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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****Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026****Note by the Secretariat****Introduction**

1. This document presents an outline of key components (objective, strategy and deliverables) of the programme of work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2026. These components are based on the subprogramme-related section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) proposed programme budget for 2025, with modified or new elements highlighted in track changes. The Committee on Sustainable Energy (“the Committee”) is invited to consider this information and provide recommendations on these components, as necessary. Those modifications and/or member States’ recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2026. It will be prepared by the secretariat at the end of 2024 and included in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2026.

**Outline of key components of the programme of work****I. Objective**

2. The objective, to which the 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**

3. ~~To contribute to the objective,~~ The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division.

4. 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<sup>1</sup> and priorities related to the circular economy. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a) Further develop normative instruments (~~e.g. such as~~ 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 for Sustainable Development 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 ~~continue shaping to provide an ECE the~~ Platform on Resilient Energy Systems for inclusive dialogue and informed policymaking;

(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;<sup>2</sup>

(g) Support countries across the ECE region in applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) to assure sustainable development of their natural resources, including access to and development of 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 and carbon neutral energy systems across the ECE region by deploying the “UNECE Carbon Neutrality Toolkit” while periodically verifying and updating data;

(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

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<sup>1</sup> ECE cross-sectoral collaboration areas: (a) Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region (agreed by the 119th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee as a cross-cutting theme of the seventieth session of ECE in 2023); (b) Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources; (c) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (d) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (e) Measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the Goals.

<sup>2</sup> This language was agreed by ECE member States at the thirty-first session of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, 21-23 September 2022, and, subsequently, at the 125th meeting of the ECE Executive Committee. In particular, the Committee “agreed to the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/ENERGY/31/2022/INF.1) and requested the secretariat to reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024” (ECE/ENERGY/143, para. 76).

infrastructure and by capturing and destroying or utilizing gas from active, closed, and abandoned coal mines;

(k) ~~Explore~~ Support ECE member States in embracing the concept of 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. 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.

5. 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 and governance that aid the progress towards a more circular economy and contribute to the food-water-energy nexus, fostering equitable and responsible resource management on a global scale;

(d) Scaling systemic efficiencies and digitalization of energy system networks;

~~(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 the 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~~ framework and increased capacity of ECE member States for ~~its~~ the framework’s effective application in the context of national energy transition strategies, at both the planning, ~~as well as,~~ and the implementation stages.

### III. Deliverables to be implemented in 2026

6. The below table provides an outline of deliverables that are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

| <i>Deliverables</i>  | <i>2025<br/>planned</i> | <i>2026<br/>planned</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies:</b>   |                         |                         |
| <b>Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)</b>   | <b>40</b>               | <b>40</b>               |
| 1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies   | 40                      | 40                      |
| <b>Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)</b>   | <b>38</b>               | <b>38</b>               |
| 2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies   | 38                      | 38                      |
| <b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge:</b>  |                         |                         |
| <b>Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)</b>   | <b>3</b>                | <b>5</b>                |
| 3. <u>On resilient energy systems</u>  | -                       | 1                       |
| 4. <u>On sustainable resource management and governance, including access to critical raw materials</u>  | 1                       | 2                       |
| 5. <del>On reducing the environmental footprint of energy</del>  |                         |                         |
| 6. <del>On accelerating transformations of the energy sector</del>   | 1                       | -                       |
| 5. <u>On low, zero and negative carbon technology interplay</u>  |                         | -                       |
| 6. <u>On scaling systemic energy efficiencies and digitalization of energy system networks</u>   | -                       | 1                       |
| 7. <u>On supporting member States in securing sustainable energy just transition</u>   | -                       | 1                       |
| <b>Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</b>  | <b>11</b>               | <b>12</b>               |
| 8. <del>Workshops for experts and government officials</del> On the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System | 2                       | 2                       |
| 9. <del>Seminars</del> On energy-efficiency measures <u>and accelerators and standards</u>   | 2                       | 2                       |
| 10. <del>Seminars</del> on renewable energy <u>and low-carbon gases (biogas, hydrogen) development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation</u>  | 2                       | 2                       |
| 11. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development  | 3                       | 3                       |
| 12. <del>Trainings and workshops</del> On methane management   | 2                       | 2                       |
| 13. <del>Workshops and seminars</del> On just transition   | -                       | 1                       |
| <b>Publications</b>  | <b>3</b>                | <b>4</b>                |
| 14. <del>On hydrogen</del> the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System   | 1                       | 1                       |
| 15. On digitalisation and on best practices in methane management  | 1                       | -                       |
| 16. On resilient energy systems  | 1                       | 1                       |
| 17. <u>On renewable energy</u>   | -                       | 1                       |
| 18. <u>On hydrogen</u>   | -                       | 1                       |
| <b>C. Communication deliverables:</b>  |                         |                         |
| <b><u>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</u></b> booklets on sustainable energy and related topics, for regional access.   |                         |                         |
| <b><u>External and media relations:</u></b> press releases, keynote speeches and articles on the activities of the energy subprogramme.  |                         |                         |
| <b><u>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</u></b> update and maintenance of subprogramme's website providing access to information and documents for regional and global audiences.      |                         |                         |

## Annex

## Details of proposed publications and information materials for 2026

| <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                                 | Integrating the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System for Sustainable Resource Management | ECE/ENERGY/149  | Print and electronic            | A4               | 120                    | E                        | F, R (both RB)   |
| 2                                 | Status Report on Hydrogen   | ECE/ENERGY/G E.8/2024/3, paras a, b and c and most likely next Committee Report or the following                      | Print and Electronic            | A4               | 150                    | E                        | F, R (both RB)   |
| 3                                 | The role of energy efficiency and renewable energy agencies in ECE countries  | To be included in the 2026-2027 Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the ECE/ENERGY/G E.7/2024/2 | Print and Electronic            | A4               | 120                    | E                        | F, R (both RB)   |
| 4                                 | Progress Report on Building Resilient and Carbon Neutral Energy Systems in the ECE Region   | ECE/ENERGY/2023/8, paras A9, 18 (f) and most likely next Committee Report or the following                            | Electronic                      | A4               | 150                    | E                        | F, R (both RB)   |