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Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-fifth session **AS ADOPTED ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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A. Introduction and attendance

1. The Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) held its twenty-fifth session in Geneva on 28–30 September 2016.
2. Over one hundred and thirty representatives from the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States participated: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and United States of America. Further, the following representatives from non-ECE member States attended: Islamic Republic of Iran and Sierra Leone.
3. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: UNEP-DTIE, UNDP Regional Office for Europe and CIS, International Labor Office (ILO), and International Sustainable Energy Organization (ISEO).
4. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions were in attendance: Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Moscow Petroleum Club, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Passive House Institute, UNEP DTU Partnership, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, Zoi Environment Network, The World Future Council, World Coal Association, “SEG” Civil Society Support Center NGO, Agency Supporting Humanity – Benin, Deutsche Unternehmensinitiative Energieeffizienz e.V. (DENEFF), Global CCS Institute, Institute Cadaster, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), North American Passive House Network, Serbian Association of Employers, Solar Impulse, and Rocky Mountain Institute, The Club of Rome.
5. Independent experts, representatives of academia and the private sector also attended, at the invitation of the secretariat.

I. Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/106 – Annotated provisional agenda.

6. The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), opened the meeting and presented the provisional agenda, which was adopted without any changes.
7. The Vice-Chair informed the Committee that the Chair, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany), would chair Items 6 to 12 of the provisional agenda.
8. The Committee agreed to consider recommendations and conclusions after each agenda item, followed by the adoption of the report of the Committee at the end of the twenty-fifth session.
9. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECE, Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the role that the Committee and its work could play. Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires countries to pursue concerted and accelerated action on sustainable energy in their national programmes in order to reconcile the world’s growing need for energy services with mitigating the impacts of energy resource development and use.

II. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

10. The Committee elected Mr. Ramazan Zhampiisov (Kazakhstan) and Mr. Jarad Daniels (United States) as Vice-Chairs until the end of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee. The term of office of the already-elected officials, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) as Chair and Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Sergio Garribba (Italy), Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation), Mrs. Jelena Simovic (Serbia), Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland), Mr. Yagshygeldi Kakaev (Turkmenistan), and Mr. Ihor Didenko (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairs was for two years from the date of their election until the end of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

11. The Committee underscored the desirability, for the sake of ensuring continuity of the Bureau, that not all officers be elected at the same time.

12. The Committee thanked the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies for their valuable contributions to the Bureau since the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, of which they remain members *ex officio*.

B. Policy Dialogues: Meeting the challenge of sustainable energy

III. Defining the gap to attain sustainable energy (agenda item 3)

13. The Committee explored what sustainable energy means for the ECE region and the possible pathways that exist based on a keynote presentation by Dr. Volker Krey from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He explored both the gap between current actions taken by governments and the sustainable development commitments they have made, and a second gap between their commitments and the ambition of limiting temperature rises to well below 2°C.

IV. Report on how the subsidiary bodies contribute to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2016/16 – Mapping of the sustainable energy subprogramme processes and activities that support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

14. Sustainable Development Goal 7 is most relevant for the work of the sustainable energy subprogramme as it is directly related to energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, but the Committee's work contributes directly or indirectly to all of the Sustainable Development Goals. The six subsidiary bodies presented the contributions of the expert groups to meeting the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and how the activities offer support in the implementation of 2030 Agenda. The Committee was further briefed on the activities undertaken by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies since its twenty-fourth session and the plans for the coming year.

15. In light of the discussion, the Committee endorsed the collaboration with the other United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank, the International Energy Agency, and the International Renewable Energy Agency on tracking progress towards attainment of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets and requested the secretariat to seek funding for the activities on an ongoing basis.

16. Further, the Committee acknowledged the important work of the six subsidiary bodies to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and the work

undertaken since the twenty-fourth session and requested further analysis on how the activities offer support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development at the national level.

17. With respect to the individual subsidiary bodies, the Committee:

(i) Expert Group on Resource Classification

18. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Expert Group on Resource Classification has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan for 2016–2017.

19. Noted with appreciation in particular the significant work that has been undertaken to broaden the application of UNFC-2009 to encompass renewable energy and requested the Expert Group on Resource Classification to consider changing the name of UNFC-2009 to reflect that it is for energy and mineral resources and not just for fossil energy.

20. Requested the Expert Group on Resource Classification to submit a draft Work Plan for the Expert Group for 2018–2019 at its twenty-sixth session (see also paragraphs 68-72 in this document).

(ii) Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

21. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2016-2017.

