



Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: From Targets to Action

Sixth sessions of the UNECE Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy

7-8 October 2019, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

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”

09:00-17:00, Tuesday, 8 October 2019

Summary of session

UNECE, jointly with UN ESCAP, is implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”. The goal of the project is to strengthen capacities of beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan) for the preparation of National Action Plans to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to energy. This final validation workshop reviewed all stages of the project and progress of the beneficiary countries in achieving the project objectives.

The first session *Transition to Sustainable Energy – Understanding Gaps and Analyzing Options* was chaired by Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Chair of the of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. UNECE Regional Adviser provided an overview of the project’s implementation and accomplishments. Representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan presented information on the progress in their countries in overcoming gaps in data collection and improving gathering and processing sustainable energy data. They emphasized a significant role played by the project in this process, confirmed the validity of recommendations developed for each country by the international consultant on energy statistics, and outlined remaining challenges. Further assistance from international organizations in overcoming these challenges is necessary. The presentations were followed by an open discussion with workshop participants.

The second session *Transition to Sustainable Energy – Developing Course of Action* was chaired by was chaired by Mr. Kostyantyn Gura, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy. Analysis of National Case Studies under the project was presented. This synthesis report gives an assessment of existing policies and practices in sustainable energy, focusing on existing regulatory and institutional frameworks and pointing out gaps and challenges that governments face in implementing these policies. It was followed by a presentation on Progress in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Selected Countries of the UNECE Region, which is based on UNECE publication under the same title and covers 11 countries of the region. The presentations were followed by panel discussion moderated by the Chair of the session. Panellists and participants representing Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Ukraine discussed what they consider the most significant gaps and barriers to sustainable energy development and what the country is doing to overcome them. Among the areas for improvement the following have been mentioned: legal framework, institutional capacity, behavioural change, energy tariffs, investment conditions, financial incentives, and sustainability component of international technical assistance. National consultants from the five beneficiary countries of the project presented draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAPs) developed in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. These documents can and should be used as an instrument for implementation of practical steps in transition to sustainable energy.

At the third session entitled *Pathways to Sustainable Energy*, the audience was informed on the modelling results and findings of the UNECE project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” which concern the subregions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The scenarios provided insights on the gaps towards achieving sustainable energy targets based on current strategies and ambitions in place. The panel discussion, in which representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, and Uzbekistan participated, focused on exploring the options and scenarios that are of relevance for these subregions. It was acknowledged that all technologies would have a role to play to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the climate goals, and that, with due regard to national economic circumstances and natural endowments, countries would pursue own pathways. The project was recognized as a vehicle for informed collaboration on sustainable energy.

At the closing of the workshop, possible future steps after the completion of the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” were discussed. They include: adoption of NSEAPs by Governments; Implementation of NSEAPs; support of NSEAP implementation by international organizations; development of NSEAPs by other countries; and making use of project results by other projects, strategies, programmes, and plans.