



Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Thirty-second session

Geneva, 13-15 September 2023

Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-second session
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I. Introduction and attendance

1. The work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. It promotes policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. The current focus of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) is on resilient energy systems, energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner electricity systems, coal mine methane and just transition, gas, hydrogen, and sustainable resource management through the work of its six subsidiary bodies.
2. At its thirty-second session, the Committee exchanged views on how to build resilient and carbon-neutral energy systems in the ECE region while supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement through sustainable resource management and access to critical raw materials, renewable energy capacity scale-up, interplay of low- and zero-carbon technologies, regional energy connectivity, systemic energy efficiencies and digitalization of energy, methane management and just transition. The session was held in person in Geneva on 13-15 September 2023.
3. More than hundred participants from the following ECE member States participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States. Representatives of the European Union also participated. Experts from Australia, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia, and Vietnam participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.
4. The following United Nations regional commissions, specialized agencies, funds and programmes were in attendance: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions were in attendance: Afrique Esperance, Association of Business and Professional Women (ABPW), Climate Champions, ESM Foundation, Eurasian Engineering Association, Eurasian Union of Experts in Subsoil (EUES), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Union Energy Storage WGR3, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO),, Hydrogen Council, Human Rights to Water, Imperial College London, Innovation and Industry Development Fund (IDF), Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production (EEP), Institute for Global Sustainability, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation (IPIECA), IHEID - The Graduate Institute, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Tashkent State Technical University, The Commonwealth Secretariat, The Kazakh British Technical University, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Russian Renewable Energy Development Association, University of Geneva, University of Sheffield, University of Zurich, World Bank, World Economic Forum, World Nuclear Association (WNA) and World Petroleum Council (WPC).
6. Independent experts and representatives of the private sector also attended at the invitation of the secretariat.

II. Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/148 – Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-second session

7. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, opened the meeting and presented the provisional agenda, which was adopted with a minor change. It was decided that Agenda Item 3. “Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the 31st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy” would be discussed in conjunction with Agenda Item 7. “Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy” on Friday 15 September 2023 at 3pm.

8. In his remarks, the Chair stated that designing and building resilient energy systems remains the focus on the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its six subsidiary bodies. The Chair thanked the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies for their leadership and for driving the implementation of the Committee’s Agenda over the past year. The Chair also noted that this year’s Session is part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week and was preceded by the 10th session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (11-12 September 2023). The Chair thanked the Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for holding fruitful discussions on scaling renewable energy capacity across the ECE region and improving the understanding about effective business models based on low- and zero-carbon technology interplay.

9. In addition, the Chair advised that the Committee discussions will revolve around building resilient energy systems across the ECE region, by considering managing critical raw materials, developing regionally connected energy infrastructure, accelerating energy efficiency and digitalization, addressing methane emissions reduction, and discussing just transition developments in the coal mining sector. The Chair further advised that the session would provide information about the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. He acknowledged that the Committee and its expert groups had been very effective in the past year in delivering on their mandated areas of work and encouraged member States to provide guidance as to how the Committee can best support them in fulfilling their mandates.

10. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary of ECE highlighted that ECE’s mission is to promote regional economic integration and acknowledged that the region is one of the largest producers and consumers of energy, making it key when it comes to energy transition and delivering a sustainable energy future for the world. The Executive Secretary observed that the ECE region is at a critical turning point as it has become the focus of geopolitical conflicts and extreme climate events. She called upon the participants to decide on a balanced and integrated approach to solving these multiple crises since we are on a trajectory to jeopardize the well-being of societies and the planet’s future. She also encouraged participants to think how to address the triple planetary crisis which refers to the three main interlinked issues that humanity currently faces: climate change, pollution and waste and loss of biodiversity and nature. The Executive Secretary underlined that energy is critical to supporting peace, cooperation, sustainability, and quality of life in the region and beyond and noted that experts have found clear pathways for policymakers to attain a carbon-neutral energy system using energy efficiency improvements, digital solutions, renewable energy deployment, high-efficiency fossil fuel technologies with carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS), nuclear power (including advanced nuclear power), hydrogen and integrated and sustainable management of natural resources. She further noted that private and public sector cooperation including collaboration with the financial sector is essential. She acknowledged that the Committee has been at the forefront of dialogue and action and has a strong contribution to make to further support ECE member States on the energy transition.

III. High-level segment: Building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: Launch of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems (agenda item 2)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/11 – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan

ECE/ENERGY/2023/12 – Advanced concept for the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

12. High-level representatives from Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Ukraine, and the Deputy Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization delivered statements about their current challenges, needs and priorities related to energy systems resiliency in times of uncertainty and global crises. They noted significant obstacles and risks related to ensuring access to affordable, sustainable, reliable and modern energy for all.

