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

Geneva, 18-20 September 2024

**Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-third session****I. Introduction and attendance**

1. The work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. It promotes policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders. The current focus of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) is on resilient energy systems, energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner electricity systems, coal mine methane and just transition, gas, hydrogen, and sustainable resource management through the work of its six subsidiary bodies.

2. At its thirty-third session, the Committee exchanged views on how to attain just transition for resilient energy systems in the ECE region while supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement. The session was held in person in Geneva on 18-20 September 2024.

3. More than 150 participants from the following ECE member States participated: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Experts from the European Union participated under Article 11 of the Terms of Reference of the Commission (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).

4. The following United Nations regional commissions, specialized agencies, funds and programmes were in attendance: the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme North Macedonia (UNDP North Macedonia), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Youth Advisory Council (UNYAC).

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: African Energy Commission, Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Habitat for Humanity International, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



(OSCE), World Bank, World Economic Forum (WEF) and World Nuclear Association (WNA).

6. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and private sector also attended at the invitation of the secretariat.

## **II. Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/152 – Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-third session

7. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, opened the meeting and adopted the annotated provisional agenda.<sup>1</sup>

8. In his remarks, the Chair stated that designing and building resilient energy systems has been in the focus of the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its six subsidiary bodies since its thirty-first session. Over the past two years, the Committee advanced in helping countries design resilient energy systems, nevertheless, it has not yet adequately explored a just and equitable energy transition approach when shaping resilient energy systems across the ECE region. In order to discuss with member States and to address the social aspects of the energy transition, after the consultative exercise with the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, it was decided that the theme of the thirty-third session would be dedicated to the Just Transition for Resilient Energy Systems in the ECE region.

9. The Chair thanked the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee for their leadership and for driving the implementation of the Committee's Agenda over the past year. The Chair also noted that this year's Session is part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week 2024 and was preceded by the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the twentieth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (16-17 September 2024). The Chair thanked the Chairs of the respective expert groups that convened their annual sessions for holding fruitful discussions on integration of energy efficiency and renewable energy in distributed power systems, electrification of mobility: development of infrastructure, integration with grid, and resource planning, and on digital and data transformation in the energy sector.

10. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary of ECE highlighted that the dialogue aims to shape a mandate for a just transition towards resilient energy systems in the region, emphasizing that addressing climate change involves not only technological advancements but also prioritizing people and communities. The ECE framework, adopted at the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, focuses on energy security, affordability, and environmental sustainability. However, the ongoing energy transition poses challenges for carbon-intensive industries and their communities, highlighting the need for a just transition approach that supports local economies and the environment. It is important to include stakeholder engagement, social impact assessments, and early protective policies. Additionally, the approach must encompass gender equality and intergenerational justice to ensure a sustainable and inclusive future.

## **III. Just Transition for Resilient Energy Systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 2)**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2024/5 – Just Transition for Resilient Energy Systems

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the liquidity crisis and the P5 Chief of Section post being vacant since 19 April 2024, the agenda of the 33rd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy was tailored to reduce and significantly limit the substance to priority topics only. This reflects the secretariat's increasing capacity constraints.

ECE/ENERGY/2024/8 - Advancing Intergenerational Justice in  
Critical Raw Materials Management: Assessing the Potential of  
Demand-side Interventions

11. Representatives from the Austria, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and European Union shared examples from their countries on the good practices and challenges in conceptualizing and implementing just and equitable transition approaches.

12. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy shared how the work of each Group of Experts will contribute to advancing the ECE mandate on just transition for resilient energy systems.

13. The dialogue also featured an exchange among international organizations on their efforts to support countries in adopting and implementing a just transition approach and explored ways to strengthen international collaboration and identify synergies to help the region achieve resilient energy systems in a just and equitable way.

