Documentation of the Simulation of the

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Conference A

6 - 10 April 2025

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Committee Staff

Director	Maddie Weimer
Assistant Director	Roberto Teran
Chair	Leander Karl Konstantin Gasis

Agenda

1. Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition
2. Sustainable Forest Management to Achieve SDG 15

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
UNECE/1/1	Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition	39 in favor, 5 against, 11 abstentions
UNECE/1/2	Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition	Adopted without a vote
UNECE/1/3	Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition	42 in favor, 2 against, 11 abstentions

Summary Report

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Sustainable Forest Management to Achieve SDG 15
II. Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition

The session was attended by representatives of 50 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda in the order of topic 2, followed by topic 1, beginning discussion on the topic of “Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition.” By Monday, the Dais received a total of 5 proposals addressing a range of subtopics including energy diversification, smart grid infrastructure, private sector engagement, regional cooperation, and enhanced use of data analytics. Delegates engaged in extensive discussions on equitable access to clean energy and the role of innovation in sustainable development. The committee atmosphere was highly collaborative, with delegates actively seeking common ground. By Tuesday evening, multiple working papers had merged based on shared priorities and complementary approaches.

On Wednesday, 3 working papers were accepted by the Dais as draft resolutions. One of the draft resolutions had a successful division of the proposal creating Annex 1. These draft resolutions addressed key themes such as financing mechanisms for renewable energy, modernization of infrastructure, capacity building, and promotion of inclusive energy access. The committee demonstrated strong engagement, diplomacy, and a shared commitment to advancing the energy transition through constructive dialogue and consensus-building.

Code: UNECE/1/1
Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Topic: Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Recognizing that General Assembly resolution 55/2 established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were eight international development targets, and therefore setting precedent for General Assembly resolution 70/1,

Aware that the MDGs were the following: Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education, Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women, Goal 4: Reduce child mortality, Goal 5: Improve maternal health, Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases, Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, and Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development, however needed to be expanded due to the limitations of its scope and lack of universality stemming from from the fact these the goals were heavily focused on just developing countries rather than all countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 titled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” in which the deadline for the aforementioned Millennium Development Goals was expanded, resulting in the fruition of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the subsequent replacement of the MDGs,

Having devoted attention to SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and its five main targets: ensuring universal access to renewable energy, increasing global renewable energy, doubling improvement in energy efficiency, enhance cooperation, expand infrastructure, and upgrade technology, ultimately these lead to a constant and environmentally sound energy source by 2030, and to SDG 4.7 and its aim of ensuring that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development also through education,

Affirming General Assembly resolution 79/211 that hopes to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which stresses the need to diminish the advancement of the crisis of energy poverty,

Viewing with appreciation the *Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project* and its ability to increase the knowledge and capabilities of Member States on sustainable energy,

Concerned by the estimation according to the United Nations that nearly 2 billion people will still rely on unsustainable energy sources such as fossil fuels, burning coal and natural gas by 2030, sustainable energy sources do not use finite resources and do not contribute to climate change making them preferable options,

Fully aware of the need to support funds and programs for European Union (EU) members and non-EU members in Europe that many regional non-EU Member States struggle to attain equitable access to sustainable energy and struggle due to issues related to finance,

Recognizing that Member States with different geographies may be better suited to different types of renewable energy,

Acknowledging that switching to green energy is expensive and that incentives can help citizens bear the cost while making green energy more appealing to consumers,

Underlining the importance and effectiveness of incentives in European countries, which was found by the Energy Research & Social Science (ERSS) Journal in 2024, stating that recurring incentives increased sales of plug-in hybrids and battery electric vehicles from 10% to 15-19% and 12-14% respectively,

Emphasizing the need to implement educational campaigns to increase public understanding and active participation in sustainable energy development,

Noting the success and potential of utilizing funds such as the EU's Just Transition Fund (JTF) and subsequent Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), which has led to donations of billions of Euros to various Member States to aid in their mobilization of jobs,

Taking note with satisfaction the still active United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (UNFIP), established in 1985, to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in United Nations mechanisms most relevant to indigenous issues,

Referring to the United Nations Human Rights Booklet on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous People in mentioning that beneficiaries of this fund have contributed to significant achievements concerning the development of international human rights jurisprudence for indigenous groups via human rights apparatus,

Recognizing the work done by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) which has been established as a subsidiary body under the UNECE,

Stressing its desire for a voluntary fund similar to that of the UNFIP to contribute financial assistance to lesser-expertized Member States to make their participation in renewable-energy-focused United Nations events feasible,

Emphasizing the potential use of currently available fossil-fuel-based infrastructure when repurposed for sustainable energy production and distribution,

1. *Suggests* that Member States move in the direction towards the creation of one unified entity managing the regulatory of the power grid in the European region to achieve an increase of efficiency in energy distribution;

2. *Suggests* that Member States to achieve this by moving in the direction of merging the two existing organisations of the ACER and the EnC and including all further Member States on the continent that have not been part of those two organization;

3. *Promotes* the expansion of cross-border renewable energy infrastructure, particularly through transnational green hydrogen pipelines by promoting coordinated investment frameworks with the goal of facilitating seamless, secure and sustainable energy exchange among European Member States, while reducing dependency on non-renewable imports;

4. *Encourages* the creation of a knowledge and technology pool to which the UNECE invites governmental and private actors for coordinating facilitating the international exchange of technology regarding sustainable energy production and distribution which would be made accessible to contributing Member States;

5. *Expresses its commitment* to stable market and investment conditions regarding investments into sustainable energy production and infrastructure by expressing its commitment to the WTO trade standards acknowledging the importance of stability and and fair market conditions to accelerate investments into sustainable energy production; Commitment of Member States to the rule of law and stable administrative conditions to provide predictable market conditions in the sustainable energy sector for potential private investors;

6. *Encourages* Member States to participate in the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE), which welcomes all members of UNECE to cooperate and discuss with the hope of achieving sustainable and affordable energy for all, by providing a platform for as many Member State as possible to be included in the process of transitioning from unsustainable systems and share their data and ideas to be able to better assist in establishing clean energy policies and projects across the region;

7. *Recommends* further expansion of UNECE's CSE by:

    a. Increasing modernization and inclusion of the data repository systems through techniques like multilingual support and expansion of alternative renewable energy sources like nuclear energy, solar energy, hydropower, and establishment of a technology data pool;

    b. Focusing on resource-constrained and energy-poverty-stricken Member States through energy policy expert aid in expanding national energy policy;

    c. Recognizing of different geographies resulting in unique and specific solutions;

    d. Harmonizing of data from domestic systems which shall be made accessible to Member States, private actors and public;

8. *Calls upon* Member States with greater access to sustainable energy to include and lead those who lack similar infrastructure and technologies through:

    a. Exchanging their technological expertise and policy strategies with those in earlier stages of transition through knowledge-sharing platforms that focus on energy efficiency;

    b. Forming strategic partnerships, offering capacity building programs such as educational and financial support to countries facing constraints in implementing renewable energy projects, and ensuring equitable access to shared energy resources and innovations by sharing solutions with the neighboring Member States to encourage international cooperation;

    c. Financial Advisory Assistance Programs provide training for policy makers to attract public and private funding campaigns to expand services allowing for underfunded Member States to receive assistance on designing and implementation of affordable energy financing strategies;

9. *Recommends* Member States to work closely with the *Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project* to develop fitting policies, effective strategies, and learn how they would realistically work through modeling the implications of energy security, sustainability, and regional interdependence, based on research, by promoting policy dialogue governments and the energy industry understand what

steps should be taken, developing policies that show it is possible to move towards hydro, solar, tidal, or wind power, depending on what is most ideal for different specific regions, reduces reliance on traditional energy sources;

10. *Introduces* the idea of Member States collaborating within their geographic regions, such as but not limited to Western Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and even more specific regions, for example, the Balkan region, British Isles, and more to establish alliances towards energy connectedness, such as, but not limited to:

    a. Taking inspiration from alike geographic neighbors and considering the possibility of adopting and enacting similar technologies and policies that are deemed fit for the Member States by:

        i. Enacting similar energy sources and technology such as hydropower for Member States abundant in water sources;

        ii. Enacting similar energy sources and technology such as tidal power for coastal Member States or Member States with large lakes;

        iii. Enacting similar energy sources and technology such as solar energy for Member States located in regions receiving great solar radiation, waves, and sunlight;

        iv. Enacting similar energy sources and technology such as wind energy for Member States prevalent with mountainous terrains;

    b. Establishing new and building into existing energy connectors while also initiating further regional hubs to expand energy accessibility such as interconnectors - following the examples of the Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB), Iberian Peninsula Interconnection, and more;

    c. Encourages the development of Euroasian based (ie: in large lakes in Member States and in the Mediterranean) energy development pilot programs (which would collect statistics such as but not limited to energy conversion and energy production) based on potential Member State tidal power plants, recognizing that these measures are necessary due to the novelty of tidal power and acknowledging its potential and need for monitoring and data collection;

11. *Encourages* Member States to consider taking national approaches to persuade and incentivize green energy initiatives, such as but not limited to:

    a. Legislative packages that include incentives for greener energy, such as tax benefits like property tax reductions, producer tax cuts for factors like each kilowatt of energy produced, subsidies, and other related benefits, for example, priority parking for owners of electric vehicles (EVs), and more;

    b. Benefits that reward citizens for actively participating in prosumer (producer and consumer) activities, like self-sustaining energy for residences (like installing solar panels, switching to eco-friendly house appliances, making sustainable consumer choices, etc) such as reduced utility bills, increased energy independence;

c. Further recognizing that promoting such incentives can lead to greater national action towards sustainable energy development and therefore regional development, leading to increased European economic activity and collaboration and additionally recognizing that increased energy practices can help with achieving other SDGs;

12. *Fully supports* the consideration of a grant-based voluntary fund similar to that of the grant focused fund titled UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, that will ultimately enable, via financial feasibility, European nations' ability to participate in the gatherings relative to and developments of international standards and legislation for the protection of their rights and voice being heard;

13. *Recommends* that Member States of UNECE increase investments and efforts to pursue singular alternative initiatives toward long-term sustainable energy transition, upon voluntary adoption of Member States, which emphasizes the restructuring of the fossil fuel infrastructure towards sustainable renewable energy production by utilizing existing coal and natural gas infrastructure, as these recommendations are based on the theories of a circular economy and can aid in reaching the target of effective transition until 2030 increase of 20%.

ANNEX 1 UNECE/1/1:

1. *Suggests* to utilized the unified grid-management organization to utilize the development and integration of cross-border Smart Grid systems among Member States to enable real-time data sharing, efficient distribution of surplus renewable energy, automatic rerouting during grid disruptions, and enhanced regional energy cooperation, thereby supporting energy security, reducing fossil fuel dependence, and advancing progress toward SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy);

    a. The gradual transition to Smart Grid systems among Member States through the following measures;

        i. Conducting national and regional assessments to evaluate existing grid infrastructure, identify vulnerabilities, and develop clear Smart Grid implementation roadmaps;

        ii. Mobilizing funding and investment through government budgets, public-private partnerships, multilateral development banks, and green finance instruments such as climate bonds;

        iii. Upgrading physical infrastructure, including transmission lines, substations, and transformers, to support two-way electricity flow and integration of digital technologies;

        iv. Installing smart technologies, such as sensors, automated controls, smart meters, and real-time monitoring software, to enable efficient energy management and data-driven decision-making;

        v. Integrating renewable energy sources—including solar, wind, hydro, tidal, and battery storage—into the grid while using Smart Grid systems to manage variability and ensure consistent supply;

        vi. Implementing pilot programs to test Smart Grid systems on a smaller scale, with plans to scale up based on performance, regional suitability, and technological advancement;

        vii. Establishing cross-border energy connections, including interconnectors and standardized digital communication protocols, to allow real-time data exchange and electricity trading between Member States;

    b. Not leaving workers in the energy sector behind by providing training programs for grid operators, technicians, and policy makers, while promoting public awareness of Smart Grid benefits and encouraging consumer participation.

Code: UNECE/1/2
Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Topic: Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 78/157 (2023) on promoting access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern energy, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 13 (climate action) as listed in the *2030 Agenda*, particularly SDG target 7.1, to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, and the United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, which call for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of renewable energy technologies,

Understanding the need for fostering smaller European Member States' energy security by developing robust energy infrastructure in order to create diverse, stable energy portfolios based on accurate and secure data in collaboration with outside partners,

Noting the recent urging of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to seek funding via a decentralized, project-based approach, alongside the recent priority in increasing the number of voluntary contributions and mobilizing extrabudgetary resources through efforts and outreach at the sub programme level, as expressed in UNECE reports 2020/27 (2020), 2021/1 (2021), and 2023/7 (2023),

Aware that each sovereign Member State in the European region has its own energy needs and energy infrastructure, and that no single transition plan towards clean energy exists that would meet the energy needs of all Member States in the UNECE region, necessitating the freedom for each Member State to choose and navigate its own path towards a sustainable future while considering their economic constraints,

Emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation, as highlighted by the UNECE, in enhancing energy security and promoting sustainable energy development, with the goal of advancing energy infrastructure and storage,

Endorsing the development and implementation of prosumer technologies via the development of enabling policy frameworks and regulations, promoting digitalization, and fostering collaboration between stakeholders,

Acknowledging the findings of recent reports of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, which stress the necessity for efficient exploration, production, storage, transport, and use of energy to support sustainable development,

Cognizant of the UNECE Ministerial Conferences, which increasingly have focused on addressing environmental performance and energy security, and special sessions by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), which have worked in conjunction with the UNECE to prepare Member States for larger forums to inform Member States on the background for Ministerial Conferences,

Bearing in mind the existing UNECE guidelines for extrabudgetary fundraising, which recommend that donors be presented with fully costed projects, that dedicated personnel be assigned to manage project funds, and that resource mobilization efforts diversify funding sources and encourage joint initiatives with other United Nations bodies and international organizations,

Welcoming the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Member States' energy transition through capacity-building programs, regulatory advancements, and policy training,

Taking into account the work done and opportunities offered, including data collection, regional education, and energy source research by the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and IRENA Renewable Energy Learning Partnership (IRELP) enabled through the Scientific Method,

Citing improvements in the efficiency and safety of nuclear power via improvements in relief valves, the detection of coolant leaks, better regulatory standards, and major improvements in the reliability and efficiency of nuclear energy,

Acknowledging that the transition away from non-renewable energy production in the European region needs to be fair and just in order to ensure economic security and national prosperity for all nations, embodied in organizations like the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the European Union (EU) Fair Transition Fund,

Mindful of the necessity of ensuring that affected energy sector workers in the European region are not left behind in the transition towards renewable sources,

Reconfirming the need to lift Member States in the European region out of energy poverty, especially those reliant on importing single-source energy and other energy-insecure and vulnerable populations, through regional frameworks and investment,

Taking into account the IEA's estimate that the world needs $1 trillion USD per year until 2050 to finance a transition to low emissions, which would necessitate private capital,

Supporting fully the acknowledgement of smart grid as well as microgrid technology and the opportunities offered by the support of artificial intelligence (AI), as a self-contained electrical network to enable efficient energy allocation to help communities integrate renewable energy sources and reduce transmission losses by using local energy,

Emphasizing prosumer technologies that simultaneously produce and consume a significant portion of their own energy, often through renewable sources like solar panels, aiming to achieve energy independence and sustainability,

Recalling the UNECE's main sources of funding, which in 2024 were approximately $24,224,500 USD in extrabudgetary contributions and approximately $39,870,400 USD through section 20 of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Recognizing the value in transition to increasingly more energy efficient sources of power such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with the goal of using clean and safe energy sources such as nuclear energy, wind energy, and geothermal energy in conjunction in feasible locations with training programs to facilitate this change like the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization affiliated GRÓ Geothermal Training Program (GTP),

1. *Advocates for* the formation of an International Green Energy Summit, building upon the foundation of existing Ministerial Conferences and the UNECE Renewable Energy Group of Experts, to be organized annually, aimed at facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration by presenting research and reports on energy poverty, social development, economic growth, industrial readiness, and sustainable energy transition;

2. *Similarly promotes* supplemental regional summits achieved through coordination with the CEP, tailored to sub-regional needs and context, hosted in rotation by European Member States, where participating Member States present progress reports and updates on their national climate change efforts;

3. *Suggests* that following the Summit's formation, presentations at the discretion of individual Member States and regional bodies like the EU energy poverty advisory hub are handed in, including significant development in energy sustainability, updates, and reports on national climate change efforts, as well as research and reports on the effects of energy poverty on long-term economic growth, social development, and sustainable energy transition to advise Member States on how to best reduce energy poverty;

4. *Proposes* advisory meetings for European Member States in attendance at the Summit considering the creation of their own Green Stock Exchange as outlined in the UNEP's *How Stock Exchanges can Grow Green Finance* report (2017), a specialized financial marketplace to facilitate investment in climate change research and infrastructure by:

    a. Basing on the United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change Voluntary Action Plan* for growing green finance;

    b. Including guidance in the issuance of green bonds assigned to specific projects relating to sustainable energy development, such as clean transportation;

5. *Requests* that the Summit be funded, in the manner of recent UNECE initiatives, through a decentralized approach–that is, subprogramme-specific funding–in alignment with existing UNECE priorities by presenting a fully costed proposal for the Summit to donors, such as the FIA foundation, UNDP, the European Commission, Michelin Corporate Foundation, the Keep Fighting Foundation, and European Member States in order to receive funding;

6. *Urges* that the Summit invite high-level representatives from the private sector, philanthropic foundations, NGOs, international development banks, financial institutions, and academia to actively participate in Summit activities–such as panels, workshops, and project showcases–in order to foster investment opportunities, support technical efforts, and promote project-based voluntary contributions aligned with the UNECE resource mobilization strategy, enabling Member States in the European region to present sustainable energy initiatives in need of funding;

7. *Further urges* the allocation of national and structural funds from Member States toward the modernization of transportation and energy infrastructure, such as electrified rail networks and decentralized solar, wind, hydro, nuclear and geothermal power systems, while strongly encouraging the involvement of both public and private sector actors to mobilize investment and foster market based solutions, with the aim of ensuring cost-effective, equitable, and nationally appropriate access to renewable energy technologies for all Member States, particularly those with limited existing infrastructure;

8. *Calls upon* UNECE Member States in raising public awareness on the socio-economic benefits of renewable energy technologies by strengthening collaboration with relevant international and regional institutions, including IRENA, the IEA, and UNECE-led initiatives, through the delivery of capacity-building workshops for policymakers and energy practitioners on National Energy Plans, the promotion of youth engagement via platforms such as the IRENA Youth Forum and IRELP, and by encouraging participation of underrepresented candidates in scholarship programs such as the GRÓ, GTP, MSc and PhD tracks;

9. *Supports* the creation of a UNECE-based optional Green Knowledge Hub designed around the collection of European energy data including production volume, production method, energy storage, population served, and regional resources in addition to sharing technical and scientific data on smart grid design, cybersecurity and resilience best practices, which can be utilized for a more effective energy transition by helping Member States prioritize resources to the regions where they are most needed, by:

    a. Incorporating data collected into future reports of the energy reports of the United Nations Statistics Division to enable the use of scientific methodology for problem-solving on energy issues;

    b. Charging the Committee of European Statisticians with the task of carrying out the organization and publication of this data;

    c. Consulting with regional organizations like the Council of European Energy Regulators and the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators to gather information and consult on European energy policy;

10. *Endorses* the establishment of the Regional Energy Storage and Innovation Network (RESIN) within the UNECE to accelerate research, innovation, and the deployment of advanced energy storage technologies to facilitate the region's transition toward a low-carbon energy system;

11. *Defines* the objectives of RESIN as supporting technological innovation in energy storage and integration, with a particular focus on solutions that enhance grid flexibility and decentralized renewable energy integration, including advanced battery systems, offshore renewable integration, and decentralized storage applications to reduce energy inefficiency in existing energy infrastructure;

12. *Calls upon* RESIN to foster inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaborations by bringing together national governments, research institutions, academia, and private sector actors, encouraging coordinated action, investment, and the sharing of research, expertise, and best practices across Member States;

13. *Recommends* that RESIN promote equitable access to energy storage innovation by addressing financial, regulatory, and technical barriers faced by countries with economies in transition and Least Developed Countries, and by facilitating technical assistance and knowledge transfer supported by voluntary contributions from Member States;

14. *Encourages* Member States and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of RESIN's objectives by initiating pilot activities, which show models for storage deployment, collecting and analysing data on policy and regulatory frameworks, and contributing to annual reports outlining regional progress, gaps, and recommendations for enhanced integration and policy alignment;

15. *Praises* integrating microgrid prosumer technologies into energy-based localities of European nations to reduce overall reliance on the main grid, to integrate battery storage, and to enhance energy resilience, whilst promoting sustainable energy access and encouraging a more balanced and diversified energy portfolio, which will enable Member States to have greater control over local energy production as they will consume, produce, and distribute their own power, encouraging significantly lower carbon emissions, thereby, helping mitigate climate change by promoting self-consumption and reducing reliance on traditional energy sources;

16. *Expresses hope that* Member States will assess and pursue grid modernization strategies, including smart grid and microgrid technologies, and demand-side infrastructure, in ways that reflect their national energy needs and capacities;

17. *Recommends* Member States to incentivize public-private partnerships and utility innovation to scale digital grid technologies in a cost-effective, flexible, and nationally tailored manner, thereby supporting both international and national energy goals;

18. *Directs attention to* the potential of AI-powered grids which could dynamically balance energy loads by analyzing consumption patterns, predicting demand, analysing social behaviour and economic activity, integrating renewable energy sources like solar and wind in real time, enhancing energy efficiency and improving reliability by automatically adjusting energy flows to match demand, enabling higher renewable energy integration while reducing waste, and providing predictive maintenance to prevent system failures;

19. *Calls for* cooperation with the private sector, academic institutions, and public utilities to advance innovation grid management and promote skills development in the smart energy workforce, to establish a knowledge basis immediately and ongoing, as Member States transition to renewable energy systems and in Member States rebuilding energy infrastructure, especially post-conflict or developing countries;

20. *Proposes* the voluntary development and expansion of cross-border renewable energy infrastructure projects by including transnational smart grids and green hydrogen pipelines, facilitating seamless, sustainable energy supply exchange among European Member States;

21. *Encourages* Member States to identify pathways for diversified energy development through private-public partnerships, in alignment with national energy priorities and shared sustainability goals, by promoting investment in diverse energy technologies, including renewables, advanced storage, and nuclear innovation based on national capacities and objectives, and supporting voluntary partnerships that drive innovation while respecting regulatory autonomy and national sovereignty, as well as by reusing nuclear waste such as uranium, plutonium and fission products for industrial purposes to reduce waste and promote efficiency;

22. *Empowers* the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Classification for resources (UNFC), to research the viability, scalability, and sustainability of diverse energy sources—such as nuclear, solar, and hydropower, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), sustainably sourced biofuels, and other regionally appropriate technologies—with the objective of assisting Member States in developing balanced and sovereign energy portfolios, and encouraging the presentation of such findings at the International Green Energy Summit, particularly through focused report on the use of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as an emerging nuclear solution suitable for nations seeking low-carbon baseload energy with limited grid capacity, emphasizing the practicality of nuclear

energy in providing reliable, carbon-free energy for the citizens of Europe, as well as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a flexible transitional fuel that can support diversification and regional energy security;

23. *Impresses* the benefits of the increased use of nuclear energy in Member States, with a national focus on strong regulatory institutions, and an emphasis on the great capacity yielded and the de facto operational safety of nuclear energy around the world;

24. *Supports* coastal UNECE Member States in their efforts to develop offshore wind farms that not only support sustainable aquaculture and marine biodiversity, but also have the potential to supply a significant share of Europe's wind energy by implementing wind farms along the Baltic Sea's coastline in designated areas, as well as connecting distribution lines to landlocked states so that they can receive the same same renewable generated energy;

25. *Suggests* landlocked UNECE Member States, if they so desire, research the viability of or invest in wind energy by researching or designating unused land for wind farms and incentivizing these land allocations by encouraging Member States to implement appropriate incentives to enable landlocked Member States to use uncultivated flat land that can serve as green areas that both preserve nature and produce energy;

26. *Recommends* increased usage of geothermal energy by increasing training of energy industry professionals to implement relevant technologies, fostering greatest expansion in residential and commercial heating;

27. *Requests* that Member States in the UNECE region develop a long-term strategy to assist current affected energy sector workers' economic adaptation to the changing state of energy production, collaborating with funding sources such as the EU Fair Transition Fund to finance initiatives;

28. *Calls for* the creation and implementation of a Green Transition Expert Forum, where qualified professionals volunteer for short-term relocation to train workers in non-renewable energy industries transitioning to green energy, in order to support job security and knowledge transfer and facilitate fair and inclusive energy transitions to help train workers for the long-term strategy;

29. *Envisions* the creation of a UNECE digital library with multilingual training materials and demonstration videos to upskill workers in operating and maintaining renewable energy installations, providing quick and accessible support for national transitions to ensure no jobs are lost in this transition;

30. *Welcomes* the voluntary implementation of long-term investment strategies that promote recycling profits from current non-renewable production into renewable energy development and converting old non-renewable power plants to sustainable energy production or energy storage;

31. *Suggests* that Member States within the European region engage in and share economic research on the establishment and effects of programmes based on financial incentives to promote a consumer switch to electric vehicles, with proposed national incentives including but not limited to reduced tolls and free or discounted charging.

Code: UNECE/1/3
Committee: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Topic: Improving Sustainable Energy Development and Transition

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015),

Recognizing the importance of Member States to cooperate in sharing research data, technology, and methods for minimizing carbon emissions via means such as educational networks to meet both SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals), strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development,

Emphasizing the severe impacts that energy poverty, which includes but not limited to, inequality, inaccessibility, and unaffordability of energy sources and services poses to the continent of Europe and European energy importers, particularly for States reliant on single-source energy,

Recognizing that technological advancements, as reported by expert groups such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the UNECE itself, contribute to over 16% of global sustainable energy,

Emphasizing that creating new energy services generates new employment opportunities, with off-grid systems expected to create 4.5 million jobs by 2030, cognizant of SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and the role of education at all levels in ensuring an inclusive transition toward renewable energy sources,

Recognizing the results from the publication of the *United Nations Framework Classification for Resources* (UNFC) (2019) and the efforts of the Nuclear Working Group, specifically regarding the application of nuclear energy as discussed in the ECE Energy Series through the outlining of potential nuclear entry pathways for low income Member States in the European Region, the highlighting of sustainable options for implementing a nuclear fuel cycle, and the ways in which nuclear and renewable energy technologies complement each other,

Expressing the desire to protect the sovereignty of individual Member States to ensure energy development that is sustainable,

Referring to the multiple systems of data collection and plant inspection programs within each Member State that allow for the collection of energy efficiency metrics,

Recognizing the urgent global need to transition to renewable energy sources, as highlighted by the monitoring and utilization of science relating to climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

Noting the growing international consensus on the need for a just, gradual, and equitable energy transition that promotes sustainability while ensuring energy security and economic resilience,

Highlighting the efforts already made in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), attempting to aid and support the Green Finance Facility, specifically the training sessions and capacity-building workshops delivered to small and medium-sized enterprises and under-served households, and calling attention to the *National Energy and Climate Plan* (NECP) (2018) and its importance in the transition to renewable energy, as it provides country-specific recommendations as to their progress in the energy sector,

Reaffirming the outcomes of international agreements and conferences, including the *Paris Agreement* (2015), which emphasizes the urgent need for a transition to renewable energy to mitigate climate change, particularly article 12, which strives to educate citizens on the significance of climate change and energy transition,

Recognizing the role of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which facilitates international cooperation and provides a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and technology on renewable energy and refer *to* the multiple systems of data collection and plant inspection programs within each Member State that allows for the collection of energy efficiency metrics,

Emphasizing the commitment of Member States to a global energy transition, as reflected in the Global Climate Action Summit (2018), which highlighted the critical role of governments and the private sector in accelerating renewable energy efforts worldwide,

Highlighting the previous work done by Member States, specifically the investment, research, and development of the efficient and ethical use of alternative fuel sources, such as nuclear, tidal, and hydrogen-based energy,

Re-emphasizing the targets as set out in SDG 5 (gender equality), specifically, the advocating of women's roles and gender equality in the sustainable energy sector, in tandem with targets 5.5 and 5.a, with a highlight on the jobs lost due to the transition to sustainable energy and the phasing out of fossil fuels,

1. *Encourages* Member States to work together to create methods of sharing best practices increasing energy efficiency through:

    a. Creating a common forum and data infrastructure system for Member States to share information about innovations in energy efficiency of technology and methods so that Member States are aware of innovations that have occurred and can be implemented;

    b. Advising the creation of an energy mentorship network among UNECE Member States, where energy experts advise and assist governments in expanding their sustainable infrastructure;

    c. Facilitating the real-time exchange of best practices in energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment;

    d. Data collection, including the amount of energy produced, the methods of energy production, and regional access to natural resources such as solar or wind;

    e. Collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Green Growth Knowledge Project to identify gaps in knowledge both in theory and in practice;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for increasing energy availability, ensuring that all Member States have affordable and accessible energy during the transition to sustainable energy by utilizing consumer and producer incentivising practices that:

    a. Suggests adoption of Feed In-Tariff Systems to incentivize small-scale clean energy producers and ensure stable revenue for investors;

    b. Recommends Market Premium Systems to bridge the gap between conventional and renewable energy production;

    c. Promotes regional and national interests of Member States by recommending initiatives similar to the New Development Bank energy-stimulating infrastructure programs to improve upon accessibility;

3. *Recommends* Member States to minimize the carbon emissions of power plants that use fossil fuels by way of establishing energy efficiency standards by using data already being collected by using the preexisting energy data reports given to the UNECE, thereby creating an added level of competitiveness to incentivize fossil fuel companies to strive for reduced carbon emissions and thusly helping the green energy transition along;

4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations (NGOs) advocating for sustainable energy transition and development to establish an official working relationship with the UNECE to foster better social communication and engagement verifiable through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two parties;

5. *Further invites* NGOs and governments to states parties in cooperating with UNECE to participate in a biannual forum with the purpose of establishing understanding from a grassroots level, encouraging larger civil-sector involvement, and sharing effective political strategies to implement sustainable energy development;

6. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will facilitate the assistance of workers within the fossil fuel industry to smoothly transition into jobs in renewable energy sectors by implementing retraining programs and transitional income support such as:

    a. Working with the United Nations Institute for Technology and Research (UNITAR) to expand access to workers within existing energy sectors;

    b. Collaborating with local universities and other formal education institutions to allow workers to advance into specialized renewable energy fields;

    c. Initiating exchange training programs on an international level supported by domestic labor ministries and departments, where workers within the fossil fuel industry are able to receive the highest level of renewable energy education through collaborating with other Member States;

    d. Unemployment benefits for those in the midst of transition between jobs in the fossil fuel energy sector and the renewable energy sector;

7. *Supporting* Member States at regional and local levels in sharing effective solutions, responses, and education initiatives regarding the established relationship between climate change and health, by establishing conferences to share ideas between schools and government;

furthermore, UNECE will publish a weekly report regarding the risks of climate change to inform all Member States of any improvements and achievements;

8. *Ensuring* a gradual transition and implementation of expressed initiatives to accommodate for regional differences to account for sovereignty and individual infrastructure or market restrictions that may hinder a sustainable transition;

9. *Reiterates* its continued support of infrastructure and frameworks that UNECE supervises, focused on the research and development of alternative energy sources, in order to provide a path to renewable energy sources for Member States within the Eurasian region;

10. *Advises* Member States to develop and implement a statistical framework to accurately identify individuals, households, and demographics vulnerable to energy poverty:

    a. Welcomes Member States to establish a clear and coordinated definition of energy poverty, with indicators such as income level, housing quality, energy production, and stability;

    b. Encourages the discretionary development of a comprehensive data collection framework to filter information by income, geographic factors, demographic factors, and housing conditions to identify vulnerable groups effectively, utilizing a standardized methodology and data collection tools to ensure consistency, integrity, and transparency across jurisdictions and acknowledging the need for safe and secure data collection and storage methods to respect the dignity of European Union (EU) citizens;

11. *Encourages* the establishment of periodic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including regular updates and progress reports as new data and challenges arise to ensure the effectiveness of measures against energy poverty, and recommends the engagement of local agencies to support this identification process, and promote confidence-building measures to enhance technical expertise, data management capabilities, and regional cooperation to help alleviate energy poverty;

12. *Focusing* on a gradual transition and long-term initiatives supported by regional frameworks to account for sovereignty and self-determination;

13. *Suggests* to Member States to maintain or increase their support, research, and funding into the future application and development of alternative energy sources;

14. *Recommends* Member States to expand education initiatives to educate students and civil servants in the realm of alternative energy and energy transition in regard to the hosting of roundtables between civil servants, academia, NGOs, and the private sector on best practices and breakthroughs in the alternative energy industry, as shown by the best practices set by IRENA;

15. *Recommends* education from early childhood on through to the university level to include a new module on the political science syllabus and university-level competition with the UNECE in the realm of renewable energy, focusing on the energy transition in alignment with article 12 of the Paris Agreement with the content of this new subject being chosen and tailored individually to and by Member States, in alignment with the UNECE Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status reports;

16. *Invites* the UNECE Member States to the annual Renewable Energy Transformation for Global Cooperation (RET-GC) Summit operating as working group to develop a framework for cross-border renewable energy cooperation, focusing on regional energy connectivity, sharing best practices, and ensuring a balance between renewable energy growth and energy security;

17. *Defining* Renewable Energy Transition as an individual project, initiative action plan, law, or policy pursuing the transition toward renewable energy; and defining Renewable Energy Transformation as an overarching goal to attain sustainability through the sustainability pillars: economic, social, and environmental;

18. *Fostering* international collaboration on renewable energy development and facilitating the transition to renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass, on a voluntary basis for each Member State;

19. *Including* the participatory approach utilizing the living labs model, which emphasized the voluntary involvement of a multi-layered approach of including representation of each UNECE Member State with representatives of each of the following sectors: government, private, public, scientific;

20. *Recommends* that UNECE increase technical cooperation and knowledge exchange through specialized workshops, regional studies, and policy forums, with a focus on energy efficiency, sustainable energy practices, and low-carbon technologies;

21. *Requests* UNECE to monitor progress on renewable energy transition efforts and provide biennial reports to the Economic and Social Council, summarizing key regional advancements, challenges, and proposed actions for the upcoming period;

22. *Suggests* the creation of interconnected smart energy grids that facilitate the untroubled distribution of renewable energy across borders through:

    a. Investing in infrastructure modernization and construction;

    b. Smart Grid systems that utilize advanced technologies including sensors, smart meters, and software, to enable continuous data sharing and monitoring of electricity networks;

    c. Smart Grid systems that allow Member States to retain control over their national energy grids through secure physical and digital connections;

    d. Extending the already existing European grid to Member States that are willing to be included;

23. *Recommends* Member States to engage in an energy efficiency certification program by using data collection to determine the efficiency of fossil fuel power plants by:

    a. Utilizing pre-existing inspection programs many Member States already utilize collect production data and compare it to the carbon emissions to determine the overall efficiency of the plants;

b. Electing to do so can make plants eligible for a certification expressing their level of energy efficiency in order to add a level of competition in the fossil fuel market and push it to a cleaner transition;

24. *Encourages* scaling or investment in renewable technologies such as wind energy, hydropower, tidal power, and solar power in four main ways: creating partnerships to help Member States who have difficulties accessing available resources for renewable energy in their territory, establishing voluntary donations from Member States for investment offshore wind/solar panel/tidal energy/hydropower energy, establishing the development of Euroasian based energy development pilot programs based on Member State tidal power plants scaled in lakes as well as in the Mediterranean, and collectively pooling government data from key regional sites in the fields of tidal power, hydropower, wind power, and solar power;

25. *Advocates* the inclusion of gender equality policies in tandem with women-empowerment policies within national legislation regarding unemployment and labour standards.