

Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

3rd Quarter 2019
(July to September 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) 3 September 2019: **Bureau meeting/call in preparation of the 28th Committee session.** The Bureau discussed parliamentary documents, objectives of the meeting and conclusions and recommendations. Discussion focus: funding situation of the sustainable energy subprogramme and Phase II of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project. Minutes will be provided as soon as possible and will be posted on the website.
- (b) 24 September 2019: **Workshop on the understanding of the role of natural gas in achieving the 2030 Agenda:** Experts came together in this workshop to discuss major topics in the renewable and gas world: i) The potential for natural gas to penetrate new markets; ii) the role of gas in sustainable energy; iii) natural gas and competing fuels; and iv) and natural gas supporting the uptake of renewable energy. Results of the project work will be reported to the forthcoming meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
- (c) 25-27 September 2019: **28th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva:** The Committee elected a new Bureau, exchanged views about the consequences of the ongoing energy transition for the region and on how to accelerate further and deepen the transition to sustainable energy systems. It discussed the project results of the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy it oversees, and which comes to an end on 31 October 2019, unless funding for further phases can be found. The high-level session was moderated by Sir Philip Lowe, former Director-General of Development, Director-General for Competition, and Director-General for Energy of the European Commission, and shed light on the subregional specificities of the region. The Committee approved all its documents and all the mandates and work plans of the six subsidiary bodies. The report (ECE/ENERGY/123) will be posted shortly and will be circulated to the Bureau as is tradition.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 8-9 October 2019: **Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development**, this time hosted by Thailand in Bangkok and organised at the auspices of the second UNESCAP Committee on Energy. The Chair, Mr Keinhorst, will be present, and bilateral meetings can be expected about future collaboration. Both Energy Committees share 14 overlapping countries, including France, Russian Federation and United States. The secretariat will be present and host a number of joint workshops with the other four regional commissions on UNDA, pathways to sustainable energy and gas.
- (b) 16 December 2019: Transitional report of the Chair to **UNECE's Executive Committee** on its activities since the last session. This time the report back will also comprise a number of funding proposals for future work, including for pathways to sustainable energy, international centres of excellence and China.
- (c) Q3/4 2019: First **Bureau meeting/call** of the new Bureau in order to discuss the implementation of the requests from the Committee. On the agenda: ways of working, nuclear energy and Phase II of the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy.
- (d) **The twenty-ninth Committee session will be held on 25-27 November 2020**, preceded by the meeting of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems. This meeting date coincides with Thanksgiving. The secretariat is therefore looking for a host country to organise the next Committee session outside Geneva, which would imply a change of dates. Georgia is currently investigating possibilities, including to host the Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. The Bureau will be kept informed of developments.

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" and related staffing.

4. Resources

70% P5, 1 XB resource at P3 level 10%, 1 G5.

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

1. Activities

- (a) The [Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency \(GEEE\) for 2018-2019](#) continues to be implemented.
- (b) Members of the GEEE and its Bureau participated in the 28th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 25-27 September 2019. Mandate of GEEE has been extended until 31 December 2021, the [Work Plan for 2020-2021](#) has been approved. The mandate of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region for 2020-2021 have also been extended, and Terms of Reference for 2020-2021 approved.
- (c) Preparations for the [6th session of GEEE](#), including Workshops on Industrial Energy Efficiency: Making better use of existing resources, on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, and Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” (to be held on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development) are on-going. Session documents are published online.
- (d) Publication [Progress in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Selected Countries of the UNECE Region](#) (ECE ENERGY SERIES No.59) has been issued.
- (e) Capacity-building activities in relation to energy efficiency, including Conference “[Economic Aspects of the Energy Efficiency of EU Countries. Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Industrial and Building Sectors](#)”, 9-10 July 2019, Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation) have been carried out by the Regional Adviser (see Regional Adviser section).

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - 7-8 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand: the 6th session of GEEE (in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development), including Workshops on Industrial Energy Efficiency: Making better use of existing resources, on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, and Final validation workshop under the project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”.
 - 23-24 October 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan: Baku International Energy Charter Forum “Enabling Energy Transformation through Technology and Policy Innovations”.
 - 21-22 November 2019, Yerevan, Armenia: Training Workshop on High Performance Buildings.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) The secretary of GEEE serves the Group *ad interim*. Recruitment process for the RB post (secretary of GEEE) is on hold due to the UN liquidity crisis.
- (b) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan for 2020-2021.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of GEEE.
- (d) Identification and prioritization of the areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (20%), 1 P3 (P4 vacant as of September 2019), 1 G5 (40%).

