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Quarterly Report

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This document is an informal document submitted to the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to assist the Bureau in its oversight of activities under this sub-programme.

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Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)

1. Activities

- (a) 3-5 April 2017: **The Sustainable Energy for All Forum, New York**, saw the launch of the next edition of the World Bank's Global Tracking Framework, seeking to track progress on the implementation of the SE4All objectives. In a joint **panel discussion** called "**Global Tracking Framework 2017 - Deep Dive on the Findings**" the **five Regional Commissions** presented five regional profiles (<http://seforallforum.org/program> together with the World Bank and IEA. The session highlighted the contrasting stories of progress toward sustainable energy from different regions of the world prepared by the five organisations. Key messages of the five independent Regional Reports were further presented on 12 June at a panel discussions "**Tracking Progress in Sustainable Energy: GTF Regional Reports**" a part of the Eighth Forum. See materials online: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46095> The Regional Commissions continue the work on the regional chapters, publication of which is planned for Q4 2017.
- (b) 25-27 April 2017: The **UNECE Commission session**, preceded by the **Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**, was held, also celebrating UNECE's 70th anniversary. The sustainable subprogramme was involved on the topic regional collaboration and achieving the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. On 26 April 2017, the Chair participated in a **breakfast session** bringing together all the Chairs of UNECE's Committees. The objective of the informal meeting was to explore how the various Committees address the implementation of the SDGs and how they could better collaborate. The **framework guidelines on energy efficiency in buildings** were discussed in a **side event to the Commission session**, attracting policy makers and experts from the passive house community.
- (c) 11 May 2017: In collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute, the sustainable energy subprogramme organised the **fifth Geneva Energy Conversation** with the title "**The Future of Energy: Empowering the Consumer**". About 100 Geneva based energy experts gathered to discuss how new and emerging opportunities for energy consumers are disrupting utility markets, what role new technologies are playing in creating a new energy future and what we need to optimize these opportunities.
- (d) 30-31 May 2017: **Kick-off workshop of modelling agencies in the context of Pathways to Sustainable Energy** in Germany. Meeting between the UNECE project management and three modelling institutions IIASA, PNNL and Fraunhofer Institute. Discussion on the modelling approach, research questions, policy design and pathways, technology deep-dives, stakeholder engagement, and overall project implementation planning were held. Two further sessions on **14 June** followed: **(1) Project Kick-off and Scenario Scoping, and (2) and Technology Options to Achieve Sustainable Energy** in Astana during the Eighth Forum. See materials online: <https://www.unece.org/pathwaystose.html>
- (e) 11-14 June 2017: The **8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial**, this time hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana, was held under the auspices of EXPO 2017 "Future Energy." Participating ministers adopted a statement on 11 June 2017 and thus sent a signal about how to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy system. The Ministerial Statement contains seven voluntary actions, from establishing national sustainable energy action plans, developing internationally recognized minimum energy performance standards in all sectors, and advancing methods for public data collection and indicators on energy for sustainable development. Details can be found on the website here: <http://energyministerial.kz/>
- (f) 12 June 2017: The **Bureau** met in Astana in preparation of the 26th session of the Committee. Minutes are online. Major discussion points included a focus on carbon capture use and storage and the outcomes of the 8th Forum.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 26-28 September 2017: **26th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**, Geneva. Preparations are ongoing. The focus of the session will be on the role that the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies can play to accelerate delivery on energy for sustainable development. The provisional agenda and all supporting documents have been submitted and can be found on line here: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45864#/> Registration is open.

