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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Ninth session

Geneva, 6-7 October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session

to be held in Geneva, starting at 10:00 on Thursday, 6 October 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
5. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy.
6. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy
7. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems.
8. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023.
9. Other business.
10. Dates of the next meeting.
11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000464/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: renewable.energy@un.org. Delegates participating in person are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICCR) headquarters (see the map [here](#)) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/1 – 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.

Documents for the session will be published on the website as they become available.¹ A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

In view of the continuing restrictions to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this session will be conducted in hybrid mode with the possibility of online and physical participation.

2. Election of officers

The Group of Experts is invited to elect members of the Bureau.

At its eighth session in 2021, the Group of Experts elected a representative of Kyrgyzstan as Vice-Chair for two years and invited a representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as Vice-Chair for two years. During its seventh session in 2020, the Group of Experts elected for two years the representative of Ukraine as its Chair and representatives of Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Serbia as Vice-Chairs, 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)/Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) to participate in the Bureau for two years.

Following the request for additional nominations received prior to the ninth session, the Group of Experts will elect Bureau members that have been newly nominated to serve until the end of the eleventh session.

3. Opening remarks

The Chair will deliver opening remarks that will address activities and priorities of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy amongst other topics.

4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirtieth session, 22-24 September 2021, and thirty-first session, 21-23 September 2022, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE.

5. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 - key findings

Providing affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy remains a key challenge for the whole world, and the ECE region is no exception. While the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Europe and North America are united in their goal to accelerate the

¹ See: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/sustainable-energy/renewable-energy>

development and implementation of renewable energy projects, the status and progress of market development is not homogenous across the region.

Nearly all ECE countries have significant potential for the deployment of solar, wind, hydropower and/or bioenergy and other renewable energy technologies. Nonetheless, most countries are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with relatively smaller shares of renewables in their total final energy consumption. Although several countries show high renewable energy shares, these reflect either high shares of hydropower in electricity generation, the use of biomass in heating, or a combination of both – rather than extensive wind, solar or other renewable energy sources.

Between 2017 and 2021, several ECE countries had substantially increased the pace of adoption of renewable energy technologies. Their expansion mainly took place in the power sector, whereas progress in the transport sector as well as in the heating and cooling sector was slower.

These and other developments and current trends will be discussed in the context of the key findings of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022, highlighting bottlenecks and opportunities in selected countries of the ECE region. The International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), the German Energy Agency (dena) and other relevant organizations are invited to contribute directly or indirectly with their work to discussions on the progress made to develop renewable energy in the ECE region.

Taking into account key findings of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022, delegates will be invited to consider the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy and the subsequent needed policy options to increase renewable energy investments.

6. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/4 – Status and Perspectives for Renewable Energy in the ECE region

Delegates will be invited to exchange experiences, good practices and discuss key findings and implications for the Group of Experts and the ECE region.

The status of renewable energy and trends in the ECE region are considered in the RE-Uptake project implemented jointly by dena and REN21 in cooperation with the ECE secretariat and with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

Under the project, Renewable Energy Hard Talks were organized in 2021 and 2022 in Albania, Georgia, Serbia and the Republic of Moldova.² Through a multi-stakeholder dialogue, these Hard Talks served to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors, promote suitable market conditions and build capacities for the identification, development and promotion of renewable energy investments, and provide matchmaking activities to support renewable energy investments.

Delegates will be invited to share successful practices to develop and implement policies and measures to overcome political, legal, regulatory and technical barriers while taking advantage of untapped renewable energy potential. Delegates will also be invited to convey preliminary expressions of interest to organize Hard Talks in their countries.

² More info at <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/renewable-energy/unece-renewable-energy-hard-talks-unece-countries>

7. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/5 – Energy Transition and the Post-COVID-19 Socioeconomic recovery: Role of women and impact on them

The target of increasing renewable energy uptake for ECE countries requires an integrated approach and multi-stakeholder dialogue to achieve higher renewable energy shares within future energy systems. This comprises an improved understanding of renewable energy resource characteristics and availability as well as the strengthening of policy, institutional, normative and regulatory frameworks, including the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to Renewable Energy Projects and Resources.

Renewable energy plays a strong role in helping to achieve better management of resources within the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. The role of renewable energy in promoting the nexus approach will be specifically considered, as well as links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implications for climate change mitigation.

As per the High-level segment of the thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/142), delegates will be invited to consider the technical considerations and actions needed to build resilient energy systems in the ECE region to achieve greater energy security, affordability and environmental sustainability.

Delegates will be requested to present their experience and views on their efforts to substantially increase the uptake of renewable, including the interlinkages and synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels.

Delegates will then be invited to: (a) discuss how to scale-up green hydrogen production pathways through electrolysis from renewable energy and contribute to a regional hydrogen ecosystem; (b) consider an integrated and holistic approach in the deployment of renewable energy and to discuss the implementation of possible joint inter-sectoral work, including from the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus perspective, and taking into account the role of renewable energy in a decarbonized energy system; and (c) discuss the energy transition and the Post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery, with particular attention to the role of women in those process and the impact that they have on them.

8. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/12 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2022-2023

Since the end of 2014, the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has been implementing concrete activities to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts focuses on activities related to (a) regulatory and policy dialogue and (b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

The Group of Experts will assess the status of implementation of the Work Plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/12) and will be invited to elaborate on concrete steps towards implementation of the outstanding activities

9. Other business

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item. The Group of Experts may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the mandate of the Group of Experts. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Bureau members in advance of any issue(s) they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

10. Dates of the next meeting

The tenth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 11-12 September 2023. The Group of Experts confirmed its proposal from previous sessions that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.

11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its ninth session

Draft conclusions and recommendations arising from the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE-9/2022/INF.1) will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the session. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

The Chair of the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations and draft a report on the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion by delegates.

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on the prepared draft, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
