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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

Tenth session

Geneva, 11-12 September 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth session

to be held in Geneva, starting at 10:00 on Monday, 11 September 2023*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
4. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy.
5. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy. Case studies on Ukraine: strategy and plans for energy sector renovation with the use of renewable energy sources.
6. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems.
7. Implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 and draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2024-2025.
8. Election of officers.
9. Other business.
10. Dates of the next meeting.
11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1002187/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: renewable.energy@un.org. Delegates participating in person are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICCR) headquarters (see the map [here](#)) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/1 – Annotated provisional agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Documents for the session will be published on the website as they become available.¹ A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

2. Opening remarks

The Chair will deliver opening remarks that will address activities and priorities of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy amongst other topics.

3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirty-first session, 21-23 September 2022, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE.

4. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2022/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 - key findings

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/3 - Status of implementation of renewable energy action plans across 17 ECE countries

ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.2 – Policy brief on advancing power system connectivity in support of SDG7

ECE/ENERGY/32/2023/INF.3 – Policy brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development

The evidence-based 2023 ECE Policy Brief on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) confirms positive trends, though recognizes that the region is falling short on the broader role that energy must play in the quest for a sustainable future. The changing energy backdrop adds urgency to advance SDG7 targets to maintain reliability and efficacy of energy systems, including by addressing policy issues around the supply chains that will underpin the green transition.

Although access to electricity and the use of clean fuels for cooking, heating, and lighting is widespread in the ECE region – and reliance on renewable energy and energy efficiency had also been improving until the recent energy crisis – the rate of progress has not been high enough to enable achievement of the SDG 7 targets.

An immediate acceleration of efforts is therefore critical to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Nearly all ECE countries have significant potential for the deployment of solar, wind, hydropower, and/or bioenergy and other renewable energy technologies. Nonetheless, most countries are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with relatively smaller shares of renewables in their total final energy consumption. Although several countries show high

¹ See: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/sustainable-energy/renewable-energy>

renewable energy shares, these reflect either high shares of hydropower in electricity generation, the use of biomass in heating, or a combination of both – rather than an extensive reliance on wind, solar, or other renewable energy sources.

In the last years, several ECE countries had substantially increased the pace of adoption of renewable energy technologies. Their expansion mainly took place in the power sector, whereas progress in the transport sector, as well as in the heating and cooling sector was slower. In 2020, a total of 44 ECE member States had the share of renewable energy in their energy mix above 10 per cent, in comparison to 26 countries in 2000 and 40 in 2015. These data show a clearly positive trend, which has probably slowed down in the last year due to the impact of the recent energy crisis.

These and other developments and the current trends in the field of renewable energy will be discussed in the context of the mid-term review of SDG7 and key outcomes of the High-level Policy Forum (HLPF), giving particular attention to renewable energy development in the ECE region.

UN-Energy members and other relevant organizations are invited to contribute directly or indirectly with their work to discussions on the progress made to develop renewable energy in the ECE region.

Taking into account the Policy Brief 2023 on advancing SDG7 in the ECE region, the Policy Brief on aligning critical raw materials development with sustainable development, the Policy brief on advancing power system connectivity in support of SDG7, and key findings of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022, delegates will be invited to consider the progress made by the countries in the uptake of renewable energy, including the implementation of their renewable energy action plans and the needed policy options to increase renewable energy investments.

5. Exchange of experiences on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy. Case studies on Ukraine: strategy and plans for energy sector renovation with the use of renewable energy sources

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/4 - Bioenergy production and potential for addressing the compound food and energy crisis in Ukraine

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/5 - Multi-stakeholder Dialogue: policy recommendations to support biofuels market development in Ukraine

With the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, ECE countries accelerated the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources as one of the measures to improve energy security.

The Group of Experts will discuss specific activities and key findings from two renewable energy projects implemented in Ukraine, where the war has damaged more than 50% of the energy infrastructure, as example and guidance for a distributed clean energy generation, which can increase the resilience of the energy system.

Delegates will be invited to exchange experiences and good practices and to discuss key findings and implications for the Group of Experts and the ECE region.

Among specific activities, key findings from the SDG Fund project “Addressing the compounded food and energy crisis in Ukraine through innovative technologies and adaptive agricultural practices” will be discussed. The activity was developed in response to the request by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF) of Ukraine to support the country in addressing fuel shortages in the agriculture sector and it was implemented jointly by FAO, UNEP, and ECE.