3. Main Challenges
 - (a) Staffing and recruitment.
 - (b) Attracting UNECE member countries to Committee meetings.

4. Resources

50% P5, 50% JPO (from Germany), 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 2016-2017.
- (b) Members of GEEE and its Bureau participated in the Ministerial Conference “Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development held on 11-14 June 2017 in Astana under the auspices of EXPO 2017 “Future Energy”. Energy efficiency was high on the agenda of the Energy Ministerial on 11 June as reflected in the adopted Ministerial Statement and of the Hard Talks plenary sessions of the Forum on 12 June. The website: <http://energyministerial.kz/>.
- (c) The following events were organized by UNECE and GEEE in cooperation with other partners under Track II Energy Efficiency of the Forum: workshop Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Framework Guidelines on 12 June; workshop Creating the Business Case for Energy Efficiency: Engaging Governments with Industry on 13 June; and workshop Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches on 14 June. GEEE members also participated in the workshop Aligning Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies on 12 June organized by IEA. The website: <http://www.unece.org/astana2017.html>.
- (d) A meeting of the GEEE Bureau was held on 14 June 2017 in Astana. Materials from the meeting are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/geee-bureau.html>.
- (e) Preparations continue for the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to be held on 31 October – 1 November 2017 in Geneva. Draft Work Plan for 2018-2019 has been developed and submitted to GEEE for consideration by written procedure.
- (f) A report on the joint UNECE/Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency study “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency” has been finalized and posted online. The website: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/images/GEEE/ReportOvercomingObstaclesPart1.pdf>.
- (g) Extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings” with two sources of funding (Denmark and Russian Federation) has been approved by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). The project is to be jointly implemented with Forests, Housing and Land Management Division starting from July 2017. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings is planned for 30 October back-to-back with the fourth session of GEEE. Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was presented at the Eighth Forum and will be submitted to the 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement.
- (h) Staff members participated in the following events:
 - The Sustainable Energy for All Forum, New York, 3-5 April 2017.
 - Conference Reducing Energy Poverty by Energy Efficiency Projects in Residential Buildings: The Case for Eastern Europe, Brussels, 24-25 April 2017.
 - International Passive House Conference, Vienna, 28-29 April 2017.
 - Fifth Geneva Energy Conversation, Geneva, 11 May 2017.
 - Energy Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, 11-14 June 2017.
 - Workshop Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Framework Guidelines, Astana, 12 June 2017.
 - Workshop Aligning Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies, Astana, 12 June 2017.
 - Workshop Creating the Business Case for Energy Efficiency: Engaging Governments with Industry, Astana, 13 June 2017.
 - Workshop Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches, Astana, 14 June 2017.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) List of events organized by UNECE or where UNECE work on energy efficiency will be presented:
 - 10th Tbilisi International Local Economic Development Forum, Tbilisi, 13-15 September 2017.

- 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-28 September 2017.
- First meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, Geneva, 30 October 2017.
- 4th session of GEEE, Geneva, 31 October – 1 November 2017.

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%), 1 G6 (20%).

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) Agenda for the 13th session drafted; invitation letters prepared.
- (c) The Bureau approved and finalized the Group's 2018–2019 work plan that will be submitted as a Committee document for endorsement at the Committee's September session.
- (d) On 13 June 2017 in Astana, as part of the 8th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, the Group of Experts on CEP organized a well-attended workshop on high efficiency low emissions (HELE) power plants.
- (e) Prepared first draft of the publication: Coordinated Operations of Flexible Coal and Renewable Energy Power Plants: Challenges and Opportunities.
- (f) CEP experts and the secretariat continue to work on a case study in sustainable electricity system development (PJM Interconnection, a regional transmission organization in the United States).

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) 13th session of CEP, Geneva, 26-27 October 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Encourage broader participation by UNECE member States in substantive activities of the Group.
- (b) Identify and secure the extrabudgetary resources needed to carry out the work plan and related capacity building activities.

