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SIXTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Summary

Yerevan, Armenia

29 September - 2 October 2015

The Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Yerevan, Armenia, on 29 September - 2 October 2015. The Forum was organized jointly by the Government of Armenia, the United Nations Regional Commissions (the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Armenia, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), and became one of the important events of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) 2014-2024. Over 260 delegates from 38 countries attended the Forum.

The Forum has become an annual event after the first International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (originally International Energy Efficiency Forum) was held in 2010 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Subsequent Forums were held in 2011 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, at the Issyk Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan in 2012, in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2013 and in Hammamet, Tunisia in 2014. The Fifth Forum in Hammamet became a global event with all five United Nations Regional Commissions as co-organizers. At the Fifth Forum in 2014, the Hammamet Declaration – a Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions – was signed. It is a call for action to their respective member States, highlighting in particular three key components: a) Energy efficiency in most countries needs to improve more quickly; b) Renewable energy policies need to be redesigned; and c) Equitable access to modern energy services requires mobilizing adequate resources.

The Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development looked at the practical ways to make the Hammamet Declaration operational and contributed to attaining the three objectives of the SE4All Initiative of the UN Secretary-General by 2030: ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. At the Sixth Forum, the Yerevan Statement of Common Action to initiate implementation of the provisions of the Hammamet Declaration has been adopted. The delegates supported continuation of the Forum as an annual event. Several countries

will look at the possibility of hosting the Forum in 2016. A representative of Kazakhstan proposed organizing the 2017 Forum in Astana in conjunction with EXPO-2017.

All Forum materials are posted on the website <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39915#/>.

Plenary Sessions

Opening Session

The Forum was opened by Mr. Yervand Zakharyan, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Armenia. He highlighted the need to identify challenges and develop agreed solutions, emphasizing contradiction between national policies and real global economic situation. He also noted that the development strategy of Armenia focuses on developing the renewable energy potential, nuclear energy, regional cooperation and integration, diversification of energy mix and implementation of energy efficiency measures.

Representatives of Forum co-organizers made welcoming statements. Mr. Bradley Busetto, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia, confirmed Armenia's large reliance on energy imports that stresses the problem of energy security and need for long-term regulatory regime improvements for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Concerning the latter, he also mentioned that the country actively implements identified best practices, including those in buildings and outdoor lighting. Ms. Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of the ECLAC, in a recorded video-message, called for more proactive participation of international organizations to collectively develop improved solutions that would allow achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and attaining the objectives of the SE4All initiative. Mr. Scott Foster, Director of Sustainable Energy Division of UNECE, emphasized a need to consider overall development of the future energy system and improved energy productivity that would facilitate economic and social well-being for all. Ms. Marina Ploutakhina, Chief of Industrial Energy Efficiency Unit of UNIDO, stated that energy is central to connecting economic and social development. Introducing energy efficiency measures in industry sector will cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve productivity and create jobs. The Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform will provide a standardized menu of policy options and technical support in order to share worldwide experiences and support inclusive sustained growth.

Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, reiterated that the question on how to change the way we consume energy remains. Disruptive changes – such as changes in energy services, energy storage, deployment of renewable energy, and micro-grids – may lead to “technology revolution”. Mr. Tim Farrell, Senior Advisor, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, proposed to the delegates to consider this Forum as a step on the path to the upcoming COP-21 in Paris and to make contribution to facilitating the development of common agreements. Ms. Susana Rojas Williams, Director of International Shelter Initiatives-Global Programs, Habitat for Humanity International, emphasized that achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals is connected to the energy system improvements. She also stressed the need for more robust investments in the residential sector and the promotion of people-public-private partnerships, enhancing the participation of homeowner associations and financial institutions.