13. The Committee was presented with the objectives and the innovative AI-powered features of the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems (the Platform). The representatives of the Platform's partner organizations, namely International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Bank, highlighted the importance and value of such an AI-tool. Furthermore, the Chairs of the six subsidiary bodies of the Committee stressed how their respective Groups of Experts will support with their knowledge base the success of the Platform and shared recommendations for member States for their consideration. Finally, representatives from Albania, Armenia, Austria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States delivered statements and endorsed continuing working on the Platform.

14. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Recalled the conclusion from the discussion at the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, defining a resilient energy system as the one that reflects the sovereign right of states to determine national energy policy conditions for exploiting their natural resources endowments, their choice between different energy sources, the general structure of their energy supply and the pace and ways of energy system transformations; the potential impacts of climate change on energy supply and demand in its planning and operations; the optimal contribution to a country's social, economic, and environmental development; the ability to prevent, withstand and recover quickly from any shocks, including man-made or climate related, which cause disruptions to energy systems; and is decentralized at all levels – regional, state and local – with widely deployed capacities (including reserved capacities) for alternative energy generation and transmission (ECE/ENERGY/143).

(b) Noted with appreciation that a framework on resilient energy systems is one that is based on: (i) energy security that ensures energy needed at any time is met through a diversity of supply; (ii) affordability of sustainable energy that reduces the costs of electricity, heating, cooling, and transport while increasing systemic energy efficiency; and (iii) environmental sustainability that lowers the carbon footprint and enhances the efficiency across the energy supply chain.

(c) Noted with appreciation the document “United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan” (ECE/ENERGY/2023/11) which outlines a number of activities to be implemented by the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and which are also connected to the subsidiary bodies' Work Plans for 2024-2025 to enhance the resilience of energy systems.

(d) Endorsed the launch of a joint and collaborative multi-stakeholder process to shape the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems and stressed the need for further consultation on the proposal. Requested the secretariat to hold a workshop with member countries to discuss in detail the proposal related to the Platform on Resilient Energy system work plan. Acknowledged that such a Platform will need dedicated extrabudgetary resources and that a fully developed project proposal will be presented at one of the upcoming sessions of the ECE Executive Committee.

(e) Recalled that building a resilient energy system requires engaging with all stakeholders to the extent that warrants their ownership of the process and a sense of responsibility for its results. While the transition towards climate neutrality, being a key element of improving resilience of an energy system, will create new opportunities, it may

also have disruptive effects on carbon- and energy-intensive industries, as well as on regions, communities, and enterprises that depend on them. Therefore, the Committee called upon ECE member States to assess social impacts of the transition at the planning phase, so that proper protective and ameliorating mechanisms are developed and relevant policies prepare stakeholders to the new reality being put in place. The Committee called upon member States to support the activities related to designing and building resilient energy systems with extrabudgetary resources.¹

(f) Recognized that some policymakers across the region are in need of tools that enable them to effectively consider available and reliable information, make informed decisions and manage complex trade-offs to design and build resilient energy systems.

(g) Noted with appreciation the proposal by the secretariat “Advanced concept for the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems” (ECE/ENERGY/2023/12) that highlights the unique, timely and innovative proposition of the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems that is based on: (a) an AI-powered tool using selected and vetted information sources to support tailored and targeted policy and decision-making; (b) a unique forum for information exchange and inclusive multi-stakeholder demand-driven policy dialogues on topical issues, supported by data collection, classification, and policy analysis, and asked for future clarification on the proposal.

(h) Noted with appreciation the strategic cooperation with a number of international organizations and the contribution of their knowledge base to support and shape the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems. The organizations include the European Investment Bank (EIB), IAEA, IEA, ITU, OSCE, the World Bank, WMO, etc.

(i) Called on member States to provide the needed extrabudgetary resources and leadership to support the tools and operations under the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems that addresses the critical need to build energy system resiliency in the ECE region and that cannot be delivered with existing regular budget resources. Requested the Bureau of the Committee to report on the progress of all the activities of the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems during the thirty-third session of the Committee.

(j) Noted the importance and opportunities of addressing gender and intergenerational issues as an integral component of building resilient energy systems in the ECE region. The move to carbon neutral energy systems can be transformative for gender equality and help to empower women in the energy sector. Access to affordable, sustainable, reliable, safe and modern energy is a precondition for achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and for empowering all women and girls. Young people are among those most affected by energy inequalities and climate change hence they have a vested interest in finding solutions. Requested the secretariat to ensure a focus on gender and youth in the work on building resilient energy systems in the ECE region.

(k) Recognized the impact of the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on the resilience of energy systems in Ukraine and the wider ECE region.^{2,3}

(l) Further recognized the need to continue to assist Ukraine and neighbouring member States in recovering from damage to energy infrastructure and systems as a result of the said aggression.

¹ Austria stressed the necessity to accelerate the deployment of renewable energies and energy efficiency to successfully achieve the energy transition and highlighted that it does not consider nuclear power to be a resilient or sustainable energy source.

² 31 member States voted in favour of including paragraphs 14(k) and 14(l) under item III. into the report, one country (the Russian Federation) voted against, and one country abstained.