4. Resources

1 P5 (10%), 1 P4 (50%), 1 G6 (25%), plus in-kind contribution by experts.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

1. Activities

- (a) The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) has continued the implementation of its Work Plan 2016-2017;
- (b) The Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Astana, Kazakhstan, 11-14 June 2017 – the Forum) devoted one track to renewable energy and several sessions under other tracks. Overall, 13 Forum sessions were focused on a wide range of renewable energy related issues, jointly organized by UNECE and other key international actors (e.g. UN Regional Commissions, UNITAR, IEA, IRENA, REN21, EU, and EBRD) and the active participation of experts from several UNECE countries, in particular from Central Asia and the Caucasus. More on the Forum and the Ministerial Conference at: <https://www.unece.org/astana2017.html#/>
- (c) A new edition of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 was prepared with REN21 and launched at the Forum in Astana on 12 June 2017. Data from the UNECE Renewable Energy Status report support the other GERE activities as well as contribute to the UNECE input to global tracking processes, in particular the Global Tracking Framework of the Sustainable Energy for All.
- (d) The report on the “Deployment of renewable energy: The water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus approach to support the Sustainable Development Goals” was presented at the Forum in Astana on 12 June. The report is focused on benefit of transboundary cooperation on water-energy nexus.
- (e) Specific Matchmaking sessions and bilateral meetings were organized by the UNECE and the EU Technical Assistance Facility at the Forum on 13-14 June 2017 in Astana. These activities intended to support the matching of project developers with investors, financial institutions and policy makers; follow-up to the work done at the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Third session of the Group of Experts (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2016).
- (f) A meeting of the GERE Bureau was held on 14 June 2017 in Astana. The Chair and other six Bureau members, as well as many GERE experts, actively participated in the Astana Forum. Relevant background document, draft Work Plan 2018-2019 and report are available at <https://www.unece.org/energy/welcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/gere-bureau.html>
- (g) A draft Work Plan 2018-2019 was prepared by the Chair and the Secretariat with inputs from Bureau members before and after the GERE Bureau call on 20 January, as well as before and after the GERE Bureau meeting on 14 June in Astana. The draft Work Plan endorsed by Bureau members was submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts by written procedure subject to a minimum comment period of 21 days, by 29 June 2017. No substantive changes or comments have been received.
- (h) Staff members actively participated in the following events:
 - Final workshop of Drina river Basin project organized by the Environment Division, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19-20 April 2017. The workshop discussed the assessment of the basin region towards participatory and cooperative actions in energy, water management and rural development for sustainable use of natural resources, including renewable energy, of the Drina River Basin.
 - Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in Central Asia organized by IRENA on 26 and 27 April 2017 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Based on a regional gap analysis study, the discussion allowed a feedback on each country’s needs and priorities in the development of the renewable energy sector. GERE platform and activities were presented in support to this process. Final consultation workshops - with a Communique and Action Plan – were organized in Astana within the 8th Forum and the Energy Ministerial.
 - Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. Astana. Kazakhstan, from 9 to 16 June 2017, co-organizing several renewable energy sessions in close cooperation with partners and donor organizations. Organization of a press conference on the launch of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017. Participation as speaker and/ or moderator in the following renewable energy sessions: (i) Findings of UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, 12 June; (ii) Regional Cooperation on Renewable Energy in Central Asia, 13 June; (iii) From Renewable Energy Pipeline Projects to Match-making, 13 June; (iv)

Match-making for Renewable Energy Investments, 14 June; (v) From Diesel Generators to Renewable Energy in the Context of Crisis, 14 June.

2. Upcoming Events

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

- Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, annual meeting, Geneva, 5-6 July 2017
- The twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-28 September 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Additional resources (financial and in-kind) for activities under the current and future Work Plans.
- (b) Broader participation by UNECE member States in the activities of this Group of Experts.
- (c) Identification and prioritization of the most promising areas to strengthen future activities and cooperation with other Groups of Experts.

