



Economic Commission for Europe**Committee on Sustainable Energy****Twenty-eighth session**

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Item 7(a) of the provisional agenda

Regional outreach and collaboration activities:**Regional advisory services and outreach activities****Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The regional advisory services in sustainable energy are provided in accordance with the Guidelines of the Regional Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC). Its objective, in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, is to support, through the transfer of knowledge and expertise, countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop the capacity to achieve internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits. There are 17 ECE member States¹ eligible to receive regional advisory services. In this context, technical cooperation is a core component of ECE's support to member States for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The regional advisory services complement and reinforce the regular and extrabudgetary programmes.

2. Description of operational activities under the regional advisory services is provided in the document Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy (ECE/ENERGY/2018/9) presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-seventh session in September 2017.

3. The regional advisory services are in line with the Programme of Work for 2018-2019 of the sustainable energy subprogramme² and support the work of subsidiary bodies of the Committee. Regional adviser works in cooperation with the focal point on RPTC in the Housing and Land Management Subprogramme, in particular in energy efficiency in buildings, as this area is under the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings established jointly by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

4. The regional adviser is working in close cooperation with colleagues in the Division Sustainable Energy Division (SED), other ECE Divisions, other UN Regional Commissions,

¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

² Draft programme of work for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Sustainable Energy Subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/11/Rev.1)

organizations of UN system, international and national organizations in support of needs of countries eligible for technical cooperation activities based on demand expressed by countries.

5. During the period under review, technical assistance was provided to countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

6. In the period under review (October 2018 - September 2019), the following projects were managed by the regional adviser:

(a) Extrabudgetary project Promoting the application of high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (funded by BSEC) – completed in 2018;

(b) Extrabudgetary project Enhancing national capacities for development and implementation of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region (funded by the Russian Federation); this project is linked with extrabudgetary project Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (funded by Denmark) managed by the Forests, Land and Housing Division; and

(c) United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); ECE – lead agency.

II. Key regional advisory services (October 2018 - September 2019)

7. Outreach and engaging partners have been a focus of efforts of the regional adviser in the period under review. Internally, Forests, Land and Housing Division was the main partner for several joint activities. Externally, it was possible to leverage limited RPTC funds by working actively with and attracting in-kind contributions from the following international organizations, governments, and academic institutions: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Habitat, Energy Community, Energy Charter, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, Governments of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine, Pennsylvania State University, and the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University.

A. Capacity-building activities

8. The regional adviser organized several capacity-building workshops in the framework of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 13-15 November 2018, Kyiv (Kiev), Ukraine: (1) Workshop Making Industrial Energy Efficiency the New Normal; (2) Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Buildings - Fourth Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings; and (3) Workshop on the Role of Utilities, Big Data and Geo-Spatial Data in Energy Transition. Summaries of the workshops are presented in the Summary of the Forum: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/eneff/9th_Forum_Kiev_Nov.2018/9.ForumSummary_28_March.pdf. Over 100 delegates participated in the workshops, including from the following RPTC-eligible countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Republic of North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The workshops were organized in partnership with (1) UNIDO and Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency and (2) ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, and Pennsylvania State University. The International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development is a unique mechanism that allows to bring participants from member States of the UN Regional Commissions, including the majority from countries eligible for technical cooperation, and provide capacity-building activities and peer learning on a variety of topics in the energy area. Having several capacity-building workshops at the Forum allowed to

maximize synergies both among these workshops and between them and other plenary sessions and workshops at the Forum.

9. The following capacity-building workshops were organized by the regional adviser jointly with the Housing and Land Management Unit of the Forests, Land and Housing Division: (1) Workshop United Smart Cities: implementing smart sustainable cities approaches worldwide in the framework of the Business for Smart Cities ExpoCongress, 29 January, Kyiv (Kiev), Ukraine; (2) Workshop Outcomes of the ECE project on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings - Fifth Meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the framework of Joint UNECE and UNDP events Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies in Buildings in UNECE Region, 14 March 2019, Yerevan, Armenia; (3) Training Workshop on housing management and energy efficiency in buildings. Promoting Sustainable Development Goals on Urban Development Housing and Land Management in the Republic of Belarus, 21-24 May 2019, Minsk, Belarus.

