

**Decisions submitted to silence procedure following formal meeting with remote participation
of the Thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 21-23 September 2022**

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
<p>2. High-level segment: Building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: achieving greater energy security, affordability, and net-zero</p>	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p> <p>CSE-31/2022/INF.2 – Building Resilient Energy Systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region: Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability, and Net-zero</p> <p>CSE-31/2022/INF.14 – Proposed UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems</p>	<p>11. Taking into account: (i) the urgent need to address the increasing vulnerability of the energy systems in the ECE region due to the contemporary economic, geopolitical, energy, social, supply chain, climate, and environmental challenges the region is facing; (ii) 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; and (iii) that the efforts that are being currently undertaken on the global scale need to be scaled-up to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda in general and of the 2°C target of the Paris Agreement in particular, and that current climate goals should not be compromised by a focus upon short-term energy challenges, and recognizing that the 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, called on member States to continue, expand and increase international policy dialogue and cooperation on efforts to ensure resiliency of energy systems that ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7) and that help reduce GHG emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.</p> <p>16. To that end, the Committee acknowledged an improvement of energy systems resiliency through implementation of energy efficiency measures first, underpinning the importance of integrating efficiency strategies to bolster the durability and flexibility of energy systems and thus improving system’s ability to absorb shocks and recover and taking advantage of advancements in applicable digital solutions. Argued that at its core, energy efficiency is about reducing the demand for energy to perform the same task or achieve the same outcome. Thus, underscoring an expeditious beneficial impact of energy efficiency deployment on improving energy resiliency, proposed taking account of how improvements in energy efficiency across</p>

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		<p>buildings, industry, transport, and other sectors can reduce the end-use energy demand as well as the need for redundancy to maintain resiliency.¹</p> <p>18. Noted that, in response to the current circumstances, additional activities may be proposed for consideration in the future Work Plans. In respect thereof, called upon the subsidiary bodies to formulate proposals that support efforts to building more resilient energy systems in the ECE region. Requested the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, to examine how the Programme of Work of the Committee for 2024 might be modified to better support the corresponding efforts and provide strategic orientation to the subsidiary bodies of the Committee. In view of this, also called upon member States to support the activities of the subsidiary bodies through extrabudgetary funding.</p> <p>19. Based on the discussion and noting the vulnerabilities of the existing energy systems in the ECE region, agreed to prioritize and implement special activities that coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the region, providing an ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems for inclusive dialogue. The Committee requested the Bureau of the Committee, in cooperation with the secretariat, to develop a work plan and budget for the special activities to be organized under the Platform, and to post these to the website. The Committee noted that establishment of the Platform itself has no regular budgetary implications but recognized that some of the activities identified and coordinated by the Platform would require extrabudgetary resources. The activities under the Platform could involve, but not be limited to, the following new or expanded activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Host a series of dialogues on Resilient Energy Systems to facilitate an exchange among member States, academia, technical experts, industry, and others on relevant topics identified by the Bureau, including the current challenges to resiliency, technical options, financing resilient energy systems and clean energy projects, lessons learned and best practices. These dialogues are intended to increase the capacity of ECE member States to attain more secure, affordable, safe and environmentally-friendly energy systems; b) Increase awareness raising activities that focus on full life cycle assessment and cost-benefit analysis of technologies, as well as non-technical measures, both on the energy demand and supply side, that enhance access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; c) Support an expanded Pathways to Sustainable Energy initiative to facilitate the selection and implementation of effective policies across the region, including targeted, subregional and country-

¹ Redundancy can be defined as spare capacity within a system, such as duplicate components, assets, or functions, that increases the reliability of a system to avoid disruption. In the energy sector, redundancy can include local backup power generators or storage systems, idle capacity in transmission and distribution networks, or idle generating assets.