³ The Russian Federation objected to the inclusion of paragraphs 14(k) and 14(l) under item III. in the report and called upon the members of the Committee to refrain from politicization of the discussions during the thirty-second session of the Committee.

IV. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 3)

15. Reviewed the progress to implement the programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme since the thirty-first session and noted the continued relevance of the subprogramme's activities, particularly related to the strategic priorities of the subprogramme: increase energy systems resilience; promote sustainable resource management; support member States in achieving their SDG7 objectives through scaling up renewable energy capacity and improving energy efficiency; enable a renewable or low- and zero-carbon hydrogen ecosystem in the ECE region; promote best practices in methane management and reductions; and conceive practices for a just and inclusive energy transition.

16. Noted with appreciation the activities and accomplishments of the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies, particularly in view of the economic, geopolitical, energy, social, supply chain, climate, and environmental challenges the ECE region is facing. Called upon member States to provide resources to support projects and activities that deliver on the Committee's identified priorities and address the new challenges.

17. Noted with appreciation the accelerated implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) globally, in particular in countries of the European Union, thanks to the ongoing extrabudgetary project on "Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)".

18. Noted with appreciation the "Policy brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development" and the contribution of the Expert Group on Resource Management to the 2023 High-level Political Forum in New York.

19. Noted that it should be examined if and how the development of an international hydrogen taxonomy and specifications according to UNFC and UNRMS would provide a common language and a holistic approach for managing hydrogen resources. Further, developing an early warning system for critical minerals and other resources with UNFC and UNRMS would enable countries to make informed decisions and adapt their national action plans accordingly to avoid a shortage of resources, as well as provide a reliable and timely source of information on resource availability, quality, and accessibility. The activity on hydrogen taxonomy and specifications according to UNFC and UNRMS will be coordinated by the Hydrogen Task Force that reports to the Group of Experts on Gas, in coordination with other expert groups, and align with sustainable development and human rights principles. The activity related to the developing of an early warning system for critical raw materials and other resources with UNFC and UNRMS will be coordinated by the Expert Group on Resource Management. The Committee called upon member States to support these timely and relevant activities with extrabudgetary resources.

20. Noted with appreciation the launch of technical Task Forces on (a) Methane Emissions Reduction; (b) Just Transition; and, (c) Safe Operations and Closure of Coal Mines under the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition.

21. Noted with appreciation the technical studies on the transition of the coal mining sector developed by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition: (a) The local geological and mining conditions in Albania and Serbia; principle-based guidelines for designing and implementing a programme for an efficient, safe, and environmentally

conscious mine closure,⁴ and, (b) The assessment of coal demand in Tajikistan to 2050 and alternative options for replacing coal in the country's energy mix.⁵

22. Noted with appreciation the outreach activities that the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition is conducting, including: (a) the success of the Methane Mondays online series; (b) engagement of youth to foster the next generation of energy experts and deliver on just energy transition; (c) securing resources for an extrabudgetary project on Strengthening national capacities to reduce coal mine methane emissions from active (CMM) and abandoned (AMM) coal mines and to measure and manage methane emissions across the natural gas value chain; and, (d) the adoption of a draft resolution (E/RES/2023/18⁶) on Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation, by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) whereby the Council decided “to invite States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation worldwide” (p5 E/2023/15/Add.1);

23. Noted with appreciation that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems continued disseminating the findings from the extrabudgetary project on “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” implemented in December 2022 and that has been applying the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit at national and subregional level. The publication on Rebuilding Ukraine with a Resilient, Carbon-Neutral Energy System was launched in June 2023 and the roadmap for the Republic of Moldova and Central Asia region are in preparation. The Committee encouraged member States to apply the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit⁷ with the support of the ECE expert community.

24. Noted with appreciation the efforts by the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the outcome of the SDG Fund Project “Addressing the compounded food and energy crisis in Ukraine through innovative technologies and adaptive agricultural practices” that was implemented jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and ECE. Also noted with appreciation the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on “Untapped Bioenergy Potential of Ukraine: Comprehensive View of Proper Use. Issues of Energy Security and Food Security” which provides concrete recommendations to promote the role of bioenergy in the future energy system in Ukraine.

25. Noted with appreciation the “Policy brief on advancing power system connectivity in support of SDG7” that was prepared by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy together with ESCAP's Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity and presented at the 2023 High-level Political Forum in New York.

26. Noted with appreciation that the Group of Experts on Gas organized a dialogue on resilient energy systems (Geneva and online, 18 October 2022).⁸ The event explored possible interruptions in the gas supply to Europe, rebalancing Europe's energy gas supplies, and mapping alternative supplies for natural gas, while treating the intertwined challenges of

⁴ A study on the geological and mining conditions and development of technical, principle based guidelines for designing and implementing a programme for mine closure in Albania and Serbia, by Mr. Aleksander Wrana and Mr. Aleksander Frejowski, GIG | ECE (<https://unece.org/sed/documents/2022/12/presentations/study-geological-and-mining-conditions-and-development>)

⁵ Assessment of coal demand in Tajikistan to 2050 and the alternative options for replacing coal in the country's energy mix (<https://unece.org/sed/documents/2023/03/working-documents/assessment-coal-demand-tajikistan-2050-and-alternative>)

⁶ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N23/226/64/PDF/N2322664.pdf?OpenElement>

⁷ [UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit](https://carbonneutrality.unece.org/) <https://carbonneutrality.unece.org/>

⁸ <https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/Natural-Gas/events/370493>

resilience including the security of supply, affordability and environmental sustainability in the context of the UN climate agenda.