14. After discussions, the Committee:

(a) Recalled the conclusion from the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, defining a framework on resilient energy systems that is based on: (i) energy security that ensures energy needed at any time is met through a diversity of supply; (ii) affordability of sustainable energy that reduces the costs of electricity, heating, cooling, and transport while increasing systemic efficiency; and (iii) environmental sustainability that lowers the carbon footprint and enhances the efficiency across the energy supply chain (ECE/ENERGY/143 paras 11-12);

(b) Recalled the conclusions from the thirty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy that noted with appreciation the framework on resilient energy systems developed for the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and recalled that building a resilient energy system requires engaging with all stakeholders to the extent that warrants their ownership of the process and a sense of responsibility for its results. While the transition towards climate neutrality, being a key element of improving the resilience of an energy system, will create new opportunities, it may also have disruptive effects on carbon- and energy-intensive industries, as well as on regions, communities, and enterprises that depend on carbon and energy-intensive industries (ECE/ENERGY/149 para.13e);

(c) Recalled that the Committee at its thirty-second session in 2023 called upon ECE member States to assess the social impacts of the energy transition at the planning phase, so that proper protective and ameliorating mechanisms are developed and relevant policies are in place to prepare stakeholders for the new reality;

(d) Noted the document “Just Transition for Resilient Energy Systems” (ECE/ENERGY/2024/5) that explores options for the adoption of just energy transition approaches across the sustainable energy subprogramme and all its Groups of Experts in pursuit of the overarching objective of attaining resilient and carbon neutral energy systems in the ECE region;

(e) Requested the Groups of Experts to coordinate and deliver joint activities to advance a just energy transition for resilient energy systems across the ECE region;

(f) Endorsed a multi-stakeholder process across the Sustainable Energy subprogramme and all its Groups of Experts aimed at developing a just energy transition approach, suitable for the needs and different perspectives of member States in the ECE region, that creates the necessary foundations to achieve resilient and carbon neutral energy systems. It further endorsed just transition as a key to achieving resilient and carbon neutral energy systems and stressed the need for further consultations on this matter. The just energy transition should start immediately and at the lowest cost to consumers, through an interplay of all low and zero-carbon technologies in an integrated energy market;

(g) Encouraged member States to share priority sectors with ECE for piloting its just energy transition approach;

(h) Highlighted the need to consider intergenerational justice in the management of critical raw materials (CRMs) and encouraged member States to explore demand-side interventions to reduce resource use and emissions, mitigate supply risks, and enhance well-being through more equitable economic models (ECE/ENERGY/2024/8). This approach aims to ensure long-term sustainability and social equity, addressing the needs and challenges of current and future generations. The Committee requested that the Expert Group on Resource Management develop a comprehensive policy guidance aligned with the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) to consider the possibility of integrating these approaches into CRMs governance, with the aim to achieve a sustainable and just resource management framework and, further requested, that once developed, the document is reviewed by the Expert Group on Resource Management, its Bureau and Working Groups;

(i) Emphasized that the framework on resilient energy systems also should take into account the principle of economic viability to ensure that energy needed is sustainable over time.

(j) Recognized the impact of the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on the resilience of energy systems in Ukraine and the wider ECE region. Also recognized the urgent need to continue to assist Ukraine and neighbouring member States in recovering from damage to energy infrastructure and systems as a result to said aggression.<sup>2</sup>

#### **IV. Delivering on sustainable energy: subprogramme accomplishments since the thirty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 3)**

15. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat provided an update on the activities and the implementation of the programme of work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme since the thirty-second session.

16. After discussions, the Committee:

(a) Noted the continued relevance of the subprogramme's activities, particularly related to the strategic priorities of the subprogramme: increase energy system resilience; promote sustainable resource management; support member States in achieving their SDG7 objectives through scaling up renewable energy capacity, energy connectivity and energy efficiency; scale up system-wide digitalization in energy; enable a hydrogen ecosystem in the ECE region; promote best practices in methane emissions management and reduction; and, conceive practices for a just, equitable and inclusive energy transition;

(b) Noted with appreciation the activities and accomplishments of the Committee and its six subsidiary bodies, particularly in view of the economic, geopolitical, social, energy, supply chain, climate, and environmental challenges the ECE region is facing. Called upon member States to provide resources to support projects and activities that deliver on the Committee's identified priorities and address new challenges;

