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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Sustainable Energy****Thirty-third session**

Geneva, 18-20 September 2024

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:****Review of subprogramme performance and planning****Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy  
subprogramme for 2025****Note by the secretariat****Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2025. The Committee on Sustainable Energy (“the Committee”) is invited to adopt it and recommend to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for approval. Any subsequent additional, carried over or terminated deliverables will be reflected in the United Nations Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes a logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – results – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’, and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent achievement of the objective.
3. The objective, the strategy, the planned results, and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.20)). The work of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge.<sup>1</sup> This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation

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<sup>1</sup> The ECE nexus areas are as follows: (1) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (4) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.

projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; and (d) communication deliverables.

4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

## **I. Objective**

5. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

## **II. Strategy**

6. The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue and cooperation among Governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; develop and deploy ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and provide capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to ECE work on cross-sectoral collaboration areas and priorities relating to the circular economy.

7. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Further develop normative instruments (e.g., best practices and principles), awareness-raising campaigns and the deployment of ECE tools through workshops, seminars and technical projects to help member States meet their commitments to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement with regard to reducing their environmental footprint related to energy, accelerating the deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development;

(b) Promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues;

(c) Provide technical assistance and guidance on energy transitions in the context of sustainable development, disseminate best practices and improve information-sharing;

(d) Promote collaboration among private and public stakeholders that are key to implementing national and regional policies, including with regard to normative instruments and their deployment and dissemination;

(e) Coordinate and promote efforts related to energy resilience across the ECE region and to provide an ECE platform on resilient energy systems for inclusive dialogue;

(f) Explore and increase understanding on energy-related climate financing in the ECE region, including policies and mechanisms for increasing financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies, the critical raw materials needed for low-carbon and low-emissions transformations and sustainable infrastructure projects;

(g) Support countries across the ECE region in applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System to assure sustainable development of their natural resources, including critical raw materials;

(h) Support ECE member States in enhancing their understanding of the benefits of low- and zero-carbon technology interplay for more resilient energy systems across the ECE region;

(i) Support ECE member States in broadening and accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency measures across buildings, industry, transport and other end-use sectors while embracing sector-wide digitalization;

(j) Support and guide ECE member States in their efforts to accurately measure and report methane emissions from the energy sector and the related extractive industries, and to effectively mitigate those emissions by detecting and repairing leaks from the installed infrastructure and by capturing and destroying or utilizing gas from active and abandoned coal mines;

(k) Explore the notion of “just transition”, being an integrated approach to sustainable development, which brings together social progress, environmental protection and economic success into a framework of democratic governance; and increase ECE member States’ understanding of that concept and its complexity and improve their capacity to plan and implement transformation strategies in accordance with its principles.

8. The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7, 12 and 13 and result in:

(a) More effective integration of sustainable energy across national policies and normative frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Enhanced dialogue and cooperation among energy actors to boost transformational investment in the energy sector and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries’ sustainable development and climate commitments;

(c) Improved access of member States to frameworks and tools required for integrated and sustainable resource management that aid the progress towards a more circular economy and contribute to the food-water-energy nexus;

(d) Improvement in the performance of buildings from a health perspective (e.g., temperatures, comfort, effective air intake and recycling filters), which will improve the protection and resilience of populations;

(e) Increased understanding and implementation of climate-friendly policies and mechanisms by member States, which are aimed at addressing issues such as financing for low- and zero-carbon technologies and sustainable infrastructure, and critical raw materials needed for such transformations;

(f) Improved capacity of ECE member States to design and implement policies setting up effective mechanisms for accurate measurement and reporting of methane emissions from the energy sector and the related extractive industries, as well as for their effective mitigation;

(g) Improved understanding of a “just transition” concept and increased capacity of ECE member States for its effective application of national energy transition strategies, at the planning and implementation stages.

## **A. Programme performance in 2022**

### **1. Global application of the United Nations Resource Management System to help member States to manage natural resources sustainably**

9. Balancing resource use and conservation can be enhanced through innovation. The subprogramme supported the development of the United Nations Resource Management System to help member States to balance economic development, environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The System’s principles and requirements were developed by the subprogramme and case studies and workshops were undertaken. The subprogramme enhanced member States’ capacity to use the System through the development and dissemination of policy and technical briefs and the provision of technical support for its application.

10. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 1).

