



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21)

##### Third session

Geneva, 24 April 2012

## Report of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 on its third session

### I. Attendance

1. Representatives of 14 member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) attended the session: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
2. Representatives of Thailand participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.
3. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Agency (IAEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), the African Biofuel & Renewable Energy Fund (ABREF), European Union, the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) participated in the meeting.

### II. Opening of the session

4. The meeting was opened by the Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division. He noted that GEE21 Expert Group is very important group for ECE and other UN Regional Commissions (RCs) and very effective and useful platform to exchange experience, promote cooperation and collaboration among all UN RCs. He also informed participants that this year there is on-going review of the reforms of 2005 of the UN ECE and there is an informal intergovernmental dialogue to reach a consensus for the overall programme on energy. As long as the process is incomplete the Secretariat has been

requested by the European Union and its member States to not adopt conclusions and recommendations during the energy efficiency meetings that might interfere with the process.

### **III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

5. The agenda was adopted as contained in the document ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/GE.2/2012/1.

### **IV. Election of officers (agenda item 2)**

6. The Group of Experts noted that Mr. Dominique Le Masne (France) has stepped down as the Chair of the Group of Experts because he has assumed a new position in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France. Mr. Robert Tromop, head of energy efficiency unit, IEA was proposed by Kazakhstan and Belarus as the new Chair. No other candidates were proposed.

7. Mr. Tromop welcomed this nomination and expressed his interest and enthusiasm to be a Chair but mentioned that he needs to get approval from IEA management before assuming the Chair's responsibility. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Thierno Bocar Tall, Vice-Chair of the GEE21 Group of Experts.

### **V. Recent developments in the Global Energy Efficiency 21 project (GEE21) (agenda item 3)**

8. The secretariat reported on the GEE21 activities undertaken since the second session (Geneva, 18 April, 2011): participation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Energy Efficiency Forum; preparation of the project documents for the approved United Nations Development Account (DA) project "Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development"; preparation and implementation of the project "Analysis of Advanced Technologies in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Framework of the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project and Preparation of Recommendations on its Application with Special Emphasis on Central Asian Region"; work on the initiative launched by the Secretary-General of the UN to achieve three global objectives by 2030 - universal access to modern energy services, doubling the rate of global improvement in energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

### **VI. Statements of the regional representatives of the GEE 21 project - Regional dimensions of the Global strategy on energy efficiency market formation (agenda item 4)**

9. Statements were made by representatives of the UN Regional Commissions, international organizations, Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as follows: Ministry of Energy of Thailand, ESCAP, ECLAC, UNECE, UNF, OSCE, IISD, and Gosstandard of Belarus.

10. The discussions emphasized the importance and necessity of the development of the regional dimension of the global strategy on energy efficiency market formation as there

are large differences between regions, countries of one region, and even provinces of one country.

11. A representative of Thailand presented regional dimensions of the global strategy for Asian-Pacific region. He emphasized notable energy efficiency measures for market transformation and projections on energy efficiency improvements. As a conclusion, he stressed that UN may play a role to consolidate and strengthen the efforts to promote energy efficiency with specific targets in low-income countries.

12. A representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean presented an overview of ECLAC recent activities on energy efficiency. Also he presented an implementation plan of the DA Project to be executed by all UN RCs under the GEE21 framework. It was noted that ECLAC has learned much from the UNECE and its excellent initiatives such as the GEE21.

13. A representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific emphasized expected accomplishments in Asia-Pacific region related to energy efficiency measures. He also presented an implementation plan of the DA Project to be executed by all UN RCs under the GEE21 framework. The representative congratulated UNECE for the approval of this DA project with note that the selection process is very competitive and UNECE reached big achievement.

14. The presentation on UNECE experience of training seminars on business planning of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects was done by a representative of the Economic Commission for Europe. This experience will be used by UNECE for the implementation of new DA project and can be shared with all UN RCs.

15. A representative of the International Institute for Sustainable Development presented Lessons learnt by the Global Subsidies Initiative from investigating energy producer subsidies. She emphasized the need of consistent monitoring and evaluation of the existing energy subsidies against their stated policy objectives. She also provided examples of various newly introduced energy subsidies, including the top 10 largest federal subsidies to upstream oil and gas activities in Russia.