High-Level Policy Dialogue

Follow-up to the Hammamet Declaration: Implementing a Common Agenda

The High-Level Policy Dialogue was chaired by Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Armenia Mr. Hayk Harutyunyan and moderated by Mr. Manlio Coviello, Chief, Natural Resources and Energy Unit (ECLAC). Panelists included high-level officials of the government bodies

responsible for energy and sustainable development from Egypt (Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Mahina, Undersecretary of State for Authorities' Follow up, Ministry of Electricity), Jordan (Mr. Mohammed Abdel Fattah Mofleh Al Dabbas, Ministers Advisor for Energy Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources), Kazakhstan (Mr. Askar Tazhiyev, Ambassador-at-Large), and Serbia (Milos Banjac, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Mining and Energy). The United Nations Regional Commissions were represented by Mr. Soteri Gatera, Chief, Industrialization and Infrastructure Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division (ECA), Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Chief, Energy Security and Water Resources Section (ESCAP), Mr. Mongi Bida, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (ESCAP), and Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division (UNECE). The Dialogue was aimed at initiating implementation of the provisions of the Hammamet Declaration. Government representatives talked on commonalities and differences of the approaches, on finding a ground for achieving common objectives while maintaining pathways to individual countries' goals, and on possibilities for collaboration within the United Nations Regional Commissions in the context of the abovementioned agenda.

The Hammamet Declaration is built on rational economic thinking and emphasizes the need to create regulatory regime that puts investments into the right way, involving all stakeholders. The discussion went beyond such issues as electrification, potential for energy efficiency improvements and deployment of renewable energy technologies. Calls for energy data and statistics improvement, development of national sustainable energy plans, diversification of countries' energy mix, promotion of renewable energy technologies, decrease of energy subsidies, strengthening energy infrastructure through enhanced electricity grid interconnection were voiced during the session. The dialogue ranged from debating the obstacles – such as possible negative consequences for vulnerable groups, cost of advanced technologies, and difficulties with technology transfer – to discussing implementation of concrete measures.

The participants agreed that energy underpins all Sustainable Development Goals, being central for achieving them in terms of *inter alia* health, agriculture and education, and leading to improved quality of life in an integrated way. In addition, climate issues, development of a scorecard for countries to report on their achievements, and vulnerability to energy price fluctuations that raises energy security issues were considered as a common ground for collaboration.

It was emphasized that there remains a strong need to build capacity for long-term strategic planning and to exchange experiences and solutions for improving energy efficiency, to encourage project developers to exchange information with international financial institutions, to implement cleaner energy technologies, to demonstrate new technologies and provide technical support in their implementation, to increase the share of renewable energy, to develop unified energy standards and regulatory instruments, to support local research and development and manufacturing of energy efficiency equipment, to develop a set of benchmark indicators, and to improve international collaboration on all levels.

As a way to render Hammamet Declaration operational the Statement of Common Action was proposed for adoption at the Forum, which comprises specific recommended actions and measures identified through analysis of best policy practices and national case studies. Tailored to both national policies and global needs in the post-2015 Development Agenda context, it represents a road map for relevant stakeholders around the globe to support implementation of the Hammamet Declaration. The Forum adopted the Yerevan Statement of Common Action.

Development of policies that support the principles of sustainable development requires strong political will. Therefore the actions listed in the Statement of Common Action need to get endorsement of and ideally leadership from member States of all the United Nations Regional Commissions.

The representative of Kazakhstan mentioned the proposal of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev made at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to open an International Centre for the Development of Green Technologies and Investment Projects in Astana under the United Nations auspices. He stated interest of Kazakhstan to host the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in 2017 in Astana, in conjunction with EXPO-2017 “Future Energy”. The proposal was welcomed by the Forum.

Plenary Session 1

Redefining the Energy System for Tomorrow: Paving the Path beyond Paris

The session chaired by Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE, was focused on defining elements that are part of future energy system, and discovering major drivers and disruptive factors that have the biggest impact on energy system development and shape the future – issues that largely influence the way towards moving from selling energy commodities to selling energy services. The panel, comprised of energy experts from governmental agencies, international organizations and private companies, discussed national, regional and global challenges and ways to overcome them. Dr. Sicheng Wang, Deputy Director of Solar PV Committee, Chinese Renewable Energy Society, Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Director, Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Vivien Foster, Global Lead for Energy Economics, Markets and Institutions, World Bank, Dr. Rafik Missaoui, Director General, ALCOR, Tunisia, and Mr. Patrick Willems, Operations Officer, Europe and Central Asia Department, International Finance Corporation contributed their diverse perspectives to the discussion.

For China, one of the most challenging problems related to energy are air pollution and energy supply security. Under current production rates, coal reserves in the country will run out in 30 years. China sets the objective to transform the energy structure to diversify the energy mix to rely more on renewable – in particular, solar – energy. Energy storage technologies development and building of super-grid are considered to be the most disruptive factors shaping energy system of the future.