22. Requested the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels to submit a request for extension of its mandate and a draft Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2018-2019 at its twenty-sixth session.

23. Recognizing the central role of electricity in the process of reforming the energy system to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the importance of aligning producer and consumer efforts to achieve this reform, requested the secretariat to review the structure of subsidiary bodies with a view of confirming or securing that the Committee is well served with advice for its future activities, and report findings at its twenty-sixth session.

(iii) Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

24. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2016-2017.

25. Requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to submit a request for extension of its mandate and a draft Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2018-2019 at its twenty-sixth session.

26. Requested that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane make a proposal to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on expanding the mandate of the Group of Experts to encompass work on the transition of traditional mining companies to become integrated service companies and to explore the impact this transition might have on the contributions of the energy sector on sustainable development (see also paragraph 73 in this document).

(iv) Group of Experts on Gas

27. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Gas has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan

of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2016-2017 (see also paragraphs 74-76 in this document).

(v) Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

28. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2016-2017.

29. Requested the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to submit a request for extension of its mandate and a draft Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2018-2019 at its twenty-sixth session.

30. Recommended to use key findings from the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report and subsequent updates as a basis for promoting renewable energy projects, providing technical assistance and training programmes, and exploring the establishment of one or more sub-regional Centres of Excellence in collaboration with other partners in member States at their request and upon the availability of resources. These efforts will support member States to increase the uptake of renewable energy and support achieving the target of increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

31. Requested the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to assess constraints on renewables deployment, explore opportunities for their acceleration and share information on best practices for the deployment of renewable energy within future energy systems.

(vi) Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

32. Noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency has made since the twenty-fourth session on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016-2017.

33. Requested the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to submit a request for extension of its mandate and a draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018-2019 at its twenty-sixth session.

34. Requested the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to explore barriers that impede energy efficiency implementation, with particular focus on the industrial, residential, and service sectors.

35. Requested the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to assess existing national minimum energy performance standards and their application throughout the ECE region.

36. Requested the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy to deepen their collaboration on deploying renewable energy sources in conjunction with energy efficiency measures.

V. Energy and Environment in a green economy (agenda item 5)

37. This session, jointly organized by the ECE sustainable energy and environment subprogrammes, invited actors from both sectors to explore the water–energy–food–ecosystems nexus and the transition to a green economy in the pan European region. Mr. Graeme Maxton, Secretary General of the Club of Rome, highlighted the opportunities to achieve environmental goals while transitioning to a sustainable energy system and moving towards a green economy. Following this introduction, a multistakeholder panel addressed the need to capitalise on synergies across sectors within governments and within ECE especially in the nexus area. The session allowed the exchange of views on integrated approaches to policy making and collaboration.

38. The Committee appreciated the discussion and requested that future mandates and work plans for the subsidiary bodies give special attention to joint activities across sectors within governments and within ECE in addressing energy nexus issues, and to explore potential partnerships for enhanced capacity building and sharing of experiences and lesson learned.

VI. International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (agenda item 6)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy
ECE/ENERGY/2016/8 – Draft outcome document of the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
ECE/ENERGY/2016/9 – Concept note and draft outcome document of the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial

39. The Committee was informed of the preparations for the Seventh and Eighth International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development. The Committee welcomed and appreciated the preparatory efforts currently underway by host-countries Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and invited member States to disseminate broadly the information to potential participants.

40. The session provided an opportunity to discuss national action plans and holistic energy policy making, especially in the context of the role of fossil fuels in future sustainable energy systems and the impacts of the rapid decarbonisation required to meet the goals and targets.

41. Following the exchanges, the Committee discussed the impact of the two main documents (ECE/ENERGY/2016/8 and ECE/ENERGY/2016/9) and provided recommendations on their implementation.

42. In light of the discussion, the Committee:

43. Stressed the importance of developing concrete pathways and solutions towards sustainable energy in the ECE region at this time and continued the support of the project it mandated during the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions on Pathways to Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/2014/96 and ECE/ENERGY/2015/99).

44. Recommended to strengthen ECE's and the Committee's role as a neutral platform for policy and technology dialogues on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and to continue to collaborate with the other Regional Commissions for accelerated progress as it is being done through the international forum process.

45. Took note that member States support the initiative of Kazakhstan to host an energy ministerial that will be held back to back with the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (the Eighth Forum) at the opening of the EXPO-2017 "Future Energy" in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 11 June 2017.

46. Agreed to extend invitations to member States of five Regional Commissions for ministerial participation at the energy ministerial.

