during the mission.
- (b) Final workshop under the project “Enhancing national capacities for development and implementation of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region” with the title *Outcomes of the UNECE project on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings - Fifth Meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings* was organized (jointly with UNDP Armenia) on 14-15 March 2019 in Yerevan: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51247>. The project materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/activities/energy-efficiency-in-buildings.html>. It will undergo evaluation in the next several months.
- (c) Regional Adviser participated with a keynote speech and a presentation at the World Smart Energy Summit on 26-27 March 2019 in Moscow. He coordinated presentations of several experts recommended by him to the Summit organizers who represent intergovernmental and expert bodies of CSE. <http://smartenergysummit.ru/en/>.
- (d) Information on past and planned meetings and events is now posted at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/regional-advisory-services/meetings-and-events.html>.
- (e) Under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”, contract are being finalized with consultants in Belarus, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan for developing draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP). The works is coordinated with ESCAP (co-implementing organization) for developing draft NSEAPs in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Preparations have started for the final validation workshop under the project to be held in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok.

2. Upcoming Events and Activities

- (a) Workshop on Energy Performance Buildings Standards, Tbilisi, 12 April 2019
- (b) Promoting Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Capacity Building Workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, Geneva, 15 May 2019
- (c) Training Workshop on housing management and energy efficiency in buildings. Promoting Sustainable Development Goals on Urban Development Housing and Land Management in the Republic of Belarus, Minsk, 21-23 May 2019.
- (d) Workshop Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries, Kiev, 27-28 May 2019.
- (e) Fifty-Third Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Baku, 20-21 June 2019.
- (f) Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Ensuring cooperation with SED colleagues in support of their activities.
- (b) Identification of synergies with other UNECE divisions and other international organizations to leverage limited resources.
- (c) Identification of additional extrabudgetary resources.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%), 1 G6 (30%).