27. Noted that the timely development of a dedicated hydrogen infrastructure is vital for creating a hydrogen value chain from practically zero today to an immense and complex future industry. In this regard, acknowledged the role of existing gas infrastructure – pipelines, liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers and terminals, compressors, and storage – in jumpstarting production, transportation, and consumption of hydrogen and for its potential for repurposing to a dedicated hydrogen infrastructure.

28. Welcomed the efforts by the Group of Experts on Gas in cooperation with other subsidiary bodies, in particular the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the Expert Group on Resource Management, to streamline hydrogen-related activities under the Committee on Sustainable Energy and launch a Hydrogen Task Force. Noted that setting up the Task Force reflected consensus among ECE member States that hydrogen is instrumental for a future carbon neutral energy system. The Task Force focuses on three main workstreams: (a) sustainable hydrogen standards (including UNFC and UNRMS); (b) hydrogen value chain development; and (c) synergies with renewable energy sources. The Task Force will expand the reach of current initiatives to the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Western Balkans.

29. Took note of the activities of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, including those undertaken with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, as well as other subsidiary bodies of the Committee and other ECE subprogrammes, that support increased systemic efficiency through advancements in economic, technical, and policy research in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

30. Noted the progress of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems in addressing aspects of improving electricity system resilience, including through deployment of energy storage options and increasing energy connectivity; assessing the impacts of changing patterns of energy end uses (including integration of e-mobility and other smart assets at the grid edge) on reliability of the energy system, unlocking the potential of energy system efficiency through digitalization including issues related to cybersecurity; reducing the carbon footprint and improving energy performance in the built environment; and the financing conditions and the overall intergovernmental policy environment for integrating the many elements required to effectively address the challenges and risks.

31. Noted with appreciation the work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme focusing on gender issues across all activities. The Committee further noted the role that women can play towards sustainable energy and reiterated the need to promote gender parity in the programmes of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and to update on the progress at future sessions.

32. Further noted the work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme to focus on intergenerational issues in the energy sector of the ECE region. The Committee appreciated the establishment of a Resource Management Young Member Group as a working group under the Expert Group on Resource Management during the ECE Resource Management Week 2023 (Geneva, 25-28 April 2023) and the efforts of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition role in the 61st United Nations Graduate Study Programme, facilitating a 2-week programme (Geneva, 3-14 July 2023) for international students on “Forging a Just Transition: Towards Green Jobs and Rights-Based Futures”, focused in the coal-mining sectors in Poland and Kazakhstan.

V. Securing access to critical raw materials in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/13 – Securing Access to Critical Raw Materials in the UNECE Region: Challenges and Opportunities

CSE-32/2023/INF.2 – Policy brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development

33. An expert panel discussed that in order to deliver on climate change and sustainable development, the ECE region must optimize the management of natural resources, including critical raw materials (CRMs). A resilient, sustainable and ethical supply of CRMs is essential for clean energy, the decarbonization of the mobility sector, and digital transformation. Resiliency in resource supply requires careful attention to several important environmental, economic and social considerations. Governments, industry, the financial sector, and civil society must cooperate to share relevant social and environmental information and knowledge. The session further discussed the issue of access to CRMs in the ECE region, which is essential for low-carbon energy transition, and assessed the main challenges and risks that affect the supply and demand of CRMs, such as geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes. It also explored the policy alternatives that could enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain, such as diversifying sources, promoting a circular economy, fostering innovation and cooperation, and strengthening governance and transparency. Finally, the session provided a special focus on Central Asia – a region that is rich in natural resources, including renewable energy and critical raw materials.

34. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Noted that access to critical raw materials (CRMs) is vital for the ECE region to achieve its climate and sustainable development goals and to support the transition to a carbon neutral and a digital society. Various factors, such as geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes, influence the supply and demand of CRMs. These factors pose significant challenges and risks for the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain. Policy alternatives that could enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain include diversifying primary sources, promoting a circular economy, fostering innovation and cooperation, strengthening governance and transparency, and increasing investments (ECE/ENERGY/2023/13). These policies should be aligned with the principles of sustainable development and human rights.

(b) Noted that Central Asia has a high potential for CRMs development, as it is rich in natural resources, including renewable energy and CRMs. However, the region faces a number of barriers, including lack of infrastructure, investment, technology, and regulatory frameworks. The region needs to develop national frameworks that are compatible with international standards. UNFC and UNRMS can help Central Asia unlock its potential and upscale green investments in CRMs. These tools can provide a common language and a holistic approach for managing natural resources, including CRMs, sustainably. They can also facilitate data collection, analysis, and reporting, enhancing transparency and accountability.

