

2020 evaluation of subprogramme 5

UNECE Collaboration with UN and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development (November 2020)

Final progress report as of 31 December 2022

#	Recommendation	Management response	Responsibility	Target date	Progress
1	<p>To continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. Particular attention should be given to attracting extrabudgetary sources for mid-to-long-term (3-5 years) technical assistance (which will be larger in scope and monetary terms) and advisory interventions that would focus on the continuity of multilevel assistance (development of policy and legal framework, institutional strengthening, and individual capacity-building of targeted beneficiaries). Synergies, cooperation, and in-kind contributions from all participating parties will strengthen the buy-in and sense of ownership at national and international levels.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>SED will continue its focus on diversifying its sources of funding. It will attempt to attract extrabudgetary sources for near-, mid-, and long-term technical assistance. This will be reflected in the forthcoming resource mobilization plan to be submitted to ECE EXCOM in 2021.</p>	SED Director	December 2022	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>Significant progress continues to be made on this recommendation. The funding received from the World Nuclear Agency (WNA) for the Carbon Neutrality project and from the European Commission for Sustainable Resource Management, and that secured from Germany (IKI) for high-performance buildings was already reported.</p> <p>The funding for centres of excellence (Ireland, Russian Federation, China) has continued to progress. Donors are also being sought for work on pathways to sustainable energy, hydrogen, renewable energy, methane management, just transition, resilient energy systems and carbon pricing including in cooperation with the Chair and other members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The Bureau convened a special session to discuss funding and outreach related to the strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme that is now completed: specific projects on hydrogen and natural gas in transport have been funded, and the other priority areas of the strategic review are under consideration. The Bureau is contemplating an explicit outreach programme to enhance resourcing.</p> <p>To deliver on the mid-to-long-term aspect of this recommendation, discussions have now started with the European Commission to continue funding work on Sustainable Resource Management, including</p>

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					UNFC and UNRMS, but at a larger scale when the current project finishes in 2024.
3	<p>To consider planning impact evaluations (ex-ante and ex-post) of specific interventions. An ICE, established recently, might be a case in point here. While any impact evaluation is a time- and resource-consuming exercise, it does serve multiple purposes. First and foremost, it would help to measure the potential impact of the planned intervention and report on the tangible and intangible impact/result of this intervention to a broad audience and donor community, resulting in the increased outreach and visibility of the UNECE itself and the concept/notion of the centres of excellence specifically. This might also have a multiplier effect by spurring interest in expanding the network of the centres of excellence under the guidance and leadership of the UNECE with certain financial contributions from external parties.</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>UNECE will consider planning impact evaluations for recently established ICEs at the programme level or through future Technical Cooperation projects of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme to be submitted to EXCOM by December 2022.</p>	SED Director	December 2022	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2022</p> <p>The best example will be to assess the impact of the High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI), including not only its centres of excellence but also the other three pillars of the initiative (academic consortium, industry leadership group, and thought leadership group). Pending advancement of the various projects and initiatives and availability of resources, full consideration will be given to undertaking an impact evaluation.</p> <p>Another good example of future work on implementing this Recommendation is the IKI project “Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings”. From its inception, the project is planned to have an Accompanying Impact Evaluation (AIE). The Preparation Phase of this project was approved by the UNECE Executive Committee on 30 November 2022. The Preparation Phase is expected to begin in February 2023.</p> <p>In addition, SED has undertaken a similar approach in the extrabudgetary project E359 ‘Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region’, with project activities including ‘A3.3. Conducting an impact discovery on how member States could better use and implement best practices and guidelines developed by ECE activities in their national or/and sub-national measures to address the issues of energy efficiency in buildings’ – see the impact study on how member States could better use and implement best practices and guidelines developed by UNECE activities in their national and/or sub-national measures to address the issues of energy efficiency</p>

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					<p>in buildings at the following link: https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/regional-advisory-services/impact-study.</p> <p>Work on the centres of excellence has been slowed by the COVID pandemic. As the centres progress and activities expand, pending available resources an impact evaluation would be worthwhile. The timing of the review might need to be reviewed pending the progress of the COVID pandemic and advancement of the various projects and initiatives.</p>
4	<p>To continue introducing gender-responsive S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators to measure progress made regarding the gender mainstreaming agenda and to continue to encourage active participation of female subject-matter experts in relevant activities.</p>	<p>UNECE accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>In line with UNECE commitments taken in the management response of the 2019 evaluation of Gender mainstreaming in UNECE, gender-responsive indicators and targets will continue being introduced and active participation of female subject-matter experts in relevant activities will continue being encouraged. Actions initiated in this framework are reflected in the biannual Progress Reports of this programme-level evaluation; all recommendations are expected to be implemented by December 2021.</p>	SED Director	December 2021	<p>Implemented as of 31 December 2021</p> <p>SED continues to make every effort to increase the number of women participating in SED activities. A full summary by the SED gender focal point was provided as part of the reporting on the evaluation on Gender mainstreaming at UNECE. These include: - SED makes every effort to ensure gender balance on all podiums and panels organized by the Division. However, the final line-up does not always have gender balance. – SED includes gender equality and the empowerment of women into the job vacancy announcement of relevant posts. – In SED the gender focal point is at P-4 level and spends 20% of his time on gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>The Expert Group on Resource Management has established a Women in Resource Management Working Group.</p> <p>Each study launched in SED contains a clause along these lines (example from Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia): <i>“The study should include, to the extent possible, special considerations for renewable energy investments owned and/or operated by women, as</i></p>