4. Resources

1 P5 (20%), 1 P4, JPO (30%), 1 G5 (30%).

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

1. Activities

- (a) GoE on CMM continues to work on the deliverables prescribed in the 2016–2017 work plan.
- (b) The secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, developed a work plan for 2018–2019, which was reviewed by the Group through a written procedure. Comments received were incorporated and the final version was sent to the Committee for presentation at its 26th session.
- (c) Activity A: Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG)
 - Dissemination of the revised BPG has been actively pursued at events around the world.
 - The secretariat is working to translate the BPG into other languages.
- (d) Activity B: Disseminate BPG
 - A capacity building workshop was held in Katowice, Poland, 8 June (211 attendees).
 - Two 1.5-hour-long sessions on CMM were delivered at the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD), Astana, Kazakhstan, 11-14 June 2017.
 - An extrabudgetary project on *Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane* for 2018-2019 has been finalized with funds (USD 200,000) received from the donor, US EPA.
- (e) Activity C: Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE) on CMM
 - ICE-CMM in Katowice, Poland, was officially inaugurated in June 2017. Government representatives from Poland were present. The attendees represented 13 countries. A capacity building workshop delivered by UNECE experts was held back-to-back with the ICE opening.
 - In May 2017, an MoU on establishing ICE-CMM in China was signed between UNECE and Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd.
- (f) Activity D: Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of BPG in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
 - 7 presentations delivered at the workshop in Katowice and 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.
 - An extrabudgetary project on *Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas / Downstream Gas)* from July 2017 to December 2019 has been finalized with funds (USD 249,500) received from the donor, US EPA.
- (h) Cross-cutting issues
 - The secretariat together with representatives of all SED Group of Experts delivered a session on *Modernization of the energy sector – a pathway towards low-carbon energy and green economy* at the 8th IFESD (June 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan).

1. Upcoming Events

- (a) 12th Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, 24-25 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland, to include a joint UNECE and Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Sub-Committee event.
- (b) A one-day technical workshop (subject to be determined), 23 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.
- (c) Inaugural ceremony of the ICE-CMM, Tianjin, China, September 2017.

2. Main Challenges

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

3. Resources

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

Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)

1. Activities

- (a) Deliverables of the [work plan for 2016–2017](#) are either completed or being worked on. The Bureau met on 6 April, 27 April and 7-8 June to review progress on implementation of the work plan, to oversee the EGRC 8th session (25–28 April 2017) and discuss the outcomes. The Technical Advisory Group met on 25 April and 29 June. All other EGRC sub-groups continued to meet and communicate by email.
- (b) The [UNECE Resource Classification Week “Beyond classification – managing resources sustainably”](#) was held 24–28 April, incorporating the EGRC eighth session. More than 200 experts from over 50 countries participated.
- IAEA and UNECE Joint Consultancy Meeting, 24–25 April: focussed on development of a report on best practices in the application of UNFC for planning and implementing uranium projects.
 - UNFC Anthropogenic Resources Working Group meeting organized by the European Union funded Mining the European Anthroposphere (MINEA) project.
 - [UNECE UNFC Workshop](#), 25 April. Over 125 experts participated.
 - Side event in the 67th Session of the Commission, 27 April on “Managing Resources Strategically: A Tool to attain the 2030 Agenda”.
 - [EGRC Eighth Session](#), 25–28 April: [meeting report](#) approved on 28 April.
 - UNECE and SPE Swiss Section Lecture “[Geothermal energy in Switzerland](#): overview on activities in research, industry projects and the new energy law”, Geneva, 26 April.
 - Associated meetings of EGRC Bureau and sub-groups, 24–25 April.

EGRC Eighth Session [highlights](#):