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		<p>specific deep dives on technology choices, business models and policy solutions that can build energy system resiliency and achieve short- and long- term energy, economic and environmental goals. Requested that this initiative be launched with a focus on Central Asia, and then follow with other subregions as the interest arises, and subject to extrabudgetary resources;</p> <p>d) Expand efforts to reduce methane emissions, increasing short-term energy supply with recovered methane and providing targeted support to member States in the region to design and implement policies that increase energy supply in the short term by eliminating methane leaks, increase resiliency and support long-term methane mitigation efforts, including of the Global Methane Pledge; invited member States to participate in the Global Methane Forum to be held as part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week 2023 (11-15 September 2023) and the secretariat to partner with the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) to present ECE’s perspectives at the Forum;</p> <p>e) Explore and increase understanding on energy-related climate financing in the ECE region to identify policies and mechanisms that can increase financing for sustainable energy technologies, the critical raw materials needed for the transition to net-zero economies in the region and to enable the region to implement climate-friendly policies that also increase energy system resiliency;</p> <p>f) Support a dialogue with member States and relevant stakeholders, such as industry, academia, financial institutions, international organizations and NGOs, to substantially increase the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region. Renewable energy development, together with energy efficiency and energy services, will be essential to deliver resilient energy systems while preserving the climate and the environment, and contributing to the attainment of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement;</p> <p>g) Premised on a system level perspective, give increased attention to energy conservation, to improve resilience through cross-sectoral action on energy efficiency;</p> <p>h) Increase engagement with other organizations, conferences, coalitions and alliances, ministerials and initiatives working on similar or complementary objectives, including but not limited to the Clean Energy Ministerial, IEA, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UNDP, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, World Economic Forum and WEC to expand the reach of the Committee and leverage others’ investments, providing greater support to the design and deployment of resilient energy systems that provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all and that help reduce GHG emissions and the carbon footprint of the overall energy sector, including both energy supply and demand, in the region and support the shift to net zero GHG emissions.</p>

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		<p>20. Called on member States to provide needed resources and leadership to accomplish those additional or expanded activities that address the critical need to build energy resiliency in the ECE region and that cannot be delivered with existing regular budget resources. Requested the Bureau report progress on all activities of the Platform during the thirty-second session of the Committee.</p>
<p>3. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy</p>	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2021/4 – Revised strategic review of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe sustainable energy subprogramme</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2021/17 – A Commitment Trifecta</p> <p>CSE-30/2021/INF.5 – A Push to Pivot</p> <p>REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/4-</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/4 – Digitalization: Accelerating the Electricity System Transformation</p>	<p>23. Noted with appreciation the activities and accomplishments of the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies particularly in view of the economic, geopolitical, energy, social, supply chain, climate, and environmental challenges the ECE region is facing. Called upon member States to provide resources to support projects and activities that deliver on the goals of the strategic review and address the new challenges.</p>

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	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/5 – Addressing Behavioural Barriers to Energy Digitalization ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/4 – Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings: Analysis of progress towards the performance objectives	
4. Achieving high performance in buildings	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session	27. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to develop the network of ICE-HPBs, to support and advance the principles of the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4) aiming to ensure that new and existing buildings meet principles that reflect the frontier of knowledge of how buildings are conceived, built, operated, maintained, and eventually dismantled. 28. The Committee requested that progress on HPBI be reported at the thirty-second session.
5. Modernizing resource management	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6 – Draft United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements ECE/ENERGY/2022/6 – Sustainable management of critical raw materials required for the low-	32. Noted with appreciation the accelerated implementation of UNFC, in particular in countries of the European Union with a focus on application of UNFC to mineral and anthropogenic resources. Further noted with appreciation the extrabudgetary project funded by the European Commission “Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS” (2020-2024), implementation of which is in its third year, which has facilitated accelerated implementation of UNFC and encouraged member States to participate in the project. Noting the scale of the task to deploy UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond and build the required capacity for application at national level, requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to secure additional extrabudgetary resources. 33. Noting the importance of the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management that are being established to provide policy support, technical advice and consultation, education, capacity-building and training on UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond, as well as dissemination, requested an update at the thirty-second session on the Centres and any progress to establish a collaborative network of the Centres coordinated by the secretariat and in full compliance with the adopted ECE standards and guidelines. 34. Noted with appreciation the continuing development of UNRMS based on principles and requirements included in the document Draft United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and

