

Information Note

Proposed UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

Context:

- Given the contemporary economic, geopolitical, energy, social, supply chain, climate, and environmental challenges the region is facing, there is an urgent need to address the increasing vulnerability of the energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.
- There is also a need to respect the sovereign right of states to determine national energy policy, conditions for exploiting their natural resource endowments, their choice between different energy sources, the general structure of their energy supply, and the pace and ways of the energy system transformations.
- Further, the efforts currently being undertaken on the global scale are insufficient to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in general and of the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement in particular. There is a risk that current climate goals could be compromised by a focus upon short-term energy challenges.

Proposed Solution:

- The UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) and its six subsidiary bodies are in a unique position to support the building of resilient energy systems in the ECE region through continued, expanded and increased international policy dialogue and cooperation on efforts to ensure resiliency of energy systems that also ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7) and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.
- This inclusive dialogue and cooperation could be coordinated under a new set of activities under a focussed priority area of the Committee called the *ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems*.

Activities to support ECE member States:

- To provide timely and relevant support to member States under this new area of work, the Committee would identify, prioritize and implement special activities that coordinate, promote and support inclusive dialogue on efforts related to enhancing energy resilience across the ECE region.
- These activities would come predominantly from the needs, priorities and recommendations of member States' inputs at the thirty-first session of the Committee (21-23 September 2022).

- It is anticipated that examples of the types of activities that *could* fall under this activity area include, but are not limited to:
 - Hosting series of dialogues on Resilient Energy Systems to facilitate an exchange among member States, academia, technical experts, industry, and others on relevant resiliency-related topics identified by the Bureau.
 - Increase awareness on resiliency-related analyses that can enhance access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
 - Support an expanded Pathways to Sustainable Energy initiative to facilitate the selection and implementation of effective policies across the ECE region.
 - Expand efforts to reduce methane emissions, increasing short-term energy supply and eliminating methane leaks, and link resiliency objectives to long-term methane mitigation goals, including of the Global Methane Pledge.
 - Explore and increase understanding on energy-related climate financing in the ECE region
 - Support a dialogue with member States and relevant stakeholders to substantially increase the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region.
 - Increase efforts to deploy cross-sectoral action on energy efficiency to improve energy system resilience.
 - Increase engagement with other organizations, conferences, coalitions and alliances, ministerials and initiatives working on similar or complementary objectives.

Next Steps:

- After the thirty-first session of the Committee, it is envisaged that the Bureau of the Committee, in cooperation with the secretariat, would develop a work plan for the special activities to be organized under the Platform, driven by the needs and priorities expressed during the thirty-first session of the Committee, and post them to the website.
- The Committee would receive an annual report on the activities and propose additional activities as needed.

Funding Needs:

- A number of the activities proposed above would have no regular budgetary implications as they could be supported under existing resources. Some activities, however, might require extrabudgetary resources.
- The Work Plan developed by the Bureau would consider available resources and prioritize those activities with the greatest impact that could be implemented within current resources and identify those activities that would require extrabudgetary resources.