(c) Noted with appreciation the accelerated implementation of UNFC globally, in particular in countries of the European Union, with a focus on the application of UNFC to mineral and anthropogenic resources. Further noted with appreciation the extrabudgetary project funded by the European Commission, “Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS” (2020-2024), execution of which has facilitated the accelerated implementation of UNFC across Europe and beyond and has resulted in tangible outcomes leading to a potential second phase of the project. Noting the scale of the task to deploy UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond and to build the required capacity for application at the national level, requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to secure additional extrabudgetary resources.

(d) Noted the progress to establish International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) in the ECE region and beyond. Further noted the importance of the ICE-SRMs whose establishment is being discussed to provide dissemination, policy support, technical advice and consultation, education, capacity-building and training on UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond, and requested an update at the thirty-third session on the ICE-SRMs and on any progress to establish a collaborative network of those centres coordinated by the secretariat and in full compliance

with the adopted ECE standards and guidelines. Called upon member States to provide resources to support establishing ICE-SRMs in the ECE region, including in Central Asia.

(e) Recognized the importance of the availability of comprehensive social, environmental, and economic data on CRM projects. A critical minerals markets information-sharing initiative with global reach is recommended to address the challenges of data discrepancies, gaps, limited traceability, and poor pricing transparency that affect the availability and sustainability of critical minerals. Such an initiative would support government policymaking, industry business development, and investment flows as well as foster innovation and cooperation among stakeholders. The initiative should align with sustainable development and human rights principles and support the shared aims of a transition towards carbon neutrality, access and affordability of sustainable energy, and the SDGs. The Committee requested member State cooperation and extrabudgetary funds to establish the information platform.

(f) Noted the document on “Securing Access to Critical Raw Materials in the UNECE Region: Challenges and Opportunities” (ECE/ENERGY/2023/13) and recommended that it be revised to reflect comments from member States and in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Noted with appreciation the “Policy brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development” that was presented at the High-level Political Forum in New York in July 2023 which highlights the role of CRMs in the transitions towards carbon neutrality by large-scale deployment of renewable energy and energy storage and points out that the demand for CRMs is expected to increase exponentially in the near future, making sustainable production from primary and secondary (anthropogenic) resources crucial.

(g) Noted with appreciation that ECOSOC in its Resolution E/RES/2023/19 adopted on 23 July 2023 recommended UNRMS to be disseminated widely, invited Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide. The Committee recognized the potential of UNRMS to facilitate the management of a complex hybrid system of renewable and non-renewable resources, considering their unique features and differences and integrating it with the water-food-energy nexus. Further noted with appreciation, that ECOSOC adopted Resolution E/RES/2023/20 on Economic Commission for Europe Decision I (70): “Request to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission of Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems”. Called upon member States to support this request during its next stages, namely in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly which deals with administrative and budgetary matters.

VI. Enhancing energy connectivity through technology interplay and regional cooperation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 5)

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

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/5 – Transitioning electricity supply systems to net-zero emissions power systems – common principles for reliability of supply

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/3 – Status of implementation of renewable energy action plans across 17 ECE countries

CSE-32/2023/INF.3 –Policy brief on advancing power system connectivity in support of SDG7

35. An expert panel discussed what it takes to improve energy system resiliency through low-and zero-carbon technology interplay and enhanced regional energy connectivity and

energy trade. The experts highlighted that in the ECE region, electricity currently accounts for 20% of the final energy mix. Attaining carbon neutrality by 2050 would require deep electrification and structural change across the energy systems resulting in doubling of electricity demand. However, while there is a trend in shifting from molecules to electrons, the carbon intensity of the electrons in the ECE region is still high and the existing electricity grid cannot absorb a vast additional capacity of renewable energy. Electricity generation in the ECE region still heavily relies on fossil fuels – accounting for 50% of the power generation mix – and the sector is responsible for over 4 gigatonnes of CO₂ annually, or 30% of total CO₂ emissions from the energy sector. To reach a net-zero energy system by 2050, the power generation sector will need to become carbon negative. Thus, it is necessary for the power sector to decarbonize swiftly and help prevent the worst effects of climate change.

36. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Noted that the ECE region needs to fully embrace the concept of low- and zero-carbon electricity systems with low greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and enhance the flexibility of electricity systems to decrease the carbon intensity of electricity production from conventional fossil fuels. This can be achieved through a range of low- and zero-carbon technologies; the scaling of renewable energy and storage; low-carbon, decarbonized and renewable gases; nuclear power; and during the transitional period through the deployment of advanced fossil fuel technologies with high-efficiency, low-emissions (HELE) and with CCUS, and by recognizing that not all countries take the same view of various technologies.

