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**PLANNING FOR THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE
2008-2009 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides an overview of the planned performance assessments and self-evaluations for the sustainable energy subprogramme. In line with the decision of the Commission requesting each Sectoral Committee to conduct biennial evaluations, it sets the framework for such evaluation to be performed in the context of the 2008-2009 biennium. The Committee is invited to review and agree on the expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement proposed for each cluster of activities in this framework.

In addition, the Committee is presented with a proposal of the subprogramme's 2010-2011 strategic framework drawn up in the context of the United Nations programme budget preparations. The Committee is invited to review the proposal before its submission to the Executive Committee.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As with any large organization, the United Nations, including the UNECE, is expected to plan its activities in advance and with the participation of stakeholders, enabling the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to make the necessary funding decisions. Likewise after a defined period – in the case of the United Nations two years – those responsible for a programme should report on their achievements, and be answerable for the results.
2. In recent years, the United Nations has moved to a results-based management system, where programmes are assessed in terms of results achieved and not just the outputs produced. This necessitates putting in place mechanisms to monitor and report on achievements and lessons learned which should lead to improved performance.
3. In the case of the sustainable energy subprogramme, there are two formal frameworks for programme planning, performance assessment and reporting:
 - (a) United Nations-wide mandatory assessment system, in compliance with the instructions provided by the General Assembly and Headquarters; and
 - (b) UNECE biennial performance evaluations to be implemented by each Sectoral Committee at the request of the Commission.
4. Each of the two systems has its own legitimate requirements, and can neither be ignored nor short-circuited. The challenge is to align all the processes and to streamline the use of resources, for instance by harmonizing planning periods, and using the same methods to assess performance.

II. UNITED NATIONS-WIDE MANDATORY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

5. In order to achieve the best possible results and as mandated by the United Nations, two key tools are employed by all its entities to ensure that the work carried out corresponds adequately to objectives set and the needs of users and stakeholders:
 - (a) The United Nations results-based management and results-based budgeting framework; and
 - (b) Self-evaluations.
6. According to the United Nations results-based management and results-based budgeting system, all subprogrammes, before each biennium set up a strategic framework that determines their objectives in terms of “expected accomplishments” and, for each of them, indicators of achievement. The 2008-2009 strategic framework for the sustainable energy subprogramme was approved by the General Assembly (A/61/6 (Programme 16)).
7. Apart from the above assessments, subprogramme managers are also requested to undertake self-evaluations of selected areas of work, projects or key activities. The main aim of these self-evaluations is to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the work undertaken and to

optimize its impact. For example, in the 2006-2007 biennium, the following self-evaluations are planned:

(a) Programme on Coal Mine Methane; and

(b) Project on “Evaluation of Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia”.

III. UNECE BIENNIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS 2008-2009

8. The UNECE member countries, being committed to the transparency and effectiveness of programme management, agreed, at the Commission session in 2004, to place more emphasis on evaluation as a tool in managing the Commission’s work. The Sectoral Committees were therefore requested by the Commission to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes and to take into account the results of these evaluations in determining their work programmes. The 2005 UNECE reform further strengthened this approach.

9. The biennial evaluations should give an opportunity for the members of each Sectoral Committee to review and reaffirm, on a continuous basis, the relevance of the activities and their clusters in view of the subprogrammes’ objectives. The results of these evaluations should contribute to defining subprogramme priorities and the related redistribution of resources.

10. In the context of the biennial evaluations, each Sectoral Committee has been mandated to identify clusters of activity and agree on expected accomplishments for 2008-2009 for each of them, together with the related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies. This approach is at a level of detail corresponding more closely to reality in the UNECE context than the necessarily more aggregated United Nations-wide approach (see section II), while following the same results-based methodology.

11. These biennial evaluations should comprise two phases: (a) a planning phase, prior to each biennium as mentioned above; and (b) an evaluation phase, towards the end of any biennium, drawing up an accomplishment account for each expected accomplishment, including lessons learned and recommendations for possible programmatic adjustments.

12. The secretariat has drawn up draft expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each cluster of its activities for review and agreement by the Committee. In 2009, at its annual session, the Committee will be requested to address some key evaluation elements (relevance, effectiveness, impact and efficiency) in reviewing the accomplishments of the subprogramme in each of its clusters. Some guidelines for these evaluations have been prepared by the UNECE Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and are available in the “Guide for biennial evaluations of subprogramme performance by UNECE sectoral Committees”, which is posted to the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org>.

13. The following clusters of activities based on the Programme of work in the field of energy (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9) were identified for the sustainable energy subprogramme:

(a) Normative Activities in the Energy Field Including Labelling and Classification Systems and Related Legal and Policy Framework

(b) Opening and Liberalization of Energy Markets; Service Tariff Systems and Security of Supply

(c) Sustainable Energy Strategies for the Twenty-First Century

(d) Rational Use of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation

(e) Energy Infrastructure, Including Electric Power and Gas Networks

14. The draft expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for these clusters for the purpose of the 2008-2009 biennial performance evaluations are presented in Annex I.

15. The Committee is invited to discuss and agree upon the expected accomplishments for the 2008-2009 biennial performance evaluations.

IV. UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2010-2011

16. In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the draft strategic framework has to be reviewed by the Sectoral Committees before submission to the Executive Committee in November/December 2007 and to United Nations Headquarters in early 2008.

17. As outlined in Annex II, the 2010-2011 strategic framework for the subprogramme contains the following elements:

(a) Subprogramme objective;

(b) Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement; and

(c) Strategy to achieve the subprogramme's expected accomplishments and objective.

18. The Committee is invited to review the draft 2010-2011 strategic framework prior to its submission to the Executive Committee.