(c) Noted with appreciation the Expert Group on Resource Management's progress to advance sustainable resource management. The integration of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) in the European Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), which came into force on 23 May 2024, ensures a harmonized and transparent approach to raw materials classification across EU Member States, promoting sustainable and efficient supply of critical raw materials. The United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) was endorsed by the Ministers of Energy in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting its growing acceptance and implementation as a voluntary global standard for integrated resource management. This support for UNRMS implementation underscores its capability to support the SDGs by offering a comprehensive framework that integrates economic, social, and environmental aspects of resource management. The widespread adoption of UNFC and UNRMS in Africa was marked by the launch of the Pan African

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<sup>2</sup> 37 member States voted in favour of including paragraph 13(j) under Item 3 in the report, one country (Russian Federation) voted against, and one country (Kazakhstan) abstained.

Resource Reporting Code (PARC) in 2024. Additionally, ongoing engagements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Northeast Asian countries indicate a growing global collaboration in sustainable resource management. The UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 (Geneva, 22-26 April 2024), including the fifteenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management, provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions for sustainable resource management. The Week's discussions emphasized the importance of these frameworks in addressing challenges related to resource sustainability and circular economy integration in the ECE region and beyond. Significant progress was also made to establish a network of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM). ICE-SRMs are designed to disseminate UNFC and UNRMS in their areas of geographical focus and resource competence;

(d) Noted with appreciation the efforts by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems to diminish the carbon footprint of the electricity systems across the ECE region. The Group of Experts continued its guidance on maintaining reliability in this period of transition and on creating the favourable conditions for an effective transformation. The Group of Experts has been particularly engaged in helping countries increase their policy design capacity to enhance energy security and energy system resilience through energy connectivity. This is thanks to the partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the joint Programme on Energy Connectivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus under which a series of dialogues were delivered in Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The Group of Experts also made notable progress on advancing the topic of integration of e-mobility into energy systems as the electrification of mobility will have as high impact on the design and operation of the electric grid as it will have on transportation systems themselves. The Group of Experts in cooperation with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the ECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) launched a Task Force to continue advancing the dialogue on this important topic;

(e) Noted with appreciation the efforts by the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to facilitate the creation of a suitable environment for renewable energy development, in particular the outcome of the Renewable Energy Hard Talk in Turkmenistan. This event allowed key energy stakeholders in the country to discuss new possibilities to develop sustainable energy, enhance synergies between renewable energy and natural gas, and increase the uptake of renewable energy in Turkmenistan. Also noted with appreciation the key findings of the study on establishing a national energy efficiency and renewable energy agency in Georgia, which contains a comparative analysis and strategic recommendations based on ECE member States' experience. Further noted the multi-stakeholder dialogue, which addressed the initiative of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) to establish a dedicated energy efficiency and renewable energy agency;

(f) Noted with appreciation the progress of the Group of Experts on Gas in implementing its Work Plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/10), most notably in methane abatement (within the framework of the Global Methane Forum 2024), in defining the role of gas in building resilient energy systems, accelerating energy transition, meeting growing demand and ensuring the universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy (Geneva and online, 10 September 2024), and in promoting a hydrogen economy. Noted that low carbon, decarbonised and renewable gases, including biogas, biomethane, e-methane, synthetic methane and hydrogen in gaseous and liquid aggregate states, can contribute to achieving carbon-neutrality according to nationally determined goals. Concerning the hydrogen economy, welcomed the release of the ECE publication "Towards a Hydrogen Economy in the UNECE Region" (ECE/ENERGY/151) which proposes a hydrogen classification based on technology-neutral, quantified greenhouse gas emissions. Noted with appreciation the recommendations of the Hydrogen Task Force, acknowledging that hydrogen could play an important role in the decarbonization of hard-to-abate industries (cement, steel, or ammonia production), and that it is important to accelerate the launch and the implementation of hydrogen projects and to address relevant infrastructure barriers by simplifying access of hydrogen transporters to the available logistics infrastructure and enabling them to reduce their transportation costs through reliance on multimodal means of transport for the purpose of diversified hydrogen logistics;