(b) Noted that in addition to transform the existing electricity systems towards carbon neutrality, it is also necessary to address the flexibility and the ability of electricity systems to attain resilient electricity systems. A system is deemed as flexible if it is able to respond to demand effectively and manage the intermittency of non-dispatchable renewable energy, such as solar and wind, that is crucial for achieving a carbon neutral electricity grid.

(c) Noted the importance of regional cooperation in creating an enabling environment for energy connectivity, of a diverse energy mix based on renewable energy solutions, and of energy trade to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in the ECE region, and recognized it as a critical factor to improve the resiliency of energy systems and energy security in the ECE region.

(d) Noted with appreciation the cross-sectoral collaboration of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems with subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, namely the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, on improving electricity system reliability amid transformation across the ECE region.

(e) Noted that enhancing regional energy connectivity and power trade through a regionally interconnected power grid system is a critical factor to enhance the resiliency of the energy system and energy security. An integrated and interconnected electricity system can help create a more reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply and allow deep energy system decarbonization as well as more effective integration of called renewable energy capacity into the power system. Greater energy connectivity allows improved resource planning, energy pooling and resource diversification. All of this is expected to positively contribute to the economy, generate new jobs and improve gender parity.

(f) Welcomed collaboration with ESCAP on scaling renewable energy capacity, strengthening the electricity, natural gas and hydrogen networks, and enhancing the regional energy cooperation to design and build resilient energy systems in the countries of common membership, namely in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(g) Further noted the importance of increasing energy system resilience in other ECE programme countries, and called upon member States to support capacity-building activities with extrabudgetary resources.

VII. Promoting systemic efficiencies and digitalization in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 6)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/14 – Progress report on High-Performance Buildings Initiative

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/3-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/3 – Key considerations and solutions to ensure cyber resiliency in the smart integrated energy systems

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/4 – Improving efficiency and reliability of energy systems by means of big data analytics

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/6 – Advancing energy resilience and decarbonization across the ECE region: unleashing the potential of energy storage and demand-side flexibility

37. An expert panel discussed that in achieving energy system resilience in the ECE region, due consideration should be given to maximizing the implementation of systemic energy efficiency solutions to drive down energy produced and consumed while meeting economic and societal needs. Broadening and accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency and decarbonization measures across buildings, industry, transport, and other end-use sectors is fundamental to attain energy system resilience. In addition, the panel discussed that the digital green transformation of the energy system is urgently needed to address pressing challenges, including sustainable energy transition and deployment of low- and zero-carbon solutions, to fight climate change and build resilient energy systems in the ECE region.

38. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Recalled the deliberations at the seventieth session of the Commission held under the cross-cutting theme “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe” and took note of the potential that digital technologies offer in terms of systemic energy efficiency improvements. Digitalization can play an important role in the optimization of the complex energy system. In addition, digitalization and data analytics can, in a smart and real-time way, improve the connectivity of the energy system and enhance systemic efficiencies. This is expected to further reduce the carbon footprint across the energy value chain and pave the way to a sustainable, environmentally sound, and smarter energy future.

(b) Recognized that digitalization of the energy system is a complex process with multiple interdependencies across many actors, and that it comes at the cost of new system security requirements and privacy risks, as well as with potential economic disruptions that require robust preventive and corrective measures. Further noticed that digitalization is often a question of knowledge rather than affordability, and thus requires not only building consensus among stakeholders and understanding their accountability in a digitalized energy system, but also fostering of an up-skilled workforce and raising the awareness and acceptability of energy consumers.

(c) Noted with appreciation the efforts of the ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and its Task Force on Digitalization in Energy in serving as a platform for constructive policy dialogue for cross-industry experts, supporting shaping of the policy agenda by exploring opportunities, assessing challenges, risks, and trade-offs of digitalizing the energy system and addressing the barriers to digitalization in energy from a system-level perspective.

(d) Welcomed the contribution of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy at the seventieth session of the Commission that shaped a dialogue on introducing digitalization as an instrument for enabling a balance between energy security, affordability, and

environmental sustainability when challenged by the changing energy landscape. Digitalization in Energy is an enabler of more transparent and harmonized data streams, more accurate load forecasts, more timely market signals, all of which are necessary for more targeted decision-making and addressing system-wide trade-offs. Encouraged further application of innovative approaches and insight in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable energy development in the ECE region.

(e) Also noted with appreciation the activities of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency carried out during the intersessional period by the Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Industry and the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, including thematic research and content creation and policy advocacy in the respective subject areas, their adaptation to national contexts, and broader communication of findings and policy recommendations by means of organizing, hosting, or being represented at numerous international meetings and events.

(f) Took note of the report on progress of the High Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI) and cooperation activities in advancing energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region. Reconfirmed the relevance of HPBI to the Sustainable energy subprogramme. At the same time, acknowledged the associated resource implications and, also to avoid duplication of activities, seconded the motion to leverage the existing expertise and explore ways to pool efforts with similar programmes or initiatives, including UNEP and its Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction (Global ABC), for the administration of the network of HPBI Centres of Excellence. Requested the secretariat to take action in this regard and keep member States apprised on the progress through the ECE Executive Committee.

