

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
10 September 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Sustainable Energy****Twenty-third session**

Geneva, 19–21 November 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-third session¹**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 19 November 2014**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.

A. High-level segment: Energy for Sustainable Development – Must reality conflict with ambition?

3. Introductory statement and keynote address.
4. High-level thematic discussions:
 - (a) How to redirect current trends;

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to either register online or complete the registration form posted to the website of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35130>) and transmit it to the ECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by e-mail (laurence.rotta@unece.org) or fax (+41 22 917 0038). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves, at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting, at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 72443 or 73728).



- (b) Securing affordable and sustainable energy: accelerating what works;
- (c) Reinforcing the links among natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable energy system.

B. General segment

- 5. How can energy efficiency uptake be accelerated?
- 6. From source to use: the role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future.
- 7. How can renewable energy help optimize energy systems?
- 8. Matters related to future work of the Committee.
- 9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/95 – Annotated provisional agenda.

1. The provisional agenda is based on decisions taken by the Committee at its twenty-second session (ECE/ENERGY/91) and on progress made since then in implementing the 2014–2015 programme of work. The provisional agenda, which was approved by the Committee Bureau at its meeting on 25 August 2014, is presented to the Committee for adoption.

2. Election of officers

2. The Committee will be invited to elect the chair and vice-chair(s) as appropriate.

A. High-level segment: Energy for Sustainable Development – Must reality conflict with ambition?

3. Introductory statement and keynote address

3. The Committee's activities are conceived with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4All) initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. Achieving these objectives is considered essential if the world is to succeed in moving towards cleaner energy systems. Meeting the imperatives of sustainable development and a low carbon economy requires managing energy transitions efficiently and effectively in collaboration with all stakeholders. A sustainable energy system integrates a variety of approaches and technologies to support the three pillars of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental.

4. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will introduce the high-level segment based on the theme of the twenty-third session of the Committee: *Energy for Sustainable Development – Must reality conflict with ambition?* Reference will be made to the contribution that the Committee and its subsidiary

bodies are making to the global debate on sustainable energy. Reference will further be made to the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet, Tunisia, organised jointly with the other United Nations regional commissions. Implementation of the outcomes will be discussed further under agenda item 8 on matters related to future work of the Committee.

5. A guest speaker will provide a keynote address in line with the theme of the twenty-third Committee session about reinventing energy and mobilizing stakeholders to prompt the needed changes with an outlook towards future sustainable energy systems.

4. High-level thematic discussions

6. The twenty-third session of the Committee aims to explore the ECE region's opportunities for redirecting itself to sustainable outcomes. Many good examples pave the way of countries' actions and the menu of successful options for policy makers grows larger. However, taking a closer look at progress, reality still conflicts with ambition.

7. Much more could be done to speed implementation of energy efficiency, the famous low-hanging fruit that is easy to do, pays for itself, and contributes to energy security, environment, quality of life, and economic well-being. It has multiple benefits, and yet it is not happening at expected scale. Why?

8. Despite growing experience with renewable energy policies and technologies, the quest for finding the optimum way of integrating renewable energy into energy systems continues. Done properly, renewable energy can take the lead role it deserves in the future energy system. How?

9. Natural gas has become the fuel of choice for many countries. Natural gas markets are influenced by many factors including policy, technology, environment and potentially increased supply from unconventional gas resources. While the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy presents an underused opportunity, there are challenges to reduce gas leakages, improve the contribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and enhance the use of gas as a transport fuel. Gas could smooth the transition to a sustainable energy future. What do member States consider are the priorities?

10. High-level panellists will present their views on trends and solutions and explore how the region can take an active role in shaping pathways towards cleaner energy systems and thus the direction of sustainable development and SE4All: Energy for Sustainable Development – Must reality conflict with ambition?

- (a) How to redirect current trends;
- (b) Securing affordable and sustainable energy: accelerating what works;
- (c) Reinforcing the links among natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency to achieve a sustainable energy system.

B. General segment

5. How can energy efficiency uptake be accelerated?

11. A panel comprised of thought leaders on energy efficiency and selected members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency will share experience of which measures to increase the uptake of energy efficiency have been successful and how to implement them.

12. The Chair of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency will report on Bureau work and the main developments from the first session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency dated 17-18 November 2014. The Committee will be invited to approve the Work Plan of the Group of Experts and to recommend endorsement to the Executive Committee of ECE (EXCOM).

6. From source to use: the role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2014/5 – Recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how carbon capture and storage in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

ECE/ENERGY/2014/6 – Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 to nuclear fuel resources.

