

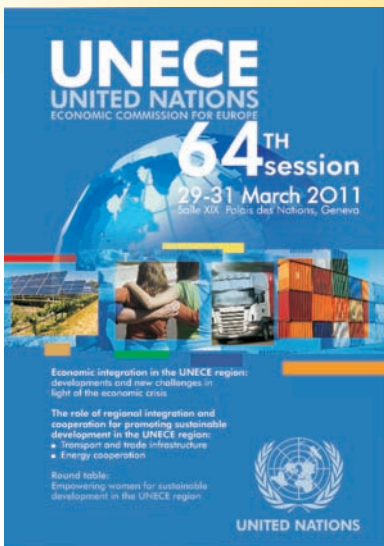


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# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## **64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE WILL DISCUSS ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION WITH FOCUS ON TRANSPORT AND TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY COOPERATION**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold its 64<sup>th</sup> session on 29-31 March 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Commission is responsible for making strategic decisions on the UNECE programme of work and provides a

- d) Which are the best approaches to further facilitate international transport and simplify border-crossing procedures while taking into account security concerns?
- e) What further steps need to be taken to enhance the legal framework, transport regulations and standards for international transport, with a view to achieving better connectivity and economic sustainability in the region?
- f) Is it important for small and medium-sized companies to participate in international supply chains? If yes, what are the principal obstacles they face when attempting to do so?
- g) Can international standards and recommendations support access to international trade and supply chains?

### **2) Energy cooperation**

This session will discuss how to best shape the energy sector, which is clearly at the interface of economic and environmental sustainability and security.

A first panel will discuss issues related to improving energy networks in the UNECE region. It will explore major elements of extension and interconnection, the challenges of infrastructure financing, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs), the establishment, management and financing of power plants producing electricity in a transboundary context, and the development of a regulatory framework and compliance with access rules and security norms;

A second panel will address ways of promoting energy efficiency development from source to service, including through resource efficient policies, market formation, harmonization of norms and technology transfers. Energy efficiency investments are important in various sectors such as energy production, conversion, transport and distribution, housing, public buildings and industry. Reduction of their cost through efficient financing is essential. The panel will also address diversification of energy sources. Key challenges in this direction are innovation in the field of new technologies, the development of new mechanisms of investment financing and pricing policies, along with fiscal, regulatory and contractual measures for the exploitation and use of renewable and other sources of energy.

The session will also include a round table on *"Empowering women for sustainable development in the UNECE region"* on 30 March 2011, 14:00-15:00.

The round table will focus on the core question of how women can be empowered to fully participate in the process of identifying solutions and developing strategies and policy responses to achieve sustainable development. It will be looking at initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, and will address the role of the international community, national governments and civil society.

At the end of both days, the Executive Secretary will provide a summary of the proposals made for possible follow-up action by UNECE's Executive Committee.

The session and discussions are open to the public. □

*For a detailed timetable and background documents on the various topics to be discussed, please see: [http://www.unece.org/commission/2011/64th\\_index.htm](http://www.unece.org/commission/2011/64th_index.htm).*

*Not an official record - For information only*

forum for policy dialogue on the economic developments in the region.

The first two days of the session will be dedicated to two issues which are at the core of UNECE's activities and members States' priorities:

- Economic integration in the UNECE region: developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis. The session will discuss in particular the region's overall global competitiveness, its progress in recovering from the recent financial and economic crisis and other technological, environmental or social developments that might impact its economic situation.
- The role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region. Debates will be centered on two key components.

### **1) Transport and trade infrastructure**

Regional and subregional transport infrastructure constitutes a pillar of regional integration. Good quality, well developed and safe infrastructure fosters and facilitates trade flows and individual mobility between countries of the region, and has a special importance for landlocked countries. It opens new markets and increases access to employment, education and health services, thus promoting economic and social development. It also has an environmental impact since appropriate design and regulation reduce traffic congestion and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Discussions will address the following issues:

- a) What are the most prominent best practices, and most striking challenges for sustainable transport development in UNECE countries?
- b) Which tools and policies are necessary to mitigate climate change effects and reduce transport related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? What will be the implications for making the transport sector more environmentally sustainable?
- c) How can the transport infrastructure networks across the UNECE region be further developed in the global context? Which modes of cooperation could best assure coordination in the planning of international transport routes and infrastructure? Which financing methods would be the most effective in meeting the needs of the region and individual UNECE countries? How can the particular needs of landlocked countries in the UNECE region be met?

