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Committee on Sustainable Energy

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Item 11(a) of the provisional agenda

Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

Review of subprogramme performance and planning

Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2023

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2023. The Committee on Sustainable Energy (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes a logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’, and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent achievement of the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results, and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge.^{1*} This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation

* The ECE nexus areas are as follows: (1) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (4) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.



projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

I. Objective

5. The objective to which this subprogramme contributes is to ensure secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

II. Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division.

7. The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; develop and deploy ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and provide capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to ECE work on cross-sectoral collaboration areas, as described in paragraph 3, and to priorities related to the circular economy. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Further develop normative instruments (such as best practices and principles), awareness-raising campaigns and the deployment of ECE tools through workshops, seminars and technical projects to help member States meet their commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement with regard to reducing their environmental footprint related to energy, accelerating the deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development;

(b) Promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues;

(c) Provide technical assistance and guidance on energy transitions in the context of sustainable development, disseminate best practices and improve information-sharing;

(d) Promote collaboration among private and public stakeholders that are key to implementing national and regional policies, including with regard to normative instruments and their deployment and dissemination;

(e) Support member States on issues related to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through its regular work on sustainable energy.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) More effective integration of sustainable energy across national policies and normative frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Enhanced dialogue and cooperation among all energy actors to boost transformational investment in the energy sector and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries' sustainable development and climate commitments;

(c) Improved access of Member States to frameworks and tools required for integrated and sustainable resource management that aid the progress towards a more circular economy and contribute to the food-water-energy nexus (see ECE/ENERGY/30/2021/INF.1/Rev.1);

(d) The implementation of requests from ECE to the Committee on Sustainable Energy; and

(e) Improvement in the performance of buildings from a health perspective (e.g. temperatures, comfort, effective air intake and recycling filters), which will improve the protection and resilience of populations.

III. Planned results for 2023

A. Result 1: reduced carbon footprint and improved quality of life with high performance buildings

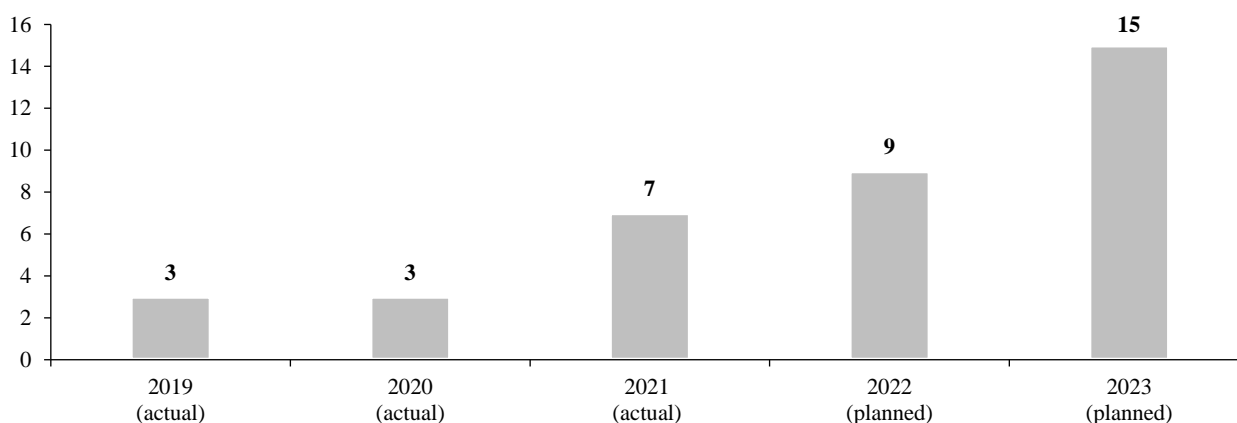
Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

9. The subprogramme's work contributed to the expansion of the network of international centres of excellence on high-performance buildings to a total of 7, which met the planned target.

10. The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure I).

Figure I

Performance measure: number of international centres of excellence disseminating the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (cumulative)



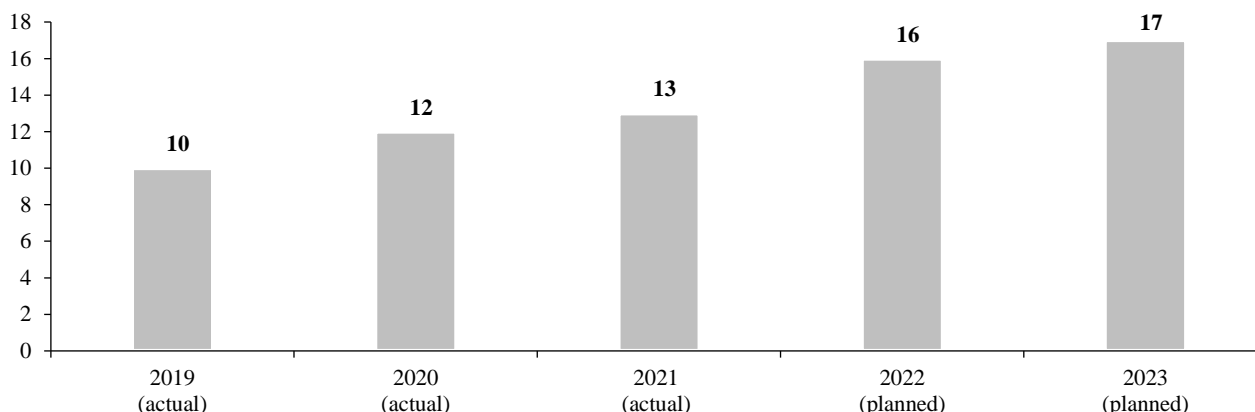
B. Result 2: managing gases to implement the 2030 Agenda

Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

11. The subprogramme's work contributed to 13 United Nations Member States applying ECE guidance on the management of gases, which did not meet the target of 14 Member States. The target was not met owing to delays or cancellations of planned activities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. The progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented below (see Figure II).