(g) Noted with appreciation, the progress of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency in promoting the principles of systemic efficiency linking buildings, industry, transport, and energy infrastructure. Underscored numerous successful outreach and technical cooperation efforts advancing the policy agenda in support of the activities previewed in the Work Plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/10). Further welcomed efforts and results achieved by the Group of Experts in promoting and leading the cross-cutting activities of the ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems during the intersessional period, notably concerning electrification and other strategies of decarbonization of industries and of the supply of heating and cooling to buildings, scaling systemic efficiencies including through the use of energy storage, digitalization of energy system networks including cybersecurity, promoting safe use and control of advanced and intelligent analytics, management of decentralized energy systems, along with supporting clear communications, inclusive dialogues, and broad engagement of the expert community from 52 ECE member States and 53 Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission;

(h) Noted with appreciation the activities and outputs of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, including an increased number of member States committing to taking action on methane emissions mitigation, in line with ECE guidance; the successful delivery of numerous outreach and technical cooperation activities, including (a) a study and workshops on just transition in post-coal mining areas in Albania; (b) workshops on inclusion of methane emission reduction targets in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions and improving capacity to implement on such commitments; the development of proposals on just transition for resilient energy systems; the new concept of coal not as a fuel but as a multipurpose platform providing for the needs of the Green economy; and, a comprehensive study on processing ventilation air methane (VAM). Further noted with appreciation the efforts and work of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition to ensure the collective cooperation and collaboration of all the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to pursue meaningful work plans focused on energy transition and transition justice as cross cutting elements;

(i) Noted with appreciation the conduct of the Global Methane Forum 2024 (Geneva, 18-21 March 2024) co-hosted with the Global Methane Initiative and with the support of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Methane Hub, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Group of Experts on Gas. The event brought together over 800 participants from over 50 countries worldwide and comprised six high-level plenary sessions and 21 joint technical sessions;

(j) Noted with appreciation the work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme focusing on gender issues across all activities in the preparations for the Beijing+30 Regional Consultations in October 2024 in Geneva. The Committee further noted the role that women can play towards sustainable energy and reiterated the need to promote gender parity in the programmes of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and to update on progress in future sessions;

(k) Further noted the work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme to focus on intergenerational issues in the energy sector of the ECE region. The Committee appreciated the valuable work of the Resource Management Young Member Group in shaping and implementing these activities under the Expert Group on Resource Management. The Committee also appreciated the launch of the Young Working Group on Energy Systems that aims to support the work of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, the Group of Experts on Gas, the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition. The Committee proposed young experts to join the Young Working Group on Energy Systems.

## **V. Technical assistance, regional outreach and collaboration activities (agenda item 4)**

### **A. Regional advisory services and collaboration activities**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2024/3 – Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy

17. The Committee received an update on the regional advisory services since its last session. The report included information on adjusting regional advisory services, including capacity-building and technical assistance activities, to multiple challenges caused by the ongoing geopolitical and economic crises in the ECE region. Field projects under implementation, including those that were developed as rapid responses to these challenges, and ongoing fundraising activities were reported. Based on the demand from programme countries, several studies and capacity-building activities have been implemented and initiated, in particular, in Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

18. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Noted with appreciation the results achieved by the regional advisory services, stressed the importance of regional advisory services and capacity-building activities, particularly under the current circumstances, and requested a report on regional advisory services at its thirty-fourth session.

### **B. Extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects.**

19. The secretariat provided an update on the ongoing extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects. Following the presentations, the Committee:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation two projects funded through the 16th Tranche of the UN Development Account that directly support the UN's efforts to respond to the triple planetary crisis, which refer to the three main interlinked issues that humanity currently faces: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The projects "Enhancing capacities in the sustainable production, use and reuse of the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions" and "Supporting increased energy security and resilience through energy transition" will be implemented by ECE and other Regional Commissions during the period 2023- 2027;

(b) Welcomed the implementation of the preparation phase of the project "Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings" funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of Germany. ECE is leading a team of 13 implementing partners in the project, in which seven beneficiary countries participate: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The decision on supporting the main phase of the project is expected from the donor.

## **VI. Election of officers (agenda item 5)**

20. Noted that there are ongoing discussions on harmonizing and modernising the Rules of Procedure of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe and requested the secretariat to provide an update on implications for the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-fourth session.

