



Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Sustainable Energy****Twenty-eighth session**

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Item 5(e) of the provisional agenda

Sustainable resource management:**Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Coal Mine Methane: Mandates and work plans****Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for
2020-2021****Prepared by the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy****I. Introduction**

1. Since its first session (November 2014), the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy has been implementing concrete activities to help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region.
2. 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.
3. The mandate and the Work Plan 2020-2021 of the Group of Experts is requested to be renewed until December 2021, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete activities

4. Building on the activities of the Work Plan 2018-2019 and the recommendations from the Group of Experts and its Bureau, the Group of Experts will undertake the following activities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. Deliverables which require extra-budgetary funding for implementation are highlighted as “dependent on extra-budgetary funding”, and do not fall into the set of core activities to be delivered by the Group of Experts. In addition, following the recommendation of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to strengthen the cooperation among its subsidiary bodies, the Group of Experts will engage, within the scope of its expertise, in the joint work on transition of the energy sector. It will also continue to actively participate in the implementation and follow-up work of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project in line with international agreements and in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. The Group of Experts will continue to support and promote the role of renewable energy in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular Goal 7 – to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The Group of Experts

will contribute to achieve the specific target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. In addition to Goal 7, renewable energy is relevant to attaining many other Sustainable Development Goals, such as: Goal 1 (no poverty), Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 5 (gender), Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities), Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns), and Goal 13 (climate action).

A. Tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy sources

Description: The Group of Experts will continue to monitor the progress on the uptake of renewable energy in the region, following the baseline and key findings of the reports issued in 2015 and 2017. This work will continue in collaboration with key partners, including the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the World Bank Group, and the German Energy Agency (dena). The expected results will help to improve the understanding of renewable energy globally and contribute to existing global monitoring systems already in place by partners including the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework (GTF) and with UN-Energy members. These activities will support strengthen local capacities of data gathering as well as to create a network of regional data partners.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Review the state of development and monitor the progress of renewable energy uptake in the region as well as the consideration of the perception of future renewable energy development by key stakeholders. This will include building on key findings from the Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 for selected countries and further investigating a selected number of key issues as well as contributing to existing global monitoring frameworks, in particular the GTF;

(b) Identify ways to strengthen national action plans regarding renewable energy, drawing on experience of best practices on framework conditions and instruments that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region;

(c) Identify obstacles for the development of renewable energies in selected target countries via business dialogue fora and to identify concrete solutions for the reduction of barriers at the national and regional level and exploit the existing untapped renewable energy potential, in cooperation with IRENA, dena and other international actors.

Deliverables:

(a) A new edition of the REN21 ECE Renewable Energy Status Report (dependent on extra-budgetary funding);

(b) A report on status of implementation of renewable energy action plans;

(c) Policy and business recommendations through the organization or participation in workshops on selected local energy issues, mainly raised by the outcome of dedicated Renewable Energy Hard Talks, bringing together key stakeholders from public and private sectors.

Timeline: 2020-2021.

B. Exchange of experiences, good practices and multi-stakeholder dialogues on how to increase the uptake of renewable energy

Description: The Group of Experts will continue to serve as platform for exchanging experiences and good practices on renewable energy development among member States, relevant international organizations and other stakeholders on how to increase energy production from renewable sources as a means of sustainable development and climate

change mitigation, in an integrated approach that considers cross-cutting and nexus issues. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organisations, such as IRENA, IEA, REN21, the World Bank Group, the other United Nations Regional Commissions and other relevant organizations, including dena. A set of capacity development activities will be implemented to increase know-how on renewable energy among stakeholders from public and private sector in the region. This work is based on the findings of the status report 2017 which demonstrates how several countries in the ECE region lag in global developments both technically and financially despite significant untapped renewable energy resources. The Group of Experts will further contribute to future ECE initiatives in assessing progress and prospects of sustainable energy within the region.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Organize a discussion within the Group of Experts for exchanging information on already developed renewable energy policies and measures across countries in the region, aiming to meet renewable energy targets and to develop/ implement their renewable energy national action plans. This includes the consideration of existing gaps between current status and targets as well as of policy options to achieve sustainable energy in the future as facilitated by the Committee overseen flagship project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”;