An opinion was voiced that under the existing paradigm maximizing profits is more crucial than following the sustainability path. New policies are required to combat climate change, support technology development and introduce new business models. At the same time, they must provide for security of supply and demand.

The issue of financial viability of renewable energy projects was discussed, with the emphasis that it depends on two major drivers – availability of funds and subsidies for fossil fuels. At the same time, recognizing that renewable energy projects implementation must provide for social protection, the participants agreed that the mechanism of energy projects financing might result in raising the bar of energy services availability for vulnerable groups, especially in the developing countries. Negative consequences could be mitigated through anticipatory analysis conducted prior to projects implementation. It was also emphasized that since financing might be available, but not always affordable, the development of efficient delivery mechanisms, credit lines, energy service and utility companies, and products and equipment labeling might be even more important.

Plenary Session 2

Accelerating Energy Efficiency Action and Investment

The session was moderated by Mr. Thibaud Voïta, Programme Officer, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All). Ms. Vivien Foster, Global Lead for Energy Economics, Markets & Institutions, World Bank set the framework for the session by outlining the key findings of the

2015 Global Tracking Framework Report that tracked progress on the three SE4All objectives for 2030: 1) ensuring universal access to modern energy services, 2) doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and 3) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. While the rate of improvement for energy efficiency substantially increased between the 2010 and 2012 period, further acceleration is required to meet the 2030 target. Mr. Tim Farrell, Senior Adviser, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), which serves as SE4All's Energy Efficiency Hub, highlighted a number of international initiatives that presented engagement opportunities for countries to increase action on energy efficiency. The SE4All Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform was established to increase public-private partnerships across a number of sectors including transport and motor fuel efficiency, lighting, appliances and equipment, buildings, district energy, industry, power sector, and finance. Four recent regional reports released by C2E2 highlighted the barriers and opportunities to energy efficiency improvement in 53 countries. Other international activities supporting the improvement of energy efficiency were also presented including various activities of the UN Regional Commission, World Bank's Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE) Initiative and UNEP's Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). Mr. Stefan Buettner, Senior Policy Advisor, International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) presented five energy efficiency investment principles that were developed following broad consultation by the G20-IPEEC Energy Efficiency Finance Task Group. The proposed investment principles provide a voluntary framework for G20 countries to increase energy efficiency investment in their economies and thereby deliver multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.

Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Industrial Development Officer, Industrial Energy Efficiency Unit, UNIDO provided an update on the SE4All Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator that was launched in mid-2015. The collaborative platform and network of businesses, international organizations and NGOs will provide tools, expertise, technical capabilities and financial capacity to partners to accelerate the improvement rate of energy efficiency in large industries and small and medium enterprises in line with SE4All energy efficiency goal. Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias, Director of Adene-Energy Agency, Portugal presented an overview of energy consumption in Portugal and shared a number of successful case studies relating to promoting energy efficiency in the buildings and industrial sectors as well as training of a specialized workforce. Mr. Prasoon Agarwal from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) presented the concept of energy efficiency as a driver of green growth. The Institute provides in-country technical assistance, knowledge and sharing of best practices and helps in the diagnosis, planning and implementation of green growth.

Mr. Robert Tromop presented recent UNECE publication *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency*, which was officially launched at the Forum. The study provides a structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development. The criteria for selecting best practice policies include significant and quantified outcomes, complementarity with other policies, political alignment and marketability with high impact. Mr. Oliver Weissbein, Finance Specialist, Sustainable Energy Unit, UNDP made a presentation (by video link) on de-risking energy efficiency investment drawing on key concepts and experiences of UNDP in supporting developing countries. Access to large quantities of low-cost financial resources was identified as being critical to cost-effective transformation of energy efficiency markets. An example of aggregating energy efficient investments was presented through Uzbekistan's Green Mortgages where aggregators like municipalities, utilities and banks access low-cost forms of capital.

The panelists concluded that there is a need to develop energy management system with commitment to green growth, to encourage 20 high-impact countries to stimulate their energy efficiency

performance, as the global progress on energy savings critically depends on them, and to exchange knowledge on best policy practices assessed through unified and globally agreed methodology.

