

ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

Bureau Meeting

Geneva, 10 April 2013

Report of the Meeting

Present: Mr. Gunnar Gjerde, Chairman
Mr. Jean-Christophe Fuëg, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Marie-Louise von Münchhausen (on behalf of Mr. Jurgen Keinhorst, Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Mr. Scott Foster, Director, SED
Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, CSE Secretary, SED

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as reflected in the report

Item 2. Report on the operational document prepared for the consultations to be conducted by the Bureau as required by the Committee in paragraphs 18, 19 and 23 of the session report¹

2. Mrs. Natalia Boytsun, Vice-Chair, was not in a position to participate in the call but sent a message outlining the need to focus the work of the sustainable energy sub-programme on the current challenges of the energy sector, in particular on energy efficiency, clean energy production, renewable energy, coal mine methane, energy security, etc. The Vice-Chair expressed support to the main activities specified by the draft document.
3. The SED Director provided a briefing on the draft “operationalizing document” for consideration by the Bureau. The document is intended to facilitate the consultations to be undertaken by the Bureau as required by the Committee at its 21st session in November 2012.
4. The Chair outlined that there should be a better strategic context for future work and that the SG’s initiative for Sustainable Energy for All can provide the context. A Vice-Chair pointed out that the draft document produced could not be distributed to the “Energy Community” in the current format and length.
5. Bureau members present at the meeting suggested a re-organization of the draft to improve it and have an easy-to-read version linking the outcome document with current activities/ projects and future proposals of the sub-programme on sustainable energy.
6. A revised version may contain two parts: (i) a brief synopsis and (ii) a compendium of activities/ projects in annex. Particular attention should be given to the way capacity building activities are presented to avoid possible criticism by member States. The information on energy security may be kept in the synopsis, quite short without the need to have further information/ form in the annex.
7. In view of preparing a synopsis, the Director suggested to integrate the background (a) into (c) and extract all of the project tables into a separate compendium of activities/ projects. Specific

¹ Report of the twenty first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 28-29 November 2012 (ECE/ENERGY/89):

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suggestions for each priority areas were made by Bureau members and will be reflected in a revised version of the document.

8. The secretary provided information on the different phases for the approval of the Strategic Framework (four key phases) and the Programme Budget (six key phases), from the proposal prepared by ECE to the General Assembly adoption. Both the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget provides a basis for the Programme of Work. According to EXCOM's decision of 31 March 2010, the programmes of work are harmonised with the UN biennial programming and budgeting cycle, i.e. a new format for the Programme of Work establishes clear linkages between the Strategic Framework, the Programme Budget and the Biennial Evaluation. The programme of work of each sub-programme is approved by the Sectoral Committee and, subsequently, by the EXCOM.

Item 3 Process and timeline for the consultations to be conducted by the Bureau

9. The Director proposed a process and timeline, and a revised version that reflects the Bureau discussion is attached.
10. Within the process, clarifications were provided by Bureau members on specific aspects, namely: (i) the need to identify key recipients of the document in each ECE member country (the Energy Community) with the missions here in Geneva; (ii) the process is clearly defined as "seeking advice" from experts identified by MSs; (iii) the conditions, time constraints and limited resources may not allow to organize a meeting in May in Geneva (Geneva Dialogue); (iv) the bilateral visits and calls should be done by the secretariat on behalf of the Chair/ Bureau and in liaison with the Bureaux of the subsidiary bodies; (v) all inputs received should be sent to the Bureau members, discussed and then reflected in a revised version of the document by end-May.

Item 4 Focus of the twenty-second Committee session on 20-22 November 2013

11. The Director proposed to focus this year Committee session on an assessment of the status of member States at the outset of the International Decade on Sustainable Energy for All.
12. A Vice-Chair expressed the need to narrow the focus of this year session in order to raise the interest of participants. His suggestion was to look at the role of natural gas in Europe. The format on the review of ECE work may include presentations of successful stories by few countries on specific ECE activities, outlining their impact and achievements in the participating countries.
13. The Director anticipated that a decision on the title and the number of days of this year session will be taken by mid-May to start preparations. A two-day session, as last year format, would reduce the overlaps with other events.

Item 5. Any other business

14. None was raised.