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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Meeting of the Extended Bureau, 9 December 2004

REPORT

I. PARTICIPATION

1. The meeting was attended by members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy or their alternates, together with representatives of the UNECE Gas Centre, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, Energy Efficiency 21 Project, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply of Fossil Fuels, and a delegate from Germany representing the UNECE Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW).

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. The Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Mr. Miles Greenbaum (United States) transmitted a statement to the meeting concerning his retirement from public service at the end of 2004. In the absence of the Chairman, the Extended Bureau elected a Vice Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Laszlo Molnar (Hungary) to serve as interim Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Energy until the election of officers at the fourteenth session of the Committee on 27 June 2005.

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

3. The opening remarks of the Acting Chairman provided focus and direction for the meeting. He noted that the role of the Extended Bureau was to ensure that the:

- the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy was consistent with the charter and mission of the UNECE,

- the activities of the work programme reflected the core competencies of UNECE, and
- the budgetary resources were allocated efficiently and were adequate to meet the staffing and other requirements needed to undertake UNECE sustainable energy activities.

IV. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTIVITIES IN THE UNECE

4. The Extended Bureau reviewed the priority objectives of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the current and proposed strategic direction of the programme of work for the Committee and selected subsidiary bodies as presented by the Director of the IREED Division^{1/}. The Extended Bureau noted that the major priorities for the Committee included: commencing implementation of the fifth phase of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project; concretizing the work of the Energy Security Forum (ESF) initiated in 2004; reviewing the activities of the gas programme funded under the regular budget; and focusing on the 14th annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy scheduled for 27-30 June 2005. The Extended Bureau further noted that due to a lack of staff resources there were also key gaps in the work programme of the Committee, notably in the areas of electricity, petroleum and renewable energies. Attention was also drawn to the fact that additional activities may be required to be undertaken by the Sustainable Energy Section in relation to: the 2006-2007 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development; the OSCE; and the 2005 evaluation of the UNECE mandate. The overall view was that the strategic directions of the Committee were acceptable, however the issue of staff resources needed to be addressed as a priority.

V. NEW INITIATIVES UNDER THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

5. Discussions focussed on developments of the following new initiatives:
- (a) launching the new phase of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project following the conclusion of agreements between co-financing partners and the United Nations Foundation on funding for the project;
 - (b) consolidation of the Energy Security Forum and beginning of the operational phase of the ESF in which the work programme is implemented and fully supported by members;
 - (c) the Regional Network for the Efficient Use of Water and Energy (RENEUER) under the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (www.reneuer.com);
 - (d) cooperation on energy security between the UNECE Energy Security Forum and the work on energy efficiency and energy security of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe;
 - (e) the continuation of UNECE activities on Energy Efficiency and Energy Security in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in cooperation with the Economic Committee of the CIS;

^{1/} A copy of all the presentations delivered during the session are available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/com.html>

- (f) progress on the implementation of the UN Framework Classification on Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) including the cooperation between the UNECE and the International Energy Forum (IEF) as well as the International Energy Agency (IEA/OECD);
- (g) establishment of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply of Fossil Fuels, the first session of which was held in November 2004, as the successor to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Energy Reserves/Resources Terminology. The Meeting noted that during this first session Saudi Arabia and others raised objections to the change of name for the Group of Experts. The Meeting took note of these objections and the discussion that an acceptable solution would be presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its next session in June. The Meeting further noted that the Ad Hoc Group had already acted to resolve the situation and to further strengthen cooperation within the group by inviting both the OPEC Secretariat and the Russian Federation to join the Bureau of this Group of Experts. The Meeting then took note of the advice provided by the Chairman of the Group of Experts that efforts would be made to seek extrabudgetary resources to finance a facility whereby advice and training would be provided to countries on the application of the common code of the UN Framework Classification. The Meeting encouraged this activity.
- (h) the Coal Mine Methane (CMM) initiative following the first session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the conference on Methane to Markets held in Washington D.C. during November 2004.

