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Reaching sustainable energy in the UNECE region - Common understanding and critical uncertainties

Workshop

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Salle S1, 26 May 2015, 09:30-17:30

Second Geneva Energy Conversation

The Graduate Institute Geneva, 26 May 2015, 18:30-20:00

Agenda

How the global energy system will develop is one of today's big unknowns. As energy is both cause and solution to many global problems, a multitude of actors is exploring driving forces, critical uncertainties and unknowns with an influence on energy systems development.

***What do existing scenarios and studies tell us for the UNECE region?
How can the region attain its sustainable energy objectives?***

In this context, this first in a series of three workshops will focus on a common understanding of energy in the region, followed by a consultation about country strategies and needs: What would you like to know *now* that you do not? Which elements will have the biggest impact on a global energy future? What are possible disruptive elements? What do existing scenarios and modelling exercises tell us?

The workshop will facilitate exchanges among some twenty international energy experts and policy makers to explore current applied strategies and how changes in the future might change them. The brainstorming type event, based on interviews with participants before the workshop, is the basis for a UNECE-wide policy dialogue to further a more profound understanding of the interconnectivity of processes and systems, as it is necessary in the design of informed energy planning. Thus, this effort will also be a valuable contribution to UNECE's wider work on sustainable energy. The informal, moderated discussion will also examine the role that the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its expert groups can play in addition to and in partnership with other established players in the field. It will also set the stage for further consultations among member States on possible future activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. A second workshop on 2 September 2015 will help formulate and structure strategic aspects and determine further angles that need to be examined in the context of sustainable energy in the region.

The meeting is followed by the ***Geneva Energy Conversation: Scenarios for Sustainable Energy***. The event, which is organized jointly with The Graduate Institute of Geneva, will focus on scenarios for sustainable energy. International experts and selected members of the policy community will explore elements for solid scenario building, what scenarios can and cannot do and how to develop stories about possible energy futures. Reference will be made to existing models, instruments and results and panellists will be invited to share views about global energy challenges and stories on where the world is headed.

UNECE is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, providing analysis, policy advice and assistance to governments, in cooperation with other global players and key stakeholders, notably the business community. The region is comprised of countries of Western, Central, South-East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North America, Israel, and Turkey. While the region is technologically and economically advanced, it has at the same time huge economic, social, political, cultural, and energy diversity, and it plays a large role in the current and future global energy architecture.

Time	Agenda item
9:30-10:00	Setting the Scene and tour de table <i>Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division</i>
10:00-11:30	Global energy challenges: Where is the world headed? Introductory presentation Overview of results from preparatory phone calls with participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a common understanding of energy in the region • What would you like to know <i>now</i> that you do not? • Which elements will have the biggest impact on a global energy future? • What are possible disruptive elements?
11:30-12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00-13:00	UNECE regional energy strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do existing energy scenarios and modelling exercises tell us for the UNECE region? • Presentations on national energy strategies from the region and their relationship to or attainment of the goals of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) • Key risks and uncertainties to current national energy strategies
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-15:00	Discussion: What does sustainable energy mean, and how does that affect countries' strategic perspectives?
15:00-16:00	Discussion: How can the region attain its sustainable energy objectives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the goals? • What is a tolerable level of uncertainty for planning and informed decision making?
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30-17:30	Summary of results and report to the Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps and next workshop (2 September 2015).
17:30	CLOSE of the meeting. Transfer to the Graduate Institute Geneva Chemin Eugene-Rigot 2, Geneva <i>7 min walk from the Palais des Nations, alternative: Tram line 15, one stop.</i> <i>International experts and selected members of the policy community will explore elements for solid scenario building, what scenarios can and cannot do and how to develop stories about possible energy futures.</i> <i>The event is jointly organized with the Graduate Institute Geneva.</i> <i>The event is open to the public. Please register at cies@iheid.ch</i>
18:30-20:00	Geneva Energy Conversation: SCENARIOS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY Moderated and interactive discussion with the panel and the audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are scenarios developed? • What are the uses and limitations of scenarios? • Where might the world be headed? • How might the world respond to such stories? • What is next? Wrap up followed by networking with light refreshments (if funding can be found).