10. At workshop (1), the regional adviser organized session Improving energy efficiency in buildings and neighbourhoods to promote smart sustainable cities. Representatives of Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of North Macedonia, and Ukraine participated in this capacity-building activity (total number of participants – 46). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50917>. At workshop (2) main outcomes of the ECE projects on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings were presented. Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, and Uzbekistan participated in the event (total number of participants – 52). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51247>. At workshop (3) the regional adviser organized, jointly with UNDP, session Green urban development, Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine participated in the training workshop (total number of participants – 52). In addition to UNDP, UN Habitat, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Energy Charter were partners in organizing the event. Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51412>.

11. Workshop on Energy Performance Buildings (EPB) Standards was co-organized with the Energy Community Secretariat on 12 April 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia learned about EPB Standards supporting the implementation of the European Union (EU) Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), experience of Ukraine in implementation of some of these standards, work of ECE on developing Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and on mapping of energy efficiency standards and existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE Region (total number of participants – 30). The training and presentations were followed by peer-learning discussion on applicability of EPB standards in the context of eastern partnership countries. Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51632>.

12. The regional adviser co-organized with colleagues from the ECE SED Capacity-Building Workshop Promoting Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia on 15 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop followed up on the previous capacity-building activities in Bishkek in July 2018 and in Kyiv (Kiev) in November 2018. This workshop supported SED work on Pathways to Sustainable Energy (see ECE/ENERGY/2019/1) and gave opportunity to participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to share key insights from subregions, provided policy recommendations on how ECE region can attain sustainable energy. It also served as a peer-learning exercise on how to develop national action plans based on possible pathways to sustainable energy (total number of participants – 42). Experts came to a conclusion that subregional deep dives in the future work on Pathways to Sustainable Energy would be beneficial in particular to countries with economies in transition. Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51113>.

13. The regional adviser co-organized with UNIDO Workshop Promoting Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries on 27-28 May 2019 in Kyiv (Kiev), Ukraine. The workshop served as the first meeting of the ECE Task Force on

Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE Task Force). Representatives from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of North Macedonia, and Ukraine participated in the capacity-building event (total number of participants – 93). The workshop focused on advancing engagement between energy intensive companies and policy makers so that policy developments can be adequately adapted to industry’s business needs, while still aiming to achieve progressive national energy efficiency targets. The objective of the workshop was to demonstrate through peer-learning and exchange of experience how taking into consideration perspectives of the policy end-user (the company) concerning technical, business and confidence challenges can help provide valuable input into effective policy developments. Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51482>.

14. The regional adviser co-organized with the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University (NNSTU) Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Industrial and Buildings Sectors in the framework of the Conference Economic Aspects of the Energy Efficiency of EU Countries, 9-10 July 2019, Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation. The workshop provided an opportunity for peer-learning and exchange of experience between EU countries and countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia in improving energy efficiency. Participants from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Uzbekistan presented information on the developments in energy efficiency in industrial and buildings sectors in their countries and participated in peer-learning round table on application of experience of EU countries in financing and implementing energy efficiency, exchanging information on best practices and challenges with colleagues from Bulgaria, Greece, Germany, and Sweden (total number of participants – 50). Workshop materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51973>.

B. Field projects

16. The regional adviser completed project Promoting the application of high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in December 2018. The project was funded by the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF) of BSEC. The project was implemented in the framework of activities of the ECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. It provided support for training of policy makers and professionals (including future trainers in their respective countries) on the application of advanced (high-performance) energy efficiency standards, technologies and practices in buildings. The training programme was designed and implemented with the help of highly qualified consultant who developed training materials and conducted training seminar for 55 experts (government officials, representatives of building industry, academia, architects, and other stakeholders) from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Republic of North Macedonia, and Uzbekistan in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation on 5-7 September 2018. The outcome of the project is improved knowledge and enhanced capacity of policy makers and professionals in the building sector on the use of advanced (high-performance) energy efficiency standards, technologies and practices, which would allow increasing energy efficiency of both new and retrofitted buildings in their countries. Based on the outcomes of the training, representatives of several countries requested organization of similar training seminars in their countries. These requests served as a basis for developing a project proposal that would respond to the expressed demand from the countries. Full content of the training course and materials from the training seminar are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48997>.