VIII. Follow up on the seventieth session on the Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 7)

Documentation: E/ECE/1503 – Economic Commission for Europe Biennial Report

39. Noted with appreciation that the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Task Force on Digitalization of Energy contributed to the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe that focused on digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region.

40. Took note that the Commission at its seventieth session emphasized the need to further strengthen the work of the Commission in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources, and that it requested the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to further explore possible collaboration across subprogrammes and to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices. Called upon member States to support the activities of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy with extrabudgetary resources.

41. Took note that as a follow-up to the seventieth session of the Commission a number of actionable decisions related to the mandate of the Committee on Sustainable Energy were submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for consideration. The decisions included: (i) Decision G (70) that requests wide dissemination of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation; (ii) Decision H (70) that requests appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the application of the United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements globally; and, (iii) Decision I (70) that requests to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems. All the decisions were endorsed during the Management Segment of the ECOSOC meeting⁹

⁹ 2023 Management Segment | Economic and Social Council (<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/2023-management-segment>)

(New York, 25 July 2023) as Resolutions, namely E/RES/2023/18, E/RES/2023/19 and E/RES/2023/20 respectively.

IX. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities (agenda item 8)

(a) Regional advisory services and collaboration activities

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/4 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

42. The Committee received an update of regional advisory services since its last session. The report included information on adjusting regional advisory services, including capacity-building and technical assistance activities, to multiple challenges caused by the various ongoing crises in the ECE region. Field projects under implementation, including those that were developed as a rapid response to these challenges, and ongoing fundraising activities were reported. Based on the demand from programme countries, several studies and capacity-building activities have been implemented and initiated, in particular, in Albania, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

43. The Committee noted with appreciation the results achieved by the regional advisory services, stressed the importance of regional advisory services and capacity-building activities, particularly under the current circumstances, and requested a report on regional advisory services at its thirty-third session.

(b) Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects.

44. Welcomed with appreciation two projects funded through the 16th Tranche of the UN Development Account that directly support the UN's efforts to respond to the triple planetary crisis, which refer to the three main interlinked issues that humanity currently faces: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The projects "Enhancing capacities in the sustainable production, use and reuse of the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions" and "Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition" will be implemented by ECE and other Regional Commissions during the period 2023 – 2027.

45. Welcomed the outcomes of the projects funded by the Joint SDG Fund implemented in Georgia ("Strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience") and Ukraine ("Addressing the compounded food and energy crisis in Ukraine through innovative technologies and adaptive agricultural practices") in which ECE was an implementing partner and supported ECE participation in joint projects with other UN system organizations.

46. Welcomed the progress in implementing the preparation phase of the project "Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings" funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Germany. ECE is leading the team of 13 implementing partners in the project, in which seven beneficiary countries participate: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

X. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 9)

(a) Review of subprogramme performance and planning

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/1 – Draft programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.1 – Outline of key components of the programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025

47. The Committee noted that methane management and just transition are becoming two emerging priorities of the Committee in 2023-2024.

48. Through a moderated panel discussion, the Committee addressed the current situation regarding global methane emissions, reviewed the existing agreements and initiatives

targeting such emissions and evaluated their impact, and explored opportunities and challenges of the new methane detection and monitoring technologies and methods. Furthermore, highlighted and explained the difficulty of addressing the problem of methane air ventilation, reviewed available solutions, and presented the current work of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition on that matter.

49. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Welcomed that in preparation for the Global Methane Forum (Geneva, Switzerland, 18-20 March 2024), methane management will be the focus of the work of the secretariat, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Group of Experts on Gas. Further noted with appreciation that the Forum will feature discussions on methane related to ECE's work and invited member States to actively participate in the Forum.

(b) Recalling that proper management of methane emissions from the energy sector is one of the most effective near-term options for addressing climate change, the Committee observed that the up-to-date results of initiatives aiming to effectively reduce methane emissions are failing to sufficiently contribute to the Paris Agreement targets at least in part due to the fact that the issue of methane reductions has become highly politicized at the national level in some countries and internationally. In that context, the Committee called on member States to undertake efforts to introduce regulations allowing for effective limitation of methane emissions from their energy sectors, and requested the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and on Gas to engage more closely with policymakers to familiarize them with the benefits of reducing methane emissions and present them with policy options to achieve this.

(c) Recalling that action on methane requires a solid understanding of emissions sources at all levels, the Committee noted that relying on measured emissions data, policymakers can be supported to properly evaluate mitigation opportunities and design successful policies to that effect. In that context, the Committee urged member States to undertake efforts to improve the availability and transparency of data on methane emissions from their energy sectors and requested the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and on Gas to consider developing guidelines to present source level data on publicly available information outlets online, in collaboration with the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), of which ECE is a partner member.