- Revision of UNFC: To reflect increasing applications, such as to renewable energy and other sectors, the new name United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) was adopted.
- Accommodating environmental and social considerations: Two draft guidance notes presented.
- UNFC, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate Change: the role of UNFC in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and combatting climate change was discussed. A working group will be set up to develop guidance notes and white papers.
- Guidance on Competent Person: Two guidance notes to (i) support application of UNFC [Evaluator Specifications](#) and (ii) [Competent Person requirements and options](#) for resources reporting were approved are now posted on the UNECE website.
- Adoption of UNFC for solid minerals in the Nordic countries: Draft guidance for UNFC for minerals in Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland) was presented.
- Adoption of UNFC in Africa: The African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) presented on the decision taken to apply UNFC as the continental resource management system, in line with the objectives of Africa Mining Vision (AMV).
- Bridging Documents: the draft Bridging Documents to the Chinese Petroleum Classification System and the China Mineral Reserves and Resources Classification System (CMRRCS) were presented. Both the documents were approved to be issued for public comment.
- Application of UNFC to renewable energy: the draft generic specifications for application of UNFC to bioenergy were approved to be issued for public comment.
- Application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources: the initial draft specification for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources were presented.
- Application of UNFC to nuclear fuel resources: a handbook of good practices for application of UNFC for uranium and thorium resource management is under development.
- Education and Outreach: UNFC continues to be presented at an event every week globally.
- Cooperation with other organizations: Increased cooperation with AMDC, IUGS, ISO, IAEA, IGU, IHA, EFG, EuroGeoSurveys, MINEA project, GeoERA project and IEF was presented.
- [EGRC Work Plan 2018-2019](#): EGRC agreed on its work plan for 2018-2019. Activities include extensive work in different resource sectors, some of which will require extrabudgetary funding.

- (c) [Draft Specifications for the application of UNFC for Bioenergy resources](#) was issued for public comments on 24 May for public comments for 60 days.
- (d) [Draft guidance for the application of UNFC for mineral resources](#) in Finland, Norway and Sweden was issued for public comments on 8 June. The comments will be open until 1 September.
- (e) [GKZ – UNECE Workshop, Moscow, 30–31 May 2017](#) on “The issues of expert evaluation of mineral reserves in the light of cooperation with international classifications” had the participation of more than 300 experts.
- (f) Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Astana, Kazakhstan, 11–14 June 2017 included two UNFC related workshops: (i) Assessment of Coal Mine Methane Resources using UNFC; and (ii) [Energy and materials from wastes: application of UNFC for sustainable management of anthropogenic resources](#). The application of UNFC for the management of currently undervalued CMM resources was discussed. UNFC was seen as an effective tool for management of waste to energy projects.
- (g) UNECE participated in the preparatory meeting of IAEA International Symposium on Uranium Raw Material for Nuclear Fuel Cycle (URAM-2018), Vienna, Austria, 7-8 May. The symposium will be held during 25–29 June 2018.
- (h) UNFC was presented at the IAEA Training Course on Uranium Resources in the Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 16–19 May 2017.
- (i) UNFC was presented at the Mining Forum 2017, Berlin 1-2 June. A transformation is foreseen in the mineral resources sector aided by innovative technologies. The role of UNFC as future facing management system in such a background was discussed.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) UNECE is organizing a session on UNFC and reserves and resources at the 22nd World Petroleum Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 July 2017
- (b) UNFC will be presented at the 3rd Meggen Raw Material Days, Lennestadt, Meggen, Germany, 14 September 2017
- (c) UNFC will be presented at China Mining 2017, Tianjin, China, 24-26 September 2017
- (d) IAEA-UNECE Interregional training course on unconventional uranium resource assessment, UNFC classification and reporting with particular emphasis on uranium as co- or by-product, Salta, Argentina, 13–17 November 2017

3. Main Challenges

- (a) Capability of secretariat to: service EGRC, its Bureau (21 members) and 18 sub-groups; respond to technical requests; organize workshops; update website; identify speakers for conferences.
- (b) Extrabudgetary funding urgently needed.

4. Resources

1 P5 (30%), 1 P4 (100% - temporary) and 1 G6 (30%). EGRC and UNFC development dependent on significant voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship).