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					<p><i>well as to the role of women in post-crisis recovery as related to deploying and using renewable energy.”</i></p> <p>The 30th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy included a presentation by a gender consultant that covered two case studies highlighting good practices in gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>A session was organized during the 12th session of the Expert Group on Resource Management (29 April 2021) on “A new social contract on natural resources: Focus on women advancing Net Zero in oil and gas”. The speakers provided examples of good practices being implemented in gender mainstreaming in the oil and gas sector in member States, including Italy and Norway.</p> <p>SED conducted an online training workshop on “Women entrepreneurship in natural resource management: Challenges and opportunities for the micro-, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in the post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery”, 17 December 2020</p> <p>SED conducted a webinar on Women in Mining: Global Perspective on 15 October 2020 included a number of case studies on good practices.</p> <p>More broadly, gender-related issues are reflected in the reports developed in the course of the UN Development Account project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector”, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Guidelines and Best Practices for MSMEs in delivering energy efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment (October 2021)

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in the Kyrgyz Republic on delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment Gender-related issues are reflected in the report Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia. <p>A study on “Energy transition and post-Covid-19 socio-economic recovery: the role of women and impact on them”, requested by Albania, Belarus, and Ukraine has been developed and is posted here.</p> <p>A UNECE Consultant presented the outcomes of the study Energy Transition and Post-Covid-19 Socio-economic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them at the 30th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (see here); at the 8th session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, 5 October 2021 (see here); and at the Online Workshop Sustainable Energy Policies and Implementation of National Sustainable Energy Action Plans, 17 November 2021 (see here).</p> <p>SED presented a report at the SPECA Economic Forum, SESSION V: Women’s economic empowerment for sustainable development: policy challenges during and after COVID-19 for the SPECA region, 18 November 2021.</p>
5	<p>To continue raising awareness through presentations and analytical papers (linkage to relevant SDGs could also be useful in this regard), of the member States on the human rights dimension and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>The right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda</p>	SED Director	December 2022	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>As noted, the right to access affordable, reliable and clean energy (SDG 7) and the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the</p>

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	(including women, youth and elderly).	on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be reflected in the future programmes of work of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.			<p>future programmes of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme, subject to the approval of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>Under the UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector” which is led by UNCTAD and UNESCWA, the Division contributed in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable resource management by developing guidelines and best practices which support disadvantaged sections of society, including people with disabilities. The core focus was on planet - people - prosperity, which includes building an inclusive society that also considers the challenges of disabled people. This was highlighted in the training workshops organized in January, June and July 2022.</p> <p>A session on the gender aspects of the process of transformation of the coal mining regions was organized during the 17th meeting of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition (18-19 March 2022, Geneva). The presentations, as well as the ensuing debate highlighted the benefits of inclusiveness and diversity of the energy sector and underlined the necessity of providing protective measures not only for the personnel laid off from mines and plants that are incompatible with the green economy, but also for the vulnerable groups whose wellbeing is indirectly but closely linked with the legacy industries.</p> <p>A publication on “Energy Transition and the Post-</p>

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					COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery: Role of Women and Impact on Them” is currently being finalized for publication later in 2022.
6	<p>To introduce S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators to measure the progress made with regard to the impact of the UNECE’s activities on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).</p>	<p>UNECE partially accepts the recommendation.</p> <p>Future projects of the Sustainable Energy Division will capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.</p>	SED Director	December 2022	<p>Implemented as of 30 June 2022</p> <p>The strategic review of the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been finalised and it will have enduring impact on the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the work plans of its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>UNECE’s activities in sustainable energy based on the strategic review will be assessed regarding their impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly).</p> <p>A plan has been put in place in the Division to advise project managers that all future projects need to capture the impact of the sustainable energy agenda on marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and elderly), as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, subject to donor interest and EXCOM approval.</p>