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (CES)

1. Activities

- (a) 15th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, 5-6 November 2019 (first session of the Group under its new name and widened mandate). All documents and information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/cleaner-electricity-systems/meetings-and-events/cleaner-electricity-systems/meeting/2019/15th-session-group-of-experts-on-cleaner-electricity-systems/docs.html>
- (b) Consultations with the Chairman of the Group of Experts and its Bureau were conducted.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas will be held on 26-27 March 2020; all information can be found here: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52737>. This meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
- (b) The Group agreed to lead three task forces for work to be carried out jointly with the other five Groups of Experts under the Committee on Sustainable Energy: i) financing guidelines for fossil infrastructure; ii) pathways towards net zero economies (aka decarbonisation; net carbon neutrality etc – to be defined in the process); and iii) digitalization.
- (c) The 16th session of the Group of Experts will be held adjacent to the Committee on Sustainable Energy 29th session and falls into the Thanksgiving Holiday period. The secretariat is investigating alternative options, one of which could be to hold this meeting together with the renewables and energy efficiency groups at the end of September 2020 or during the 11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, likely in Georgia in Q3/4 2020.

3. Main Challenges

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

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 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 continued the implementation of the Work Plan 2018-2019.
- (b) Members of the GERE and its Bureau actively participated in the 28th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and the workshop of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project, Geneva, 25-27 September 2019. Mandate of GERE has been extended until 31 December 2021, the [GERE Work Plan for 2020-2021](#) has been approved after approval by GERE by written procedure.
- (c) Preparations for the 6th session of GERE (to be held on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development) are on-going. Official documents for the session have been prepared and submitted on time.
- (d) Preparations of the two publications on “Hard Talks in ECE countries on how to increase renewable energy uptake” and on “Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment” have progressed with the issuing of two related parliamentary documents and the initial drafting of the two publications. The two publications will be submitted in Q4.
- (e) Preparatory work started to organize the final workshop of the Follow-up project to the Drina River Basin on 29 October in Belgrade. The workshop will consider nexus related aspects related to water and renewable energy development based on the key findings of the two Hard Talks held in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia.
- (f) Bureau and staff member participated and contributed to the following events:

Sustainable Energy Week, Geneva, 25-27 September:

- 25 September, Discussion with Groups of Experts;
- 27 September, Presentation by GERE of recent and current work as well as work plan 2020-2021;
- 27 September, Presentation at the Session on Gender and Energy

2. Upcoming Events

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

- 6th GERE session and 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;
- The fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (WGIWRM) under the Water Convention, Geneva 24 October 2019;
- “Action across sectors and borders for sustainable future of the Drina River Basin”, final workshop of the current Follow-up project, Belgrade, 29 October.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Resources (financial, human and in-kind) for activities under the Work Plan 2020-2021.
- (b) Possible impact of the UN Reform/ UNECE Budget on the SE Division and subsequently on the RE activities.
- (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 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) 2020-2021 work plan of the Group was approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session, 25-27 September, Geneva, Switzerland. Mandate of Group was also extended for two years until 2021 by Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session.
- (c) Preparations for 14th session of the Group (7-8 November, Geneva) are on-going. Official documents for session prepared and submitted. Agenda developed and speakers for session have been secured.
- (d) Activity A: Disseminate and Expand the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - Text of *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines* has been completed and presented to Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session. Document to be submitted for publication by year-end.
- (e) Activity B: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - Representatives of ICE-CMMs in Poland and in China participated in the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 7-8 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand.
 - A concept note for the project on coordination of activities of ICE-CMM in China and the Group of Experts has been developed and presented to the UNECE Programme Management Unit.
 - ICE-CMM in China agreed to be subject to due diligence procedure necessary for determining its eligibility to provide the secretariat with financial support through the project on coordination of activities of ICE-CMM in China and the Group of Experts. The procedure is ongoing.
 - ICE-CMM Poland is preparing a technical seminar within framework of the 26th International Science and Technology Conference “Natural Mining Hazards 2019”, 6-8 November 2019, Jaworze, Poland.
- (f) 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.
 - Final draft of *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Management in the Oil and Gas Sector; Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Mitigation* resented to Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session. Document to be submitted for publication before year-end.
- (g) 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
 - Project proposal on modernization of energy sector developed in cooperation with Boston University and other partners presented to Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session.
 - Proposal for funding of the project on modernization of the energy sector has been developed in cooperation with Boston University and submitted by the latter to a number of potential donors. Responses are expected in Q4 2019 and Q1 2020.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 14th annual session of the Group of Experts on CMM, Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 November 2019.
- (b) 15th annual session of the Group of Experts on CMM, Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 March 2020.
- (c) Global Methane Forum 2020, Geneva, Switzerland, 23-27 March 2020.

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.
- (c) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of the Group of Experts.
- (d) Lack of G staff servicing the Group.

