



**Meeting of the Bureau of the
Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)**

19 August 2021 from 11:00 to 12:30 - Online

Report of the Meeting

Item 1. Chair's welcome

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, conveyed welcome remarks to the participants in the meeting held online, the second meeting of GERE Bureau in 2021. The Chair highlighted, among others, the two key agenda items:
 - a. The new GERE Work Plan 2022-2023 which will be considered for approval by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirtieth session on 22-24 September.
 - b. The eighth GERE session on 5-6 October 2021.

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

Item 3. GERE Work Plan 2022-2023 – developed with inputs provided by Bureau members and now will be submitted for approval to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (draft attached for information)

3. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on key activities under implementation in 2021 and those planned in the next biennium. The Chair pointed out that the implementation of the GERE Work Plan 2020-2021 is progressing with positive outcomes despite human and financial resource constraints and the unprecedented situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. In addition, the Bureau was informed by the secretariat, together with the Chair, on the areas and main activities planned in the GERE Work Plan 2022-2023 which is foreseen to be approved by the Committee annual session in September this year.
5. The secretariat highlighted that the main direction of the future work plan could maintain and make progress on the three pillars already present in the current work plan, .i.e. (i) Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources; (ii) Exchange of experiences, good practices and multi-stakeholder dialogues; and (iii) Cross-cutting cooperation to strengthen integration of renewable energy.

Item 4. Cross-cutting cooperation with other Groups of Experts

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/CSE/comm28.2019/ECE_ENERGY_2019_9_Final.pdf

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6. The Chair and the secretariat underlined how, based on previous work plan, cooperation will be strengthened with the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) for the application of UNFC to renewable energy, with the Group of experts on Gas for the synergies that can be enhanced; and with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems in particular to promote green hydrogen and biomethane. Traditionally cooperation will continue with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.
7. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the finalization of the Joint GERE-EGRM report which provides an “Overview of benefits and challenges for Governments applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy projects and resources”. The report has been developed by the Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG) of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) and by GERE experts. A current UN Development Account project on “Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia” is looking into the benefits of applying UNFC for diverse resource management in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The application of UNFC to renewable energy also considered under this project.
8. Outside the sustainable energy sub-programme, cooperation will continue with the Environment Division on water-food-energy-ecosystems Nexus and with the Global Bioenergy Partnership of FAO.
9. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the cooperation with the Environment Division and in particular with the Water Convention, which included the organization of workshops and the joint toolkit publication “Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment. Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment”. The importance of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem nexus approach as a vehicle for natural resource security and their optimized use, considering synergies and trade-offs across sectors and the need for cooperation on climate action The Water Convention is exploring opportunities to apply the toolkit at basin level and more broadly to support the operationalization of nexus solutions and investments, and to assist in the development of regional nexus strategies (e.g. Nexus Roadmaps in the Drin and the Drina River Basins; the regional water-energy-environment strategy in Central Asia, subject to confirmation of funding).

Item 5. Organization of the 8th GERE annual session jointly with the 8th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

10. The secretariat informed Bureau members on the agenda of the forthcoming GERE annual session. This session of the Group of Experts will be delivered jointly with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and will be co-Chaired by the Chair of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems. The joint session will be part of the 11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.
11. The current Bureau composition remain effective for another year, i.e. the current Bureau members do not need to be re-elected during this year annual session. However, the Bureau invited other countries to nominate new candidates for the election of officers during the GERE session with the aim to contribute to the work of the Bureau and, overall, to GERE activities.

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12. During the agenda item on Tracking progress and exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy, REN21 and dena will actively contribute to the *ad hoc* discussion on progress made by UNECE countries in the renewable energy uptake; Countries who had hosted recently renewable energy hard talks are invited to present their experience on what is needed to overcome bottlenecks for increasing renewable energy investments and, ultimately, to boost the uptake of RE investments.
13. On the agenda item on Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems, the joint EGRM-GERE study on “Overview of benefits and challenges for Governments applying UNFC to RE projects and Resources” will be presented and discussed. The discussion will also consider the role of renewable energy role in promoting a more integrated and water-energy nexus approach to achieve a better management of resources.
14. During the joint session on 6 October, Bureau members are invited to actively contribute to the Roundtable on financing decarbonization of energy system in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region as well as to the Roundtable on technology interplay and innovation: the potential for hydrogen in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

Item 6. “Study on financing and investment opportunities in Renewable Energy in selected ECE countries” supported by RPTC/ Regional Advisory Services

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15. The secretariat informed the Bureau on implementation of project on Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries.
16. To support achievement of SDG7: The project is almost fully implemented and only the last seminar would need to take place in the coming months, most likely as an on-line meeting. The Chair and the Bureau expressed appreciation on the activities implemented until now.
17. The study on Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Serbia will be launched at the joint GERE-CES session on 6 October during the Roundtable on financing decarbonization of energy system in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region. Bureau members are invited to actively contribute to this discussion.

Item 7. DENA/ REN21 RE-Uptake project in the UNECE Region:

18. REN21 and dena presented the main activities and outputs planned in the RE-Uptake project for UNECE countries 2021. The project, among others, contains the following key outputs:
 - REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report:
 - third, joint UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report focusing on 17 countries across South East and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Russian Federation. The report will present the current status of renewable energy in all sectors building upon the previous editions from 2015 and 2017. It will represent a comprehensive overview of the region’s current RE infrastructure, industry, policy, regulations, market development and investment flows.

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- the report will include a wide data collection and peer review process, to which all GERE Bureau members will be invited to contribute. More information to be shared in the coming days.
- dena Study on Perspectives for RE development;
- RE Multi-stakeholder Dialogues/ Hard Talks in 2021
 - Albania: 6-7 July 2021
 - Georgia: 12-13 October 2021
 - Serbia: October 2021
 - Kazakhstan: TBC

Item 8. UNECE RE-Uptake Renewable Energy Hard Talk in Albania, 6-7 July 2021

19. On behalf of the Vice-Chair, Adrian Bylyku, Artan Leskoviku informed the other Bureau members on the outcome and key recommendations raised during the RE Hard Talk dedicated to Albania in July 2021.
20. Recommendations are mainly directed to develop a comprehensive energy master plan; strengthening the distribution network; improving clarity on the balance responsibility; strengthening RE support mechanisms; establishing a dedicated RE agency; facilitating financing of bankable project proposals; raising public awareness on the benefit of RE; and enhancing institutional capacities and local human resources.

Item 9. AOB

21. The Bureau considered that may gain from the experience of the former GERE Chair, Nazir Ramazanov, and therefore invited him to participate in future Bureau meetings, when possible, as resource person and advisor to the GERE Chair and Bureau in relation to the implementation of its work plan and in developing a strategy for future directions.
22. The Chair expressed the common wish and hope of having next meeting the GERE Bureau in Geneva or in one of our ECE countries. The Chair informed his intention to participate to the annual session in Geneva and invited Bureau members to register for the October meetings
23. The Chair closed the meeting expressing gratitude for the fruitful discussion and once again emphasized that Bureau has gathered the best experts in renewable energy from the UNECE region