13. Multistakeholder panels comprised of the Chairs of the Expert Groups on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, Coal Mine Methane, Gas, Resource Classification, the Gas Centre, and international experts will discuss aspects of a sustainable energy future with a particular look at the work of these groups dealing with fossil fuels: From source to use: the role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future. Discussions will include, but will not be limited to:

- (a) Resource management and energy sustainability;
- (b) Methane management to enhance economic growth, strengthen energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) Carbon capture and storage;
- (d) Gas as a transition fuel;
- (e) Unconventional fuel sources.

14. The Chairs of the Bureaux of the Experts Groups on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, Coal Mine Methane, Gas, Resource Classification, and the Gas Centre will report on Bureau work. The Groups of Experts will then consider the implementation of the respective work plans for discussion with the Committee. Focus will be given to the two documents listed under this item above. The Committee will further be invited to extend the Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification until the 2015-2016 Work Plan is approved.

7. How can renewable energy help optimize energy systems?

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2014/7 – Report on Renewable Energy in the ECE Region.

15. Renewable energy represents one way to reduce the carbon intensity of the energy sector, improve energy security, and encourage economic development. Renewables are progressively integrating into the global energy mix, yet there is much more to be done. Renewables still require enduring support. The overall policy framework for energy does not take proper account of externalities, leading to market failures.

16. A panel comprised of international thought leaders on renewable energy and selected members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will share views on how renewable energy can help optimise energy systems. The discussion will be based on a presentation of the status of renewable energy in the ECE region and include, but not be limited to, the role of gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy.

17. The Chair of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will report on Bureau work and the main developments from the first session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, dated 18–19 November 2014. The Committee will be invited to approve the Work Plan of the Group of Experts and to recommend endorsement to EXCOM.

8. Matters related to future work of the Committee

Documentation: ECE/EX/7 - Decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

ECE/ENERGY/2014/1 – Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

ECE/ENERGY/2014/2 – Update on regional advisory services;

ECE/ENERGY/2014/3 – Revised draft publication plan for 2014–2015;

ECE/ENERGY/2014/4 – Provisional calendar of meetings for 2015.

(a) Discussion on how the Committee and its subsidiary bodies can mobilize key stakeholders from all regions to obtain the objectives of the subprogramme. The Chairs of the Expert Groups are invited to provide their views on the impact and visibility of the work of the Committee. The discussion is to be seen in preparation of the next agenda item 8(b) on the cooperation and coordination with other organizations;

(b) Cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Committee will be invited to advise on ongoing cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry associations and the business community with a view to achieving synergies and complementarity of efforts and to avoid overlap and duplication;

(c) The Committee will be informed of the outcomes from the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet, Tunisia. The Committee will be asked to endorse the Joint Statement resulting from the event and recommend steps for its implementation.

(d) Update on regional advisory services. The Committee will be invited to advise on the proposed strategy of regional advisory services in the field of energy;

(e) Revised draft publication plan for 2014–2015. Taking into account recommendations made during the twenty-second session of the Committee, the revised draft publication plan is presented to the Committee for adoption;

(f) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2015. The provisional calendar of meetings for 2015, including dates of the next Committee session, will be presented. The Bureau of the Committee proposes an open-ended consultative meeting of the Committee be held on 27 and 28 May 2015 in Geneva. The meeting's objective is to review the status of the implementation of the programme of work and consult with

member States in preparation of the review of the mandates for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Therefore only member States will be invited to participate. Documents will be issued in English only. The Committee is requested to adopt the proposal.

(g) Other business. Member States may raise any other issues under this agenda item.

9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/96 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its twenty-third session.

(a) The Chair will summarize the major decisions, conclusions and recommendations taken by the Committee;

(b) Adoption of the report and close of the meeting. The Committee will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the Secretariat.

III. Provisional timetable

Wednesday, 19 November 2014

A. High-level segment

15.00-15.30	Item 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda. Item 2. Election of officers.
15.30-16.00	Item 3. Introductory statement and keynote address.
16.00-18.00	Item 4. High-level thematic discussions.
18.30-21.00	Geneva Energy Dialogues and networking

Thursday, 20 November 2014

B. General segment

10.00-13.00	Item 5. How can energy efficiency uptake be accelerated?
13.00-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00	Item 6. From source to use: The role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future.

Friday, 21 November 2014

10.00-13.00	Item 7. How can renewable energy help optimize energy systems?
13.00-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00.	Item 8. Matters related to the future work of the Committee. Item 9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.
