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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

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

Geneva, 24-25 September 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session**to be held in Geneva, starting at 10:00 hours on Thursday 24 September 2020^{1,2}**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Understanding renewable energy resource projects, portfolios and investments – applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources.
4. Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings – the role of renewable energy in high performance buildings.
5. Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase.
6. Achieving carbon neutrality on the pathway to sustainable energy.
7. Decarbonization that harnesses synergies between renewable energy (electricity and gas) while using gas infrastructure as the backbone of a low-carbon energy system.
8. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2020-2021.
9. Other business.

¹ The meeting will be held in close cooperation with the seventh session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, 22-23 September 2020, and in close cooperation with the Expert Group on Resource Management and the Groups of Experts on Gas.

² Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session either online (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54639>) or by e-mail (renewable.energy@un.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the entrance located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, to obtain a badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 75976 or 74140).



10. Dates of the next meeting.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2020/1 – Annotated provisional agenda.

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

2. Election of officers

The Bureau of the Group of Experts has the following members: Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan) as Chair, and Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Mr. Andrei Miniiankou (Belarus), Mr. Admir Softić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Mr. Tibor Fischer (Germany), Mr. Felice Cappelluti (Italy), Ms. Ainur Sospanova (Kazakhstan), Mr. Georgy Ermolenko (Russian Federation), Mr. Miloš Banjac (Serbia), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine), Mr. Paolo Frankl (International Energy Agency), Mr. Gurbuz Gonul (International Renewable Energy Agency), Ms. Rana Adib (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), and Ms. Michela Morese (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) as Vice-Chairs.

At its fifth session in 2018, the Group of Experts elected the representative of Azerbaijan as its chair and representatives of Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and invited representatives from the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to participate in the Bureau for two years. At its sixth session in 2019, the Group of Experts elected representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation, and Serbia as Vice-Chairs for two years.

The Group of Experts will be invited to elect members of the Bureau according to submitted nominations. Mr. Ramazanov is completing his term as Chair and wishes to continue on the Bureau as Vice-Chair. Ukraine has nominated Mr. Kostiantyn Gura for the position of Chair.

3. Understanding renewable energy resource projects, portfolios and investments – applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

This session will be led by the ECE Expert Group on Resource Management.

As per the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy work plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/9), the Group of Experts will cooperate with the Expert Group on Resource Management to enhance the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy resources. UNFC is applied at the level of projects and can be used to monitor portfolios and share information on energy investments. Importantly, each project is classified in terms of socio-economic viability, technical feasibility and the degree of confidence in resource estimates.

UNFC is now applicable to bioenergy, geothermal, solar and wind energy resources. Work to apply UNFC to hydro and marine energy resources is progressing. This session will provide an update on: (a) the latest progress in developing the universally applicable UNFC classification for energy; (b) new UNFC applications for governments, investors and industry; and, (c) challenges and barriers to application and how these can be overcome. Case studies will be presented that highlight the benefits of renewable energy resource

classification for governments, regulators, banks, investors, project developers, utilities and energy companies.

Participants are invited to consider and recommend how the two Groups could cooperate more closely to deliver on this important initiative and increase global awareness and uptake.

4. Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings - the role of renewable energy in high performance buildings

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4 – Updated Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

ECE/ENERGY/121 – Promoting Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies to Enhance Energy Efficiency in Buildings (ECE Energy Series No. 60)

This session will be held in cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and will explore the role of renewable energy in high performance buildings.

By way of background, the ECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings developed the ECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (the Framework Guidelines, ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4). In 2017, the parent Committees (the Committees on Sustainable Energy and on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (previously the Committee on Housing and Land Management) endorsed the Framework Guidelines. To deploy the Framework Guidelines, ECE launched its high-performance buildings initiative to accelerate the transformation of the world's building stock. The Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8) included review and update of the Framework Guidelines, as needed. The draft updated Framework Guidelines are presented in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4. Delegates are invited to consider and eventually endorse the updated Framework Guidelines.