## UNECE FACILITATES DIALOGUE ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS FOR WATER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

The second meeting of the Expert Group on the Revision of the Statutory Documents of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) took place on 22 and 23 March 2011 in Geneva. Governmental representatives of all IFAS member States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – as well as UNECE secretariat and international experts took part.

"IFAS should play a key role in keeping the tragedy of the Aral Sea on the international agenda and mobilize support to the alleviation of social, economic, environmental and health problems in the Aral Sea basin and the achievement of environmental sustainability. This requires a solid legal basis and effective functioning of IFAS institutions. UNECE will continue supporting the efforts of IFAS member States by offering legal and other expertise, international best practices, and relevant international legal instruments – in particular, the tools and mechanisms of the UNECE Water Convention", Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, told the Expert Group.

The meeting was an important step in the implementation of decisions of the IFAS Presidential Summit of April 2009 where the Heads of the five Central Asian States expressed a commitment to strengthen the institutional and legal basis of IFAS in order to raise the efficiency of this organization and improve its relations with international organizations and donors. The UNECE



Programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia", financed by the Government of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) under the Berlin Water Process, assists the IFAS Executive Committee in implementation of the Summit's decisions.

The Expert Group discussed Conceptual Elements for the improvement of the institutional structure and legal basis of IFAS. Governments will provide written comments and proposals on the document before the next meeting of the Expert Group at the end of the summer. The proposals for the improvement of the institutional structure and legal basis of IFAS will further be submitted to the Governments of Central Asian States.

On 23 March, at the briefing on UNECE environmental conventions, Secretaries of five UNECE multilateral environmental instruments made introductory presentations on the opportunities these environmental instruments provide for regional cooperation and national policies on environmental protection and sustainable development in Central Asia. Participants highly appreciated the usefulness of UNECE environmental instruments to facilitate transboundary cooperation. □

For more information see:

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/cadialogue/cadwelcome.htm>.

## IAEA ORGANIZES MEETING TO MAP AND TEST UNFC FOR NUCLEAR FUEL RESOURCES

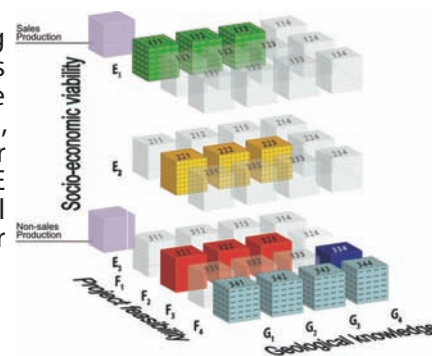
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Consultancy Meeting on "Mapping and Testing of UNFC-2009 for Nuclear Fuel Resources" will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 4-5 April. Organized in collaboration with UNECE's Sustainable Energy Division, the meeting will gather experts from Australia, Brazil, China, France, India, South Africa and the United States, as well as from the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification and the UNECE secretariat. The meeting has been scheduled immediately before the annual session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (Geneva, 6-8 April) in order for the nuclear experts to be able to provide input to the Expert Group discussions.

The aims of the IAEA consultancy meeting include:

- formulating an action plan for mapping and testing the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) of 2009 for nuclear fuel resources;
- discussing the structure and content of regional training courses and workshops on UNFC in 2012-2014 to be organized under the International Technical Cooperation Programmes in IAEA member States. The planned events, for which UNFC reporting will be a major component, will focus on uranium exploration and resource evaluation and will include about 40-50 countries active in uranium exploration;
- providing appropriate feedback to the Expert Group on Resource Classification for improving the UNFC of 2009.

The UNFC has been developed by the Expert Group on Resource Classification to enhance international communication by providing a simple, generic classification framework for the reporting of fossil energy and mineral reserves and resources. □

For more information, please visit: <http://unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html> or contact Charlotte Griffiths at: [reserves.energy@unece.org](mailto:reserves.energy@unece.org).



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