16. A representative of OSCE noted that his organization takes a comprehensive view of the security aspects of energy. He mentioned OSCE's programmatic activities, which involve countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It was noted that the OSCE would continue to work with specialized energy-related organizations, including those of the Vienna Energy Club and organizations located outside of Vienna, including the Energy Charter Secretariat, the International Energy Agency (IEA), UNECE and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

17. A representative of the UN Foundation presented "A Global Policy Advocacy Initiative to Accelerate the Deployment of Energy Efficiency" - a new initiative to be implemented under the UNECE leadership. He described a progress made on fundraising and gave a background on Energy for All initiative. It was noted that UNF is encouraging UN to be involved in energy issues more actively and UNECE is a unique UN agency because it has energy related mission for a long time while other UN agencies have more modest record on energy problems.

18. A representative of the Republic of Belarus described energy efficiency policies in the country, including national strategies, institutional and regulatory frameworks, the balance of renewable energy sources, investment in energy efficiency, cooperation with international organizations.

## **VII. Presentations by the Government representatives and experts (agenda item 5) – session on energy efficiency issues in Central Asia**

19. A representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan presented potential for renewable energy technologies in the country. He thanked the Government of the Russian Federation for its financial support of the GEE21 project and current subproject aimed at Central Asian countries and pointed out that the UNECE's GEE21 project makes great contribution to the development of energy efficiency and renewable sources in the region.

20. A representative of the Republic of Tajikistan described energy efficiency measures undertaken by the government in various sectors of economy. He also presented national energy policies, potential for interregional energy cooperation and plan of energy sector development. It was stressed that existing national hydro power potential can be realized in order to meet not only national power demands but also demands of neighbouring countries and first of all Afghanistan.

21. The prospect for the development of energy saving and energy efficiency in the Kyrgyz Republic was presented by a representative of Kyrgyzstan. He described the structure of fuel and power resources consumption, national energy policies and regulatory framework, energy intensity issues, energy saving and renewable energy potential.

22. A representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan presented status of the energy sector in the country. He described national energy policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks, the balance and potential of renewable energy sources, including biofuel, solar, wind and hydro energy. He stressed that while Uzbekistan has great hydro potential, the country intends to increase capacity of hydro power plants not through new major construction but through modernization of existing capacities.

## **VIII. Presentations by the Government representatives and experts (agenda item 5) – session on UNIDO's Industrial Report.**

23. A representative of UNIDO made a presentation on UNIDO's Industrial report 2011 – Industrial Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Wealth Creation. It included energy intensity trends, industrial energy efficiency dividends, energy efficiency policies for developing countries at national and global level, and support material.

24. The discussion of the Report involved interventions by the representatives of UNF, IAE, and Bulgaria. They thanked UNIDO for comprehensive and impressive report. They also noted that this report is the first work on energy efficiency issues in industry focused on countries outside of OECD. Three key messages have been noted: industry remains among most energy intensive sectors; potential for further investment to energy efficiency in industry is rather high; investment in energy efficiency in industry makes financial sense although there are still a lot of barriers to be overcome.

## **IX. Other business (agenda item 6)**

25. During the meeting representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and UNF repeatedly stressed the need to adopt conclusions and recommendations. Participants requested the Secretariat to find some forms to express factual events of the session. The secretariat proposed and was supported by the participants on the idea of preparation of a report to summarize and reflect on the

discussion, which took place during the session. As needed the group of experts could recommend future activities for consideration by member States.

26. Participants expressed gratitude to the Russian Federation for financial support of the GEE21 project and requested the EU to provide funds for energy efficiency activities.

27. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for support in implementation of the GEE21 project. Under UNECE leadership the project had established a strong network and developed active cooperation among all UN RCs. The latter play a major role in promoting and enhancing cooperation between their member states, particularly in experience sharing, implementing best practices, and transferring technology.

## **X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)**

28. The Group of Experts decided that the secretariat would finalize a draft report of the session based on the discussion. The report on the session will be circulated among participants, member States' Geneva missions, and the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

## **XI. Dates of next meeting (agenda item 8)**

29. The GEE21 Expert Group Bureau meeting is scheduled to be held on 1–2 October 2012 in Geneva.

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