



Report by the **COMMITTEE** on **Sustainable Energy**

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Committee on **Sustainable Energy**

102nd meeting of the Executive Committee, 14 December 2018

Sustainable Energy subprogramme

Ensure access to affordable, clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector

- Addressing the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 7, through 3 categories:
 - Sustainable resource management
 - Deep transformation of the energy system
 - Reducing the environmental footprint of the energy sector

- “Accelerating and deepening” the transition to sustainable energy systems in the UNECE-Region

- Normative instruments, standards and best practice guidance supported by six Expert Groups
 - Coal mine methane
 - Resource classification
 - Natural gas
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy
 - Clean electricity

Energy in the UNECE region

Outcomes of the 27th session of the Committee, 26th-27th September 2018 (i)

Current progress for more sustainable energy systems in the UNECE region is insufficient to achieve SDG 7 by 2030:

➤ ***Not on track to reach 2 degree target***

- Technology, innovation, new business models, and strategic shifts in policy making provide solutions
- Countries face common challenges, such as
 - Monitoring, data collection systems, information sharing between institutions, and transparency and accountability
 - Need for human and institutional capacity for energy planning and management
 - Engagement with the private sector
 - A stronger role for science and research
 - Aging infrastructure, and
 - Need to secure and improve economic wealth and living standards
- Energy intensity and the share of fossil fuels within the UNECE region is still higher than the world's average, the share of renewable energies in parts of the region is far below average

Energy in the UNECE region

Outcomes of the 27th session of the Committee, 26th-27th September 2017 (ii)

- There is still no definition of “Sustainable Energy”
 - Common goals and targets cannot be defined
 - Fundamental changes look inevitable
- **No “one size fits all”**: **National pathways** will be chosen
- Energy efficiency remains the key enabler for improving quality of life: there is a need for an integrated energy and climate agenda
 - Alignment with SDGs 9 (infrastructure), 11 (cities), 12 (consumption), 13 (climate), 17 (partnerships) - sectors are not independent
- Priority actions are sensible economically, environmentally, and socially and must be pursued:
 - Sustainable resource management
 - Energy efficiency improvements in buildings, industry and transport
 - Methane management in extractive industries

The role of Regional Commissions critical for effective and coordinated response to development needs



Committee offers a platform for policy dialogue, exchange, peer-learning and application of best practices

Selected achievements 2017-2018

Policy dialogue and peer learning

- International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and support of Energy Ministerial in Ukraine
- Exchanges on adaptive policy responses for pathways to sustainable energy
- Renewable energy “hard talks” in Kazakhstan and Bosnia Herzegovina

Going to the field

- Biogas technology for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan (Regional Advisory)

Standards and guidelines

- Broadening the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and bridging documents with China
- Launch of a High-Performance Buildings Initiative to disseminate UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

Tracking progress

- Global Tracking Framework: Regional assessment on achieving SDG 7
- Contributions to the SDG 7 review at the HLPF, Technical Advisory Group

Looking ahead

- Work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, aligning SDG 7 with SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17
 - Pathways to Sustainable Energy
 - UNECE involvement in next “Global Tracking Framework”
 - Participation in “UN Energy”, UN Climate Summit, SEforAll, Technical Advisory Group for SDG 7 review

- Enhance collaboration across the subsidiary bodies, the Regional Commissions and across divisions
 - Join expertise of the Expert Groups via a joint project “Modernization of energy infrastructure” to support the transformation of large industrial complexes and redefine the role of electricity in sustainable energy systems
 - Extend the global network and university consortium to strengthen the High-Performance Buildings Initiative
 - Strengthen nexus approaches (particularly between the Committee and the UNECE Committees on Environment and Housing and Land Management)
 - Create a programmatic approach for regional advisory activities
 - Work towards a United Nations Resource Management System across the regions to support the concept of a circular economy

- Deepen conversations and peer learning, regional coordination
 - 10th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
 - 2020 as the Global Year of Methane

Requests to the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies and to approve

- the change of name of the Expert Group on Resource Classification to the Expert Group on Resource Management and its Terms of Reference

as contained in document ECE/EX/2018/L.10 from 30 November 2018.

Requests to the Economic Commission for Europe

The Executive Committee is invited to approve the draft decisions below and transmit them to the 68th Commission for consideration:

- Recommended that the ECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and their derivative High-Performance Buildings Initiative be deployed and disseminated widely, specifically drawing on the capacities of the five Regional Commissions and the United Nations Development Programme;
- Recognizing the role that growing atmospheric concentrations of methane play in climate change and the imperative for near-term remediation, recommended to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council that 2020 be declared the International Year of Methane in support of the Global Methane Challenge and its partner organizations.

Thank you for your attention



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