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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE REFORM AND
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Note by the secretariat

This document summarizes the main decisions taken by the Commission at its Informal Meeting in December 2005, with the adoption of the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), as well as at its sixty-first session, held in Geneva on 21–23 February 2006 (E/2006/37 – E/ECE/1444), which are relevant to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its activities.

The Committee is invited to consider the follow-up to the decisions of the Commission on:

- Work Plan on ECE Reform;
- UNECE contribution to CSD cycles;
- Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development Goals; and
- Technical cooperation activities in 2005.

I. Work plan on ECE reform

1. The UNECE reform consisted of the following stages: ascertainment of countries' views; preparation of findings by external evaluators; and adoption by the Commission of the work plan on the reform as contained in document E/ECE/1434/Rev.1.
2. The Commission noted that the General Assembly had "welcomed the work plan on the ECE reform adopted by the Commission and decided that UNECE should implement the adopted measures and to this end requested the Secretary-General to allocate the requisite resources for the biennium 2006–2007". The Economic and Social Council endorsed the UNECE reform at its Substantive Session held in July 2006.

Governance structure

3. The Commission adopted the terms of reference and rules of procedure of a new body, the Executive Committee. This body will prepare the biennial sessions of the Commission and implement the overall guidance set by the Commission. In between the sessions of the Commission, it will act on behalf of the Commission and can seize itself of all matters related to UNECE activities.
4. The reference to "Principal Subsidiary Bodies" is to be discontinued and replaced by "Sectoral Committees". The Sectoral Committees report once a year and on request to the Executive Committee, through a meeting with their chairs and vice-chairs.
5. The Executive Committee will:
 - (a) Review, evaluate and approve the programmes of work of the Sectoral Committees, including intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations;
 - (b) Approve the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees;
 - (c) Examine with the chairs and vice-chairs of the Sectoral Committees their report on the implementation of their programme of work and other relevant issues;
 - (d) Ensure coherence between subprogrammes, inter alia by encouraging horizontal communication within the organization;
 - (e) Deal with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budget issues, including extrabudgetary funding.
6. By the end of February 2007, all Sectoral Committees must review:
 - (a) Their subsidiary intergovernmental bodies in accordance with the Guidelines defined in E/ECE/1407/Add.1; and

- (b) Their conference servicing needs

with a view to rationalizing them, and must submit proposals on possible streamlining to the Executive Committee.

Programme of work and terms of reference

7. The Commission requested the Sectoral Committees to review their terms of reference and programmes of work in order to respond to the priorities for each subprogramme that are outlined in the Work Plan on ECE Reform.

8. In accordance with the Work Plan on ECE reform (paras. 52–53), the subprogramme on Sustainable Energy should:

- (a) streamline its activities and improve cooperation with other relevant institutions, in particular the International Energy Agency and the Energy Charter Secretariat. This cooperation could take the form of joint activities, MoU, participation of members of other relevant organizations in the activities of the subprogramme and vice versa, and
- (b) strengthen its activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns.

9. Furthermore, in general terms, the Commission stressed the importance of intersectoral activities among the Sectoral Committees so as to promote a more coherent UNECE and requested the Committees to pursue and endeavour to strengthen such activities and approaches.

10. The Committee on Sustainable Energy was requested to pay special attention to cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Committee on Inland Transport and the Committee on Timber.

11. The Commission also requested the Sectoral Committees to implement the provisions of the Work Plan on ECE Reform on UNECE's cooperation with other organizations.

12. Comments: In taking into account the Work Plan on ECE Reform, and the priorities therein for the sustainable energy subprogramme (as outlined in paragraph 8 above), the Committee is invited to:

- (a) Review its Programme of Work and take decisions on each programme element and related activities (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9); attention is drawn to the note prepared by the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, "Response by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to the Work Plan on ECE Reform" (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12), which provides delegates to this session of the Committee with a set of options/alternatives in a number of work areas to give effect to the requests outlined in the Work Plan on ECE Reform.

- (b) Discuss and adopt its revised Terms of Reference under agenda item 13(b), on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat following consultation with the Bureau (Annex I to ECE/ENERGY/2006/12);
- (c) Review its subsidiary intergovernmental bodies under agenda item 13(c) based on a note prepared by the secretariat (ECE/ENERGY/2006/8).

