

**To: Members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

**From: Dario Liguti and Iva Brkic**

**Call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

Via Teams – 14:00 CET, 19 August 2024

**MINUTES**

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

- **Bureau Members in attendance:** Juergen Keinhorst (Germany, Chair), Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Nikoloz Kholodov for Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), Morten Evjenth Lindbaeck (Norway), Farhod Bilolov (Tajikistan), Denise Mulholland (United States), Stefan Buettner (Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency – GEEE), Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Group of Experts on Gas – GEG), Raymond Pilcher (Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition), and Kostiantyn Gura (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy).
- **UNECE Secretariat staff in attendance:** Iva Brkic (Secretary), Michal Drabik, Oleg Dzioubinski, Charlotte Griffiths, Nadejda Khamrakulova, Igor Litvinyuk, Branko Milicevic, Gianluca Sambucini, Slavko Vekoslav Solar, Harikrishnan Tulsidas
- **Apologies:** Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Jim Robb (Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems – GECES), Karen Hanghøj (Expert Group on Resource Management)

**II. PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Draft CSE-33 Conclusions and Recommendations
2. Outline of key components of the Programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026
3. Update on the Sustainable Energy Week
4. Update on the preparations for the 71st Commission Session
5. Update on recent and upcoming events
6. AoB

**Documents submitted:**

1. Draft CSE-33 Conclusions and Recommendations – CSE-33/2024/INF.2
2. Outline of key components of the Programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026 - ECE/ENERGY/33/2024/INF.1
3. Advancing Intergenerational Justice in Critical Raw Materials Management: Assessing the Potential of Demand-side Measures - ECE/ENERGY/2024/8

## Item 1. Draft CSE-33 Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Bureau proposed to strengthen the language related to just transition for resilient energy systems and to acknowledge that the just transition in the UNECE region should be equitable and that it should take into account the principle of economic viability to ensure that energy needed is sustainable over time.
- The Bureau also requested to include into the draft CSE-33 Conclusions and Recommendations the language on the implications of the liquidity crisis on the Sustainable Energy Programme and show which activities could not be delivered in 2024 due to budgetary constraints.
- The Bureau approved draft CSE-33 Conclusions and Recommendations that will be circulated with member States in preparation for the briefing on the Sustainable Energy Week planned on 4 September 2024.

## Item 2. Outline of key components of the Programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026

- The Bureau reviewed draft outline of key components of the Programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026. No major changes were proposed. The proposed changes were accepted by the Bureau. The secretariat will review the final version and distribute the document.

## Item 3. Update on the Sustainable Energy Week

- The Chairs of the GERE, GECES and GEEE provided an update on the technical sessions planned on 16 and 17 September during the annual session of the GERE, GECES and GEEE.

	Day 1 (Monday 16 September)	Day 2 (Tuesday 17 September)	Day 3 (Wednesday 18 September)	Day 4 (Thursday 19 September)	Day 5 (Friday 20 September)
10h00 – 11h30	Opening GEEE & GECES & GERE Joint work of EGs on cross cutting themes – Chairs presentations XXI	Integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems GEEE & GECES & GERE XXI	Policy dialogue on a role of resilient and carbon neutral energy systems for a just energy transition CSE - XXI  HL dialogue & concrete examples by member States	Reflecting on achievements, identifying priorities and planning next steps CSE - XXI	Administrative matters (cont-d) CSE - XXI
11h30 – 13h00	Administrative matters GEEE & GECES & GERE XXI	Electrification of mobility: development of infrastructure, integration with grid, resource planning GEEE & GECES & GERE XXI	Experts meet policymakers: Identifying opportunities for a just energy transition in the UNECE region CSE - XXI What aspects should a just energy transition pay attention to?		
Lunch break	13:00-15:00, H.313 - GEEE Bureau  13:00-15:00, H.312 - GERE Bureau	13:30 – 15:00, H.447-1 H2 Task Force Meeting  13:00-15:00, H.313 - GEEE Task Force Digitalization in Energy  13:00-15:00, H.448 - GERE Secretariat	13:30 – 15:00, H.312  Critical Raw Minerals and Just Transition – Regional Dialogue		
15h00 – 16h30	Parallel sessions GEEE & GECES & GERE XXI & VII & XVII	Digital and data transformation in the energy sector GEEE & GECES & GERE XVII	Prioritizing social equity and inclusivity for a just energy transition CSE - XXI	Administrative matters CSE - XXI	
16h30 – 18h00		Administrative matters & reports adoption GEEE & GECES & GERE XVII	Shaping the UNECE mandate on resilient and carbon neutral energy systems for a just energy transition CSE - XXI		

- The secretariat also provided an update on the **sessions on 18 September** that will be dedicated to the **dialogue on just transition for resilient energy systems**.

**Session 1 on Identifying opportunities for a just transition in the UNECE region** - Representatives of member States are invited to share examples from their countries on the good practices and challenges in conceptualizing and implementing just transition approaches. Mr Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) will provide highlights of the first Dialogue under the UAE Just Transition Work Programme that took place in Bonn, Germany in June 2024

**Session 2 on Advancing UNECE mandate on just transition for resilient energy systems** - Mr Raymond Pilcher, Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, will present a proposed framework for developing and executing joint ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy Groups of Experts initiatives that embrace the concept of just transition for resilient energy systems. The presentation will be followed by a dialogue during which the Chairs of all six Groups of Experts will discuss how their respective areas of work can contribute to a just and equitable energy transition.

