



**Meeting of the Bureau of the
Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)**

1 February 2023 from 14:00 to 15:00 - *Online*

Report of the Meeting

Item 1. Chair's welcome;

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, conveyed welcome remarks to the participants in the meeting held online and in person, the first meeting of GERE Bureau in 2023. The Chair highlighted, among others, the key steps for GERE in 2023 that include the development of the Work Plan 2024-2025 and the focus of the annual session of the GERE and the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE).

Item 2. Approval of the agenda;

2. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

Item 3. Tour the table of the Bureau members, in particular to introduce new members;

3. The Chair introduced the Bureau Members presented in the meeting.

Item 4. Progress made in implementing the GERE Work Plan 2022-2023;

4. The Chair and the secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress of the Work Plan for the period 2022-2023. The secretariat pointed out the activities already implemented in 2022 and those planned for the year 2023. Among key activities implemented, the secretariat highlighted the issuing of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 and the RE-Uptake project implemented together with Dena and REN21, which included the organization of four RE Hard Talks in the last two years

Item 5. Identification of one or two renewable energy experts to participate in the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency;

5. The Bureau was informed by Mr. Igor Litvinyuk, secretary of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE), about the activities of GEEE in the area of digitalization in energy led by its dedicated Task Force on Digitalization in Energy. Having identified several common areas, Mr. Igor Litvinyuk invited the GERE Bureau to consider

nominating its member to participate in the proceedings of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy in 2023 and beyond.

6. For this occasion, Binu Parthan is consulting the relevant team within the IRENA and will inform the Chair and the Secretariat to possibly nominate an expert from IRENA for the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.

Item 6. GERE contribution to the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems;

7. The Chair supports the idea for the creation of Energy Emergency Response Centre and a related Assistance Platform, by considering the need to create in parallel specific training of technical experts and manpower.
8. In addition, taking into account the current energy crisis, the Director of Sustainable Energy Division, Dario Liguti highlighted the importance of Resilience Energy System and solicited the Bureau, emphasizing that the group has gathered the best experts in renewable energy from the UNECE region, to be participant and contribute to develop this area through their expertise and know-how.

Item 7. Inputs to be included in the GERE Work Plan 2024-2025;

9. The Chair informed that the new Work Plan 2024-2025 for GERE will be developed in these coming months and considered for approval by the Committee on 13-15 September 2023, just after the GERE session. The Chair informed the Bureau Members about the possibility to discuss the direction of the GERE future work. The draft new work plan would have to be finalized by May to be submitted as parliamentary document for the Committee session in due time.
10. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), among others, highlighted the importance of identifying a focus while fostering the development of bioenergy and green energy across ECE countries on the next Work Plan.
11. Paolo Frankl (IEA) pointed out the need for standards on sustainable performance. With no official documents setting the standards today, he expressed as a high priority to agree and standardize the way the sustainable performance is assessed. The Bureau agreed to insert the proposal for a new activity within UNECE to create sustainable biofuels standards to foster the sustainable bioeconomy.
12. Michela Morese also expressed the importance to develop a synergetic approach across ECE countries. By joining forces and developing new sustainable project jointly, it will result beneficial in terms of fostering RE and experience that countries can use individually to develop future RE projects.
13. The secretariat highlighted that the main direction of the future work plan could maintain and make progress on the three pillars already present in the current work plan, i.e. (i) Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources; (ii) Exchange of experiences, good practices and multi-stakeholder dialogues; and (iii) Cross-cutting cooperation to strengthen integration of renewable energy. The secretariat also pointed out that the current areas of work would have to include emerging issues such as energy resiliency, and digitalization.

Item 8. New project ideas for extra budgetary funding;

14. The Chair informed to all Bureau Members that they could present new project ideas for extra budgetary funding.
15. The Secretariat highlighted the need to have deeper understanding on the progressing of developing Renewable Energy for individual country through an increase of requests for more quality data. Based on the demand for this activity, the Secretariat has developed a proposal for a RE Performance Review (REPR) that will be led by ECE. The main objective of a REPR is an assessment of the progress a country has made in meeting the renewable energy targets within its national and international commitments.
16. REPRs are also intended to develop stronger institutions for renewable energy governance, management, and performance. Reviews would also improve financial frameworks for renewable energy development through advanced renewable energy monitoring and information systems.
17. Margalita Arabidze and Vibhushree Hamirwasia support the initiative of the REPR and added that this deeper analysis can be also used as basis of updated data for policy makers, as a relevant document to raise needed resources and for a document base discussion for future Hard Talks. The Bureau agreed to include this activity in the GERE Work Plan 2024-2025.
18. The Chair informed the Bureau that any other suggestion can be sent by the 15th of February 2023.

Item 9. Focus of the tenth session on 11-12 September 2023;

19. The Chair highlighted that this year GERE session is taking place on 11-12 September, the same week of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. It is also the year of the mid-point review of SDG7, mainly Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for the UNECE region. The ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region will take place on 29-30 March in Geneva and a specific round table will take place on 29 March on the implementation of SDG7. The Chair and Secretariat suggested connecting the GERE discussions to the Committee session that will take place on the same week of September.
20. The Secretariat also proposed to have a jointly event with the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Secretariat also pointed out the opportunity to discuss about common subjects that will be covered by the Committee and mainly related to energy resiliency and decarbonization.
21. In addition, it is a special year for GERE. In September 2023, it will be the tenth anniversary of the Group of Experts. For this special occasion, the Secretariat proposed to find a possible sponsor for the reception on 12 September, to celebrate the GERE anniversary and invite, if possible, both GERE and Committee Experts.

Item 10. AOB

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22. The Chair suggested to create a WhatsApp group with all GERE Bureau Members and the secretariat to facilitate the communication. As agreed by the Bureau members, the Secretariat will collect the contacts of all members and create the group.
23. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the organization of Hard Talks in Central Asia during the year 2023, depending on availability of funding.
24. In addition, Tibor Fischer recommended to raise more specific subjects on the RE Hard Talks. He expressed the interest to cover legal and economic challenges that vary in every country. Recommendations are mainly directed to develop more specific outcomes and key recommendations; to understand deeper the challenges that every country faces and strengthening RE support on economic and legal mechanisms.
25. As intermediary step, from now until next annual session in September,
26. The Chair closed the meeting expressing gratitude for the fruitful discussion and once again emphasized that Bureau has gathered the best experts in the renewable energy sector from the UNECE region.