4. Resources

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

Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2018-2019](#) continue to be implemented.
- (d) The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session (25-27 September): approved the EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021; approved renewal of the EGRM mandate for another five years to end-2024; endorsed the [Specifications for application of UNFC to solar energy](#) and the [Specifications for application of UNFC to wind energy](#).
- (e) The update of UNFC is progressing and the revised text will be published before year-end.
- (f) Publication on Redesigning the uranium resource pathway: Application of UNFC for planning and implementing sustainable uranium projects was [published](#).
- (g) A compilation of UNFC case studies has been prepared and will be published before year-end. The case studies on various resource projects from different countries demonstrate how UNFC could be applied to assure sustainable resource management.
- (h) The Bureau met on 29 July and 9 September to review progress on implementation of the work plan and to start preparations for the UNECE Resource Management Week 2020. The Technical Advisory Group met on 22 July and 27 August. All other EGRM sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email. A small sub-group has been established to develop the UN Resource Management System concept note – this group met in Geneva on 26 September 2019.
- (i) Work on the UNFC-related extrabudgetary projects is progressing and an update on both was presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: (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).
- (j) The Tyumen Oil and Gas Forum and UNECE jointly organized a workshop on “[Promotion of UNFC and UNRMS for expansion of investment potential of Central Asian and BRICS countries](#)”, in Tyumen, Russian Federation, 17-19 September. The workshop was the final event of the project in para (g)(i) above.
- (k) A Workshop on UNFC for sustainable management of nuclear fuel resources was organized during the Argentina Energy 2019, Mendoza, Argentina, 20–22 August 2019.
- (l) A Workshop on UNFC-UNRMS was organized jointly by the Ministry of Natural Resources and EGRM, Beijing, China, 31 August 2019.
- (m) Work has started to prepare a digital application of UNFC.
- (n) Establishment of a network of women in resource management is progressing.
- (o) Criteria for who qualifies to be an International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) and Terms of Reference for ICE-SRM are under review by EGRM Bureau.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE, ESM Foundation and EIT Raw Materials Workshop “[Towards an integrated sustainable resource management](#)” during World Resources Forum 2019, Geneva, Switzerland, 23 October 2019
- (b) UNECE, CCOP, PTTEP, SCG and PETRAD [Workshop](#) "Application of UNFC for Resource Classification and Management", Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5-6 November 2019
- (c) [3rd EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base Event](#), Brussels, Belgium, 21 November 2019

- (d) [UNECE Resource Management Week 2020](#) “The role of resource management in attaining the SDGs”, 20-24 April 2020, Palais des Nations, Geneva, including the 11th EGRM session.
- 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.
 - (c) No G staff support effective 1 September 2019.
- 4. Resources

1 P5 (40%). 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, with a focus on methane management, decarbonization and synergies between natural gas and renewable energy.
- (b) “[Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Management in the Oil and Gas Sector](#)” has been finalized.
- (c) GEG finalized its work plan for 2020-2021 and got it approved by CSE.
- (d) GEG participated in the 28th session of CSE and contributed to the discussion on the responsible use of natural resources needed to move towards a low-carbon society.
- (e) GEG was active in evaluating the x-b project: “Deep-dive on Gas - Role of Natural Gas in Achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement” by providing comments to key findings, outcomes and recommendations of the project.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 26-27 March 2020 – 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas
- (b) 23-25 March 2020 - Global Methane Forum

3. Main Challenges

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 on Energy Efficiency in Industrial and Buildings Sectors in the framework of the Conference Economic Aspects of the Energy Efficiency of EU Countries was co-organized with Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University (NNSTU) on 9-10 July 2019 in Nizhny Novgorod (50 participants, including from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Uzbekistan). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51973>.
- (b) The extrabudgetary project “Enhancing national capacities for development and implementation of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region” has been completed. The project materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/activities/energy-efficiency-in-buildings.html>. Evaluation report is available at: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/05-SustainableEnergy/Evaluation_Report_E282.pdf.
- (c) Under the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”, draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP) have been developed for Georgia and Kyrgyzstan and is in the final stages of development for Belarus. The works is coordinated with ESCAP (co-implementing organization) for developing draft NSEAPs in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Advisory mission under the project was held in Bishkek. Preparations are on-going 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. The project is being evaluated by an evaluation consultant. Project materials are available at: <https://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/pmt/regular-budget/1617x-sustainable-energy-for-all-se4all-in-eastern-europe-the-caucasus-and-central-asia.html>.
- (d) Regional Adviser reported on regional advisory services in sustainable energy at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva on 25-27 September 2019.
- (e) Information on past and planned meetings and events is posted at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/regional-advisory-services/meetings-and-events.html>.

2. Upcoming Events and Activities

- (a) 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.
- (b) Training Workshop on High Performance Buildings, Yerevan, 21-22 November 2019.
- (c) Advisory mission to Albania and Energy Charter Ministerial Conference “Facilitating Investment in Renewables, Diversification and Efficiency”, Tirana, 10-11 December 2019.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Liquidity crisis at the UN, which led to cancellation of one activity and reduced number of participants at three other capacity-building activities.
- (b) Ensuring cooperation with SED colleagues in support of their activities.
- (c) Identification of synergies with other UNECE divisions and other international organizations to leverage limited resources.
- (d) Identification of additional extrabudgetary resources.

4. Resources

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