**Session 3 on Strengthening partnerships on just transition for resilient energy systems** - UNECE will share its approach to just transition and the work done under the auspices of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and will present its proposed framework / theoretical model for just transition (of the coal mine areas). UNECE will also highlight its proposed future work on just transition across various energy areas and highlight how to best leverage UNECE the possible role and value addition of its platform such as the (Committee on Sustainable Energy and other UNECE convening platforms regional bodies) to support implementation of just transition frameworks, facilitate exchange of practices, discuss common regional approaches lessons and monitor progress in the implementation of just transitions in the region.

Representatives of international organizations and other stakeholders will present their work on just transition and discuss how to strengthen collaboration and synergies with UNECE and other organizations to accelerate a just transition for resilient energy systems in the UNECE region.

Panelists will discuss how to translate the concept of a "Just Transition" into tangible actions and meaningful progress across the UNECE region and how stakeholders' initiatives are addressing the principles of Just Transition:

- Social progress: improve the well-being of people, both individually and as a community (including gender & youth engagement)
- Environmental protection: improve the quality of the natural environment, aligned with Member States' commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement
- Economic success: improved economic situation of the communities that have undergone the transition
- Democratic governance: people subject to the transition are actively engaged in designing and implementing transition strategies to ensure ownership of the process
- Institutional resilience: existence of institutions competent to design, prepare for and implement the transition

**Session 4 on Next steps for UNECE work on just transition for resilient energy systems** - To conclude the one-day dialogue, the UNECE Sustainable Energy Committee Chair and the Director of UNECE Sustainable Energy Division will present the suggested next steps, including by asking members of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to (i) endorse a just transition approach across the Sustainable energy subprogramme and all its Groups of Experts that creates the necessary foundation to achieve resilient and carbon neutral energy systems; (ii) encourage member States in the region to share priority sectors with UNECE for piloting its just transition approach; and (iii) explore the possibility of bringing the just transition approach to the attention of the UNECE Commission session in 2025 as the suggested theme of a future Commission session, so inviting UNECE to consider adopting the just transition approach at the programme level given its cross-cutting nature that requires a whole-of-society approach.

- The secretariat also provided an update on the **flow of the day on 19 September** which will be dedicated to **reflecting on achievements since the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the discussion on the future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in 2025** and beyond. The Chairs of the Expert Groups will be invited to share with the Committee about their achievements. All Bureau members and member States will be invited to participate in the strategic dialogue on the future of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in preparation for the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and a number of multilateral events which are planned for end of 2024 and spring 2025.

#### **Item 4. Update on the preparations for the 71st Commission Session**

- 71st Commission session's cross-cutting theme: Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future, to be held on 9 – 10 April 2025. The Bureau was informed that the EXCOM had invited relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNECE and the secretariat to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to the cross-cutting theme of the seventy-first Commission session within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources.

#### **Item 5– Update on recent and upcoming events**

##### **Recent events:**

##### **June**

**6: Training II: [UNFC Application to Strategic Projects in accordance with European CRMA](#), Online**

**11-12: [Sub-Regional Workshop on Integrated Planning for Climate and Air: Methane Roadmap Action Programme \(M-RAP\)](#), Astana, Kazakhstan in cooperation with UNEP and CCAC**

**12-13: [Regional Stakeholder Consultations on Energy Connectivity and Sustainable Energy in Central Asia](#), Astana, Kazakhstan**

**14: [UN Virtual Worlds and Metaverse Day](#), Geneva**

**18: [Energy Efficiency in Industry: Bi-monthly open discussion forum “Triggering Investments towards resilience and net zero”](#) (online)**

**19-20: [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”](#), Tbilisi, Georgia**

## July

**4-5:** [Workshop on Implementing the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources \(UNFC\) in Southeast Europe](#), Belgrade, Serbia

**16:** [UN Regional Economic Commissions Side Event on Critical Energy Transition Minerals to accelerate progress towards the SDGs](#), New York, USA

**24:** [Dialogue on Carbon Neutrality and Scenario Building for the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with World Energy Council](#) (online)

## Upcoming flagship events:

**Sustainable Energy Week**, Geneva, 16-20 September 2024

**COP29**, Baku, 11-22 November 2024

**SPECA Forum and Governing Council**, Dushanbe, 26-28 November 2024

**Thirteenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD-13)**, Bangkok, 2-4 December 2024

## Upcoming technical events:

**Digitalization @ ENERGYNOW SDG7 Action Forum 2024**, 25-27 September, New York

**Industrial Energy Efficiency @ ETIN Action Forum**, Brussels, 1-3 October 2024

**UNECE/UNDP session at the Innovative solutions for scaling up Energy Efficiency in Buildings: International Investor Connect Forum**, Chisinau, 3-4 October 2024

**Industrial Energy Efficiency Bi-monthly open discussion forum: "Enhancing Resilience and Efficiency: Circularity-by-Design"**, online, 10 October 2024

## **Item 6 – Any other business**

The Bureau will meet during the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva

---