47. Took note of the draft outcome document of the Seventh Forum (ECE/ENERGY/2016/8) and of the concept note and draft outcome document of the Eighth Forum (ECE/ENERGY/2016/9) proposing to commit to concrete actions to accelerate achievement of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/ENERGY/99,

para. 87 to 89), with the idea that ministers would sign up to specific actions during the Eighth Forum.

48. Endorsed to conduct the country consultation process in preparation for the Eighth Forum and energy ministerial through an on-line consultation process involving the member States of all Regional Commissions to refine the outcome document of the Eighth Forum and energy ministerial (ECE/ENERGY/2016/9, Annex). Recommendations should focus on action-oriented implementation, in particular in relation to the regional application of the Global Tracking Framework as well as the sixty-seventh session of the ECE Commission in April 2017 and must involve the six subsidiary bodies, interested international organisations and stakeholders. Decided to seek comments from member States between 3 October and 31 December 2016 through aforementioned on-line consultation process.

49. Took note that the Committee on Housing and Land Management also expressed its support and interest to participate in the consultation process of document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9.

50. Decided not to close the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 30 September 2016 with the adoption of the report (ECE/ENERGY/107) but to adjourn the session with the objective to reconvene on 19 January 2017 to consider the draft outcome document for the ministerial meeting (ECE/ENERGY/2016/9) and to adopt the report of the twenty-fifth session.

51. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations of the second part of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19 January 2017 and to issue a revised version of document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9, Concept note and draft outcome document of the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial (ECE/ENERGY/2016/9.rev) no later than 10 days before the session. Requested that all parliamentary documents necessary for the session be translated into the official languages of the United Nations, and at a minimum the revised document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9.rev.

52. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 26-28 September 2017 in Geneva, including a draft agenda, draft report, all supporting documents for mandate and work plan approval of its six subsidiary bodies, the draft strategic framework for 2020-2021 and the draft proposal for the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018-2019.

53. Endorsed the collaboration with the other United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank, the International Energy Agency, and the International Renewable Energy Agency on the 2017 edition of the SE4All Global Tracking Framework and its follow-up activities. Mandated the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to carry out work on their relevant subject areas to support the efforts of the Global Tracking Framework, with a particular focus on indicators of progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

VII. Complexity and decision-making in conditions of uncertainty (agenda item 7)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy

54. The Committee appreciated the exploration on complex systems thinking and modelling and how this could be useful in understanding the complexity of energy systems and how these systems change, in order to address current and future policy challenges.

55. The Committee took note of the developments of the project it oversees called Pathways to Sustainable Energy and requested a report on the results for presentation at its twenty-sixth session.

VIII. Energy efficiency in the built environment (agenda item 8)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2016/5 – Energy efficiency standards in buildings – Concept note on the principles-based energy performance standard in buildings

56. A multi-stakeholder panel presented the Committee with a principles-based performance standard for energy efficiency in buildings that would provide guidance for national policy and building codes, for participants in the building delivery chain and across the building and community life cycle. The Committee discussed the paradigm shift needed to conceive, deliver, manage and retire buildings holistically and sustainably over their life cycles. The concept that was presented focused on the integration of whole buildings including systems and subsystems, integration of the buildings with the built environment within which they are located, and energy efficiency improvements that are not incremental but transformational.

57. The Committee supported the proposal to develop a principles-based performance standard in buildings and mandated the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management to work with the stakeholder community to develop the concept further, subject to available resources. The Committee further requested a progress report at its twenty-sixth session.

C. Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

IX. How can the Committee best respond to the needs of member States going forward? (agenda item 9)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2016/10 – Draft proposal for the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019

ECE/ENERGY/2016/11 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2017

ECE/ENERGY/2016/12 – Draft publication plan for 2018–2019

ECE/ENERGY/2016/13 – Budget and resourcing of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme

ECE/ENERGY/2016/14 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

ECE/ENERGY/2016/15 – Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

58. Following collective input by the Chairs of the Groups of Experts on opportunities for greater cooperation among the subsidiary bodies, the Committee discussed perspectives about how it could best respond to the needs to member States going forward.

59. In light of the discussion, the Committee:

60. Invited the Groups of Experts to meet regularly, possibly on a virtual basis, to discuss and develop a common understanding of and approach to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Further invited the Groups of Experts to help member States produce

transparent, timely, and accurate data for assessment of energy production, transportation, transformation, consumption and energy emissions.