VI. JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER UNECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES

- 6. The following inter-sectoral activities were considered by the Extended Bureau:
 - (a) cooperation between the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Environmental Policy on the preparation of "Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies" endorsed by the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003 (ECE/ENERGY/54) and follow-up work on this topic in preparation for the next Environment for Europe Conference in 2006 or 2007;
 - (b) cooperation between the Energy Efficiency 21 Project and the Regional Advisory Services on Energy with the Timber Committee on the use of wood-chip based bio-pellets and bio-fuels;
 - (c) cooperation between the Working Party on Gas and the Inland Transport Committee on the use of natural gas as a fuel for freight transport vehicles, the Blue Corridor Project;
 - (d) the likely cooperation between the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Environmental Pollution on the preparation of the UNECE regional inputs to the fourteenth session of the UN Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD-14) and on the review of commitments with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

VII. PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING ENERGY MEETINGS

7. The schedule for meetings in Geneva of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to its annual session in 2005 are given below. The annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will focus on two main areas: energy security and the climate change issues following the Russian Federation ratification of the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol.

Monday 27 June pm: Committee on Sustainable Energy Opening Session

Tuesday 28 June: Energy Security Forum

Wednesday 29 June: High Level Roundtable on Implementation of Kyoto Protocol, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation organized jointly by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

Thursday 30 June: Committee on Sustainable Energy Session

Thursday 30 June and Friday 1 July: Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

8. In discussing the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the meeting took note of the participation of experts in past sessions of the Committee, its Working Party, Ad Hoc Groups of Experts and technical assistance projects. The statistics for 2000–2003 are given in table 1 below. This is followed by a listing of the average participation for the annual sessions of all inter-governmental bodies in the energy field, excluding expert meetings and those held outside Geneva.

Table 1: Participation in the Annual Sessions Committee on Sustainable Energy

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of participants	200	185	220	180
Number of countries	38	34	36	33
Number of international entities	13	15	17	16

Average participation in the annual sessions of inter-governmental bodies in the energy field

- Committee on Sustainable Energy (180 participants)
- Energy Security Forum (120)
- Working Party on Gas (80)
- Gas Centre (30)
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas (80)
- Energy Efficiency 21 Project (60)
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (80)
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply of Fossil Fuels (80)
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power (40)
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development (90)

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. After discussion the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Working Party, Ad Hoc Groups of Experts and Projects concluded that:
- (a) the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary intergovernmental bodies attract significant interest in their work and participation in their annual meetings;
 - (b) during the last three years, the annual session of the Committee has attracted the participation of over 180 delegates from more than 30 UNECE member States and 15 international organisations;
 - (c) this demand for cooperation through the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy responds to the need for increased energy security, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced performance of energy industries and the promotion of the long-term supply of fossil fuels through the global adoption of a classification standard for energy reserves and resources;
 - (d) while the interest of UNECE member States in Sustainable Energy work and global mandates such as those of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) have called for new activities, regular budget resources have been cut during the 2004-2005 biennium;
 - (e) as a result of general service staff cuts a number of meetings originally planned to be held in 2004 have been postponed or cancelled including the: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Financing Energy Efficiency Investments (September 2004), annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (December 2004), Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power (November 2004), and the Energy Security Forum (December 2004);
 - (f) while extra-budgetary resources have been attributed to these activities, the real constraint for implementing this work is the lack of regular budget general services staff needed to provide administrative servicing and the disbursement of trust fund resources.
10. The Extended Bureau recommended that, in order to provide for the current work programme of the 2004-2005 biennium:
- (a) full restitution of the general service staff cuts from the Sustainable Energy programme should be made;
 - (b) a professional post at the P-3 level should be provided for servicing the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power;
 - (c) in accordance with the decisions of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (ENERGY/WP.4/2004/4) the UNECE is requested to provide additional resources from the regular budget in the form of one full-time professional staff member (P-4) to implement the Energy Efficiency 21 Project work on renewable energies.