



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

**30 May 2024 from 14:30 to 16:00 - *Online***

***Report of the Meeting***

**Item 1. Chair's welcome**

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, conveyed welcome remarks and mentioned the Hard Talks held in Turkmenistan and Georgia to the participants in the meeting held online and in person, the first meeting of GERE Bureau in 2024.

**Item 2. Approval of the agenda**

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

**Item 3. Sustainable Energy Week, Geneva 16-20 September 2024**

3. The Chair presented the agenda for the 2024 Sustainable Energy Week on the 16-20 September.
4. The Secretariat highlighted the focus of the Sustainable Energy Week which will primarily focus on the Just Transition and Resilient Energy Systems.
5. The secretary of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, outlined a series of projects, notably the "Project proposal on electricity System Resilience and Reliability in the Net -zero Energy System." The project, as result of the cooperation between GERE and the Group of experts on Clean Energy Systems (GECES), will build on the analytical capabilities developed in the carbon Neutrality project which analyzed technology and policy options to attain carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050.
6. The secretary of the Group of experts on Clean Energy Systems (GECES) noted that a concept-note regarding the identification of costs associated to carbon neutrality and resilience is being shaped. Additionally, the secretary of the Committee on Sustainable Energy expressed interest in including youth engagement within the groups of experts involved in the 2024 Sustainable Energy Week. GERE Bureau is invited to nominate young experts to the Young Group to Energy Systems

7. The Chair invited Mr. Omiralin, to provide an email to the secretariat voicing his regard to cooperation between international authorities involved in Central Asia.

#### **Item 4. 11th GERE session, Geneva, 16-17 September 2024**

8. The Chair emphasized that this year's GERE session is scheduled on 16-17 September 2024. The Chair noted that it will take place in conjunction with the meetings of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, and in the same week of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
9. The secretary of GERE provided an overview of the 11<sup>th</sup> session which will commence on the 16 September, after the administrative matters, with two sessions regarding i) quality standards for bioenergy and ii) case studies regarding renewable energy national agencies (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2024/1).
10. Three other substantive sessions will take place on the 17 September, in conjunction with the GEEE and the GECES, and will focus on i) the integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems, ii) the electrification of mobility and iii) the role of digitalization in energy.
11. The Chair encouraged members to make suggestions on agenda items to ensure that all aspects are fully discussed at the sessions. He noted that it is a valuable opportunity to make suggestions to enhance cross-sectoral or cross-cutting cooperation and to promote cross-guidance cooperation with distinct Groups of Experts within the Sustainable Energy programme of UNECE.

#### **Item 5. Election of officers: election of new/ renewal (Chair and Vice-Chairs nominated in 2022)**

12. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) informed all participants that 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. Nominations are provided by member States.
13. Mr. Kostiantyn Gura confirmed his intention of continuing in his role as Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) beyond the eleventh session of the GERE on the 16-17 September 2024.
14. 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, Germany, 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.

15. The election of officers will take place on the 16 September, simultaneously with those 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.

**Item 6. Substantive GERE session on practices and policies on bioenergy development in UNECE member States - Bureau suggestions on speakers, preparation of the parliamentary document and creation of a Task Force on Biofuels quality standards**

16. The Chair confirmed that substantive emphasis during the 11<sup>th</sup> GERE session will be placed on the topic of bioenergy and internationally compatible biofuel standards, exploring the possible development of a process leading to a bio-energy normative instrument.
17. The Chair underscored the significance of globally harmonized standards in this context, emphasizing common standards' role in reducing emissions, preserving natural resources, and advocating for sustainable usage practices.
18. The Secretariat highlighted existing gaps in international quality standards for biofuels. UNECE is actively assessing various standards applicable at various levels. In its ad hoc paper, the secretariat provided an overview of the current state of biofuel quality standards, analysing regional standards and illustrating the challenges they present to harmonization. Additionally, the secretariat underscored the implications that harmonization will have on the uptake of biofuels.
19. The secretariat highlighted that, if necessary, a dedicated task force could be established by the Group of Experts to facilitate the development of more cohesive and universally recognized biofuel international standards.

**Item 7. Substantive GERE session on exchange of experiences on dedicated renewable energy and energy efficiency agency: establishment of a new agency in Georgia - Bureau suggestions on speakers and preparation of the parliamentary document based on the on-going study**

20. The secretariat highlighted the focus of this specific session which intends to present case studies of dedicated renewable energy and energy efficiency agencies in UNECE countries. The consideration of bottlenecks, solutions, and overall structures as well as functioning's of these agencies is instrumental to support the Ministry of Energy of Georgia in the creation of a such dedicated agency. This session will take advantage of

a study and a capacity building workshop to be held on 19-20 June in Tbilisi for the creation of a renewable energy and energy efficiency agency.

21. The Chair invited Bureau members to participate or suggest speakers for such a session on their own country.

#### **Item 8. Cross-cutting discussions: Joint panels with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) & the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (GECES)**

22. The secretariat confirmed that the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the GERE will incorporate three cross-cutting discussions with the GEEE and the GECES.
23. The first session will be focused on the Integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems. It will illustrate the importance of distributed generation and smart energy distribution to the future of energy systems, which will be decentralized at all levels. The Secretariate will invite delegates 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 actions towards a resilient energy system.
24. The second session will incorporate the Electrification of mobility, including the development of infrastructure, integration with the grid and resource planning. The session will discuss the impact that E-mobility will have on electric system design and operation. The Secretariat will invite delegates to discuss ways and means to adopt e-mobility policies and instruments in the UNECE region.
25. The third cross-cutting session will revolve around the Digital transformation in the energy sector. Digital solutions are crucial to increasing energy system efficiency and can help overcome challenges associated to energy delivery. The Secretariate will invite delegates to discuss the opportunities and benefits of energy system digitalization, map involved stakeholders and outline challenges for consideration by public authorities, private sector actors, and end-users.

#### **Item 9. Implementation of the GERE Work Plan 2024-2025: Hard Talks/ workshops held in Turkmenistan (13-14 February) and planned in Georgia (19-20 June 2024)**

26. The Secretariat informed the Bureau members of the Hard Talk held in Turkmenistan in February 2024 which focused on synergies between gas and renewable energy.
27. Another Hard Talk is planned to take place in Georgia in June for the creation of a dedicated renewable energy and energy efficiency agency.
28. The Secretariat is exploring possibilities to implement future Hard Talks in Central Asia and the Caucuses in collaboration with NGOs.

#### **Item 10. Future Hard Talks in 2025 and planning for next REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report**

29. For next year, the Chair and the Secretariat highlighted the need to raise funds for future hard Talks. The Vice-Chair, Tibor Fischer, is currently exploring possibility of funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany for both new hard Talks and the next edition of the REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report.
30. The representative of REN21 expressed their intention to work together at the new edition of the Report as funds are secured.

**Item 11. AOB;**

31. No other business was raised by the participants of the meeting.
32. The Chair expressed his gratitude to the participants and the Secretariat for their contribution to the discussion and closed the meeting.