In the course of 2017–2019, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and its Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings implemented several projects that were funded by the Governments of Denmark and the Russian Federation and by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC).

Delegates are further invited to discuss the activities and review the accomplishments of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and to recommend ways for further implementing its tasks that are set forth in the Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8, Annex). The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is, in particular, invited to see what concrete role it could play to raise awareness of the role of renewable energy in high performance buildings.

5. Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.3 – Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment

This session will be held in cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.

The role of micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment can become crucial in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase if they are provided with the necessary incentives. This can be one of the ways to restart MSMEs or even to create new ones when job opportunities are scarce.

A recent study on that issue, developed by ECE in the framework of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19

resurgence of the MSME sector”, includes: analysis of the environment that MSMEs face as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; best practices in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy that show how MSMEs may respond; measures that MSMEs can undertake in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment that would help them restore business confidence; and recommendations on creating enabling environment for MSMEs to facilitate an economic recovery that would be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. This study also served as a basis for development of an online training course.

Participants are invited to discuss the outcomes of this study, taking note of the best practices identified in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy relevant for post-COVID-19 recovery of MSMEs, and review the developed guidelines and recommendations.

6. Achieving carbon neutrality on the pathway to sustainable energy

Documentation: Extrabudgetary project on “Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” approved at the 109th ECE Executive Committee meeting on 17 February 2020³

This session will comprise two half-day workshops led by the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality established under the ECE Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems.

As per its work plan for 2021-2021, the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will assess opportunities for more sustainable and environmentally-friendly renewable energy through inter-sectoral synergies (nexus), in cooperation with relevant activities of other sub-programmes of ECE.

The Group of Experts is invited to consider how it can optimally contribute to and benefit from the ECE Project “Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” (Carbon Neutrality Project). The objective of the session is to define the carbon neutrality framework for the ECE region.

7. Decarbonization that harnesses synergies between renewable energy (electricity and gas) while using gas infrastructure as the backbone of a low-carbon energy system

This session will be held in cooperation with ECE Group of Experts on Gas.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee on Sustainable Energy reaffirmed that decarbonized and renewable gases (e.g. biogas and hydrogen) will continue to serve as an energy vector for the foreseeable future. With that in mind, the Committee requested the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to collaborate with the Group of Experts on Gas on developing policies that accelerate uptake of renewable by harnessing the gas infrastructure as the backbone of a low-carbon energy system.

The Group of Experts will discuss how the synergies between renewable electricity and decarbonized gases may lower the cost of achieving carbon neutrality. The delegates will hear about the interlinked model between electricity and gas and about latest developments in the transition towards a future hydrogen economy.

³ The document can be found on the meeting website under Informal Segment 2020/7 <https://www.unece.org/info/about-unece/executive-committee-excom/meetings/2020/109th-excom-meeting.html>

8. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2020-2021

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2019/9 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2020-2021

An update will be provided on progress made in implementation of the work plan for 2020-2021.

Under the work item “Exchange of experiences, good practices and multistakeholder dialogues on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy”, the Group of Experts is tasked to consider existing gaps between current status and targets of ECE countries to meet their renewable energy targets as well as of policy options to achieve sustainable energy in the future as facilitated by the flagship project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” overseen by the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

The ECE publication “Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment” (ECE/ENERGY/127, ECE Energy Series No. 63), including dissemination plans, will be presented. The publication was prepared jointly by the Group of Experts and the ECE Water Convention. Dissemination events are planned on 22 October 2020 during the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus-Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on 26 November 2020 during the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

As per the work item “Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources”, a project on “Transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to support achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7” is being implemented. The Group of Experts will be informed about the current project status and some preliminary project findings will be shared.

9. Other business

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

10. Dates of the next meeting

The eighth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 October 2021.

11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will subsequently be invited to adopt the conclusions and recommendations.

Where possible the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.