17. The regional adviser manages project Enhancing national capacities for development and implementation of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region. The project is funded by the Russian Federation. The project is linked with extrabudgetary project Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (funded by Denmark) managed by the Forests, Land and Housing Division. Two workshops under the project are reported in paras. 8-10 of this report. The main outcomes of the two projects are Study on Mapping Energy

Efficiency Standards and Technologies in Buildings in the UNECE Region; Study on Mapping of Existing Technologies to Enhance Energy Efficiency in Buildings in the UNECE Region; Compendium of best practices on standards and technologies for energy efficiency in buildings in the UNECE region and established network of experts on energy efficiency in buildings. Expected accomplishments under the project have been achieved: (1) Improved knowledge of ECE member States of the energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region; (2) Enhanced network of experts from public and private sectors on energy efficiency standards for buildings in the ECE region; and (3) Increased understanding of ECE member States of the existing and new technologies to achieve energy efficiency in buildings. Studies and other activities under the project are posted at: <http://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/energy-efficiency/activities/energy-efficiency-in-buildings.html>. The project is currently undergoing evaluation according to ECE procedures.

18. The regional adviser manages project Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The project is funded by UNDA. The project is implemented in cooperation with ESCAP (ECE – lead agency). Status of project implementation in the previous period was reported in the previous Report on regional advisory services in sustainable energy (ECE/ENERGY/2018/9). In the period under review, a synthesis report Analysis of National Case Studies based on the national reports on five project countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan) has been prepared by an international consultant. National consultants have started working on developing draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP) in the project countries. The regional adviser held advisory missions to Azerbaijan (Baku, 19-21 June 2019), Belarus (Minsk, 21-23 May 2019), Georgia (Tbilisi, 11-12 April and 22-25 June 2019), and Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan, 26-28 June 2019) in support of this activity. The main objective of these missions was to discuss the process of developing draft NSEAPs with relevant authorities in the countries with the purpose of increasing probability of the formal approval of NSEAP by the Governments. It was emphasized that NSEAP has to be coordinated with other strategies and programmes existing in the countries or in the process of being developed, including those with assistance from other international organizations. The scope of NSEAP has been broadened compared to the initial context of the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) initiative to include targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and take into account its interlinkages with other SDGs. Final validation workshop under the project is under preparation. Workshop National Sustainable Energy Action Plans – from Commitments to Actions will be held on 8 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. Project materials are available at: <http://www.unece.org/info/open-unece/pmt/regular-budget/1617x-sustainable-energy-for-all-se4all-in-eastern-europe-the-caucasus-and-central-asia.html>.

C. Other technical assistance activities

19. The regional adviser combined capacity-building activities with advisory missions in Kyiv (Kiev), 29-31 January 2019 and 24-28 May 2019; in Tbilisi, 11-12 April 2019, and in Minsk, 21-23 May 2019. The regional adviser participated in the World Smart Energy Summit, Moscow, 26-27 March 2019 as a keynote speaker at the opening session and a speaker at one of the parallel sessions. He was instrumental in providing recommendations of speakers from ECE member States to the organizers for various conference panels. He also had meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation and the project manager of BSPPF regarding potential extrabudgetary projects to be implemented by ECE SED. The regional adviser participated in the Workshop on validation of unified methodology for assessing potential of wind and solar energy in the CIS countries organized by SED colleagues and UNDP in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 26-27 June 2019 in conjunction with his advisory mission to Nur-Sultan.

D. Future regional outreach, partnerships, fundraising and other activities

20. The regional adviser is engaged in maintaining and expanding partnerships with other organizations of the UN system and other international organizations. The regional adviser is working, in close cooperation with ESCAP, other UN Regional Commissions, SED colleagues and other international organizations, on preparation of capacity-building events in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Bangkok on 7-8 October 2019. The regional adviser is working with colleagues from SED and other Divisions, in particular, Environment Division and Forests, Land and Housing Division on developing project proposals for extrabudgetary projects. The regional adviser actively participates in the work of the ECE Working Group on Technical Cooperation (WGTC). The regional adviser is exploring with representatives of several BSEC member States (that are also ECE member States) potential for investment projects in the area of energy to be financed by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB). Work of the regional adviser will continue to be based on demand from member States and in support of the Programme of Work of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme. Assistance to countries to achieve progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular targets of SDG 7, remains the focus of regional adviser's activities at the country and regional level, subject to availability of resources.
