



Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Quarterly Report

4th Quarter 2019
(October to December 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) 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, presented the Committee's work and discussed collaboration between the energy committees. The secretariat was present and organised a number of joint workshops with the other four regional commissions on UNDA, pathways to sustainable energy and gas.
- (b) 31 October 2019: end of Pathways to Sustainable Energy project phase I. Project findings are being put together in a project report to be printed in Q1 2020. A presentation containing process and findings can be found on the Committee's website here:
<https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/meetings-and-events/committee-on-sustainable-energy/committee-on-sustainable-energy/2019/28th-session-of-the-committee-on-sustainable-energy/docs.html>
- (c) 16 December 2019: **First call of the new Bureau**. The Bureau discussed expectations after the 28th session of the Committee, projects in the pipeline for funding, the second phase of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy and approaches to decarbonisation/a net zero carbon society. Minutes will be provided as soon as possible and will be posted on the website. The next call will be held in January 2020.
- (d) 16 December 2019: Traditional report of the Chair to **UNECE's Executive Committee** on the Committee's activities since the last session. This time the report back included the request for the programme of work of the Committee for 2020 and the mandates and work plans for all six expert groups. The Executive Committee approved all of the Committee's requests. The Chair's summary and all documents are on the website of the Executive Committee and have been circulated to the Bureau.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) **The 29th 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. The Bureau will be kept informed of developments.
- (b) **11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Energy**, likely to be held in Georgia in Q3 2020. A date has not yet been fixed. It will be an opportunity to hold meetings of the Groups of Experts and its network. 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 2020-2021](#) is being implemented as approved by the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 28th session (Geneva, 25-27 September 2019).
- (b) Members of GEEE and its Bureau participated in the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019), which hosted the [6th session of GEEE](#), including workshops “Industrial Energy Efficiency: Making better use of existing resources”, “Energy Efficiency in Buildings”, and “National Sustainable Energy Action Plans – from Commitments to Actions” (Final workshop of the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”). Session documents, including the Report, are posted online.
- (c) In the framework of the Forum, the [GEEE Bureau](#) meeting was also held on 8 October 2019 to discuss the next steps in advancing the agenda of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency of GEEE, as well as practical steps for implementation of the GEEE Work Plan for 2020-2021.
- (d) On 24 October 2019, at the session “Promoting energy efficiency – sharing best practices and lessons learnt” of the Baku International Energy Charter Forum “Enabling Energy Transformation through Technology and Policy Innovations” (23-24 October 2019, Baku), the UNECE Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency was introduced by its Co-Chair in the presentation entitled “Overcoming Barriers to Investing in Industrial Energy Efficiency”.
- (e) The training [Workshop on High Performance Buildings](#) – a joint UNECE-UNDP capacity-building event under the auspices of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings – was organised by the Regional Adviser on 21-22 November 2019 in Yerevan (see Regional Adviser section).
- (f) Publication entitled “Promoting Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies to Enhance Energy Efficiency in Buildings” (ECE Energy Series No.60) is being prepared; the [advance version](#) is posted on the website.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events where work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - Q3/Q4 2020, Tbilisi (date and place are not yet fixed): the 7th session of GEEE (in the framework of the Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development).
 - 25-27 November 2020, during the meetings of the 29th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) The secretary of GEEE serves the Group *ad interim*. Recruitment process for the P4 RB post (secretary of GEEE) is on hold due to the liquidity situation of the United Nations.
- (b) Identification of financial and in-kind resources for activities under the Work Plan for 2020-2021.
- (c) Broader participation of the UNECE member States in the activities of GEEE.
- (d) Identification of the areas for cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 D1 (15%), 1 P5 (20%), 1 P3 (P4 vacant as of December 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 concluded the implementation of the Work Plan 2018-2019 and reflected its implementation in the internal reporting system (IMDIS).
- (b) GERE started preparatory activities for the implementation of the [GERE Work Plan for 2020-2021](#), following the endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the extension of mandate until 31 December 2021.
- (c) Organization of the 6th session of GERE on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development). Official documents for the session have been prepared and submitted on time. 102 registered participants.
- (d) 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 been finalized and submitted for editing and reproduction. Advanced versions of the two reports are posted at: <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-publications.html>.
- (e) The final workshop of the Follow-up project to the Drina River Basin was organized on 29 October in Belgrade. The workshop considered 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:
 - 7-8 October, Bangkok, Thailand, 6th GERE session and 10th IFESD;
 - 29 October, Belgrade, Serbia, final workshop of the Follow-up project to the Drina River Basin;

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Renewable energy discussions within the 7th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas (26 - 27 March 2020), Salle XVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Sessions related to the application of UNFC to renewable energy technologies within the UNECE Resource Management Week 2020 - The role of resource management in attaining the SDGs (20 - 24 April 2020), including 11th Session of the Expert Group on Resource Management, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