Parallel Workshops

Regional Forum for National Designated Entities (NDEs) of the CTCN

This workshop was organized by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), in collaboration with UNDP and the government of Armenia, and was held from 29 September to 1 October 2015. The CTCN is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism mandated to support developing countries in deploying technologies that can be used for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for increasing resilience to climate change negative impacts. The event was the second forum of the CTCN for its national focal points, called National Designated Entities (NDEs) from countries in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The workshop was attended by 26 participants from governments and technical institutions, representing nominated NDEs from 12 countries, and by network members working in the region. Resource persons included representatives from the CTCN Consortium partners: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and strategic partners: DNV GL, as well as other partners: representatives from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Private Financing Advisory Network of the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI PFAN), and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21). The CTCN Director participated in the three days of the forum.

The Forum aimed to develop and strengthen the regional network of NDEs and their relationship with other technology stakeholders; share experiences on NDEs set-up and activities at the national level and use of CTCN Technical Assistance; and to facilitate linkages between CTCN technical assistance and financial mechanisms, financiers and institutions that are relevant to climate technologies, with a view to identify matchmaking opportunities to secure funding for follow-up actions to CTCN requests.

The CTCN provides free technical assistance to developing countries at their request, to support the identification, use, deployment and/or transfer of climate technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The CTCN is therefore a country-driven mechanism that aims to deliver fast and specific technical assistance by deploying high quality expertise from its Consortium and its network worldwide. As of today, the CTCN network includes almost 100 organizations with expertise on climate technologies, from developed and developing countries in all regions. Any organization in the country (government, private company, research institution, etc.) can formulate a request to the CTCN, although it needs to be approved and formally submitted by the NDE in the country.

Through the delivery of its services, the CTCN aims to act as a matchmaker between country technology needs and priorities and financing opportunities, including but not limited to international and regional development banks and international funds. CTCN assistance can be instrumental in triggering funding and convincing investors of the value of a project (support to review business plan, conduct prefeasibility study, support technology assessment and testing, coaching support for meeting investors, drafting laws that enable private investments, etc.). To strengthen this support, the CTCN is exploring collaboration with major development banks and financiers.

NDEs, acting as a liaison of CTCN activities in their countries, are the backbone of the CTCN, and success of the activities will also rely on them. At minima, NDE roles are to endorse and submit requests for technical assistance and to monitor the CTCN assistance in the country. NDEs can also promote CTCN

services, provide inputs to plan, coordinate and follow-up implementation, support to get funding for follow-up actions, etc. To ensure success of the assistance and impact in the countries, there are a lot of existing efforts and processes NDEs can build on in their countries, to outreach to relevant stakeholders and identify requests (Climate change and donor committees, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) process, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), etc.). NDEs are also part of the CTCN network and can play an important role in promoting engagement of national organizations in the CTCN network, to enable their involvement in technical assistance and increase South-South collaboration.

Workshop on Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Cities

The workshop held on 30 September was organized jointly by the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit and UNDP Armenia to discuss challenges, experiences and good practices in the UNECE region in promoting more energy efficient and sustainable cities.

The discussion was organized into two thematic panels of two sessions each and was structured as follows:

Panel A. Energy efficiency in buildings

Session 1. Best Practices

Session 2. Approaches of International Partners

Panel B. Energy efficiency in cities: approaches to promote smarter and more sustainable urban development

Session 3. Implementation Approaches

Session 4. Cities Good Practices

The workshop was opened by Ms. Claire Medina, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia who stressed the importance of energy efficiency in buildings and gave an overview of the work of UNDP in Armenia. The importance given to energy efficiency in buildings was pointed out by Ms. Domenica Carriero, Project Manager, UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit who presented outcomes of the recent *Survey on buildings standards and building regulations in the ECE region* and planned activities of UNECE on energy efficiency standards in buildings. According to the survey, the major barriers to energy efficiency in buildings include the lack of information available and the lack of knowledge and skills on the topic. Hence, a proper mapping of existing standards, creation of a database of experts and dissemination of good practices and knowledge transfer will be helpful to overcome these barriers. Furthermore, the survey revealed also the areas which represent a priority for UNECE member States: thermal performance of buildings, construction materials, and minimum habitable standards. Multiple examples presented by representatives of UNDP projects and government officials in several countries – Mr. Vahram Jalalyan, UNDP Armenia, Mr. Kakhramon Usmanov, UNDP Uzbekistan, Ms. Irina Atamuradova, UNDP Turkmenistan, Mr. Vitaly Bekker, UNDP Russian Federation, and Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Department for Energy Efficiency, State Committee on Standardization of the Republic of Belarus – showed that energy efficiency in buildings is considered one of the top priorities in countries with economies in transition and that a lot of work has been done already in this area.