Group of Experts on Gas (GEG)

1. Activities

- (a) The GEG Bureau held three conference calls in April, May and June, primarily to discuss the ongoing activities and agree the work plan for 2018-2019.
- (b) The 2018–2019 work plan finalized by the Bureau and shared with the whole Group for comments, as per the written procedure agreed at the 4th session.
- (c) On 12 June in Astana, as part of the 8th Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, GEG organized a round table on the role of gas in attaining SDGs. The roundtable stressed the role of gas in fighting poverty, hunger, climate change, improving water sanitation and heat, enabling economic and social development and job creation, and in accelerating the deployment of variable renewable energy sources.
- (d) On 15 May, the Chair and the secretary of GEG visited IGU secretariat and discussed a number of case studies and ongoing work in the context of the current and future work plans.
- (f) The secretariat continues to work on the Model Framework for Reducing Methane Emissions along the Gas Value Chain that will be presented and further discussed on 13 July at a workshop organized by GIE and Marcogaz.

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) A possible workshop on gas and SDGs, November 2017, location tbd
- (b) 5th Session of the Group of Experts on Gas, March 2018, Geneva

3. Main Challenges

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

4. Resources

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

Regional Adviser

1. Activities

- (a) **Advisory mission to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 26-29 April 2017.** Regional Adviser undertook mission to Dushanbe to discuss SED cooperation with Tajikistan Government and to support national sustainable energy policies to meet SDG 7.

Bilateral meetings were held with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Project Management Group for Energy under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies requested UNECE to provide technical advisory assistance to conduct Assessment of coal utilization potential in Tajikistan. The Regional Adviser was requested to formulate requirements necessary to prepare Coal Mine and Coal Utilization Plants Development Assessment, list of geological data necessary to perform various analyses to identify appropriate coal mining methods, and coal technical analysis necessary to identify coal utilization technology and mode of operation.

After discussions with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources it was recommended to continue to conduct policy and institutional reforms for the sector, aimed at: a) developing a legal and regulatory framework to outline the segments of energy sector which are not subject to privatization (most probably generation capacities of large HPP); b) restructuring the power engineering sector to improve transparency, efficiency and involvement of private sector participation to segments, which are subject for privatization (for example, power distribution companies); c) raising the level of electricity tariffs toward full cost recovery to ensure the development of power sector; d) diversifying energy resources (first of all through the development of wind power); and e) encouraging private sector participation.

- (b) **Advisory mission to Yerevan, Armenia and participation in Electric Power Council (EPC) the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) sessions of Working Groups in environmental protection, on energy efficiency and renewable energy, 16-18 May 2017.** During meetings at the Ministry of Energy Infrastructure and Natural Resources of Armenia there were discussions on SDG7 implementation in Armenia and mutual cooperation, status of the development of national action plan to meet SDG7, in particular on growth of renewable energy projects, rehabilitation of the substations, and construction of combined cycle gas turbines and development of the electricity market. It was recommended that the Ministry should continue to conduct policy and institutional reforms for the sector, aimed at SDG7: a) developing a legal and regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; b) developing a new model of electricity market to promote involvement of private sector participation; c) diversifying energy resources (first of all through the development of renewables and nuclear plant); and d) encouraging transboundary electricity trade with Iran and Georgia.

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. Current construction of small scale renewables is implemented mainly through grants from international institutes.

Staff member participated in the in the EPC CIS sessions of Working Groups in environmental protection, on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The sessions brought together government officials, researchers, private companies, international organizations (Eurelectric and UNDP), and experts. The sessions discussed the renewable energy, energy efficiency and waste materials utilization experiences in CIS countries. Staff member made a presentation on “Renewable energy market experience in western countries”. Staff member had meetings with a number of event participants.

- (c) **Capacity building activities:**

Under the framework of the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana Regional Adviser organized and conducted:

- Regional Workshop « Developing a Regional Renewable Energy Investment Pipeline ». The workshop was jointly organized by ESCWA and UNECE as an activity in the framework of implementation of the joint United Nations Development Account project “Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development”.

- Training to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection. The training was jointly organized by UNECE and ESCAP as an activity in the framework of implementation of the joint United Nations Development Account project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”.
- The 21st Session of the Working Group (WG) on Water, Energy and Environment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

2. Upcoming Events

- (a) Missions to Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.
- (b) Second training to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection.

3. Main Challenges

- (a) N/A.

4. Resources

1 P5 (100%).