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	<p>carbon energy transition – Draft for discussion</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/7 – Resources as a Service: A catalyst to accelerate the energy transition, safeguarding climate action targets within the circular economy – Draft for discussion</p>	<p>requirements (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6). Recommended the accelerated testing, and implementation of UNRMS principles and requirements and requested the secretariat to raise extrabudgetary funds and mobilize the expert communities required for various tasks, including the further completion of specific UNRMS modules and capacity-building. Requested the secretariat to publish UNRMS: Principles and Requirements as an official ECE publication, subject to further consideration and unanimous adoption of the recommendation by the Expert Group on Resource Management.</p> <p>35. Noting that the sustainable management of natural resources – in line with circular economy patterns – is fundamental to attainment of the 2030 Agenda, attainment of climate targets, increased resiliency of energy systems and progress towards a more circular economy, called on ECE and non-ECE member States, international organizations, industry, and the regional commissions to implement the UNRMS principles and requirements as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>36. Noted with appreciation the draft document for discussion “Sustainable management of critical raw materials required for the low-carbon energy transition” (ECE/ENERGY/2022/6), which highlights the role of critical raw materials (CRMs) in low-carbon energy transitions, including large-scale deployment of renewable energy and energy storage and points out that the demand for CRMs is expected to increase exponentially in the near future, making sustainable production from primary and secondary (anthropogenic) resources crucial. Recognizing the need to produce CRMs sustainably, including a focus on social and environmental aspects, noted that the concepts presented in the document require further discussion and clarification at the Expert Group level. Noting further the importance of the availability of socially and environmentally referenced data, requested the Expert Group on Resource Management to discuss and develop the concepts provided in the draft document further and then, based on common understanding, develop guidelines, best practices, and an information framework for the management of CRMs.</p> <p>37. Noted with appreciation the draft document for discussion “Resource as a Service: A catalyst to accelerate the energy transition, safeguarding climate action targets within the circular economy” (ECE/ENERGY/2022/7) and noted its proposed approach of “Resources as a Service” to improve the efficiency of the production and use of the resources required for sustainable development. Noted that the concepts presented in the document require further discussion and clarification at the expert group level. Noting further that progress towards a more circular economy is crucial to meeting the increased demand for resources, including raw materials, requested the Expert Group on Resource Management to discuss and clarify the concept further and develop case studies on Resources as a Service.</p> <p>38. Noted with appreciation the establishment of the United Nations Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development Co-chaired by the Regional Commissions (on an annual rotation basis, with ECE Co-chairing in 2022), UNDP and UNEP. The Working Group is tasked</p>

