



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE



Joint UNEP and UNECE Expert Meeting on Energy Subsidies

15-16 November 2007
International Environment House I, Room 2
Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland

Draft Agenda

THURSDAY, 15 November

12:30 Registration and Lunch

14:00	Welcome and Opening
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Welcoming Remarks

Hussein Abaza, Chief, UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB)

14:15	SESSION 1: Introduction and Taking Stock Facilitator: Charlotte Griffiths, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division
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A lot of work on energy subsidies has been conducted in the past and a number of new initiatives have been designed or launched. This session serves to share these experiences and report on recent activities. Participants will briefly introduce: a) who they are; b) which organization they are associated with; c) and the relevant activities they are involved with. Participants are expected from the following organizations: CIEL, Earth Track, ICTSD, IEA, IISD, IMF, REC, Remnin University of China, TERI, the World Bank, URC, WTI, and others.¹

1. Tour de Table: Who Is Doing What on Energy Subsidies?

2. UN Perspectives on Energy Subsidies

UNEP's Work and Perspectives on Energy Subsidies

Anja von Moltke, UNEP ETB

Jyoti Painuly, UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (URC)

UNECE's Guidelines for Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies

Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

UNDP's Focus on the Social Dimensions of the Energy Subsidy Issue

Kamal Rijal, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Discussion

17:45	Summary of Day 1 Facilitator: Sheng Fulai, UNEP ETB
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FRIDAY, 16 November

09:00 **SESSION 2: International Context for Energy Subsidy Discussions**
Facilitator: Benjamin Simmons, UNEP ETB

This session will relate the issue of energy subsidy to major international frameworks and processes focusing on UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as WTO rules and agreements. The two presentations will provide a basis for subsequent discussion.

An Overview of International Mechanisms for Addressing Energy Subsidies
Nathalie Bernasconi, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

WTO Provisions and Implications for Energy Subsidies
Sadeq Bigdeli, World Trade Institute (WTI)

Discussion

10:15 **SESSION 3: Identifying Gaps and Constraints**
Facilitator: Doug Koplow, Earth Track

This session will identify major gaps and constraints regarding the work on energy subsidies. Issues that will be highlighted include energy security, efficiency, environmental and health standards, poverty and equity, etc. The presentations and discussion should lead to identification of major gaps in both analytical and process terms (e.g. data systems, reporting, stakeholder consultations, and public support).

IISD's Global Subsidy Initiatives
Ronald Steenblik, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) – Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI)

IEA's work on energy subsidy related issues
Trevor Morgan, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 **SESSION 4: Ways forward**
Facilitator: Jean-Christoph Füeg, Swiss Federal Office of Energy

This discussion session will define the scope for common efforts to move the work on energy subsidies forward. Discussions are expected to result in a list of activities that could be collectively implemented with a preliminary indication of major contributors.

17:00 **Summary and Closing of Meeting**
Hussein Abaza, UNEP ETB

¹ Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (URC), World Trade Institute (WTI)