II. UNECE contribution to CSD cycles

13. The Commission noted the success of the Second UNECE Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development held in December 2005. It found that the assessment of the region's progress in implementing sustainable development commitments in the areas of energy for sustainable development, atmosphere/air pollution, climate change, industrial development and cross-cutting issues had clearly shown the various challenges and experiences of countries in the region. Due to the interlinkages between the issues, the Commission considered that intersectoral cooperation at the national and international levels was vital to achieving further progress in these areas.

14. The Commission welcomed the Chairperson's summary of the Regional Implementation Forum (E/ECE/1442), which was submitted to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) in May 2006. It hoped that the outcomes of this and other regional implementation forums would be taken into account at the global level, and it encouraged UNECE Member States to be active at the CSD.

15. Comments: The Committee will be informed on the outcome of the Regional Implementation Forum and on UNECE's input to CSD-14 under agenda item 5. An account of the main discussions held at the CSD-14 appear in ECE/ENERGY/2006/11.

III. Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals

16. Under the item on linkages between the UNECE reform and the global United Nations reform, a representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) briefed the Commission on UN reform, focusing on four areas: strengthening ECOSOC; establishing a Peace-building Commission; creating a Human Rights Council; and promoting system-wide coherence in normative, operational, humanitarian and environmental activities.

17. The Commission noted that Member States in New York were negotiating two resolutions on "Economic and Social Council reform" and "Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals". These resolutions may have an impact on the work of UNECE.

18. The Commission requested the secretariat to keep the Executive Committee informed of developments regarding the above reform process and the inputs to be requested of regional commissions.

19. Comments: The Committee may note that the Sustainable Energy subprogramme is involved in facilitating achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability) Target 9 (Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources) through its work in three areas: energy efficiency, energy prices and coal mine methane. The focus is on identifying projects that can increase energy efficiency, promote renewable energy investments and meet international environmental treaty obligations in the emerging market economies. Of particular importance is the development of sources of financing for investment in energy saving projects for municipal buildings and public lighting and distributed heat systems.

IV. Technical cooperation activities in 2005

20. The Commission:

- (a) Emphasized the importance of technical cooperation for implementing UNECE's core activities and noted that the General Assembly had underlined the need to strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;
- (b) Stressed the need to seek interlinkages between the Technical Cooperation Unit and the new subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration and to discuss this issue together with the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy at the meeting of Executive Committee. The objective of the new Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme is to promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the UNECE region;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the regional advisers and recalled that the Executive Committee would discuss their future allocation among the programmes;
- (d) Took note of the technical cooperation being carried out with subregional country groupings, in keeping with previous recommendations of the Commission. It urged the secretariat to continue to reinforce such cooperation;
- (e) Welcomed the approval of concrete projects and project proposals by the special session of the regional advisory committee of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) held after the international conference on sub-regional economic cooperation in Central Asia and the future role of SPECA;
- (f) Welcomed the increased cooperation with other organizations;
- (g) With regard to the next updating of the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) list of main international organizations, urged its members who are also members

of the DAC to support the inclusion of UNECE. The Commission encouraged the DAC to favourably consider the inclusion of UNECE on its list of main international organizations.

21. In Commission document E/ECE/1441 “UNECE Technical Cooperation Activities in 2005: An Overview”, the activities of the Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy in 2005 were

summarized, notably that the activities were concentrated on the development and implementation of the following capacity building and energy efficiency projects:

- (a) Energy Efficiency 21;
- (b) Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation in Selected Countries of Southeast and East Europe, as well as CIS Countries;
- (c) Regional (inter-state) Programme of Rational and Efficient Use of Fuel and Energy Resources in CIS Countries;
- (d) Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (UNDA project jointly implemented with the UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment);
- (e) Biomass Energy for Heating and Hot Water Supply in Belarus;
- (f) Removing Barriers to Energy Efficiency Improvements in the State Sector in Belarus;
- (g) Improvement of Energy Efficiency in Public Sector (Schools and Hospitals) of Belarus;
- (h) Support and Development of Renewable Sources of Energy (Biomass) in Ukraine;
- (i) Energy Efficiency Service Market for Industrial and Commercial Sectors of the Russian Federation (EESM); Removing Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Municipal Heat and Hot Water Supply in Kazakhstan, phase “C”;
- (j) Advisory services were also provided on the development of renewable sources of energy in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and on realising the concept of the energy service company to Belarus, as well as on the development of Energy and Water Efficiency Demonstration Zones in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine with a view to transforming them into energy service companies.

22. Comments: The Committee will be informed about and discuss the technical cooperation activities of the Regional Adviser under item 11 of the provisional agenda.