

**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, 22 March 2023

**MINUTES**

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

- **Bureau Members in attendance:** Juergen Keinhorst (Chair), Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), , Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Emir Farhadzada (Azerbaijan), Stefan Buettner (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)
- **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), Jean-Christophe Fueeg (Switzerland), Pawel Pikus (Poland), Admir Softić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine), Emily Grubert (United States)

**II. PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Update on the follow up activities from the last Bureau call
3. Discussion on the Theme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
4. Update on substantive documents for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
5. Update on the ongoing and upcoming UNECE events
6. Update on the international planned events in 2023
7. AoB

**Documents shared:**

- Draft Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems – Agenda Item 2
- SED's information flows and meetings calendar – Agenda Item 2
- Proposed list of mandatory and substantive documents for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy – Agenda Item 4
- Calendar of events for 2023 – Agenda Item 5 & 6

## Notes

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

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

- **Final draft – UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan**

Key takeaways:

Bureau members discussed the draft Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems and agreed on the following:

- To plan to seek endorsement by member States at one of the future EXCOM meetings
- To develop something marketable and check what is feasible with resources available
- To prioritize activities for 2023 and 2024, and to actively seek extrabudgetary funding:
  - Activity one: Enhancing energy connectivity in Central Asia through low- and zero-carbon technology interplay.
  - Activity two: Enhancing energy system resiliency through balancing power generation and building energy storage, such as batteries, hydro pump storage, repurposing of coal mines. The objective of this exercise would be to identify the pilot projects in the UNECE region.
  - Activity three: Assessing the readiness of the UNECE region to modernize the energy systems based on the principles of just transition. The objective of this exercise is to map the readiness and progress on just energy transition.
  - Activity four: to develop a pathway to an international hydrogen taxonomy and specifications according to UNFC and UNRMS
  - Activity five: to develop a framework for an Early Warning System (EWS) for Building Resilient Energy Systems. The objective of this activity would be to identify barriers to progress and seek solutions to build and operate resilient energy systems. A framework on EWS could assess i) availability and access to critical raw minerals and other resources; ii) deployment of low-and zero-carbon technologies to respond to the obligations set by the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development; and iii) readiness of the energy system to benefit of systemic energy efficiencies and digitalization.

Actions:

- Bureau members to provide any additional feedback on the draft Work Plan of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems by April 15
- Bureau to sign off the final work plan at next Bureau call in May

- **SED's information flows and meetings calendar 2024 – 2025**

Key takeaways:

- Update on new SED structure: UNECE Secretariat to support the Committee on Sustainable Energy through the work of 2 sections: 1. Resource Management (note: resources include all natural resources such as minerals, energy, water, and anthropogenic resources. Anthropogenic resources are natural resources that have been modified by human activity): CMMJT and EGRM; 2. Energy Systems: EGCES, GEEE, GEG, GERE. This new structure will allow Expert Groups to cooperate more closely and strategically on cross-cutting issues and deliver the CSE Agenda.
- Update on new meeting calendar: New proposed meetings calendar for 2024 – 2025. The objective is to have 2 annual flagship UNECE events – one in spring, the UNECE Resource Management Week, and one in fall, the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week. In addition, there will be one subregional event and the location will be determined based on the Committee's priorities. This new way of delivering joint meetings across Expert Groups will allow us to break silos and advance the Committee agenda in a more strategic and meaningful way.

**Item 3. Discussion on the Theme of the 32nd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

Guiding questions:

- What should be the focus of this year's session?
- How can we strengthen our work on Building Resilient Energy Systems?
- How can we operationalize the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems?
- What key messages do we want to communicate to NY for the HLPF, SDG Summit, COP28?
- Which key stakeholders do we want in Geneva in September at the Committee meeting?
- What strategic partnerships do we want to build ahead of this year's session?

Key takeaways:

- In-dept discussion on the Platform for Resilient Energy Systems took place under Agenda Item 2 part 1 – see above
- The theme of the Sustainable Energy Week to focus on technical aspects and to benefit from the knowledge of the UNECE expert community → proposal: *Decarbonizing for resiliency: enablers and facilitators – what can we do to fast-track*
- To strategize to stimulate countries to participate more actively and be engaged in the UNECE CSE work. In focus in 2023:
  - SDG7 review: UNECE Regional Forum, HLPF in July 2023 and SDG Summit September 2023
  - Building resilient energy systems through:
    - Access to critical raw materials
    - Scaling RE capacity and encouraging interplay between low-, zero- and negative carbon technologies
    - Energy Connectivity
  - Regional cooperation in Central Asia

- Discussion on objectives of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2023:
  - **Hold a technical discussion that informs a political dialogue on some potential topics:**
    - Horizon scanning towards more resilient and net-zero energy systems
    - Technical discussion on role of science and research for breakthrough technologies for energy transition
    - Anticipating developments and tackling issues associated with scale up of renewable energy. Scale up of renewable energy capacity in the UNECE region is a journey and it requires:
      - Policy support and clear long-term national commitments and strategies
      - Viable investment opportunities from public and private sector
      - Qualified workforce to build, maintain and develop breakthrough technologies for such a transition
  - **Decide what the mandate of the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems could be:**
    - A Platform for a dialogue on how to build resilient energy systems in the UNECE region
    - An online space that gathers all the tools that inform and help countries design and implement resilient energy systems
    - A strategic partnership across UN agencies, other organizations and member States to coordinate efforts, identify projects of common interest and define clear steps on how to build resilient energy systems across the region
  - **Launch the process to build a Trust Fund to support the Building of Resilient Energy Systems in the UNECE region**
    - Identify a pilot project on building resilient energy systems
    - Identify potential donors and key stakeholders

#### **Item 4. Update on substantive documents for the 32nd Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

- Timeline and the substantive list of documents was reshared with the Bureau: 13 mandatory documents and 2 substantive documents:
  - Final Work Plan of UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems:
    - Final comments by April 15; Bureau sign off at next Bureau Call
  - Access to critical raw materials in the UNECE region
    - To build on findings from the UNECE Resource Management Week, outline and first draft to be shared ahead of May Bureau Call

#### **Item 5. Update on the ongoing and upcoming UNECE events**

- The secretariat provided update on ongoing and future events:
  - [Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition](#) and the [Group of Experts on Gas](#), 20-24 March
  - [UNECE Regional Forum](#), 29-30 March
  - [17<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission](#), 18-19 April
  - Annual Meeting of the [Expert Group on Resource Management](#), 25-28 April

- The Bureau discussed the participation of Russian Federation officials in official UNECE meetings and asked the Secretariat to clarify still open procedural questions with the Executive Office and advised to follow the decision under [ECE/EX/2022/L.6](#).

#### **Item 6. Update on the international planned events in 2023**

- The Secretariat inform the Bureau that the following international events will be in our focus for H1 2023 and that we are actively shaping the agendas of these sessions to promote and advance the CSE Agenda:
  - 8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals – 3-4 May 2023
  - Astana International Forum – 8-9 June 2023
  - Vienna Energy Forum – 13-14 June 2023
  - HLPF – July 2023

#### **Item 7 – Any other business**

##### **CSE Bureau Calls 2023:**

Call 1: Thursday, 26 January 2023

Call 2: Wednesday, 22 March 2023 (EXCOM 16 March 2023)

Call 3: Tuesday, 24 May 2023

Call 4: Tuesday, 19 June 2023

Call 5: November (tbc around the EXCOM mtg because of the Chair's Report)