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		<p>with implementing the proposals included in the United Nations Policy Brief on “Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development,” published in 2021, which recommends implementation of UNFC and UNRMS. Noting the importance of sustainable management of natural resources for the energy transformations and sustainable development, requested the Expert Group on Resource Management and other relevant groups of experts to fully engage in the activities of the Working Group and support the implementation of ECE’s five-point agenda on sustainable resource management that includes: (i) Social contract on natural resources; (ii) Sustainable investment guidelines; (iii) Sustainable resource management systems; (iv) Traceability and transparency of value chains; and (v) Strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments.</p> <p>39. Noting that sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, attainment of the Paris Agreement and progress towards a more circular economy, decided to recommend to the Economic Commission for Europe (the Commission) to propose a draft decision to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), inviting the application of the UNRMS principles and requirements worldwide, subject to further consideration and unanimous adoption of the recommendation by the Expert Group on Resource Management.</p> <p>40. Noting the critical importance of sustainable resource management, including management of critical raw materials, and progress toward a more circular economy in realizing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement targets. Further noting that ECE member States are starting to prioritize the implementation of the UNFC and the UNRMS for social, environmental and economic performance improvements in natural resource management, including through the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management, Recalling that the Regular Budget support for this activity, including staffing, has remained minimal and unchanged for the past many years,</p> <p>a) Decided to recommend to the Commission that it consider requesting ECOSOC consider asking the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat’s role in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems, as well as outreach efforts;</p> <p>b) Decided to transmit to the Commission at its session in 2023 a draft decision on this issue for consideration and possible adoption.</p>
6. Enabling a hydrogen ecosystem	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session	<p>45. Noted with appreciation the document “Comprehensive and science-based terminology, classification and taxonomy for hydrogen” (ECE/ENERGY/2022/8) and the need to develop a classification for hydrogen that goes beyond colours and addresses the full life cycle of hydrogen production and transport. In this regard, agreed to support ongoing policy dialogue on hydrogen projects and, through it, foster cooperation within the ECE region and with the global resource community.</p>

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	<p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/8 – A comprehensive and science-based terminology, classification and taxonomy for hydrogen</p> <p>CSE-31/2022/INF.13 – Hydrogen Task Force – Draft Terms of Reference</p>	<p>46. Noting that hydrogen activities are currently not centralized in the sustainable energy subprogramme and are based on informal collaboration amongst a number of the groups of experts, requested the Group of Experts on Gas to lead the work of the subprogramme related to hydrogen and to do so in close collaboration with the other groups of experts. Requested the Group of Experts on Gas, in collaboration with the other groups of experts, to develop a time plan and a Terms of Reference for this work and to do so by the thirty-second session of the Committee or earlier if possible.</p> <p>47. Requested that the Expert Group on Resource Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Investigate existing classifications and specifications for hydrogen and develop, where appropriate, specifications for the application of UNFC and the UNRMS to hydrogen projects and production technologies; b) Develop pilot hydrogen resource management projects and case studies applying UNRMS principles. <p>48. The Committee requested the Group of Experts on Gas, in close collaboration with the other groups of experts and based on the previous investigation to ensure duplication of work is avoided, continue to develop a scientifically-based terminology for hydrogen that reflects the volume of GHG emissions throughout the life cycle.</p> <p>49. Requested all the groups of experts to explore opportunities to move towards a Guarantee of Origin for Hydrogen (GOH) subject to the availability of resources. This GOH would decouple physical from commercial flows and thereby accelerate hydrogen deployment. GOHs shall be compatible with the common standard of Guarantees of Origin, that allows an accurate comparison of emissions of different technologies and energy carriers, based on Life Cycle Analysis (LCA). Further requested that progress on this be reported to the Committee at its thirty-second session.</p> <p>51. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress in implementing the extrabudgetary project “Sustainable hydrogen production in the UNECE region and its role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential”, funded by the Russian Federation. This is the first time that work on hydrogen at this scale has been carried out in the subregion. The project evaluated national capacities of nine countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) to develop hydrogen ecosystems, including in the regions with resource and technology constraints. The project analysed the role of hydrogen in the countries' long-term energy strategies, their resource potentials, local conditions for the production, use, and possible export of low-carbon hydrogen. An important part of the project was the creation of a subregional hydrogen community that has been actively involved in improving the quality of the outcomes. Requested that an update on the project be presented to the thirty-second session of the Committee.</p>

