

Background on implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017

Under the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017, the Group of Experts was requested to undertake a number of activities. In accordance with the Work Plan, the following has been achieved:

(a) The publication “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency” (ECE/ENERGY/100) continued to be disseminated. Additional exemplars of successful high impact policies and measures that policy makers can use in developing energy efficiency policies and programmes in their countries were provided in the Annex “Best practices in energy efficiency: high impact policies and measures” to the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2016/6 “Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency”. Exchange of know-how and best practices was conducted at the Workshop on promoting energy efficiency in Azerbaijan and other countries of the region (Baku, 19 October 2016). A brochure “Experience in the Europe & CIS Region with Clean Energy” was published jointly by UNECE, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as one of the outcomes of the Workshop.

(b) The Group of Experts contributed significantly to the organization of the Seventh and Eighth International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku (18-21 October 2016) and Astana (11-14 June 2017, in conjunction with the Energy Ministerial Conference) respectively. A number of workshops on energy efficiency were held in the framework of these fora (see other paragraphs).

(c) The Group of Experts supported organizing a series of workshops that aim to reconsider how to develop industrial energy efficiency policies through a bottom-up approach, which is an important step in identifying and overcoming barriers. Two workshops on improving energy efficiency in the industry sector were held in Geneva, 18 January 2017 (Policy Maker Meets the Engineer) and in Astana, 13 June 2017 (Creating Business Case for the Industrial Energy Efficiency). Main obstacles to implementing energy efficiency measures in industry and potential solutions have been identified.

(d) Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the UNECE Region for 2016-2017 has been established by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Housing and Land Management. Two co-chairs were elected from both Committees. Extra-budgetary project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings” has been approved by EXCOM on 24 March 2017, and work under the project is to be started in July 2017. Draft Framework Principles for Building Standards have been developed and presented to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Two workshops on energy efficiency in buildings and cities were held in Astana: Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Framework Guidelines (12 June 2017) and Towards Smart Sustainable Cities – Integrated Approaches (14 June 2017)

(e) Report “Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency. Background paper on energy efficiency programmes operated by a Swiss utility” has been prepared. The Group of Experts noted that utilities and energy service companies will play a significant role in the transition to clean energy system of the future and that the focus needs to shift to new business models that are customer and service oriented, greenhouse gas emissions controls, affordability and reliability.

(f) The Group of Experts supported a policy analysis on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency conducted jointly with the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency. The report *Overcoming Barriers to Investing in Energy Efficiency*, which includes the analysis of the results of the survey on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency, has been prepared.

(g) The Group of Experts collaborated with the other United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank, the International Energy Agency, and the International Renewable Energy Agency on the 2017 edition of the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Global Tracking Framework, with a particular focus on indicators of progress in energy efficiency. The Global Tracking Framework report launched in April 2017 includes a chapter with the Regional Profile of the UNECE region.

(h) The Group of Experts contributed to the World Bank report *Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE 2016)* on energy efficiency pillar.

(i) The Group of Experts contributed to the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 on the Energy Efficiency chapter.

(j) The Group of Experts facilitated engagement of national and local governments, private sector and other stakeholders in the Accelerator Platform. Workshop “Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform and Progress in Accelerating Industrial Energy Efficiency. Business and policy value through Energy Management Systems in industry” was held in Baku, 19 October 2016.