Table 1  
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual) d	2023 (actual)
Draft of the United Nations Resource Management System available	United Nations Resource Management System made available	Economic and Social Council endorsed the United Nations Resource Management System for global application  United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland tested the application of the United Nations Resource Management System for critical transition minerals

### III. Planned results for 2025

#### A. Result 1: Digitalization of the energy sector as an enabler of a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

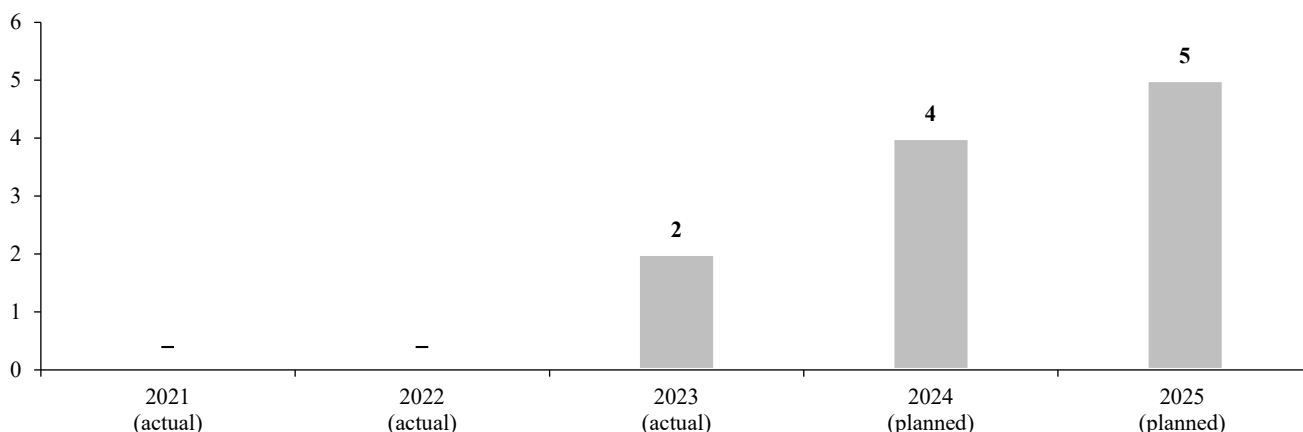
##### Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

11. The subprogramme’s work contributed to the development of national case studies from two member States and the application of ECE recommendations on digitalization of the energy sector to them, which met the planned target.

12. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure I).

Figure I

**Performance measure: number of member States applying Economic Commission for Europe recommendations on digitalization by developing national case studies (cumulative)**



## B. Result 2: Enhanced resilience of energy systems in the Economic Commission for Europe region

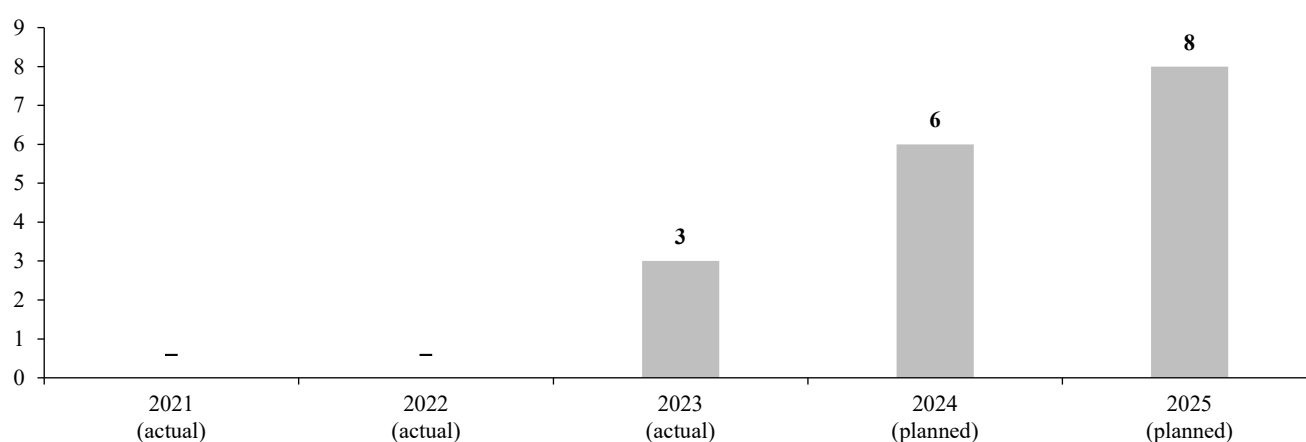
### Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

13. The subprogramme's work contributed to the application by three member States of mechanisms developed by ECE to enhance the resilience of energy systems and progress towards the attainment of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which met the planned target.

14. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see Figure II).

Figure II

**Performance measure: number of member States using Economic Commission for Europe mechanisms to enhance the resilience of energy systems in the Economic Commission for Europe region (cumulative)**



## C. Result 3: More sustainable and resilient natural resource management based on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

### Programme performance for 2025

15. The subprogramme provides technical assistance to member States to implement the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for national resource management strategies and policies and to assess critical raw materials for the energy transition.

### Lessons learned and planned change

16. The lesson learned for the subprogramme was the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources could be more responsive to changing demands and expectations of member States, other stakeholders and regional contexts. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will organize workshops and dialogues, tailor its approach to various regions and sectors in collaboration with United Nations country teams, and engage with International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management.

17. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 2).

Table 2

**Performance measure**

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management established in the Russian Federation to deploy the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources in Eurasia	International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management established in Mexico to deploy the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources in Latin America	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources included in European Union's Critical Raw Materials Act	Two additional International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management established	Five additional countries adopt the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources guidelines
Economic and Social Council endorsed the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for global application	African Union Heads of State endorsed adoption of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System as African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification and Management System	One bridging document between the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and Russia's petroleum classification updated and endorsed	Five countries adopt the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources guidelines	Ten Member States provide input to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources knowledge hub
	Two bridging documents between the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and China's mineral and petroleum classifications developed and endorsed			

## IV. Deliverables

18. Table 3 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 3

### Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies	45	45	40	40
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies	38	40	38	38
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
3. On sustainable resource management	3	3	2	1
4. On reducing the environmental footprint of energy	1	1	1	–
5. On accelerating transformations of the energy sector	3	3	1	1
6. On supporting member States in securing sustainable energy	2	2	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
7. Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System	2	2	2	2
8. Seminars and workshops on energy efficiency measures, accelerators and standards	2	2	4	2
9. Seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation	2	2	2	2
10. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development	4	4	3	3
11. Training and workshops on methane management	–	–	2	2
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
12. On hydrogen, the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System	2	2	1	1
13. On digitalization and on best practices in methane management	–	–	2	1
14. On resilient energy systems	–	–	–	1
<b>C. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> booklets on sustainable energy and related topics, for regional access.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases, keynote speeches and articles on the activities of the energy subprogramme.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the subprogramme.				

**Annex I****Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2025**

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Publication title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic)</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>Number of pages</i>	<i>Original language</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>
<b>Non-recurrent publications</b>							
1	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System: Toolkit for Securing Access to Critical Raw Materials for the energy transition	ECE/ENERGY/149	Electronic	A4	100	E	F, R (both RB)
2	Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Measures in the End-use Sectors for More Circular, Energy-resilient, Digitalized, and Resource-efficient Economies in the UNECE Region	ECE/ENERGY/149	Electronic	A4	150	E	A, C, F, R, S (F,R, RB)
3	Progress Report on Building Resilient Energy Systems in the ECE Region	ECE/ENERGY/149	Electronic	A4	150	E	F, R (both RB)



## Annex II

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

##### General Assembly resolutions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/290	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
69/277	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
66/288	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/256	New Urban Agenda
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
74/231, 76/215	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
74/235	Women in development
74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
75/8	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
75/9	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
75/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
75/216; 76/204	Disaster risk reduction
75/221	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
75/290 B	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council  Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level  High-level political forum on sustainable development
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
76/221	South-South cooperation

#### **Economic and Social Council resolutions**

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

#### **Economic Commission for Europe decisions**

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
<a href="#">A (69)</a>	High-level statement
<a href="#">B (69)</a>	Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources
<a href="#">C (69)</a>	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## **B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme**

<i>General Assembly resolutions</i>	
<a href="#">69/225</a>	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
<a href="#">70/213</a>	Science, technology and innovation for development
<a href="#">72/224</a>	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
<i>Economic and Social Council decisions</i>	
<a href="#">1997/226</a>	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities
<a href="#">2004/233</a>	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources
<a href="#">2011/222</a>	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines
<a href="#">2021/249</a>	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines
<a href="#">2021/250</a>	Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources