

**To: Members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

**From: Juergen Keinhorst, Iva Brkic, Dario Liguti**

**Call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

Via Teams – 14:00 CEST, 26 January 2023

**MINUTES**

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

- **Bureau Members in attendance:** Juergen Keinhorst (Chair), Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine), Emily Grubert (United States), Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Andrei Covatariu (Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency – GEEE), Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Group of Experts on Gas – GEG), Kostiantyn Gura (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy – GERE), David G. MacDonald (Expert Group of Resource Management – EGRM), Raymond Pilcher (Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition – GECMMJT) and Jim Robb (Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems – GECES).
- **Other supporting staff in attendance:** Carlos Moreno Carrero (Group of Experts on Gas – GEG), Inna Slobodian (Ukraine), Oksana Tkachuk (Ukraine)
- **UNECE Secretariat staff in attendance:** Iva Brkic (Secretary), Michal Jacek Drabik, Oleg Dzioubinski, Charlotte Griffiths, Dario Liguti (Division Director), Igor Litvinyuk, Branko Milicevic, Gianluca Sambucini, Slavko Vekoslav Solar, Harikrishnan Tulsidas
- **Unable to attend:** Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia), Emir Farhadzada (Azerbaijan), Jean-Christophe Fueeg (Switzerland), Pawel Pikus (Poland), Admir Softić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**II. PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Update on the follow up activities from the last Bureau call
3. Discussion on the draft UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan
  - What should be the priorities? Are we missing any elements?
  - How can we deliver on this work plan jointly?
  - Where shall we seek funding? Where are the identified untapped funding opportunities?
4. Preparing for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 13-15 September 2023
  - What should be the theme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session?
  - What topics for the substantive documents would you propose? Who would take the lead?
5. Major Events planned in 2023
  - The calendar provides a list of events that UNECE SED will lead or co-lead and that require resources and Bureau support
  - Are we missing any events where we should be present?
  - Who would take the lead?
6. Administrative matters
  - Proposed new structure of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

- Launching discussion on Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Sustainable Energy
  - Proposed dates for Bureau Calls in 2023
7. Update on the upcoming events:
  8. AoB

### III. DOCUMENTATION:

1. Draft Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems – Agenda Item 3
2. Proposed list of mandatory and substantive documents for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy – Agenda Item 4
3. Calendar of events for 2023 – Agenda Item 5

### IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

#### Agenda Item 1. Opening and agenda approval

The Chair, Juergen Keinhorst, welcomed all the Bureau Members and the agenda was approved as drafted

#### Agenda Item 2. Update on the follow up activities from the last Bureau call

Documentation: [Final Report](#) of the CSE31 ECE-ENERGY-143.pdf and the [2022 Chair's Report](#)

The Chair informed the Bureau that the report presented at the 125<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee on 30 November 2022 was well received by Member States.

The Chair reminded the Bureau of the priorities agreed during the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy: i) Enable a hydrogen ecosystem; ii) Provide targeted support to build resilient energy systems in Central Asia; iii) Accelerate sustainable resource management; and iv) Build resilient energy systems: UNECE platform.

#### Agenda Item 3. Discussion on the draft UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan

Documentation: Draft Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

The discussion was based on the following questions:

- What should be the priorities? Are we missing any elements?
- How can we deliver on this work plan jointly?
- Where shall we seek funding? Where are the identified untapped funding opportunities?

Key takeaways:

- Include the language on full system decarbonization and an optimal interplay between renewable electricity and renewable and low-carbon gases to support uptake of renewable energy capacity across the region. Together with EGRM, GERE and EGCEs, GEG is ready to develop an international hydrogen taxonomy and specifications under the UNFC and UNRMS.
- Strengthen the language on low- and zero-carbon technology deployment across both energy demand and supply side.

- Expand the language on just transition to reflect the socio-economic aspects related to industry decarbonization and competitiveness, and the need for reskilling of workforce across the region to deliver on energy transition.
- Strengthen the language on decentralized energy systems and the importance of increasing the capacity of energy distribution and transmission systems. A push towards more distributed renewable energy systems needs to be included in urban development plans.
- Consider a creation of an Energy Emergency Centre in the UNECE region (potentially in Poland or Slovakia). Such a Centre could play an important role in developing protocols on how to act in an event of an energy system failure. It can also serve as platform that can provide assistance in sourcing strategic equipment and tools required to fix the energy system.
- Create an open platform to collaborate on resilient energy systems across the UN-system and with other organizations. Initial discussion is starting with likeminded partners, such as IEA, WMO, OSCE, EIB, IAEA etc.

Actions:

- Secretariat to incorporate all the additional comments received by February 15
- Bureau Members review the final Work Plan with a focus on the section *deliverables and timeline* by March 1
- Bureau approves the final Work Plan at the next Bureau call in March
- The proposal will be presented to the Member States at the one of the upcoming EXCOM meetings (most likely May 2023)

#### **Agenda Item 4. Preparing for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 13-15 September 2023**

Documentation: Proposed list of mandatory and substantive documents for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

The discussion was based on the following questions:

- What should be the theme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session?
- What topics for the substantive documents would you propose? Who would take the lead?