21. The Committee elected Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia) as Chair and Ms. Rana Humatova (Azerbaijan), Mr. Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Ms. Carolina Novac (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Elena Ivanovska (North Macedonia), Mr. Borys Budka (Poland), Ms. Jovana Joksimovic (Serbia) and Mr. Joan Groizard (Spain) as Vice-Chairs to serve from the end of the thirty-third session until the end of the thirty-fifth session of the

Committee, unless current discussions on Rules of Procedure at the level of the Commission have implications for the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

22. The Committee has the following members to serve on the Bureau:

(a) Until the conclusion of its thirty-fourth session: Mr. Morten Evjenth Lindbaeck (Norway) and Ms. Denise Mulholland (United States of America);

(b) The current Bureau currently consists of: Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia) as Chair and Ms. Rana Humbatova (Azerbaijan), Mr. Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Ms. Carolina Novac (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Elena Ivanovska (North Macedonia), Mr. Morten Evjenth Lindbaeck (Norway), Mr. Borys Budka (Poland), Ms. Jovana Joksimovic (Serbia), Mr. Joan Groizard (Spain) and Ms. Denise Mulholland (United States of America);

(c) The Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies are Vice-Chairs of the Committee ex officio (currently Ms. Karen Hanghøj, Chair of the Expert Group on Resource Management, Mr. Jim Robb, Chair of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Mr. Raymond Pilcher, Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas, Mr. Stefan Buettner, Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and Mr. Alberto Biancardi, Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy).

23. The Committee thanked the outgoing Chair for his contribution and support during his period as Chair. The Committee also thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairs for their contributions to the work of the Committee.

## **VII. Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (agenda item 6)**

### **A. Review of subprogramme performance and planning**

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2024/1 – Draft programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025

ECE/ENERGY/33/2024/INF.1 – Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2026

24. The secretariat presented the draft programme of work of the Sustainable Energy programme for 2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2024/1). This document is consistent with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.20)) which was reviewed by the ECE Executive Committee in December 2023 and submitted for consideration at the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. The programme of work document reflects the annual budget format presented in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolutions 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251, 75/243 and 76/245.

25. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Adopted the draft programme of work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme for 2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2024/1), including the list of proposed publications for 2025 and information materials outlined in Annex I, and recommended submission to the ECE Executive Committee for subsequent approval. Requested a draft programme of work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme for 2026 for adoption at its next session;

(b) Noted and agreed the proposed modifications to the programme of work for the Sustainable Energy subprogramme for 2026 (ECE/ENERGY/33/2024/INF.1), further noted the list of proposed publications for 2026 included in the Annex, and requested the secretariat to reflect the modifications in the proposed programme plan of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme for 2026;

(c) Welcomed that, with the objective of enhancing the efficiencies and promoting the joint and collaborative efforts across the Committee's subsidiary bodies on cross-cutting topics, the annual meetings of the Expert Group on Resource Management, the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition will be



delivered in parallel from 24-28 March 2025 in Geneva, as per the Provisional calendar of meetings of the sustainable energy subprogramme 2025;

(d) Requested that the Group of Experts on Gas at its annual session in March 2025 discusses a possible change of the Group's name to "Group of Experts on Gases". The Committee noted that such a change would reflect the increasingly important role of low carbon and renewable gases and would therefore better align the Group's work with the recent agreements of the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP28) in Dubai to transition away from fossil fuels;

(e) Recognized the critical role of UNFC and UNRMS in addressing global challenges in sustainable resource management. In light of their expanding global application, the Committee requested that the Expert Group on Resource Management explore and address the inconsistency between its current regional constituency and the mandates from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recommending the global application of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group was further requested to report on its findings and proposed solutions at the thirty-fourth session of the Committee;

(f) Requested a continued focus on gender and intergenerational issues in all activities of the subprogramme where possible. Further requested that a gender focused agenda item, including on advancing SDG 5, and an intergenerational focussed agenda item be included in the thirty-fourth session of the Committee;

(g) Noted the importance of aligning national energy strategies with the outcomes of COP28 and in preparation for COP29, particularly in advancing national commitments to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and enhance energy systems resilience which includes implementing policies that support the decarbonization of energy systems in line with international obligations and prioritizing investments in renewable and low-carbon energy projects.

