

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Ninth session
Geneva, 6-7 October 2022

Conclusions and Recommendations **arising from the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy** **As adopted on 7 October 2022**

II. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

1. The Group of Experts elected Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine) as Chair and Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Mr. Kamran Huseynov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniiankou (Belarus), Ms. Sanja Kapetina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Mr. Akhat Omiralin (Kazakhstan), Mr. Tibor Fischer (Germany), Mr. Aleksei Zhiharev (Russian Federation), Ms. Olena Lenska (Ukraine), Ms. Suriya Jayanti (United States) as Vice-Chairs. The term of office for the elected members of the Bureau is from the close of the ninth session until the close of the eleventh session. The Chair of the Group of Experts is *ex officio* also a Vice-Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

2. The Group of Experts has therefore the following members to serve on the Bureau:

(a) Until the conclusion of its tenth session: Ms. Nurzat Abdurasulova (Kyrgyzstan) as Vice-Chair. Also as Vice-Chair (without the right to vote): Ms. Aida Sitdikova (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development);

(b) Until the conclusion of its eleventh session: Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine) as Chair; Mr. Adrian Bylyku (Albania), Mr. Kamran Huseynov (Azerbaijan), Ms. Sanja Kapetina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Mr. Akhat Omiralin (Kazakhstan), Mr. Tibor Fischer (Germany), Ms. Olena Lenska (Ukraine), Ms. Suriya Jayanti (United States) as Vice-Chairs. Also as Vice-Chair (without the right to vote): Mr. Paolo Frankl (International Energy Agency), Mr. Binu Parthan (International Renewable Energy Agency), Ms. Rana Adib (The Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), Ms. Maria Michela Morese (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Global Bioenergy Partnership), and Ms. Naida Taso (Energy Community).

V. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy (agenda item 5)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 - Key findings

3. The Group of Experts:

(a) Noted with appreciation publication of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022, which was prepared by REN21 in close collaboration with the ECE secretariat and members of the Group of Experts. The report provides the latest update on the status of energy efficiency and the uptake of the renewable energy in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

(b) Noted with appreciation the progress made in the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region and the development of the necessary policy options to facilitate uptake.

(c) Encouraged ECE member States to continue improving the quality of data so that progress made in the uptake of renewable energy can be accurately monitored and assessed.

(d) Highlighted the importance of the historical and potential data and trends for formulating an evidence-based development pathway for sound decision-making and sector development.

(e) Recognized the need to build resilient energy systems in the ECE region that ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region and the role of renewable energy in this process.

VI. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy (agenda item 6)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/4 – Status and Perspectives for Renewable Energy in the ECE region

4. The Group of Experts:

(a) Noted with appreciation the outcome activities of the RE-Uptake project, which was implemented jointly by the German Energy Agency (dena) and REN21, in cooperation with the ECE secretariat, and with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (BMWK).

(b) Noted with appreciation the recent update of the paper on the Status and Perspectives for Renewable Energy in the ECE Region issued by dena within the framework of the RE-Uptake project. The Group underlined the importance of that work to be able to properly understand the status of renewable energy in ECE member States, and to accurately identify key factors that determine the pace of the uptake of renewable energy in each member State.

(c) Recognized the value of the ECE Renewable Energy Hard Talks organized recently within the framework of the RE-Uptake Project in Albania, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Serbia. The key recommendations resulting from these activities, including ways to attract investment and thus speed up the uptake of renewable energy in the beneficiary States, were presented to the Group and put forward for discussion.

(d) Encouraged the governments of ECE member States to indicate to the secretariat any interest to host a Renewable Energy Hard Talk.

(e) Invited ECE member States to be more active in requesting the secretariat to conduct studies and capacity-building activities in the field of renewable energy, especially those that qualify for the support of the Regional Advisory Services.

(f) Requested the secretariat to assist, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, interested countries in identifying obstacles and bottlenecks to renewable energy investments through organization of Renewable Energy Hard Talks.

(g) Welcomed the general support provided to its work by the Regional Advisory Services.

VII. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems (agenda item 7)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/5 – Energy Transition and the Post-COVID-19 Socioeconomic recovery: Role of women and impact on them

5. The Group of Experts:

(a) Recognized that in order to achieve a higher share of renewable energy in their future energy mixes, ECE member States should adopt an integrated approach and engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue with national and international stakeholders. Their efforts should be focused on improving understanding of the renewable energy resource characteristics and availability, as well as on strengthening the policy, institutional, normative, and regulatory frameworks that enable and facilitate the uptake of renewable energy, including through the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy resources and projects.

(b) Encouraged ECE member States to adopt needed policies for a greater energy security and affordability, as well as environmental sustainability, thus providing for more resilient energy systems in the ECE region.

(c) Recognized that in the current conditions the discussion exploring sustainable solutions to develop infrastructure and increase generation of energy from renewable sources is of interest to all countries of the ECE region, in particular taking into account the current global energy crisis and ongoing efforts of many ECE member States to enhance the resiliency of their energy systems.

(d) Recognized the need to restore damaged infrastructure, including renewable energy facilities, when applicable, in particular as highlighted in the focused discussion on Ukraine.

(e) Encouraged ECE member States to pay attention to technologies and legislation for the development of clean transportation, including electrical transportation and transportation that uses hydrogen technologies.

(f) Encouraged strengthening the cooperation between the Group and the Renewable Energy Working Group of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM).

(g) Noted with appreciation the cooperation with other sectoral subprogrammes of ECE and the benefits this brings to ECE member States in improving the management of resources, including through increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy mixes.

(h) Highlighted the need for member States to adopt a holistic approach, taking into account intersectoral opportunities and effects in the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, and placing consideration of the post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery within the context of the on-going energy transition.

(i) Encouraged the secretariat to continue working, within the scope of its expertise and in cooperation with other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, on transition of the energy sector in line with the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the Strategic Review of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme (ECE/ENERGY/2021/4).

(j) Requested continuation of the cooperation with the ECE Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in order to further increase the role of renewable energy in promoting the nexus approach, towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meeting the climate change obligations of the Paris Agreement.

(k) Invited the secretariat to continue its work on the role of women in the energy sector, recognizing that empowering women is likely to have multiple benefits, including in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

VIII. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts 2022-2023 (agenda item 8)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/12 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2022-2023

6. The Group of Experts:

(a) Noted with appreciation the concrete activities that the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has been implementing since 2014 to help increase the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region.

(b) Noted with appreciation that it has been successfully delivering on its work plan for 2022-2023 and welcomed the key achievements presented at the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and at the ninth session of the Group of Experts.

(c) Requested the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, to continue to oversee implementation of the 2022-2023 Work Plan of the Group of Experts, and to explore opportunities to secure extrabudgetary funding for specific projects focused on activities related to: (a) regulatory and policy dialogue, and (b) sharing best practices in efficient and effective use of various renewable energy sources with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.
