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**Meeting of the Bureau of the**

**Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)**

**17 June 2022 from 11:00 – 12:00 – Online**

***Report of the Meeting***

**Item 1. Chair’s welcome**

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, conveyed welcome remarks to the participants in the meeting held online.

**Item 2. Approval of the agenda**

1. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

**Item 3. GERE Work Plan 2022-2023 – ongoing implementation**

1. The Chair and the secretariat informed the Bureau about the implementation of the current Work Plan. The secretariat informed the Bureau on key activities under implementation in 2022 and those planned for next year. Overall, the secretariat informed that progress is moving forward with the implementation of the work plan. The main direction of the future work plan will maintain and make progress on the three pillars.
2. In addition, updates of the activities were provided. First, the REN21 report, which is an analysis done with REN21 for the 17 UNECE countries as well as Dena’s update on the status and perspectives of RE in the 56 UNECE countries. Both reports are in the last stages to be finalised. Second, a number of Hard Talks were held in 2021-2022, namely in Albania, Serbia, Georgia, and Moldova.
3. The Secretariat underlined that coordination with other countries and organisations is increasing. For example, cross country cooperation, cooperation with other UNECE divisions, particularly the Environment Division and the Water Convention, and with other Groups of Experts, such as the Energy Efficiency Group of Experts.
4. The Vice-Chair from Germany informed the Bureau of the ongoing work on the RE-Uptake project and expressed its hope on confirmation for a new UNECE project in late summer. The Secretariat informed Bureau members on a new project just approved by the Joint SDG Fund Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance project in Ukraine in cooperation with FAO and UNEP. This project is planning to organize a RE Hard Talk in Ukraine at the end of 2022 to focus on biofuel and biomass potential in Ukraine. FAO is the lead in this project. The Secretariat will facilitate the coordination between the FAO office and Michela Morese (GBEP).
5. The importance of Bioenergy was emphasized. Bioenergy is peaking in attention. Bureau members highlighted the need of GERE to continue to work on Bioenergy. The FAO/GBEP Vice-Chair expressed the willingness of GBEP to support in the forthcoming Hard Talk that will be organized with a focus on Bioenergy. Especially since Bioenergy creates not only electricity but also heat power, its importance is increasing. The possibility to also include DENA in the project has been mentioned. Dena has expertise in bioenergy and bioenergy is increasing in importance in Germany. Dena is working on a project with the Ukrainian government trying to develop a strategy for a new energy infrastructure in Ukraine after the war. Dena is leading the German Ukrainian partnership on energy. There will be a renewable energy hard talk in November, and it will also focus on bioenergy. The REN21 report also covers bioenergy. The report is currently under peer review, also covers the energy food water nexus. Opportunity to plan dedicated outreach or activities following the report, possible with specific countries to organise activities.

**Item 4. Organization of the 9th GERE annual session, Geneva, 6-7 October 2022.**

1. Provisional agenda
2. The secretariat informed Bureau members on the provisional agenda of the forthcoming 9th GERE annual session which is scheduled in Geneva on 6-7 October 2022. The secretariat noted that the annotated provisional agenda includes all topics of the current work plan and that will be touched upon in the annual session. The secretariat highlighted that it is important for the Bureau to find a topic that will be discussed in the annual session for 60 to 90 minutes that is relevant to member states. This focus topic with be held with a panel discussion, meaning that key speakers are invited to discuss and elaborate on the topic with a focus on what GERE can do in the future to support this area of work. On 5 October, a specific workshop/ joint event on digitalization and flexibility will bridge the session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (3-4 October) with the GERE session, within the Sustainable Energy Expert Week (3-7 October 2022).
3. Bureau members noted that another item to focus on could be to present and discuss the findings of the study of the REN21 report. The proposal to present the key findings and to call in experts for discussions in a panel has been stated. The secretariat mentioned that the session of the Committee on sustainable energy also provides an opportunity to show and discuss the findings of the reports.
4. The Chair noted that the topic of energy security and energy supply is crucial for Ukraine. The Chair emphasized that UNECE countries must reduce the dependence and the import of gas from Russia by increasing the uptake of renewable energy sources.
5. The Chair noted that he will share his proposals for the agenda via email in the next week.
6. The Chair asked Bureau members to provide their proposals to the provisional agenda until cob Friday, 24 June 2022.
7. Possible active participation of GERE Bureau members. Bureau members are invited to actively participate in the organization of the annual GERE session.
8. Election/ re-election of GERE Bureau members
9. The Chair expressed his interest to continue the role as Chair next year. Its nomination has been sent to the Secretariat.
10. The Chair asked Bureau members to solicit their nominations if they want to continue in their role for next term. Specifically, any member State can raise the nomination during the GERE session but the Chair asked to have formal nomination before the GERE session, by the first week of September, at least one month before the annual session.

**Item 5. DENA/ REN21 RE-Uptake project in the UNECE Region:**

1. REN21 and dena presented the main activities and outputs of the RE-Uptake project for UNECE countries. The project is active since 2018 and focuses on the organization of different dialogue formats to facilitate the exchange of best practices. The main idea of the project is to use the broad experience of the different member countries in introducing support measures for renewable energies and to accelerate market development. The project, among others, contains the following key outputs:
* REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022;
* dena Study on Perspectives for RE development;
* Four Hard Talks.
1. REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022
2. The Status report is a comprehensive analysis of the status quo, recent development and prespectives of renewable energy within 17 countries.
3. The aim is to launch the report by the end of July 2022.
4. REN21 asked Bureau members to review the report and send in comments in parallel to the on-going peer review. The link to the report has been provided: <https://www.ren21.net/shapetheUNECEreport>
5. Study on Status and Perspectives for RE development in the UNECE region
6. The study focuses on status and perspectives for renewable energy development in the UNECE whole region. Further, the report includes a detailed documentation of the outcomes of the four Hard Talks.
7. The study is currently in the final stage.
8. RE Multi-stakeholder Dialogues/ Hard Talks in 2021-2022
9. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the implementation of the Hard Talks. Four Hard Talks have been organized in Albania, Serbia, Georgia and Moldova.

**Item 6. UNECE RE-Uptake Renewable Energy Hard Talk in Moldova, 17 June 2022**

1. On behalf of the Chair, Gianluca Sambucini, informed the other Bureau members on the outcome and key recommendations raised during the RE Hard Talk dedicated to Moldova in June 2022.
2. The Hard Talk has been organized and implemented in close cooperation with state secretary on energy of Moldova, Mr. Costantin Borosan. The Hard Talk had about 50 participants. The focus of the discussions was on energy resilience and flexibility in Moldova. A key challenge that has been identified is that only seven people are dedicated to the work on energy in Moldova. Following the Hard Talk, a number of recommendations are being developed and will be sent to the state secretary of energy in Moldova and will then be shared with Bureau members and afterwards they will be shared with everybody. The mission in Moldova also included a technical visit to a bioenergy farm and photovoltaic plant.
3. The topic of bioenergy is also very important in Moldova. Biomass production is in deficit in Moldova. Thus, the area of bioenergy provides an opportunity where a lot is to be done and it gives the opportunity to make it an example also for other countries.

**Item 7. AOB**

1. The Chair closed the meeting expressing gratitude for the fruitful discussion and once again emphasized that Bureau has gathered the best experts in renewable energy from the UNECE region