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7. Addressing methane management	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/4 – Final mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/139 – Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation</p>	<p>55. After discussion, the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Committed to work to overcome barriers to mitigation of methane emissions from extractive industries in the ECE region and requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Group of Experts on Gas to continue to prioritize building capacity in member States to reduce methane emissions through the development and dissemination of best practices via in-person and online training courses and workshops; c) Requested the secretariat to pursue opportunities for the Committee to partner and co-host events with other initiatives that prioritize methane monitoring, reporting, verification and mitigation, such as the Global Methane Pledge, GMI and the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0 Reporting Framework, to expand the Committee’s reach and foster the replication of methane monitoring, reporting, verification and mitigation activities that maximize climate benefits; d) Endorsed the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139 and ECE Energy Series No. 71); f) Requested the secretariat and invited Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure broad dissemination and application of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation (ECE/ENERGY/139 and ECE Energy Series No. 71); g) Decided to recommend to the Commission to propose a draft decision to ECOSOC, inviting the application of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation (ECE/ENERGY/139 and ECE Energy Series No. 71) worldwide; h) Recognizing the growing production and use of coal worldwide and the resulting increase in the related methane emissions, called upon member States to direct more resources and efforts towards better understanding the sources and scale of the emissions, in particular those originating from open pit mines, as well as existing opportunities for their mitigation; i) Noting with appreciation that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition continues to advise member States on best practices and measures to effectively monitor and address methane-related dangers in underground coal mines, and that the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane operating under the auspices of the Group of Experts are involved in work that promotes the economically sustainable reduction of methane emissions to the atmosphere and thereby reduce the likelihood of methane-related mining accidents, requested the Group of Experts to tighten its cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO)

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		<p>to explore opportunities for further enhancement of the awareness and capacity for implementation of the recognized practices and measures that increase mining safety in member States;</p> <p>j) Noting with appreciation numerous international efforts to address the problem of methane emissions through coordinated target-setting mitigation initiatives, encouraged member States to consider undertaking regulatory action to harmonize methane emissions monitoring and reporting standards in the ECE region, and requested the secretariat to explore opportunities to engage member States in work to develop the relevant normative framework;</p> <p>k) Recognizing the climate-driven urgency of limiting methane emissions from coal mines, acknowledging the technical limitations to effective use or destruction of ventilation air methane (VAM) from underground coal mines, and taking into account the energy security concerns of coal-dependent economies, called upon member States to speed up the process of decarbonization of their energy industries, including through provision of regulatory incentives and financial mechanisms fostering deployment of VAM installations, and enactment of rational legislation imposing a tax on methane emissions from coal mines that are avoidable at a justifiable cost;</p>
8. Understanding subsidies and carbon pricing	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session	58. Reiterated the need to continue to explore how best to address the efficient use of resources and, in this regard, the impact of subsidies, and carbon pricing options. Called on member States to provide extrabudgetary resources to carry out research to identify and compile case studies and develop best practices for the ECE region. Further noted the need to increase awareness of similar efforts underway to avoid duplication of efforts. The Committee further requested that a briefing be provided to the thirty-second session on progress made and stressed the need to address equally the impact of subsidies and their role for fossil fuels and renewables, as well as across the whole ECE region.
9. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities (a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities (b) Extrabudgetary and United	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session ECE/ENERGY/2022/5 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy	62. The Committee took note of document ECE/ENERGY/2022/5, stressed the importance of regional advisory services and capacity-building activities, particularly under the current circumstances, and requested a report on regional advisory services at its thirty-second session.