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) 15th annual session of the Group of Experts on CMM, Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 March 2020.
- (b) 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 events to launch 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. The EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021 was approved by the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting on 16 December as was the extension of the mandate of EGRM to end-2024.
- (b) The UNFC Update 2019 has been finalized and is available on the [UNFC Documents web page](#).
- (c) Publication comprising a compilation of UNFC case studies has been finalized and is currently being prepared for publication. The case studies on various resource projects from different countries demonstrate how UNFC could be applied to assure sustainable resource management.
- (d) The Bureau met on 7 November to review progress on implementation of the work plan, to start preparations for the UNECE Resource Management Week 2020 and to discuss the UNFC Update 2019 draft text and areas of non-consensus. The Technical Advisory Group met on 29 October and 4 December. 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.
- (e) The UNFC-related extrabudgetary project on [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) reached its completion date on 31 December.
- (f) Interest from countries and companies is growing in preparing digital solutions for UNFC and examples will be presented at the 2020 Resource Management Week.
- (g) Establishment of a network of women in resource management is progressing.
- (h) 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.
- (i) UNECE, ESM Foundation and EIT Raw Materials Workshop “[Towards an integrated sustainable resource management](#)” was held during the World Resources Forum 2019, Geneva, Switzerland, 23 October 2019
- (j) UNECE, CCOP, PTTEP, SCG and PETRAD [Workshop](#) "Application of UNFC for Resource Classification and Management" was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5-6 November 2019
- (k) UNFC was discussed and reviewed at the Ministry of Energy Conference on Implementation of international standards for resource management in Kazakhstan, Aktau, Kazakhstan, 14–15 November 2019
- (l) The [3rd EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base Event](#) was organized as part of EU Raw Materials Week in Brussels, Belgium, 21 November 2019. A press release “[UN Framework Classification helps EU to manage raw materials for batteries and shift to circular economy](#)” was issued on 17 December.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Application of UNFC to Geothermal and results of joint deployment project of UNECE, IGA, IRENA and World Bank will be presented at the Global Geothermal Alliance Meeting during IRENA’s Annual Assembly, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 12 January 2020
- (b) UNFC mineral case studies to be discussed with Nordic Mining in Oslo, Norway on 7 January 2020
- (c) UNFC will be presented at the 34th Nordic Geological Winter Meeting, Oslo, Norway, 8–10 January 2020

- (d) Application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources will be presented at the MINEA Scientific Conference, Bologna, Italy, 20–21 February 2020
 - (e) [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 (currently 40% of a P5) 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) continued to implement its work plan for 2018-2019, with a focus on methane management, decarbonization and synergies between natural gas and renewable energy.
- (b) GEG and its Bureau started preparation of its 7th session. The focus will be on gas and SDGs, decarbonization and supply and demand for LNG.
- (c) GEG started, in collaboration with the World Energy Council, preparation of an Innovation Forum focused on the regulatory challenges of hydrogen in the energy system.
- (d) GEG Chair participated in COP25.
- (e) GEG organized a workshop and gas and SDGs at the 10th Annual Forum on Energy for SD.
- (f) GEG started the process on a new extrabudgetary project on gas in transport to be funded by the Russian Federation. The project will be presented to the UNECE Executive Committee in early 2020.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 26-27 March 2020 – 7th session of the Group of Experts on Gas
- (b) 25 March – Hydrogen Innovation Forum
- (c) 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) Final validation workshop “National Sustainable Energy Action Plans – from Commitments to Actions” under the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” was held in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Bangkok, 7-8 October 2019). Workshop materials are posted at the project website <http://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/pmt/regular-budget/1617x-sustainable-energy-for-all-se4all-in-eastern-europe-the-caucasus-and-central-asia.html> and at the websites of the Forum <https://www.unescap.org/events/10th-international-forum-energy-sustainable-development> (Session 7) and the 6th session of GEEE <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51065>.
- (b) At the Forum, Regional Adviser contributed to the workshops “Industrial Energy Efficiency: Making better use of existing resources” and “Energy Efficiency in Buildings” (both in the framework of the 6th session of GEEE) and workshop “Sustainable Energy and Gender Empowerment” (lead organizer – ESCWA).
- (c) The Training Workshop on High Performance Buildings was organized jointly with UNDP Armenia under the auspices of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings on 21-22 November 2019 in Yerevan in partnership with International Passive House Association (iPHA) and Passive House Institute with support of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia. Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52433>.
- (d) The UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” has been successfully completed. Draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP) have been developed for all five beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan). The final validation workshop was held in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development on 7-8 October 2019 in Bangkok (see (a) above). The evaluation report is close to being finalized (first and second drafts received and comments provided). 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>. Final project report will be available in January 2020.
- (e) Regional Adviser conducted advisory missions to Albania at the request of the National Agency on Natural Resources (AKBN) and to Georgia at the request of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in December 2019.
- (f) Information on capacity-building 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) Workshop on implementation of National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAPs), Bishkek, March 2020.
- (b) Capacity-building workshop on monitoring the implementation of EPR recommendations in cooperation with the UNECE Environment Division, Tbilisi, April 2020.
- (c) Capacity-building workshops on data solutions for evidence-based policy and stakeholder collaboration, Tbilisi and Yerevan, May-June 2020.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Continuing liquidity crisis at the UN, which led to postponement of one activity to 2020.
- (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%).