



First Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

30-31 October 2017

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room VIII

BACKGROUND NOTE

In the UNECE region, buildings are responsible for approximately one third of total energy consumption and account for almost 40 per cent of CO₂ emissions from combustion. Standards are an effective instrument for addressing energy efficiency in buildings and to support the achievements of the targets set by several international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals related to energy and housing, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, the New Urban Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. All these commitments stress the importance of energy efficiency to ensure energy security, mitigate greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and provide access to affordable energy for all.

In March 2015, the secretariats of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy sent a [questionnaire](#) to member States with the aim to identify areas and activities in the field of building standards and regulations where the UNECE could support member States. The results of the survey suggested that UNECE should focus on the following areas:

- Thermal performance of buildings and their building components
- Construction materials
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

The two Committees organized Expert Consultation on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in April 2015 to discuss the results of the survey and the way ahead. The participants recommended establishing a Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, which would include member States and the main stakeholders in the sector. At the respective annual sessions of the two Committees in 2015, the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force were approved and the Joint Task Force was established.

The first meeting of the Joint Task Force has been organized with the financial support from the project funded by the Governments of Denmark and the Russian Federation. The meeting's objectives are to operationalize the Task Force and to discuss the approaches and preliminary results of a study on mapping existing energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region, which is the first output of the project. The Joint Task Force will also discuss and agree on the proposed activities until 31 December 2018.

The meeting will be held back-to-back with the [Fourth Session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency](#) on 31 October-1 November 2017.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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