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Nations Development Account projects		
10. Preparing for the 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session	<p>66. Noted the shifting priorities of governments in the ECE region because of current geopolitical issues and recommended that, the Committee invites the Commission to consider exploring at the 70th session of the Commission how the current energy and climate challenges affect digital, green and circular transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region and what strategic energy and environmental solutions can achieve short- and long-term development goals.</p> <p>67. Recommended that the Commission consider draft decisions on proposed Committee efforts to: prioritize and implement special activities that build resiliency of ECE energy systems; increase understanding of climate finance; further greater adoption of methane mitigation best practices and UNRMS principles and requirements worldwide to accelerate attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement; and request additional resources. The draft decisions are as follows:</p> <p>1. Building resilient energy systems</p> <p>68. The Economic Commission for Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noting the urgent need to address the increasing vulnerability of the energy systems in the ECE region; noting the sovereign right of states to determine national energy policy, conditions for exploiting their energy resources, their choice between different energy sources, and the general structure of their energy supply, and the pace and ways of the energy transformations; and further noting that the efforts that are being currently undertaken on the global scale need to be scaled-up to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in general and of the 2°C target of the Paris Agreement in particular, and that current climate goals should not be compromised by a focus upon short-term energy challenges; ○ Recognizes that the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies are in a unique position to support the building of resilient energy systems in the ECE region, welcomes the prioritization and implementation of special resiliency-related activities by the Committee and takes note of the ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems to coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the ECE region, providing for inclusive dialogue. Further notes that the Committee added building resilient energy systems to the programme of work beginning in 2024 as a new focus area with no regular budgetary implications but recognizes the urgent need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to support this critical area of work.

2. Decision to study finance for energy-related climate change activities in the ECE region, particularly related to critical raw materials

69. The Economic Commission for Europe:

- Noting that, to deliver on climate change and sustainable development, the ECE region must optimize the management of endowments of natural resources, including CRMs, that a significant increase in sustainability-focused investments for sourcing and development of CRMs is crucial to ensuring the security of supply, and that there is currently a lack of financing available for CRM-related projects in the ECE region,
- Requests that the Committee study how best to address the current barriers to climate finance in the ECE region, such as a lack of socially, environmentally and economically referenced standardized and harmonized data on projects, and develop, within existing resources, products that address these barriers.

3. Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

70. The Economic Commission for Europe:

- Recalling its decision 4 of E/ECE/1462 Annual Report (1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011)
- Noting the short-term value of capturing and using recovered methane to increase energy supply and support energy system resilience in the short term and to increased capture and reductions of methane to achieve climate objectives in the long term
- Endorses the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139), developed under the Committee’s Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition
- Recommends that the Guidance be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide
- Decides to propose to ECOSOC to consider inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption.

Draft ECOSOC Decision on the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation

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		<p>The Economic and Social Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noting that at its seventieth session (18-19 April 2023), the Economic Commission for Europe endorsed the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” (ECE/ENERGY/139), of December 2021, recommended that the “Best Practices Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” be disseminated widely, and ○ Invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” in countries worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend the application of the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications ○ Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation” worldwide. <p>4. United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements</p> <p>71. The Economic Commission for Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recalling its decision E (69) paragraph 2 of E/ECE/1494 Annual Report (9 April 2019 to 20 April 2021) ○ Noting that sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to attainment of the 2030 Agenda, attainment of the Paris Agreement and progress towards a more circular economy ○ Endorses, subject to the procedure outlined in the report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-first session (ECE/ENERGY/143, paragraph 34), the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) Principles and Requirements (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6) developed by the Committee’s Expert Group on Resource Management

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommends that the UNRMS Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide ○ Decides to propose to ECOSOC to consider inviting States Member of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to apply the UNRMS Principles and Requirements and to transmit to the Council at its next session a draft decision on the issue for consideration and possible adoption. <p>Draft ECOSOC Decision on the UNRMS Principles and Requirements</p> <p>The Economic and Social Council,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noting that at its seventieth session (18-19 April 2023), the Economic Commission for Europe endorsed the UNRMS Principles and Requirements of 14 April 2022 as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6, recommended that the UNRMS Principles and Requirements be disseminated widely ○ Invited States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements in countries worldwide, and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications ○ Decides to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide. <p>5.Decision to request additional resources to support activities under the Sustainable energy subprogramme</p> <p>72. The Economic Commission for Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering a number of ECOSOC Decisions concerning the sustainable energy subprogramme (United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (1997/226), United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (2004/233), Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (2011/222), Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane

