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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Eleventh session

Geneva, 16-17 September 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10:00 on Monday, 16 September 2024.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Election of officers.
4. Implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025 and its contribution to the activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
5. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy: focus on bioenergy development.
6. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy. Case studies for a dedicated energy efficiency and renewable energy agency in Georgia.
7. Inter-sectoral cooperation on cross-cutting issues.
8. Other business.
9. Dates of the next meeting.
10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1012019/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: renewable.energy@un.org. Delegates participating in person are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICCR) headquarters (see the map [here](#)) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2024/1 – Annotated provisional agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Documents for the session will be published on the website as they become available.¹ A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

The session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (the Group of Experts) will take place in the framework of the Sustainable Energy Week 2024, in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the twentieth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, and will be followed by the thirty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee).

2. Opening remarks

The Chair will deliver opening remarks that will address activities and priorities of the Committee amongst other topics.

3. Election of officers

The Group of Experts will be invited to elect Bureau members whose term ends at the conclusion of the eleventh session and who stand for re-election, as well as any new nominations to serve until the end of the thirteenth sessions of the Group of Experts in 2026.

During its tenth session in 2023, the Group of Experts elected the representative of Italy and Switzerland as Vice-Chairs and invited a representative from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to join the Bureau as Vice-Chair until the close of the twelfth session in 2025. At its ninth session in 2022, the Group of Experts elected the representative of Ukraine as its Chair and representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and United States as Vice-Chairs, and invited representatives from the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Energy Community to serve as Vice-Chairs for two years.

The election of officers will take place simultaneously with that of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, as detailed in ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2024/1 and ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2024/1.

4. Implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025 and its contribution to the activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

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

ECE/ENERGY/2023/1 - Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024

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

¹ See: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/sustainable-energy/renewable-energy>

According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts focuses on activities related to (a) regulatory and policy dialogue and (b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

The participants will be informed on the status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/8).

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee following its thirty-second session, 13-15 September 2023, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE.

The Chairs of the three Groups of Experts meeting during the Sustainable Energy Week 2024 in Geneva and the secretariat will inform participants on how their respective Groups of Experts are supporting the Sustainable Energy subprogramme in its work 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.

5. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy: focus on bioenergy development

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

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2024/3 - Biofuel quality standards: Challenges, impacts and possible pathways towards harmonization

In the last years, several ECE countries had substantially increased the pace of adoption of renewable energy technologies. Their expansion mainly took place in the power sector, whereas progress in the transport sector, as well as in the heating and cooling sector was slower. Data show a clearly positive trend in the last decade, which has probably slowed down in the last years due to the impact of the energy crisis.

Nearly all ECE countries have significant potential for the deployment of solar, wind, hydropower, and/or bioenergy and other renewable energy technologies. Trends differ across end-uses with the largest increase in the share of renewables continuing to be in the generation of electricity, while the transport and heat sectors only saw very limited progression. Nonetheless, most countries are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with relatively smaller shares of renewables in their total final energy consumption.

Although access to electricity and the use of clean fuels for cooking, heating, and lighting is widespread in the ECE region – and reliance on renewable energy and energy efficiency had also been improving until the recent energy crisis – the rate of progress has not been high enough to enable achievement of the SDG 7 targets.

An immediate acceleration of efforts is therefore critical to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Renewable energy developments and trends have been discussed in the context of the mid-term review of SDG7 and key outcomes of the High-level Policy Forum (HLPF), giving particular attention to renewable energy development in the ECE region.

UN-Energy members and other relevant organizations are continuing to contribute directly or indirectly with their work to discussions on the progress made to develop renewable energy in the ECE region, including in the recent review of tracking SDG7 and its Energy Progress Report.

Taking into account key findings of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 and the reviewing of the renewable energy progress in-going global processes, delegates will be invited to consider the progress made by the countries in the uptake of renewable energy, including the implementation of their renewable energy action plans and the needed policy options to increase renewable energy investments.

This year, the focus of the discussion will be on bioenergy development as supporting the achievement of SDG7 and to mitigate climate change.

The harmonization of energy standards is an endeavor that aims to ensure consistent and high-quality energy production, transmission and use across different regions. As the demand for biofuels continues to grow, it becomes increasingly possible to establish internationally compatible standards to facilitate trade and promote high-quality energy through environmental sustainability.

Delegates will be invited to discuss how to boost bioenergy development and if there is the need to work for the harmonization or development of regulations for quality biofuels standards that can promote a level playing field for biofuel producers and users worldwide.

6. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy. Case studies for a dedicated energy efficiency and renewable energy agency in Georgia

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2024/4 - Case studies for a dedicated energy efficiency and renewable energy agency in Georgia

The imperative for sustainable energy practices has gained prominence globally in recent years, driven by concerns over climate change, energy security, and economic development. Many countries have established dedicated agencies to promote and facilitate progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy. These agencies serve as focal points for policy development, programme implementation, and stakeholder coordination, crucial in driving the transition to a more sustainable future and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

Establishing such an agency can have significant benefits, including fostering innovation, promoting investment in clean energy technologies, and enhancing energy security. By focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency, Georgia can reduce its carbon footprint, contribute to global climate goals, and create new opportunities for economic growth and environmental sustainability. The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) has initiated efforts to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy agency.

The MoESD has requested the ECE to support the Government of Georgia in creating an agency that would be responsible for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in the country. The timing of the request following the Workshop on Renewable Energy in Transport in Tbilisi on 21 November 2023, underscores the importance of sustainable energy solutions in Georgia's development agenda. To assist Georgia in this endeavour, ECE is developing a comparative study on existing agencies devoted to energy efficiency and/or renewable energy in other ECE countries and providing recommendations on possible options for establishing such an agency in Georgia within the context of the existing strategies, policies, legislation, targets, and overall commitments within global processes (e.g. achieving Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG7, and the Paris Agreement), and potential for improving energy efficiency and increasing the uptake of renewable energy in Georgia. The study is an activity under the ECE Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC).

On 19-20 June 2024, MoESD, ECE, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized the Workshop to support establishing a State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Georgia and Stakeholder Consultations on project implementation “Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition” in Tbilisi. The event aimed to facilitate discussions and exchange experiences on legislative harmonization and implementation among Energy Community member States. It focused on creating a new market framework to ensure energy supply security, enhance competitiveness, and align with sustainable development objectives.

Delegates will be informed on various experiences in the ECE region and will be requested to recommend possible activities to strengthen regional, national and local instruments, including dedicated agencies, to substantially increase the uptake of renewable energy.

7. Inter-sectoral cooperation on cross-cutting issues

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2024/3-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2024/3 – Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the digital and data transformation in the electricity sector

GEEE-11/2024/INF.2 – The twin transition in non-electricity sector

GECES-20/2024/INF.1-GEEE-11/2024/INF.2-GERE-11/2024/INF.2 – Integration of e-mobility into electricity system, and the impact that it has on the latter's design and operations

Increasing resilience of energy systems requires an integrated approach and multi-stakeholder dialogue. A cross-cutting perspective and action can start in: (a) integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems; (b) developing infrastructure, integration with grid, resource planning for an electrification of mobility; and (c) considering the increasingly relevant role of digitalization in energy.

Delegates will be invited to present their experiences and views on how the uptake of renewable energy can be substantially increase within each of these three cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation areas:

(a) Integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems:

Increasing the share of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency can be achieved through fostering decentralized generation. The future power generation system will include distributed generation sources and smart energy distribution. A future energy system could be decentralized at all levels – regional, state and local – with widely deployed capacities (including reserved capacities) for alternative energy generation and transmission.

Delegates are invited to share country experiences in promoting the integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems, trying to highlight key bottlenecks, solutions and possible actions towards a resilient energy system;

(b) Electrification of mobility: development of infrastructure, integration with grid, resource planning:

Exploring the impact of e-mobility integration on electric system design and operation is a key development of future and resilient energy systems. The electric mobility is an enabler of the digital and green transformations in the UNECE region. Policymakers are increasingly supporting e-mobility adoption and enhancing EV expertise through various tools and support mechanisms.

Delegates are invited to discuss possible ways and means to adopt e-mobility policies and instruments in the UNECE region; and

(c) Digital and data transformation in the energy sector:

Digital solutions enable advances in connectivity, data, and analytics, and can greatly increase overall efficiency of energy system and facilitate achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Digital innovations offer new ways of addressing challenges in the overall energy delivery process.

As part of the broader discussion on opportunities and benefits of digitalizing energy systems, delegates are invited this year to a discussion on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Digital and Data Transformation in the Electricity Sector. The discussion will focus on possible applications of AI in the electricity sector and on benefits and outline challenges and recommendations for consideration by public authorities, private sector actors, and end-users.

8. Other business

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item. The Group of Experts may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the mandate of the Group of Experts. Delegations

are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Bureau members in advance of any issue(s) they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

9. Dates of the next meeting

The twelfth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 30 September – 1 October 2025. The Group of Experts confirmed its proposal from previous sessions that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.

10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: GERE-11/2024/INF.1 – Draft conclusions and recommendations arising from the eleventh session of the Groups of Experts on Renewable Energy

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2024/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy on its eleventh session

Draft conclusions and recommendations arising from the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE-11/2024/INF.1) will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the session. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

The Chair of the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations and draft a report on the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion by delegates.

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on the prepared draft, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
