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Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy**First session**

Geneva, 18–19 November 2014

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015**Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2014–2015**

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) establishes the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy which is mandated to carry out concrete result-oriented activities that, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative of the Secretary-General, help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.
2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will focus on a) regulatory and policy dialogue and b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.
3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete activities

4. The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy propose to undertake the following activities:

A. Identification of the state of development of renewable energy sources in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of renewable energy sources to establish a baseline for further activities. This work will be conducted together with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of renewable energy in the ECE region; and

(b) Within the context of the review and if needed, conduct a survey of ECE member States on the national situation, plans, framework conditions, and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

(a) Literature review at regional level: Preliminary report based on existing data by November 2014; Substantive report on the Status of Renewable Energy in the Region with key partners by November 2015 subject to resource availability;

(b) Presentation of the results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: 2014-2015 Sessions.

B. Identification and support to those communities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region that have no access to energy.

Description: Upon request, the Group of Experts will assist member States to identify those communities that have no access to energy. The Group will further suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. The private sector could be asked to help to achieve that objective.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Map those communities in the ECE region that have no access to energy;

(b) Initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on supplying electricity and heat from renewable energy sources to those communities. Identify and contact stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from the private sector and academia;

(c) Draw up an Action plan for SE4ALL in the ECE Region in collaboration with the other groups of experts and the Committee and start implementation with the help of the private sector, academia, civil society, other international actors, so as to accelerate energy access for those communities ; and

(d) Identify, by means of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, potential policy measures and best practices to support the use and installation of renewable energy technologies in areas of the ECE region where there is no access to energy.

Deliverables:

(a) A map of communities without access to energy;

(b) An Action plan for SE4ALL in the ECE Region.

Timeline:

- (a) Preliminary overview of communities with no access to energy: November 2014; Mapping of communities: November 2015 subject to resource availability;
- (b) First Draft Action plan for SE4ALL in the ECE Region: February 2015;
- (c) Further development and implementation of the Action plan with the help of the private sector: on-going;
- (d) Matrix of policy measures/best practices to support the use and installation of renewable energy technologies in areas without access to energy: September 2015.

C. Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region on how to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy.

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States on how to significantly increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organisations including IRENA, IEA, and the World Bank.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Identify and contact main stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and work with them (for example through an interactive electronic exchange) to identify best practices on how to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy to be presented at the first meeting of the Group of Experts;
- (b) Produce a matrix of best practices and successful high-impact measures, also indicating the countries already implementing them so as to facilitate exchange of experiences between all experts in the region; and
- (c) Identify and disseminate best practices, high-impact measures and procedures for an energy transition towards significantly increasing use of renewable energy, with a view to establishing ECE standards for renewable energies in the long-term.

Deliverables:

- (a) A matrix of best practices, high-impact measures and countries implementing them;
- (b) Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for renewable energies in the long-term;
- (c) Report on best practices.

Timeline:

- (a) Present first version of the matrix with key action areas at the first formal meeting of the Group of Experts: November 2014;
- (b) Collect from countries and disseminate best practices and facilitate exchanges of experiences to improve/complete the matrix: from November 2014 onwards;
- (c) On that basis suggest best practices, high-impact measures and procedures for an energy transition towards significantly increasing use of renewable energy, and with

a view to proposing the development and establishment of ECE standards for renewable energies in the long-term: November 2014 – September 2015.

D. Further activities

5. Member States may further decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy within agreed mandates, including:

(a) In cooperation with IRENA, IEA, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank, and other relevant actors, conduct an analysis of the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technologies in the region, relative to energy production from fossil fuels;

(b) Identify main obstacles, benefits/drivers to attract investments in energy supply through renewable sources, including consideration of subsidies and energy pricing, and best practices which could be used as benchmark to overcome obstacles to renewable energy investments.

6. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to, and implemented in cooperation and coordination with, other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber subprogramme, the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme and the Statistics subprogramme.