50. A panel of experts presented a new concept of coal, in which coal is not solely considered a fuel but rather as a multi-purpose resource. This concept significantly broadens the range of opportunities for just transition strategies. There is increasing evidence, and recognition, that clean energy transitions require new technologies to serve the energy needs of growing and advancing economies. While coal as a fuel may be at varying stages of decline globally, its value as a critical resource for the emerging needs of clean energy economies is in its very early stages of development. Coal should not be burnt for energy production. To the contrary, its true value lies in its potential to be refined and utilized for high value resources, such as graphene, carbon nanotubes, lithium, Rare Earth Elements, cobalt, and manganese, as well as other materials.

51. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the lead of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition to put the important and timely topic of "just energy transition" in the focus of the work of the Committee in 2024, and requested all subsidiary bodies to engage in this cross-cutting topic and explore joint activities that can contribute to accelerate a just energy transition across the ECE region.

(b) Noted that coal, not as a fuel but as a multi-purpose resource, can serve the needs of the emerging clean energy economies, and thus significantly broaden the range of opportunities for just transition strategies, and requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition to consider developing a theoretical framework conceptualizing the role of coal in the green economy and to test its findings through development of a pilot project. The Committee invited member States to engage in that work and to volunteer to host such a project.

(c) Noted with appreciation the launch of the project on mapping Albania's readiness for just transition, including development of a geographic information system (GIS) database characterising Albania's coal mining areas, and requested the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition to consider developing an index indicating a country's readiness for just transition.

(d) Requested a continued focus on gender and intergenerational issues in all activities of the subprogramme where possible. Further requested that a gender focused agenda item and an intergenerational focussed agenda item be included in the thirty-third session of the Committee.

(e) The secretariat presented the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy programme for 2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/1). This document is consistent with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)) which was reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee in December 2022 and submitted for consideration at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The programme of work document reflects the annual budget format presented in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolutions 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251, 75/243 and 76/245.

(f) Adopted the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/1) and recommended submission to the ECE Executive Committee for subsequent approval. Requested a draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025 for adoption at its next session.

(g) Noted and agreed to the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.1) and requested the secretariat to reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025.

(b) Approval of documents

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/2 – Provisional calendar of meetings of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

ECE/ENERGY/2023/3 – Revised publication plan for 2023 and draft publication plans for 2024 and 2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/5 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/6 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/7 – Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Management for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/8 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/9 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/10 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2024-2025

ECE/ENERGY/2023/15 – Update on the Hydrogen Task Force and the next steps

52. Recommended the submission of a range of documents to support the implementation of mandated areas of work to the Executive Committee of ECE for subsequent approval if required.

53. Endorsed the provisional calendar of meetings for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/2) and the revised publication plan for 2023 and draft publication plans for 2024 and 2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/3).

54. Endorsed the Work Plans of the six subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy: Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/5), Amended Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/6), Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Management for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/7), Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/8), Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/9), and Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/10).

55. Endorsed the renewal of the mandates of the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, on Energy Efficiency, on Gas and on Renewable Energy for the period 2024-2025 with the possibility of extension.

56. Approved the extension of the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings for 2024-2025 and its Terms of Reference, as contained in ECE/ENERGY/2023/10 (Annex).

XI. Election of officers (agenda item 10)

57. Noted that there are ongoing discussions on harmonizing and modernising the Rules of Procedure of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe and requested the secretariat to provide an update on implications for the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-third session.

58. The Committee elected Mr. Tofiq Hasanzada (Azerbaijan), Mr. Morten Evjenth Lindbæk (Norway), Ms. Denise Mulholland (United States) as Vice-Chairs to serve from the end of the thirty-second session until the end of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee, unless current discussions on Rules of Procedure at the level of the Commission would have implications on the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Committee thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairs Mr. Emir Farhadzade (Azerbaijan), Mr. Pawel Pikus (Poland), Ambassador Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland), and Ms. Emily Grubert (United States) for their service to the Bureau.

59. The membership of the Bureau of the Committee is: Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) as the Chair, and Mr. Tofiq Hasanzada (Azerbaijan), Mr. Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia), Mr. Chokan Laumulín (Kazakhstan), Mr. Morten Evjenth Lindbæk (Norway), Mr. Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine), and Ms. Denise Mulholland (United States) as Vice-Chairs.

60. The Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies are Vice-Chairs of the Committee ex officio (currently Ms. Karen Hanghøj, Chair of the Expert Group on Resource Management, Mr. Jim Robb, Chair of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Mr. Raymond Pilcher, Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas, Mr. Stefan Buettner, Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy).

XII. Any other business (agenda item 11)

61. Requested the secretariat to proceed with preparations for the thirty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva, 18-20 September 2024, during the Sustainable Energy Week 2024, including a draft agenda, draft report, and all supporting documents necessary for the implementation of the programme of work for the ECE Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025.

62. Thanked all non-government stakeholders for their continued contributions to the work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme and renewed its wish to involve these stakeholders in its activities and meetings.

XIII. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting (agenda item 12)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/149 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-second session

63. Adopted the report of its thirty-second session (ECE/ENERGY/149) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