At *Session 2* representatives of international organizations dealing with the topic of energy efficiency in buildings at the international level made presentations. Very interesting approaches to energy efficiency in buildings came from the discussion on the accelerators, and in particular Buildings Energy Efficiency Accelerator in the framework of the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform outlined by Ms. Ksenia Petrichenko, Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency (C2E2). The Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform includes a network of partners and aims at enhancing energy efficiency at the city

level. At the practical level, energy efficiency in buildings can also be achieved by using the standards proposed in the passive house approach presented by Ms. Amina Lang, International Passive House Association (iPHA) or promoting a certification scheme, which introduces digitalization, transparency and accountability in its process, a stronger participation of citizens, and clear information provided by the local authorities as explained by Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias, Director of ADENE- Energy Agency, Portugal. On the financial side, enhancing energy efficiency in buildings needs significant investments. Having a good procedure to screen projects is very important in order to identify those with a higher impact and best cost-benefit ratio as explained by Ms. Tamara Babayan, Director of Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency (R2E2) Fund in Armenia. From a strategic point of view, barriers to energy efficiency in buildings need to be overcome by involving relevant stakeholders and giving them a significant role in the process. Mr. Gyorgy Sumeghy, Advocacy Manager at Habitat for Humanity International presented a new eco-system for energy efficiency investments in residential buildings in Eastern Europe, which involves a transparent and continuous dialogue among national government, municipal authorities, utility companies, banks and other financial institutions, and homeowners associations.

Session 3 was focused on the cities level. Ms. Domenica Carriero, Project Manager, UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit, moderated Sessions 3 and 4. She presented the initiative “United Smart Cities” launched by the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit in May 2014. The presentation was focused on the UNECE-ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Smart Sustainable Cities Indicators. These are the first indicators to evaluate cities both on their smartness and their sustainability. The aim of the initiative is to support transfer of knowledge and good practice on sustainable urban development to cities in countries with economies in transition. The project already involves several pilot cities and intends to deliver, in addition to the indicators, three other main outputs: an online platform, capacity building activities, and the creation of smart cities profiles with recommendations. Mr. Jean-Michel Kasbarian, Head of Cooperation and Cultural Department, Embassy of France in Yerevan, spoke about COP 21, which will take place in December 2015 in Paris. He talked specifically about the Lima-Paris Action Agenda Buildings Day on 3 December. This event will be the first step towards a Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC), a long-term partnership to engage the buildings and construction sector to respond to climate change. It will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of climate issues for the buildings sector, leverage on the global impact of COP 21 for major companies, organizations and other stakeholders, and facilitate a forum through the creation of an Alliance for sustainable buildings.

At the European level, other two big initiatives on sustainable urban development are being carried out. The first one presented by Mr. Manfred Spiesberger, Project Manager of the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna concerns the reinforcement of cooperation of the European Union with Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries on bridging the gap between energy research and energy innovation. It is carried out in several EaP countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, and Republic of Moldova) through a number of activities, which include: analysis and recommendations; brokerage events; clustering; trainings and capacity building; twinning; and innovation vouchers. The second initiative is the Covenant of Mayors presented by Mr. George Abulashvili, Director of the Energy Efficiency Center in Georgia. It is based on a voluntary commitment of municipal councils to improve the quality of life of their citizens by improving energy efficiency and expanding usage of renewable energy. He spoke about the results achieved by the Georgian signatory cities and the financial mechanisms in place to fund municipal projects towards sustainable energy development and climate protection. Ms. Tatiana Vedeneva, President of the Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREEED) in Kyrgyzstan focused on the issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency market in Kyrgyzstan and on closing the gaps in order to promote sustainable urban development.

