

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Thirty-first session

Geneva, 21-23 September 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Enabling a hydrogen ecosystem

Hydrogen Task Force - Terms of Reference

A draft for discussion

Objective

The Hydrogen Task Force (the Task Force) is an ad-hoc advisory sub-group of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee). It is tasked to coordinate activities on hydrogen across the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and undertake actions that promote hydrogen as a primary energy carrier (vector) of a future resilient and low-carbon energy system. Through its advocacy and technical work on hydrogen, the Task Force will work to leverage and deploy the expertise that exists across the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to accelerate the attainment of carbon neutrality, net-zero greenhouse (GHG) emissions, and other climate targets in the UNECE region, within the socio-economic framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Areas of Work

A number of the Committee's subsidiary bodies have been involved in hydrogen-related activities, both regular budget and extrabudgetary, most notably the Group of Experts on Gas (GEG), the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (GECES), the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), and the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM). Rather than creating a separate expert group that would involve additional resources to support (e.g., meeting support, interpretation), the Task Force engages with the existing groups of experts, with existing resources, to exchange knowledge and identify potential areas for cross-expert group collaboration, consolidate activities, coordinate the Committee's future work on hydrogen and advise the Committee thereon. Beginning in 20XX, the Task Force will undertake research to identify existing international initiatives on hydrogen in the UNECE region and beyond in order to avoid duplication.

The Task Force also catalyses dialogue on renewable-based and low-carbon hydrogen at all levels of policymaking in the UNECE region and engage government experts, the private sector, academia, civil society, international organizations, and other stakeholders in UNECE member States on hydrogen-related research and activities.

Concrete activities

The Task Force is tasked to:

- Promote and facilitate policy dialogue on hydrogen and foster cooperation in that field within the ECE region.
- Provide support to implement current extrabudgetary projects on hydrogen that are being managed by the Sustainable Energy Division.
- Prepare a paper detailing existing international initiatives on hydrogen in the UNECE region and beyond in order to avoid duplication.
- Prepare, for the Committee's consideration, strategies and work plans for future hydrogen activities of the Committee aiming to:
 - Identify hydrogen-related activities to be carried out using the regular budget,
 - Propose new hydrogen-related activities that require extrabudgetary resources.
- In collaboration with EGRM:

- Develop specifications for the application of UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) to hydrogen projects and production technologies;
 - Develop pilot hydrogen production projects applying UNRMS principles.
- In collaboration with GEG, discuss, develop, and promote good practices and recommendations on:
 - Blending hydrogen with natural gas;
 - Hydrogen purity requirements for its production, transmission, and final use in hard-to-abate industries;
 - Use of gas infrastructure to accelerate development of hydrogen projects;
 - Issues related to hydrogen emissions.
- Develop project proposals on any of the aforementioned items that may require extrabudgetary resources for presentation to potential donors.

Membership

The Task Force is Chaired by a Vice-Chair of the Committee. The membership of the Task Force will comprise representatives from ECE member governments, industry, international organizations, professional societies and associations, technical bodies and individual experts. All members will be selected by the Chair, in consultation with member States.

Reporting

The Task Force reports to the Committee annually and to the Bureau of the Committee between annual sessions.

Duration

The Task Force is established for a period of two years effective **XX**. Its term is renewable subject to the approval of the Committee.