Figure II
Performance measure: number of Member States applying Economic Commission for Europe guidance to manage gases (CH₄, H₂ and CO₂)



C. Result 3: digitization of the energy sector as an enabler of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

Proposed programme plan for 2023

13. Digitization is a priority for the energy sector in areas that include energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable resource management, methane management and energy system coordination. Ongoing work by the subprogramme has identified digitization as a factor for transforming the energy system to sustainable outcomes. Digitization will enhance systems performance, improve the price elasticity of demand, track the use of materials for reuse, enable traceability and transparency and accelerate the transformation of energy to a service industry, all of which will enable the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources. Efficiency improvements are a priority for countries that have adopted plans to improve the performance of appliances, buildings, and networks. Grid-interactive efficient buildings and equipment illustrate how the coordination of sensors, smart devices and grid signals can improve energy efficiency.

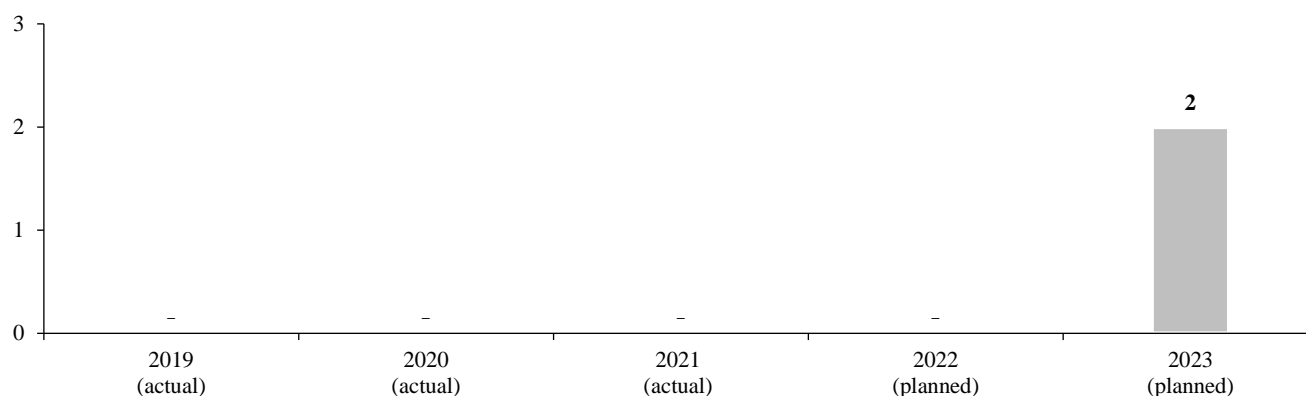
Lessons learned and planned change

14. The lesson learned for the subprogramme was that standards for the digitization of energy systems are needed to ensure the smooth interoperability and operation of an integrated energy system, the efficient coordination of renewable energy production and the improved delivery of energy services to end users. Digitization will impose key imperatives in access to data, data and systems security, big data management, cross-border flows and the development of interfaces among customers, service providers, regulators and policymakers. This in turn will have workforce implications, requiring policy responses related to industry, education, training and reskilling on issues of security in the use of information and communications technology, data protection and personal privacy, among other things.

15. In response, the subprogramme will develop recommendations on the application of digitization policies to ensure the coherent deployment of digital technologies to achieve tangible outcomes in resource development, use and recovery.

16. The expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see Figure III).

Figure III
Performance measure: number of member States applying Economic Commission for Europe recommendations on digitization by developing national case studies



IV. External factors

17. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective on the assumption that:

(a) Member States continue to guide ECE intergovernmental processes, support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development;

(b) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;

(c) Voluntary resources continue to be available.

V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2023

18. The Table lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for 2023 that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for 2023, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies	
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	45
1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies	45
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	38
2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies	38
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge	
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	9
3. On sustainable resource management	3
4. On reducing the environmental footprint of energy	1
5. On accelerating transformations of the energy sector	3
6. On supporting member States in securing sustainable energy	2

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	10
7. Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System	2
8. Seminars on energy-efficiency measures, accelerators and standards	2
9. Seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation	2
10. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development	4
C. Publications (number of publications)	2
11. on hydrogen, United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System	2
D. Communication deliverables	
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets on sustainable energy and related topics, for regional access.	
External and media relations: press releases, keynote speeches and articles on the activities of the energy subprogramme.	
Digital platforms and multimedia content: update and maintenance of subprogramme's website providing access to information and documents for regional and global audiences.	

Annex I

Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2023

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Publication title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic)</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>Number of pages</i>	<i>Original language</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>
Non-recurrent publications							
1	Towards a Hydrogen Economy – Experience from Eastern Europe and Central Asia	ECE/ENERGY/137	Electronic	A4	150	E	F, R (both RB)
2	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System: Enabling Resources as a Service Paradigm	ECE/ENERGY/137	Electronic	A4	150	E	F, R (both RB)

Annex II

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/290	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
69/277	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
66/288	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231, 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/235	Women in development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
75/8	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216 ; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
76/221	South-South cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (69)	High-level statement
B (69)	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
C (69)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

<i>General Assembly resolutions</i>	
69/225	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
70/213	Science, technology and innovation for development
72/224	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
<i>Economic and Social Council decisions</i>	
1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources
2011/222	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines
2021/249	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines
2021/250	Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources