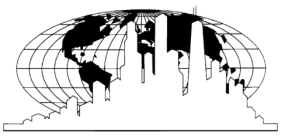

American Model United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe

Report to the Economic Commission for Europe on Sustainable energy

Contents

Executive Summary

The Economic Commission for Europe is pleased to present its report on the topic of Sustainable Energy to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). During its meeting this year, the Commission extensively discussed topics related to sustainable energy. During its deliberation, the Commission devoted particular consideration to the form that sustainable energy should take and to economic considerations.

The Commission considered all forms of energy during its discussions, paying careful attention to nuclear energy sources, wind energy, solar energyand geothermal energy. The Commission also considered to what degree Member States should focus on renewable energy resources as opposed to increasing energy efficiency for non-renewable sources such as coal.

Representatives continued their deliberations by engaging in a discussion over the accessibility of sustainable energy. The Commission addressed the often prohibitive costs associated with developing sustainable energy infrastructures, and discussed possible solutions, including ways to encourage investment and decrease trade barriers. During these deliberations, the Commission considered that access to sustainable energy may be distributed unequally among Member States, and that the Commission may have to discuss each Member State individually in order to discover which forms of sustainable energy are best suited to each Member State.

The Commission divided into five subcommittees in order to more thoroughly discuss topics related to sustainable energy. The Commission adopted several recommendations for action as a result of the work of the subcommittees and the deliberations of the body. Resolution 2.1 recommends the creation of a body that will research and propose state-by-state recommendations to facilitate transitions to more sustainable energy sources and making existing energy networks more efficient. Resolution 2.2 recommends the creation of a database that will match investors with sustainable energy projects. Resolution 2.3 addresses the issue of efficiency in energy networks and recommends coal divestment strategies as well as an integrated European power grid as a long term goal. Additionally, the body adopted recommendations for trade of sustainable energy andfor the encouragement of scholarships and university partnership programs in fields related to sustainable energy.

Matters calling for action

ECE II/1

Alarmed by the severe affects of climate change that are currently being experienced around the world,

Having adopted the Paris Agreement which sets out a global action plan to limit global warming below 2 degrees Celsius,

Drawing attention to the reality that fossil fuels will continue to provide the majority of energy for most Member States,

Recognizing that the availability of various renewable and nonrenewable energy sources is regionally dependent,

1. *Recommends* the finding of experts to create and present Member State-specific energy plans at next year's session of the Economic Commission for Europe under the following guidelines:

(a) These experts would include top engineers, energy scientists, economists, anthropologists and local experts;

(b) These experts would be drawn from a variety of Member States, with no less than two experts chosen by the Member State that is under consideration for an action plan;

(c) The members would be drawn from a variety of Member States, both developed and developing, to prevent bias;

2. *Further recommends* that individual energy plans be designed from four categorical templates:

(a) The first category would aid developing Member States with very limited or no preexisting energy infrastructure;

(b) The second category would target developing Member States with preexisting nuclear infrastructure;

(c) The third category would consist of developed Member States with very limited or no preexisting nuclear infrastructure;

(d) The fourth category would consist of developed Member States with preexisting nuclear infrastructure;

3. *Requests* that this team of experts make energy recommendations on two time scales:

(a) Immediate, short term recommendations for increasing efficiency of fossil fuels and current, non-renewable energy sources;

(b) Long term recommendations for sustainable energy (including, for nations with existing capabilities, nuclear power) in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and similar organizations.

ECE II/2

Focused on designing strategies and frameworks for allocating spending on infrastructure and energy development,

Reiterating that many developing Member States have the neither the capital nor the expertise necessary to begin this transition on their own,

Acknowledging the neccessity to create an open and viable international market for renewable and sustainable energy,

Focused on designing strategies and frameworks for allocating spending on infrastructure and energy development,

Deeply disturbed by the corruption and possible misallocation of investment funds,

Emphasizing that all Member States should be involved in a fair investment process,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Europe to create and maintain a database to provide possible investors with information that will be used to aid in investments in developing Member States' infrastructural costs as identified by the Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Committee of the Commission:

(a) *Urges* existing institutions such as the IMF, World Bankand the United Nations Development Programme to utilize a low interest loan repayment schedule for the purpose of stimulating sustainable energy development, with special focus on small and developing Member States;

2. *Involves* the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency(GEEE) in the allocation and investment of funds for sustainable energy:

(a) *Encourages* that the GEEE will provide consultation on sustainable energy policies and strategies for Member States;

(b) *Emphasizes* that the GEEE can advise on policy recommendations to individual Member States;

3. *Urges* existing institutions such as the IMF, World Bankand the United Nations Development Programmeto utilize a lowinterest loan repayment schedule for the purpose of stimulating sustainable energy development, with special focus on small and developing Member States:

(a) In doing so support and facilitate a healthy degree of capital controls on creditor Member States in order to prevent excessive speculation and other unstable borrowing practices;

4. *Further recommends* foreign investment tax reliefs to encourage investments in sustainable energy versusfossil fuels:

(a) *Encourages* that each Member State's central finance organization operates with the intent to decrease trade barriers on importing and exporting sustainable energy equipments;

(b) *Recommends* governments with the cooperation of the private sector to create a tax relief opportunity for qualified foreign investors that will open factories for sustainable energy program;

5. *Affirms* that the program will remain exclusive to Member States of the Commission and will help the Commission to better understand the successfulness of this attempt through research before sharing the technology with the world market;

6. *Recommends* Member States increase investment in sustainable energy by 15% in 5 years.

ECE II/3

Recognizing the need to devolop a more comprehensive energy inrastructure network throughout the regions,

Acknowledging that the period of transition from nonsustainable energy sources to more sustainable sources has much potential for minimization of harmful emissions and byproducts,

Noting the need to emphasize efficiency in the construction of further power production facilities and infrastructure networks,

Aware of the global imperative to invest in further sustainable energy development,

Further a*ware* of the opportunities for incentivization and profit within the region,

1. *Encourages* the development of a large-scale, integrated, transnational, regional energy infrastructure to allow for transfer of produced energy among the Member States of the Economic Commission for Europe;

2. *Urges* Member States to consider the operating efficiency of such networks as being of great import tothe development of such networks;

3. *Recommends* that Member States and regional bodies work towards the eventual creation of a European Integrated Power Grid Network to facilitate efficient transfer of energy on a transcontinental scale;

4. *Encourages* the development of a green energy marketplace for those nations participating in the integrated grid to purchase and sell energy produced by Member States who produce excess energy;

5. *Recommends* Member States take advantage of this marketplace during their transitional period, to reduce reliance on unsustainable orless sustainable energies, while they develop sustainable and renewable energy options;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for new energy production facilities to be operating in a clean manner:

(a) *Encourages* Member States to exclude coal options in future energy production expansions.

Promoting Free Market Energy Exchange and Incentivizing Independent Energy Development

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) recognizes the necessity for Member States to work with one another in fostering both a mutually beneficial energy network and a robust international economy. It also recognizes that it is in every Member State's best interest to act rationally through the optimal and efficient utilization of both limited and unlimited resources. The UNECE affirms the inherent diversity associated with individual Member States determining their most suitable recourse in efficiently reaching their energy needs. Similarly, it stresses the importance of working towards eventual energy independence in developing Member States, which is catalyzed and enhanced by trade with energy-rich Member States.

Therefore, the ECE encourages collaboration between:

1. Member States with sustainable energy reserves that exceed their own identifiable energy needs
2. Member States with the inclination and means to partner with these Member States through the trade of sustainable energy.

It also strongly suggests that the primary seller in the trade relationship offer its sustainable energy resources to interested Member States at appropriate rates. Next, the Commission advises trading Member States to negotiate timeframes that would limit such discounts to an agreed upon length of time, and that would become non-negotiable after their final agreement. It justifies such a style of arrangement on the grounds that it fosters international energy trade, and ultimately incentivizes Member States to develop domestic sustainable energy plants without becoming excessively dependent on foreign sellers. Likewise, the UNECE supports the proliferation of sustainable energy plants within either or both bilateral trade partners'borders in order to help develop a mutually beneficial trade relationship.

In that same vein, the UNECE also discourages solutions predicated upon regulating or encouraging regulation of domestic taxes and/or tariffs. It urges adherence to a general framework that facilitates such trade and partnership, with the recommended model being such that Member States follow seven general guidelines.

The first guideline involves affirming any voluntary commissions that exist for the purpose of research and recommendation on possible sustainable energy sources available to any particular nation based on its unique set of natural resources. The second entails Member States assessing the possibility of necessary development based on population and distribution of said citizens. The third involves Member States working towards the development of a more efficient international energy structure. The fourth entails Member States retaining the ability to reach out for international resources so as to better facilitate the creation, expansionand maintenance of domestic energy infrastructure. The fifth encourages Member States to collaborate together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to execute the work needed to start and complete projects commissioned by Member States. The sixth emboldens Member States to implement safeguards that would allow for NGO-led sustainment of energy infrastructure. The final guideline reiterates the importance of inviting Member States to encourage and provide support to other Member States attempting to gain energy sustainability and independence.

The Innovation and Education Subcommittee recommends that the Economic and Social CouncilECOSOC consider the issue of educating individuals in developing Member States in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and renewable fields of study, because innovation in an area can best be stimulated through education in the relevant area.

Specifically, the Subcommittee recommends the implementation of private and public scholarships, internships, apprenticeships, exchange programs, and other such similar practices in the aforementioned renewable fields between developing and developed Member States.

Recommended private mechanisms for use in implementing the above programs could include existing universities and interested NGOs. Public institutions for use in implementing the above programs could include,

but not be limited to the following: individual Member State governments that subsidize students' educations and existing United Nationsbodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, United Nations Children's Fundand the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.

The committee broadly encourages all possible forms of aid to students who study in the previouisly mentioned fields.

Consideration of the Status of Sustainable Energy

Deliberations

Shrinking glaciers, rising sea levels and changing climates present an enormous challenge that necessitates a response from the international community. Agricultural industries around the world are particularly vulnerable to climate change, as it provokes changes in rainfall and seasonal patterns. Additionally, glacial melt, particularly when it occurs in proximity to lakes and rivers, can cause both flooding and droughts, which in turn lead to natural disasters that threaten both human and financial security. Researchers around the world agree that carbon dioxide emissions are the primary cause of climate change, and an international transition to sustainable energy may be necessaryin order to mitigate theconsequences of climate change. Representativesbegan their deliberations by acknowledging these challenges, and proceeded to discuss their potential solutions.

Representatives began their discussion of sustainable energy by expressing concern that sustainable energy may not be accessible for all states, especially in those states with developing economies. One representative proposed an initiative entitled Investment, Collaboration, Education (ICE) that aimed to reduce dependency upon fossil fuels among Member States within the Commission. The initiative highlighted the importance of collaborative investment into sustainable energy infrastructures in emerging economies. Several representatives expressed interest in the proposal. Another representative proposed a similar initiative entitled Efficiency, Capability, Organization (ECO), which aimed to increase access to sustainable energy through offering advisory and technical assistance services to developing countries. Other delegates expressed interest in providing assistance on a country-by-country basis, and emphasized the importance of considering the natural resources and technologies available within each country before deciding on the form sustainable energy investment should take. Some representatives communicated their trepidations in regards to renewable energy sources, stating that the prohibitively high cost of developing renewable energy infrastructures makes sustainable energy impractical for some countries. These representativesalso articulated concern that the positions of Western States may have been overrepresented during the Commission's deliberations.

Many representativesconveyed their positions on various forms of non-renewable energy. Nuclear energy in particular proved to be a controversial topic for the Commission. Some representatives endorsed nuclear energy, and urged the Commission to consider nuclear power a viable energy source for developing Member States, arguing that not every country's available resources and economies would support renewable energy. Many representatives proceeded to express discomfort with nuclear energy, citing concerns related to both the environment and to international security. One representative countered the latter point by referencing the Iran nuclear deal framework, which was signed by many United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Member States. This representativepointed out that, if UNECE Member States were willing to compromise in the context of the aforementioned deal, then they should also be willing to achieve a compromise that would allow certain UNECE Member States to develop nuclear energy infrastructures. Some representativesproceeded to propose geothermal energy as a viable sustainable energy option, and encouraged the Commission to adopt energy recommendations specific to each country.Additionally, many representativesemphasized the importance of making energy use in countries more sustainable, not necessarily immediately fully sustainable. This allows for transitional phase recommendations including the use of natural gas and increasing energy efficiency, in power grids for example, in Member Statesdependent upon fossil fuels.

The Commission also deliberated extensively about the sources of funding for sustainable energy initiatives. The majority of the Commission agreed that sustainable energy funding is of particular relevance to countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, as many of these Member States'economies are still developing. In order to address this problem, some representativesproposed that the Commission earmark funds from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to ensure that said funds are dedicated to the development of sustainable energy infrastructures for countries within the CIS region. An alternative proposal suggested the Commission harness and refine existing UNECE initiatives, especially initiatives relating to public-private partnerships. This proposal also advanced the creation of a database through which private firms would be able to identify investment areas in Eastern European states. This proposal was supported by several delegates. Some representatives raised the concern that the aforementioned investments might be vulnerable to abuse by corrupt governments. The Commission was also interested in speeches delivered by The World Bank and International Renewable Energy Agency(IRENA)in which the two organizations offered examples of successful investment projects in countries such as Turkey and Morocco – these examples served as a model for the Commission as it continued to

devise investment projects.During the Commission's discussions, some representativesproposed decreasing economic barriers to investment. Several representatives suggested the the Commission consider recommending tax reforms that would incentivize investment into sustainable energy. These representativeswent on to clarify that their proposals did not involve the imposition of tariffs, but rather was only a recommendation that Member States consider adopting these tax schemes. Several representativesspoke in opposition to this proposal, as taxes related to the use of fossil fuels may damage fragile and developing economies.

Noting that knowledge can be as important as monetary investment, several representativesdiscussed information sharing and education as a vital component of any international transition towards sustainable energy. A few delegates expressed concern that the proposed education programmes might constitute an unjust imposition of Western European influence in Eastern Europe. After its initial deliberations, the Commission recognized the need to identify topic areas that were of particular interest to representatives. Representatives of the Commission identified five areas of special interest, and decided to form five subcommittees in order to efficiently address these areas. The subcommittees formed are listed below:

- Committee 1: Efficiency and Infrastructure
- Committee 2: Investment and Finance
- Committee 3: Trade and Communication
- Committee 4: National Energy Development Strategies
- Committee 5: Innovation and Education

Deliberations of the Energy and Infrastructure Subcommittee

A key issue discussed in deliberations prior to the formation of the Efficiency and Infrastructure Committee (EIC) was the need for energy efficiency in order to promote sustainability. A representativeproposed a framework that addressed the need to evaluate existing energy systems with the goal of revealing inefficiencies within the production and usage of energy. In addition, the EIC believes it is necessary to identify the most efficient and affordable means of establishing new energy systems in developing Member States. It was suggested that this could be achieved by enabling individual Member States to assess their existing energy systems to reach conclusions about potential solutions.

This Subcommittee identified its goals as discussing the streamlining of existing energy systems, implementing plans for periods of transition to more renewable forms of energy, and ensuring efficient infrastructure development for new energy systems.

One representative on the Subcommittee emphasized the need to recognize the dependency on fossil fuels for some Member States, and drew attention to the fact that we must ensure efficiency even in the production and consumption processes of nonrenewable resources. Another supported this stance as a means of mitigating dangerous greenhouse gas emissions without trying to enforce a more serious economic measure, such as a carbon tax. Several Member States that are highly dependent on fossil fuels offered support for these recommendations. Other representatives described the ways in which their states had successfully improved upon existing non renewable energy systems. However, one representative pointed out that there are limits to how much efficiency within existing energy systems can be improved.

All Member Statesdepend upon power grids for energy supply, yet, as several representativessuggested, much of that energy is lost during its transmission and distribution. Thus, another representative addressed the need to revamp power grids for certain Member States. Other representatives encouraged integrated regional power grids to be developed among various Member States. These power grids would recirculate surplus energy, allowing some Member States to draw on the overproduction of others. However, representatives remained wary of systems that they deemed too large and suggested further technological research may be necessary in order to ensure the effectiveness of this solution.

Attention was also brought to the existing bodies that serve to increase energy efficiency through a variety of means. One representative reminded the Member States of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE), which is an already-existing body that could be expanded upon to fulfill some of the Subcommittee's objectives. The Committee agreed that expansions should be created with the consideration as to how the GEEE might have an influence on the evaluation and promotion of energy efficiency.

During deliberation, another major topic of interest for the EIC was how cooperation between developing Member States and third party organizations (IGOs and NGOs) might facilitate infrastructure development within developing countries. While several developed Member States were interested in investing in the energy systems of less developed Member States, many expressed concern as to how funds would be allocated. Some representativessupported repayment plans as well as distribution plans in which funds are dispersed at periodic intervals.The discussion eventually shifted to the kinds of suggestions the Committee wished to make on the topic of developing energy infrastructure. Although the EIC considered recommending specific related to reducing fossil fuel consumption, representatives decided that it was best to make more general recommendations for best and broadest effect. The Subcommittee agreed that the Commission should condemn the expansion of coal and other non-sustainable energies such as oil. This suggestion would encourage a shift towardmore sustainable energy source, as well as discourage the expansion of fossil fuel energy infrastructures. There was agreement that the National Energy Development Strategies Subcommittee should make specific recommendations as to which forms of alternative energies are more favorable for each country. However, this Committee did agree to recommend granting available development and infrastructure subsidies to forms of sustainable energies as well as ensuring that pre-existing energy systems produce energy more efficiently.

Deliberations of the Investment and Finance Subcommittee

The Subcommittee for Investment and Finance (IFC) was established to devise ways to encourage the finance of sustainable energy projects. Members of the Committee discussed the creation of a database that would share relevant information with investors interested in financing sustainable energy. Representatives within the IFC agreed that some of the information this database should supply would include infrastructural costs in investing in certain types of sustainable energy, as well as the availability of each type of energy source within each Member State. The Committee recognized the importance of both public and private funding when considering sources of investment for sustainable energy projects – representatives wished to encourage organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Global Environment Facility, International Finance Corporation, Green Growth Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, KreditanstaltWiederaufbau Bank, and Abu Dhabi Fund to utilize their resources to invest in sustainable energy projects within Europe. Many delegates expressed concern over possible misallocation of investments. In order to ensure investments are used ethically and safely, the Subcommittee discussed the importance of thorough contracts to be sure both investors and Member States are held accountable.Members of the IFC also emphasized the importance of low trade barriers, which facilitate the flow of technologies between states.

Deliberations of the Trade and Communication Subcommittee

In its opening deliberations, members of the Trade and Communication Commitee (TCC) raidly reached a concensus – trade is essential to the development of free markets that are conducive to renewable energy. However, members of the TCC agreed that developing states with emerging economies may encounter significant challenged when trying to create renewable energy infrastructures.

To support the transition from current energy sources towards renewable energy sources, many representatives within the TCC agreed that the the first step should be the expansion of renewable energy markets. Almost all delegates supported the expansion of renewable energy sources, but many delegates expressed concern regarding nuclear energy. Members of the Subcommittee agreed that this expansion would encourage a stable transition in which economies to develop sustainable energy infrastructures by encouraging a preference for renewable energies and by helping developing countries gain access to other energy sources in order to satisfy their energy needs. Most members of the Subcommittee agreed that infrastructural growth take place slowly, and has a relatively long payback period, whereas free renewable energy markets that span across United Nations Economic Commission for Europe(UNECE) Member States could be implemented more quickly. Encouraging Member States to open their renewable energy markets for less developed countries would, in the TCC representatives view, allow for a more seamless transition period as developing countries seek to establish their own renewable energy infrastructures.Several representatives within the TCC recommended the eestablishment similarly integrated marketplace for vendors and buyers (countries, corporations, NGOs) to trade capital and resources in a centralized database. Members of the Subcommittee agreed that the creation of such a database would foster innovation, competitiveness, and growth in the renewable energy sector across all UNECE Member States. Several representativespointed out that these

initiatives would provide a wider market for existing sustainable energy, and would encourage ongoing development in and innovation of sustainable technology in developed countries.

Members of the Subcommittee also proposed the development of a renewable energy free trade zone across across all interested UNECE Member States in which members of free trade zone would unimpeded access to renewable energy. Members argued that this free trade zone would allow the prices of sustainable energy to be more competitive in relation to energy produced by fossil fuels, which would incentivize developing Member Stateswith limited energy sourcesto adopt sustainable energy and develop the infrastructures necessary for the production of sustainable energy.

In the spirit of free markets, and for the facilitation of greater participation in the energy market, members of the Subcommittee again emphasized that it is crucial that developing economies are assisted when entering the energy market. Representatives agreed Market diversification, even within the energy sector, remains a long-term goal for the Subcommittee.

The Trade and Technology Information Sharing Subcommittee has acknowledged the importance and relevance of renewable energy in the modern market. There is a lack of renewable energy trade opportunities between Member States producing renewable energy and Member States heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Along with a lack of trade, there is a lack of renewable energy development.

The Subcommittee of Trade and Technology Information Sharing encourages the promotion of renewable energy resource and capital market in Member States that would allow open communication, information, and technology as well as energy sharing between Member States. This endorses Member States that previously lacked renewable resources and capita to choose renewable energy for its competitiveness and promotes strong consideration for the protection of intellectual property to incentivize the participation by renewable energy providers. To continue, this Subcommittee supports competition for the innovation of more efficient renewable energy while mitigating adversary effects in Member States with established renewable energy industries. The Subcommittee recommends the removal of trade barriers and sanctions of resources and capital related to renewable energy while disapproving any further implementation of barriers and tariffs. The Subcommittee supports the technological and educational information sharing assisting developing Member States and their efforts to produce self-sustainable levels of renewable energy. The body advises sharing experience and information between renewable energy firms in developing Member States and developed Member States to foster a long-term shift toward self-sustainable renewable energy sources in developing Member States of Europe and Central Asia.

Deliberations of the National Energy Development Subcommittee

Sustainable, transparent and efficacious national energy policies form the backbone of renewable energy development. However, The Committee on National Energy Development (NEDC) recognized that the most important policies driving renewable energy improvements are established at the national level. It is therefore extremely important that each state sets relevant, modern policies that guide its energy structure at the national level.Each Member State faces different challenges economically, geographically and politically; representatives within the Commission agreed that energy policies should therefore be different in both form and function across Member States. With these differences in mind, the NEDCdiscussed distinct approaches to renewable development for each Member State. Representatives within NEDCexpressed the belief that it each Member State should be advised by a team of experts on the development and improvement of its energy policies – it is important that each Member State's advisory board be comprised of experts from both the international community and the community of scholars within each Member State.Delegates within the NEDCrecognized that there are several ways in which the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may approach choosing experts for each Member State'sadvisory board; the first and foremost of these involves using existing teams already devoted to advising these Member States. The largest existing organization by far is the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). IRENA is an intergovernmental organization that supports countries as they transition towards sustainable energy, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation – members of NEDC agreed that IRENA is a center of excellence, as well as a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy. IRENA includes Committees devoted to nearly all the Member States of the UNECE, as well as of ECOSOC, with the notable exceptions of Canada, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan. The NEDC highly encouraged UNECE Member States to continue to cooperate with IRENA, to follow the strategies recommended by their team of experts and to invite IRENA representatives to all future meetings of the ECE.

An important note about IRENA is that it primarily focuses on renewable energy technology, often on a high level, and therefore may not be a perfect fit for less developed Member States or Member States in a transitional period. Therefore, in the interests of these States, NEDCsuggests that ECOSOC consider the creation of a new international organization, similar to IRENA, but with a focus on efficient use of nonrenewable resources. Many Member States rely on nuclear energy, natural gas, and other forms of nonrenewable resources, and it is important to recognize this when pursuing a holistic strategy for sustainable development. Such an organization would be composed of distinct teams of experts for each Member State willing to accept such a team, as well as a few organizational roles to facilitate communication between teams and present to international bodies such as the UNECE.

Members of the Subcommittee acknowledged that IRENA is by no means the only international organization with which UNECE Member States are encouraged to discuss policy approaches.The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Sustainable Energy Association, and numerous others provide success stories, developing research and scholarly articles, and policy recommendations which could certainly be utilized. Regardless of the organizations with which individual Member States choose to partner, it is extremely important that all Member States follow developing research and innovative sustainability practices and policies. With recent advances in communication technology, data analytics, and the availability of scholarly work, every Member State should take initiative to analyze the data and conclusions reached by IRENA, the UNDP, or whichever organizations they choose to follow. Member States that achieve significant breakthroughs in innovation regarding efficiency and allocation in the energy sector may be incentivised through recognition of their achievements.

Furthermore, NEDC suggests that in all future proceedings of the UNECE, IRENA be invited to present on developments in sustainable energy. With 185 states and 95% of UNECE Member States providing funding and receiving advice from IRENA, members of the Subcommittee agreed that their research and advice will serve an important role in the proceedings of future UNECE meetings.

To provide helpful support and ideas to all Member States, NEDC members suggested the creation of a comprehensive database of successful public implementations of sustainable development projects. There are a few similar databases that already exist, but NEDC members agreed that the existing databases are insufficient for meaningful use by UNECE Member States. The UNDP and the FAO both maintain separate databases of sustainable development projects; however, these databases only contain a cursory description of the project, its location, the project?s funding, and a brief overview of the issues which the project addressed. For a database of projects to be successful, members of the Subcommittee agreed that it needs to include detailed information on project resources (monetary, personnel, capital resources, infrastructure, etc), a detailed project timeline, and a final report which overviews the complete implementation of the project from start to finish. NEDC members suggested the funding and implementation of a specialized team to collect data, implement, and market such a database. The NEDC representatives further encouraged each willing Member State to provide a point of contact within their state to work with such a team. Representativesemphasized that this point of contact should be able to provide detailed project information the the specialized team.

Deliberations of the Innovation and Education Subcommittee

Members of the Subcommittee on Innovation and Education (CIE) began their deliberations by recognizing that, besides investments and individualized sustainable energy implementation research, that it is incumbent upon United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Member States to encourage the development of safe and effective sustainable energy infrastructures. The Subcommittee came to the consensus that education and the enrichment of existing energy-related technologies are both vital to such efforts.

Several members of the CIE also posited that, in accordance with Commission's deliberations about energy efficiency, education of the general public on the use of sustainable energy is central to facilitating a transition towards sustainable energy. The Subcommittee thus agreed that advising local governments to launch sustainable energy awareness campaigns and to collaborate with education-related organization within the United Nations, such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to implement these educational campaigns. Several representativeswithin the Subcommittee stressed thateducation inevitably leads to increased innovation and improvement of existing technology – many representatives articulated their strong agreement with this idea. A few representatives claimed that, in order to facilitate innovation of any kind, Member Statesmust maintain a fundamental base education level. Some representatives disagreed, arguing that education is not necessary

in order to harness new technologies. A few delegates discussed the ways in which partnerships between educational institutions across all UNECE Member States may help foster sustainable energy related education. Members agreed that there are a variety of ways to do this, but one method might include an information exchange program between both educational institutions and research groups, resulting in the more widespread dissemination ideas than would otherwise be possible.

Some representatives proceeded to highlight the importance of encouraging states to finance education for individuals serving in the armed forces. Some representatives expanded upon this idea by recommending across-the-board government subsidies for education. Further elaboration was requested on that statement, to which the representatives explained that there should be specific programs: scholarship programs and internship programs for students from developing Member States to go to developed Member States and ultimately bring their knowledge back to their home states. Additionally, some members of the Subcommittee argued that there should be a special provision in these scholarships that requires students work in their home country. After these discussions, some representatives raised the issue of funding. In response, several representativespointed out that the Subcommittee can encourage that the Commission to recommend sources for the funding of private institutions. All members of the Committee agreed that it is in every UNECE Member States interest to have an educated populace. Representatives within the Committee inquired as to where exactly individuals seeking the aforementioned educational opportunities would acquire said opportunites. A representative noted that Saudi Arabia is an example where this sort of scholarship thrives, but that it is an oil-rich nation, questioning whether other nations be able to afford this sort of thing.

The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of writing a draft resolution. With widespread support from essentially all parties, the Subcommittee agreed that some resolution on the topic of education should be drafted. One representative recommended asking the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) to investigate the possibility of creating various internships and scholarships that would encourage citizens of UNECE Member States to acquire sustainable energy focused educations. The same representative recommended implementing sustainable energy awareness campaigns across UNECE Member States that would educate populations as to why exactly states must begin to abandon their fossil fuel industries. Members of the Subcommittee overwhelming responded that awareness campaigns should be implemented.

Adoption of the Report

At its meeting on 22 November 2016, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Comission considered the report, with three resolutions, and with two amendments, adopted the draft report by consensus.