(b) Support the assessment of cost-effective renewable energy options for specific countries in the ECE region being undertaken by IRENA and in close cooperation with the secretariat and other international actors (dependent on budget availability);

(c) Promote information sharing activities within workshops, seminars, roundtables; develop documentation/briefs etc. for exchange of experience on best practices and policies, such as in the context of the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(d) Organize specific Hard Talks, upon country request and fund availability, to use the results of the Renewable Energy Status Report for an open dialogue among stakeholders, including through inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation with relevant organizations (dependent on extra-budgetary funding);

(e) Strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors to promote suitable market conditions and build capacities for the identification, development and promotion of renewable energy investments, and matchmaking activities to support renewable energy investments (dependent on extra-budgetary funding).

Deliverables:

(a) Ad hoc workshop or discussion within the annual session of the Group of Experts; written contributions on adaptive and cross-cutting policy options;

(b) Organize a webinar or discussion within the annual session of the Group of Experts on IRENA’s forthcoming report on cost-effective renewable energy options for selected countries in the ECE region (dependent on budget availability);

(c) Present information on policies, experiences and good practices in countries of the region during four workshops and seminars organized by relevant organizations (dependent on both regular and extra-budgetary funding for travel costs);

(d) Organize Hard Talks and/ or follow-up activities in ECE countries on a demand-driven basis with the participation of key stakeholders, enhancing cross-sectoral synergies and strengthening cooperation within the UN system and with other international actors (dependent on extra-budgetary funding);

(e) Promote capacity building activities on renewable energy project development and disseminate relevant material and information on projects at workshop and/ or matchmaking event(s) among developers, investors and financial institutions. This material may include a possible guide on the integration of environmental aspects and the promotion of a renewable energy-water nexus approach in project development (dependent on budget availability).

Timeline: 2020-2021.

C. Cross-cutting cooperation to strengthen integration of renewable energy in future sustainable energy systems

Description: The Group of Experts will continue to work on improving the integration of the various renewable energy technologies into present and future energy supply systems and different sectors, including electricity generation, heating and cooling, gas and liquid fuel distribution as well as autonomous energy supply systems.

6. This activity is implemented in cooperation with other ECE bodies, with the Group of Experts leading or contributing to the work.

7. The Group of Experts will cooperate with the Expert Group on Resource Management to enhance the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to renewable energy resources (Lead: Expert Group on Resource Management).

8. The Group of Experts will cooperate with other Group of Experts, notably with the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, in the implementation of activities related to renewable energy within the respective work plans, supporting possible synergies to enhance the uptake of renewable energy (co-Leaders: Group of Experts on Gas and Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems).

9. The Group of Experts will assess opportunities for more sustainable and environmentally friendly renewable energy through inter-sectoral synergies (nexus), in cooperation with relevant activities of other sub-programmes of the ECE, notably with the Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus and the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy (Lead: Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus and the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy).

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Develop or update specifications for the application of UNFC to the various renewable energy technologies (bioenergy, solar, hydro, wind) (under the lead of Expert Group on Resource Management);

(b) Identification of key existing documentation/literature for a possible database (dependent on budget availability) on how to overcome key obstacles and identify opportunities for synergies on renewable energy, to be shared and discussed in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Gas (co-Leaders: Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and Group of Experts on Gas);

(c) Develop recommendations on inter-sectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy and support the relevant Sustainable Development Goals within an integrated nexus approach and future energy system (under the lead of the Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus and the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy).

Deliverables:

(a) Documentation and/ or case studies that supports UNFC to be applied to renewable energy sources;

(b) Dissemination of good practices and policies of renewable energies with the consideration of all kind of gases within future energy systems in countries of the region;

(c) Documentation on water-energy nexus challenges and possible guidelines for renewable energy development (dependent on budget availability).

Timeline: 2020-2021.