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		<p>Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines (2021/249), Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (2021/250))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noting at its 70th session, the critical importance of building resilient energy systems in the ECE region, including sustainable resource management of critical raw materials (CRMs) and the development of sustainable value chains of CRMs, and progress toward a more circular economy in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement targets ○ Further noting that ECE member States are starting to prioritize building resilient energy systems and implementation of sustainable resource management tools, including the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS for social, environmental and economic performance improvements in natural resource management, including through the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane and supporting proper management of coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane ○ Recalling that the Regular Budget support for the subprogramme, including staffing, has remained minimal and unchanged for the past many years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Decides to propose that the Economic and Social Council consider requesting that the Secretary-General strengthen the Secretariat’s role in in supporting member States building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems; (b) Decides to transmit to the Economic and Social Council at its session of 2023 a draft resolution on this issue for consideration and possible adoption. <p>Draft ECOSOC resolution on the implementation of decision to request additional resources to support activities under the Sustainable energy subprogramme</p> <p>The Economic and Social Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noting the adoption by the 70th session Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 20-21 April 2023) of decision ... on the implementation of the decision to request additional resources to support activities under the Sustainable energy subprogramme, in particular, building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems, as well as outreach efforts ○ Endorses the decision of the Economic Commission for Europe to request additional resources from the Secretary-General to support activities under the Sustainable energy subprogramme, in particular, building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems, as well as outreach efforts.

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
<p>11. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy</p> <p>(a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning</p>	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/1 – Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2023</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/31/2022/INF.1 – Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024</p>	<p>74. Adopted the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2022/1) and recommended submission to the ECE Executive Committee for subsequent approval. Requested a draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 for consideration and possible adoption at its next session.</p> <p>76. Noted and agreed to the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/31/2022/INF.1) and requested the secretariat to reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024.</p> <p>77. In line with ECE Evaluation policy, one of the three subprogramme-level internal evaluations to be conducted in 2024 will focus on subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy. After consultation, the Committee agreed to the proposed theme: Sustainable resource management (regular budget activities on UNFC and UNRMS).</p>
<p>11. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy</p> <p>(b) Approval of documents</p>	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/2 – Provisional calendar of meetings of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2023</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/3 – Revised publication plan for 2022 and draft</p>	<p>81. Endorsed the provisional calendar of meetings for 2022 (ECE/ENERGY/2022/2) and the revised publication plan for 2022 and draft publication plans for 2023 and 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/2022/3). Should “UNRMS: Principles and Requirements” not be recommended for publication by the Expert Group on Resource Management, agreed that this publication could be replaced by a publication entitled UNFC Case Studies – Focus on raw materials.</p> <p>83. Approved the extension of the mandates of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency and the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy to 2023-2024.</p>

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
	<p>publication plans for 2023 and 2024</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2022/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Gas on its ninth Session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2022/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine methane and Just Transition on its seventeenth session</p> <p>ECE/ENERGY/2022/4 – Final mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition</p>	
12. Election of officers	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p>	<p>85. The Committee elected Mr. Juergen Keinhorst (Germany) as Chair and Mr. Emir Farhadzada (Azerbaijan), Mr. Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia), Mr. Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Mr. Pawel Pikus (Poland), Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland), Mr. Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine), and Ms. Emily Grubert (United States) as Vice-Chairs to serve from the end of the thirty-first session until the end of the thirty-third session of the Committee.</p>
13. Any other business	<p>ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session</p>	<p>88. Requested the secretariat to proceed with preparations for the thirty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 13-15 September 2023 in Geneva, including a draft agenda, draft report, and all supporting documents necessary for the implementation of the programme of work for the ECE Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2023-2024 and the work plans of its six subsidiary bodies. Invited member States to participate in the Global Methane Forum to be held as part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week 2023 (11-15 September 2023) and the secretariat to partner with the GMI to present ECE's perspective at the Forum.</p>

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
14. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting	ECE_ENERGY_143.pdf Final Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-first session	92. Adopted the report of its thirty-first session (ECE/ENERGY/143) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.