Annex I
Sustainable Energy Subprogramme

Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the
Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, per cluster of activities,
for the purpose of 2008-2009 biennial performance evaluations

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Progress in the international dialogue between Governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources</p> <p>Cluster: Sustainable energy strategies for the twenty-first century</p>	<p>(i) Increase in the percentage of participants in policy discussions and discussions on technical matters, who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 60 per cent Target: 2008-2009: 65 per cent</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of respondents to a web-based survey that find UNECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues very useful</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 60 per cent Target: 2008-2009: 65 per cent</p>
<p>(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the UNECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition</p> <p>Cluster: rational use of energy, energy efficiency and conservation</p>	<p>(i) Increase in the percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 60 per cent Target: 2008-2009: 65 per cent</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project that has been approved for financing in the economies in transition</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 12 projects Target: 2008-2009: 14 projects</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(c) Further extension and implementation of UNECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and the guidelines on reforming energy prices and subsidies</p> <p>Cluster: Normative activities in the energy field including labelling and classification systems and related legal and policy framework</p>	<p>(i) Increase in the number of professional organizations and international standard-setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 2 organizations Target: 2008-2009: 4 organizations</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the number of countries expressing intent to apply the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources in their fossil energy and uranium resources management</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 7 countries Target: 2008-2009: 8 countries</p> <p>(iii) Increase in the number of UNECE countries that have adjusted energy prices and tariffs to remove price distortions, encourage efficient energy consumption and attract investment into the energy sector</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 25 countries Target: 2008-2009: 30 countries</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(d) Progress by countries in applying energy vulnerability indicators as a measure of sustainable energy development and hence improved security of energy supply</p> <p>Cluster: Opening and liberalization of energy markets; service tariff systems and security of supply</p>	<p>(i) Number of countries in which indicators of energy vulnerability have been applied:</p> <p>Estimate 2006-2007: 4 Target 2008-2009: 10</p>
<p>(e) Progress in financing and implementation of projects in support of sustainable energy development</p> <p>Cluster: Energy infrastructure, including electric power and gas networks</p>	<p>(i) Amount of equity available for financing sustainable energy projects from externally managed investment funds:</p> <p>Estimate 2006-2007: USD 500 million Target 2008-2009: USD 750 million</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the volume of diesel fuel replaced by natural gas in commercial vehicles on the Blue Corridor project road transport itinerary across Europe</p> <p>Estimate: 2006-2007: 300,000 tonnes Target: 2008-2009: 320,000 tonnes</p>

Annex II**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUBPROGRAMME**

Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2010-2011
Subprogramme 5: Sustainable Energy

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate (a) the transition to a more sustainable development path for the production and use of energy; and (b) the fuller integration of the energy infrastructure and energy markets of the countries in the region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Progress in the international dialogue between governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources.</p>	<p>(a) (i) Increase in the percentage of participants in policy discussions, as well as discussions on technical matters, who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making. Baseline: 2008-2009: 65 per cent Target: 2010-2011: 70 per cent</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the percentage of respondents to a web-based survey that find ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues very useful. Baseline: 2008-2009: 60 per cent Target: 2010-2011: 65 per cent</p>
<p>(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition.</p>	<p>(b) (i) Increase in the percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making. Baseline: 2008-2009: 65 per cent Target: 2010-2011: 70 per cent</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the ECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project that have been approved for financing in the economies in transition. Baseline: 2008-2009: 14 projects Target: 2010-2011: 16 projects</p>

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(c) Further extension and implementation of UNECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC)	<p>(c) (i) Increase in the number of professional organizations and international standard setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the UNFC, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities; Estimate: 2008-2009: 4 organizations Target: 2010-2011: 5 organizations</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the number of countries expressing intent to apply the UNFC in their fossil energy and uranium resources management; Baseline: 2008-2009: 8 countries Target 2010-2011: 10 countries</p>
(d) Progress in implementation of projects in support of sustainable energy development	<p>(d) (i) Higher quantity of diesel fuel replaced by natural gas in commercial vehicles on the Blue Corridor Project road transport itinerary across Europe. Baseline: 2008-2009: 320,000 tonnes Target: 2010-2011: 350,000 tonnes</p>

Strategy

The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division. The subprogramme will promote public-private sector cooperation between governments, energy industries and the financial community and relevant international organizations to foster sustainable energy development in member States. It will assist countries with economies in transition to integrate their energy economies and infrastructure more fully in the region and the global economy; increase energy security for importing and exporting countries alike; reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through self-financing mechanisms for trading carbon emissions and coal mine methane; enhance the performance of energy industries; and contribute to the long-term supply of fossil fuels through the global adoption of a classification standard for energy reserves and resources.

Whilst taking into account the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme is designed to promote a sustainable energy development strategy for the UNECE region, in particular the mitigation of energy security risks through the pursuit of sustainable energy policies in the short, medium and long-term. The UNECE will promote well-balanced energy network systems across the region tailored to optimize operating efficiencies and overall regional cooperation and sustained improvements in energy efficiency. The subprogramme will support the development of self-financing projects to reduce GHG emissions in economies in transition for submission to public-private sector investment funds associated

with its programme of work. It will promote projects for gas infrastructure and transportation networks, with particular attention to the Caucasus, Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe. In the context of post-EU enlargement, the subprogramme will assist member States with the integration of their energy economies through the compatibility of the legal, regulatory and policy measures, including business practices and the development of classification systems and guidelines, and also to conduct studies on natural gas markets.

The UNECE will continue to coordinate its activities with other international organizations to ensure efficient use of resources and avoid duplication. The extrabudgetary resources usually attracted by the sustainable energy activities will reinforce the present structure of intergovernmental dialogue. Whilst activities begin with policy dialogue, the subprogramme allows for policy recommendations to be implemented through international norms, standards, training programmes, technical assistance and preparation of investment projects.
