

# Key Takeaways from the Thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy 21-23 September 2022

## ENERGY SECURITY, RESILIENCE AND NET ZERO

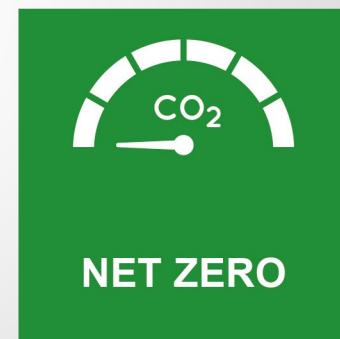
TANGIBLE ACTIONS TO DELIVER A SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY FUTURE



SECURITY



RESILIENCE



NET ZERO

**Denise Mulholland**

Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy



**UNECE**

# Agenda

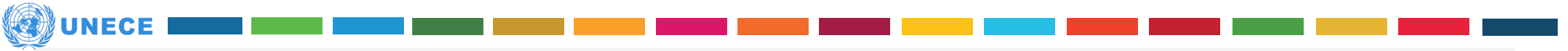
## Energy Security, Resilience and Net Zero: Tangible Actions to Deliver a Sustainable Energy Future



1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
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.***
3. ***Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.***
4. Achieving high performance in buildings.
5. ***Modernizing resource management.***
6. Enabling a hydrogen ecosystem.
7. Addressing methane management.
8. Understanding subsidies and carbon pricing.
9. ***Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities.***
  - a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities;
  - b) Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects.
10. ***Preparing for the 70th session of the Economic Commission for Europe.***
11. ***Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.***
  - (a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning;
  - (b) Approval of documents.
12. Election of officers.
13. Any other business.
14. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

***GERE work was discussed during all bolded sessions***

# Key Conclusions and Recommendations



- On *Building resilient energy systems in the UNECE region*, the Committee
  - Noted with appreciation the informal document “Building Resilient Energy Systems: Technical Considerations and Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region” (CSE-31/2022/INF.1) prepared by the Bureaux of the six subsidiary bodies and the recommendations contained therein.
  - Noted many current Work Plans and activities of the ...Committee directly support increased resiliency of energy systems and that... additional activities may be proposed for consideration in the future Work Plans...**called upon the subsidiary bodies to formulate proposals that support efforts to build more resilient energy systems in the ECE region.**
  - Launched the **ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems** for inclusive dialogue that will prioritize, implement and promote special activities related to building energy resilience across the ECE region

# Key Conclusions and Recommendations

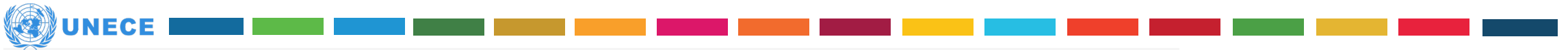
## *(continued)*



Special activities under the **ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems** potentially include but are not limited to:

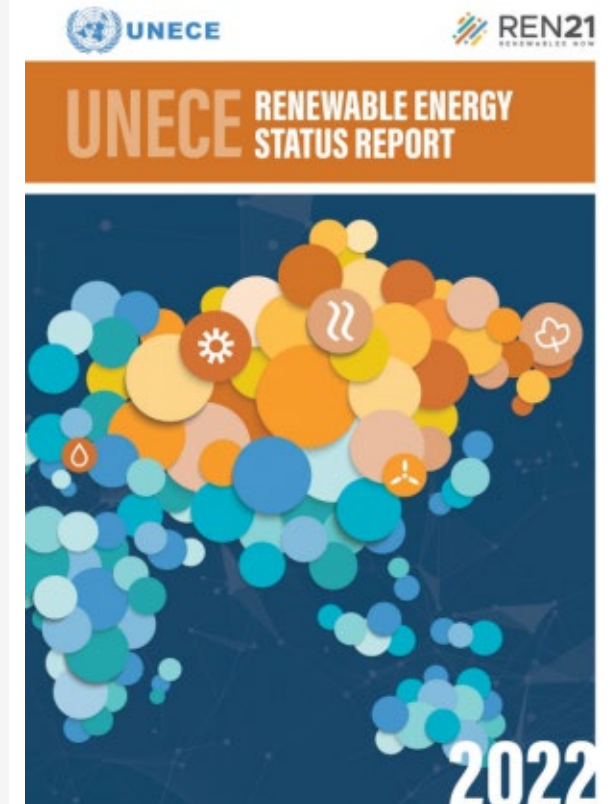
- Hosting a series of dialogues on resilient energy systems
- Supporting an expanded Pathways to Sustainable Energy Initiative that focuses on building energy system resiliency, starting in Central Asia
- Exploring and increasing understanding on energy-related climate financing
- ***Support a dialogue 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.***
- Increase engagement with other(s)...to expand the reach of the Committee and leverage others' investments, providing greater support to the design and deployment of resilient energy systems

# Key Conclusions and Recommendations (continued)



## On *Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirtieth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the Committee*

- Noted the continued relevance of the subprogramme activities...including sustainable resource management, methane management and reduction in the extractive industries, carbon neutrality, **renewable energy**, natural gas, investment guidelines, high-performance buildings, pathways to energy for sustainable development and the Pathways Programme. ...
- **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.
- **Noted with appreciation the issuing of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022, which was prepared jointly by REN21 and the ECE secretariat.**



# Key Conclusions and Recommendations

## *(continued)*

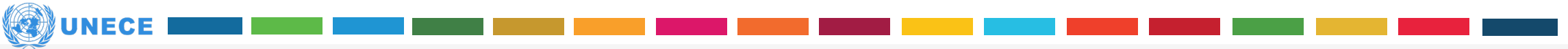


### On Sustainable Resource Management,

- An expert panel ...noted that the ECE region must urgently optimize the management of endowments of natural resources, **including renewables and critical raw materials (CRMs)**, to deliver on climate change and sustainable development. ...
- The panel discussed and observed that the production of CRMs, **required for renewable energy and energy storage**, needs to be assured sustainably, emphasizing the social contract on natural resources and environmental assessments. Renewable energy needs to be integrated harmoniously with the available natural resource base of the ECE region....
- **The Committee** 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. ...requested the Expert Group on Resource Management to discuss and develop the concepts provided in the draft document further ...develop guidelines, best practices, and an information framework for the management of CRMs.

# Key Conclusions and Recommendations

## *(continued)*



On *preparing for the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic Commission for Europe*, with the theme *Digital and green transformation for sustainable development in the UNECE region*, the Committee:

- Noted the key areas where it has been actively supporting the theme, including on *Low- and zero-carbon technology, including abatement technology, interplay for carbon neutral systems* ...to facilitate the transition to a net zero economy and resilient energy systems.
- Agreed to invite the Commission to consider exploring at the 70<sup>th</sup> 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 both short- and long-term development goals,
- Recommended that the Commission consider several decisions, including:
  - Recognition 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.
  - Requesting 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.

**Thank you!**

**For more information about the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Final Report with Conclusions and Recommendations, please see:**

**<https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/committee-sustainable-energy>**

Denise Mulholland  
Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy

**UNECE**

3 October 2022, Geneva



**SECURITY**



**RESILIENCE**



**NET ZERO**

**31<sup>st</sup> Session of the COMMITTEE  
ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 2022**



**UNECE**