A multi-stakeholder dialogue on “Untapped Bioenergy Potential of Ukraine: Comprehensive View of Proper Use. Issues of Energy Security and Food Security” which was organized at the end of the project provided concrete recommendations to make the necessary changes to promote bioenergy development in the country. ECE was in charge of analyzing the

normative and institutional framework that is needed to support an increasing of renewable energy uptake, paying special attention to bioenergy.

Another activity in support of Ukraine was related to planting energy crops along roads and highways in the country. Cultivation of fast-growing energy trees can not only help to restore the forest strips, but also, under certain conditions, be attractive to private investors. The activity led to the development of a study and identification of pilot projects (May 2023).

Delegates will be invited to share successful practices in developing and implementing policies and measures allowing to overcome political, legal, regulatory, and technical barriers, and thus to take advantage of untapped renewable energy potential. Delegates will also be invited to convey preliminary expressions of interest to organize Hard Talks in their countries.

6. Cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation to integrate renewable energy into energy systems

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2023/11 – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Platform on Resilient Energy Systems Work Plan

ECE/ENERGY/2023/12 - Advanced Concept for the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems

The target of increasing renewable energy uptake in the ECE countries and of achieving higher renewable energy shares in their future resilient energy systems requires an integrated approach and multi-stakeholder dialogue. This comprises of an improved understanding of the renewable energy resource characteristics and availability. Reaching those goals also requires strengthening policy, institutional, normative, and regulatory frameworks, including applying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to Renewable Energy Projects and Resources, and to Critical Raw Materials needed for the uptake of renewable energy.

Renewable energy plays an important role in helping to achieve better management of resources within the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. The role of renewable energy in promoting the nexus approach will be specifically considered at the session, as will be also links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implications for climate change mitigation.

Delegates will be invited to engage in technical considerations on, and to identify actions needed for building resilient energy systems. The necessity of implementing measures ensuring Just Transition and benefits of participation in the ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems, which aims to achieve a greater energy security, affordability and environmental sustainability, will be discussed.

Delegates will be requested to present their experiences and views on the efforts aiming to substantially increase the uptake of renewable energy, including on the interlinkages and synergies between renewable energy and fossil fuels.

Delegates will then be invited to: (a) discuss cross-cutting and intersectoral cooperation to develop renewable energy and to consider in that context the low and zero carbon technologies interplay; (b) discuss how to scale-up green hydrogen production pathways through electrolysis from renewable energy and contribute to the development of a regional hydrogen ecosystem; (c) consider adopting an integrated and holistic approach to deployment of renewable energy, encompassing implementation of possible joint inter-sectoral work taking into account both: the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus perspective, and the role of renewable energy in a decarbonized energy system; and (d) discuss the energy transition, the Post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery, and the recovery from the energy crisis.

7. Implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 and draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2024-2025

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/12 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2022-2023

ECE/ENERGY/2023/8 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for 2024-2025

Since the end of 2014, the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has been implementing concrete activities helping to increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts focuses on activities related to (a) regulatory and policy dialogue and (b) sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

The Group of Experts will assess the status of implementation of its Work Plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/12) and will be invited to elaborate on concrete steps towards implementation of the outstanding activities, as well as on new activities, such as the Renewable Energy Performance Reviews (REPRs), proposed in the Work Plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/8).

8. Election of officers

The Expert Group will be invited to elect Bureau members whose term ends at the conclusion of the tenth session and who stand for re-election, as well as any new nominations to serve until the end of the twelfth session in 2025.

During its ninth session in 2022, the Group of Experts elected the representative of Ukraine as its Chair and representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Germany, Ukraine and United States as Vice-Chairs, and invited representatives from the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Energy Community to serve as Vice-Chairs until the close of the eleventh session in 2023. At its eighth session in 2021, the Group of Experts elected representative of Kyrgyzstan as Vice-Chair for two years and invited a representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as Vice-Chair for two years.

9. Other business

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item. The Group of Experts may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the mandate of the Group of Experts. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Bureau members in advance of any issue(s) they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

10. Dates of the next meeting

The eleventh session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 16-17 September 2024. The Group of Experts confirmed its proposal from previous sessions that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.

11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2023/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy on its tenth session

Draft conclusions and recommendations arising from the tenth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE-10/2023/INF.1) will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the session. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

The Chair of the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations and draft a report on the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion by delegates.

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on the prepared draft, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