Key takeaways:

- The 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be held from 13-15 September 2023, back-to-back with the Annual Meeting of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.
- Theme of the Sustainable Energy Week to be discussed and confirmed at the next Bureau call in March. The initial discussion supported the idea to stay connected to the overarching theme of Resilient Energy Systems and connecting it to some areas of work, such as critical raw materials, water-energy nexus, hydrogen taxonomy, just transition etc.

- 13 mandatory and 2 substantive documents will be prepared for the upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy → 1) Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems and 2) Access to critical raw materials in the UNECE region

Actions:

- Agree on the theme of the Sustainable Energy Week 2023 (32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy) by March 25
- Submission of the substantive documents by June 25

## **Agenda Item 5. Major Events planned in 2023**

Documentation: Calendar of events for 2023

A calendar of international and UNECE events in 2023 for which UNECE is either supporting or leading organization was shared with the Bureau Members.

Key international events planned in 2023:

- 8-9 June 2023 Astana International Economic Forum
- 10-19 July [High Level Political Forum in New York](#)
- 19-20 September [2023 SDG Summit](#), New York
- 6-8 November 2023 Almaty Energy Forum
- 13-17 November EU Raw Materials Week, Brussels
- 1-12 December COP28, Dubai

Upcoming UNECE Events:

- 20-14 March [Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition](#) and the [Group of Experts on Gas](#)
- 29-30 March [UNECE Regional Forum](#)
- 18-19 April [17<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission](#)
- 25-28 April Annual Meeting of the [Expert Group on Resource Management](#)

## **Agenda Item 6. Administrative Matters**

### **1. Proposed new structure of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division**

UNECE SED Director, Dario Liguti, presented the new SED structure to the Bureau Members. The new structure shows how the division will deliver on its priorities given the capacity constraints. The Bureau was informed that UNECE will not be receiving funds through the contingency plan dedicated to work on Ukraine.

Key takeaways:

- Bureau members welcomed the new SED structure. It was proposed to rename the section on *Natural Resources Management* to *Resource Management* and add a footnote that explains what it includes. It was also proposed to pictorial representation that illustrates the flow of information between the 2 sections.

- Gaps that require funding include but are not limited to i) resilient energy systems; ii) just transition, and iii) activities in Central Asia.

Actions:

- Prepare the information-flow graphic by March 25
- Share new meetings calendar planned for 2024 and beyond by March 25

## 2. Launching discussion on Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Documentation: [Rules of procedure for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies](#)

The Bureau was informed that the UNECE Chief of Staff has launched an exercise to harmonize Rules of Procedure across all UNECE bodies. The ongoing exercise has shown that there might be some implications on the current Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy dating from 2020. This especially relates to: number of Bureau Members, re-elections of Bureau Members, voting system in an event that decision cannot be taken in consensual mode etc. The Secretariat will keep the Bureau informed about further developments.

### Agenda Item 7. Update on recent and upcoming events

The Bureau was informed about recent and upcoming events organized by the Secretariat and the UNECE expert community.

Recent events:

- **December 9:** [Workshop on Mine Closure in Albania and Serbia, Tirana, Albania](#) (GECMMJT, RA)
- **December 15:** [Workshop on the dynamics of coal demand in Tajikistan until 2050 and viability of replacing coal with alternative domestic energy sources, Dushanbe, Tajikistan](#) (GECMMJT, RA)
- **December 20:** [UNECE Youth Dialogue: Shaping the future of the region – 2 roundtables on the future of energy](#) (SED)
- **January 11:** Meeting of the stakeholders of UNECE High-Performance Buildings Initiative (GEEE)
- **January 16:** [Workshop on Business Case for hydrogen blending](#) (GEG)
- **January 18:** [Workshop](#) on the path to climate neutrality – Building blocks of a new methodology for determining an economic mix of measures (technical implementation of concepts laid out in [ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/3](#)) (online) (GEEE) See “In Focus” at [Energy Efficiency | UNECE](#)
- **January 23 :** 8th meeting of UNECE and Ember’s [Methane Mondays](#) series (GECCMJT)
- **January 25:** [Bi-monthly roundtable by Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Industry](#) on 'ESCO in a box' (online) (GEEE) See “In Focus” at [Energy Efficiency | UNECE](#)

Action: Bureau Members were invited to participate in and promote the following events

Upcoming events:

- **February 14-15:** International Roundtable on Minerals Criticality Conference: Workshop on UNFC and UNRMS, Lille, France (EGRM)
- **February 28 (tbc):** Coal Mine Methane session at the 32nd School of Underground Mining, Cracow, Poland (GECMMJT)
- **March 20-21:** [18th Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition](#) (GECMMJT)
- **March 22:** Joint session of GECMMJT and the GMI Coal Sub-committee, Geneva, Switzerland (GECMMJT)
- **March 23-24:** [10th session of the Group of Experts on Gas](#) (GEG)
- **March 25-28:** Event at the [UNECE Regional Forum](#) on Sustainable Energy
- **March 27-30:** Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development ([APSD](#)): Session on Critical Minerals in Asia-Pacific (ESCAP/Energy and EGRM)
- **April 5-7:** Virtual side events pre-Commission session
- **April 18-19:** [Seventieth session of the Commission, 18-19 April 2023](#), Geneva, Switzerland
- **April 25-28:** [14th session of the Expert Group on Resource Management](#) (EGRM) as part of UNECE Resource Management Week 2023

#### **Agenda Item 10. AOB**

No special questions were raised under this agenda item