## B. Approval of documents

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2024/2 – Provisional calendar of meetings of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025

ECE/ENERGY/2024/4 – Summary of practices for representation of and the use of titles within the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Subsidiary Bodies

ECE/ENERGY/2024/6 – Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management

ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/4 – International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management - Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference

ECE/ENERGY/2024/7 – Revised Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency

26. After discussion, the Committee:

(a) Recommended the submission of a range of documents to support the implementation of mandated areas of work to the Executive Committee of ECE for subsequent approval if required;

(b) Endorsed the provisional calendar of meetings for 2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2024/2);

(c) Endorsed the document "Summary of practices for representation of and the use of titles within the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Subsidiary Bodies" (ECE/ENERGY/2024/4) and requested the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat to follow the recommended practices,

(d) Endorsed the renewal of the mandate of the Expert Group on Resource Management for the period 2025-2029 with the possibility of extension and the revised Terms of Reference of the Expert Group (ECE/ENERGY/2024/6);

(e) Approved the document “International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management - Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/4) as agreed by the Expert Group on Resource Management at its fifteenth session (Geneva, 22-26 April 2024);

(f) Endorsed the extension of the mandate of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to 2025–2026, with the possibility of extension, and its revised Terms of Reference (ECE/ENERGY/2024/7);

(g) Endorsed the extension of the mandate of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency to 2025–2026, with the possibility of extension, based on the Terms of Reference contained in GEEE-7/2020/INF.3, Annex 2.

(h) Requested the six subsidiary bodies to prepare Work Plans for the period 2026-2027 and present them to the Committee at its thirty-fourth session.

## **VIII. Preparations for the seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 7)**

*Documentation:* E/ECE/1503 – Economic Commission for Europe Biennial Report

27. Following a brief presentation by the secretariat on the follow up since the seventieth session and in preparations for the seventy-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee:

(a) Took note that the Commission at its seventieth session emphasized the need to further strengthen its work in support of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region within its existing mandate as appropriate and subject to available resources, and that it requested the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to further explore possible collaborations across subprogrammes and to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices. Welcomed with appreciation the work and the activities delivered under the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy;

(b) Took note that as a follow-up to the seventieth session of the Commission a number of actionable decisions related to the mandate of the Committee on Sustainable Energy were submitted to ECOSOC for consideration. Noted with regret that Decision I (70) that requests to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems, although adopted by ECOSOC and approved, due to the budgetary crisis the resources for a P4 were not provided to the secretariat in 2024. Further noted that the lack of these resources in 2024 has had a negative impact on the fulfillment of vacant positions and the delivery of a number of planned activities under the Expert Group on Resource Management and the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems, such as a reduced number of meetings being serviced (34 out of 38 previewed), a lower number of publications (2 instead of 3 planned) and a lower number of workshops delivered (11 instead of 13 planned);

(c) Took note that should the ongoing liquidity crisis continue beyond 2024, it will have further implications on the work of the secretariat and the servicing of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies, and will require a review of the mandated activities to align them with the available lower resources.

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## **IX. Any other business (agenda item 8)**

28. Requested the secretariat to proceed with preparations for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva, 1-3 October 2025, during the Sustainable Energy Week 2025, including a draft agenda, draft report, and all supporting documents necessary for the implementation of the programme of work for the ECE Sustainable energy subprogramme for 2025.

29. Thanked all non-government stakeholders for their continued contributions to the work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme and renewed its wish to involve these stakeholders in its activities and meetings.

30. The reports of the twentieth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, and the eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy were adopted at the thirty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

## **X. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting (agenda item 9)**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/153 – Report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on its thirty-third session

31. Adopted the report of its thirty-third session (ECE/ENERGY/153) subject to any necessary editing and formatting.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The Russian Federation called upon the members of the Committee to refrain from politicization of the discussions during the thirty-third session of the Committee. Norway, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and the European Union rejected the allegations by the Russian Federation concerning politicization.