61. Took note of the draft proposal for the programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018–2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/10), including the terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies (Annex IV) and requested the secretariat to incorporate comments made for consideration at the twenty-sixth session. Recommended to maintain the length of meetings at twelve sessions per biennium.

62. Further took note of the following reports: Budget and resourcing of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme (ECE/ENERGY/2016/13), Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy (ECE/ENERGY/2016/14) and Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (ECE/ENERGY/2016/15).

63. Endorsed the Provisional calendar of meetings for 2017 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/11) and the draft publication plan for 2018–2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/12) and recommended their submission to EXCOM for subsequent approval.

64. Invited governments and other organizations to provide financial and/or in-kind expert support to strengthen the implementation of its programme of work for 2016-2017.

65. Took note of the request by its Bureau to increase the participation of representatives and experts from the capitals of the ECE member States in its activities and meetings. In order to allow more targeted outreach and information flow in preparation for the second part of its twenty-fifth session and the twenty-sixth session in 2017, requested member States of the ECE and other participants of the meeting to provide expert contact points to the secretariat and requested the secretariat to implement this request.

X. Approval of documents (agenda item 10)

- Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2016/1 – Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2017
- ECE/ENERGY/2016/2 – Methane management in extractive industries - update
- ECE/ENERGY/2016/3 – Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009)
- ECE/ENERGY/2016/4 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources
- ECE/ENERGY/2016/5 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to geothermal energy resources
- ECE/ENERGY/2016/6 – Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2016/2 - Report of the Seventh Session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification
- ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2016/2 - Report of the Third Session of the Group of Experts on Gas

66. The Committee was presented with a range of additional documents to support the implementation of the previously mandated areas of work.

67. In the light of the discussion, the Committee:

(i) Expert Group on Resource Classification

68. Endorsed the following four documents: i) Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) (ECE/ENERGY/2016/3); ii) Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources (ECE/ENERGY/2016/4); iii) Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to geothermal energy resources (ECE/ENERGY/2016/5); and iv) Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage (ECE/ENERGY/2016/6).

69. Took note of the report of the Seventh Session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2016/2).

70. Endorsed the conclusion of the Expert Group on Resource Classification at its seventh session that an update of UNFC-2009 should be prepared for release, but not before 2018. Requested that the revised version of UNFC-2009 when issued be published in all United Nations languages to help implement ECOSOC Decision 2004/233.

71. Noting that an updated version of UNFC-2009 is included in the Publications Programme for 2016–2017 (item number 68/1879), endorsed the recommendation of the Expert Group on Resource Classification that this publication be issued instead as Case Studies on UNFC-2009. Further noting that the case studies will assist with global application of UNFC-2009, recommended that the publication be issued in all United Nations languages in support of ECOSOC Decision 2004/233.

72. Endorsed the extrabudgetary project proposal prepared by the Expert Group on Resource Classification to fund needed secretariat support and other activities such as outreach and dissemination to ensure full and proper continued development and deployment of UNFC-2009 and requested the Secretariat to seek funding for the project.

(ii) Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

73. Took note of the report on methane management in extractive industries – update (ECE/ENERGY/2016/2) and requested that the task force on methane management in extractive industries prepare a report based on its survey of current practices and a draft best practice guidance document on monitoring, measuring, recording, and reporting methane emissions for submission to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee.

(iii) Group of Experts on Gas

74. Took note of the report of the Third Session of the Group of Experts on Gas (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2016/2).

75. Endorsed the Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2017 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/1) and requested the Group of Experts on Gas to submit a draft Work Plan of the Expert Group for 2018–2019 at its twenty-sixth session.

76. Requested the secretariat to submit the Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2017 (ECE/ENERGY/2016/1) for subsequent approval by the Executive Committee.

XI. Any other business (agenda item 11)

77. The secretariat informed of the possibility to hold an exhibition about energy transformation in member States in the Palais des Nations from 16 to 27 January 2017 and invited member States to participate and contribute.

XII. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting (agenda item 12)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/107 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-fifth session

78. The Chair summarized the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee.

79. The Committee adopted the report of the first part of its twenty-fifth session as presented and subject to any necessary editing and formatting. [Decided that the resumed session on 19 January 2017 will conclude the consideration of items VI. and X. and that the relevant part of the report will be approved at the closure of the session.]¹

80. [The Committee adopted the final report in the second session of the twenty-fifth session on 19 January 2017, taking into account comments by member States through a public informal on-line consultation process concerning document ECE/ENERGY/2016/9.]

81. The twenty-fifth session was adjourned on 30 September 2016 at 12.35 hours.

¹ Added by the secretariat after the session for clarification.