



Agenda Item 9 – 31st Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities

23 September 2022, 10:00–10:30 CEST (Geneva time)

Objective: to review technical assistance activities for ECE member States under the auspices of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, exchange experience among member States on these activities, and consider a way forward in their implementation in the future.

Context: The regional advisory services in sustainable energy are provided in accordance with the Guidelines of the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC). The programme objective, in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, is to support, through the transfer of knowledge and expertise, countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop the capacity to achieve internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits. There are 17 ECE member States¹ eligible to receive regional advisory services. In this context, technical cooperation is a core component of ECE’s support to member States for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The regional advisory services complement and reinforce the regular and extrabudgetary programmes.

The provision of regional advisory services in the period under review continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the consequences of the ongoing geopolitical crises in the ECE region. Advisory missions to countries and in-person capacity-building workshops are becoming possible, and several such activities were undertaken in the period under review. Innovative ways to provide regional advisory services that proved effective and efficient in the last two years continue to be used and explored further. Capacity-building workshops and training courses were organized mostly in a hybrid format and proved to be an effective way for knowledge sharing. Engaging consultants for studies requested by eligible countries was given priority.

The focus was on developing new field projects, adjusting existing projects to respond to COVID-19 challenges, organizing capacity-building activities online, when possible, actively seeking information from the governments of RPTC-eligible countries on their needs in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the ongoing geopolitical crises in the ECE region, and following up on those requests.

Next steps: Identify best ways to satisfy needs of eligible member States for technical assistance in the future.

Setting the scene:

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser. Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Key questions of the session:

What benefits does your country receive from technical assistance activities of ECE?

What are the challenges, what can be done better?

What are the ways for ECE to improve provision of technical assistance?

Moderator: Chair or Vice-Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Panel:

Mr. Artan Leskoviku, Director of RES, National Agency of Natural Resources, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania

Mr. Omar Tsereteli, Deputy Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, Head of State Agency of Infrastructure Projects of Ukraine, Chair of the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Vice-Chair of the ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Ms. Kankana Dubey, Expert, Author of the report “Energy Transition and the Post-Covid-19 Socioeconomic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them”