Discussions at *Session 4* were focused on cities sustainability. Ms. Bethany Speer, Energy Analyst, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), United States reported about the Clean Energy Solutions

Center which supports cities around the world with technical assistance on energy efficiency measures. The concept of “asking an expert” is particularly interesting in this programme. The organization connects the client to a global network of energy experts for personalized attention and quick response technical assistance on strategies, regulations, standards, financial incentives, and deployment programmes for a broad range of clean energy sectors and technologies. Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, Head of Development and Investment Programs, Municipality of Yerevan explained the situation in Yerevan and what has been done to improve its energy efficiency. Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, Climate Change Programme Coordinator, UNDP Armenia focused her presentation on creating enabling policies and market environment for investment in building energy efficiency in Armenia. In particular, she talked about the green urban lighting initiative. Lighting is the second largest source of municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Armenia and there is a significant technical potential for cost-effective improvements. Energy efficient street lights have replaced the old ones in many places resulting in 63% energy savings and reduction of 223.4 t in GHG emissions. Mr. Artan Leskoviku, Head of Energy Efficiency, National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN), Albania presented the Alterenergy Project that has an objective to develop replicable models for sustainable management of energy resources in small Adriatic communities, improving their capacity to plan and manage integrated actions dealing with energy saving and energy production from renewable sources, through a participatory approach that involves local stakeholders and implementation of pilot interventions. The results in ten elementary schools of two regions in Albania have showed high energy saving in thermal insulation (50%) and in lighting (80%); reduction in air pollution and in GHG emissions; and improved comfort in the buildings due to environmentally friendly materials.

The following lessons learned were summarized at the closing of the workshop:

- Energy efficiency is important to achieve energy security and support climate change mitigation and adaptation but generally it is difficult to get funds for it because it is not a “sexy” topic;
- Involving all stakeholders, raising awareness and educating people are driving factors to improve energy efficiency in cities;
- Knowledge transfer and more information can support a broader impact;
- A better cooperation among international organizations in support of decision makers can improve effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts.

Training Course on Business Planning for Renewable Energy Investment Projects

The training course was co-organized by UNECE and ESCWA from 30 September to 1 October 2015. Training Courses on Business Planning for Renewable Energy Investment Projects are among the activities under the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”. The training course was attended by 56 participants (including 6 women) from 28 countries.

The training course was designed to help representatives of private and public companies from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and ESCWA region better prepare and implement renewable energy projects. It also aims at raising awareness about renewable energy investments, including through public-private partnerships, among financing organizations.

The training course was opened by Mr. Oleg Dziubinski, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE who presented outcomes of the recently completed UNDA project “Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development”. Mr. Mongi Bida, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA and Mr. Viktor Badaker, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE delivered detailed information on the current project and in particular on the training goals and expected results.

Several sessions of the training course were led by the training facilitator, Mr. Deltcho Vitchev, an international expert in the area of financing renewable energy projects. He provided information for participants to improve their financial engineering and business planning skills to identify, select and develop renewable energy investment projects and prepare bankable project proposals. Individual consultations to the participants of the training course were provided by Mr. Deltcho Vitchev during the event and will continue in the period between the training course in Yerevan and next training in ESCWA region.

Session 5 *Improving data and information for investment promotion* was moderated by Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE. The first part of the session focused on the renewable energy status report under preparation by UNECE and REN21 presented by Mr. Gianluca Sambucini and Mr. Martin Hullin, REN21. The Status Report highlights the status of renewable energy in 17 countries of South-East Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Those countries are highly promising for the deployment of various kinds of renewable energy technology but are behind many other countries of the world where considerable progress has been achieved. Potential to develop further the renewable energy sources beyond hydropower is shown from data in selected countries. There is additional potential for solar photovoltaic (PV) in all countries, with insolation particularly high in South-East Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and southern regions of the Russian Federation. Onshore wind resources are present in all of the considered countries. Particularly large resources are in Ukraine, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Biomass resources are quite developed in South-East Europe, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation. Concentrating solar power (CSP) has high potential only in the Central Asia region and specific locations in the Russian Federation. In the second part of the session status and solutions for solar PV was discussed. A snapshot of the solar PV market for 2015 and beyond was presented. In another presentation, innovative photovoltaic plants for private consumption were reviewed, with focus on experiences and research results in Switzerland, opportunities for Armenia, and best practice example in the Armenian city of Spitak.

Session 6 *Experience with Renewable Energy Financing Instruments* was moderated by Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, UNECE. It focused on the experience of financing institutions with renewable energy projects. Although the UNECE region shows high share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption, investments into modern renewable energy solutions have been decreasing over the past four years. Attracting investments remains a major issue for renewable energy deployment in the entire UNECE region. Representatives of international financial institutions (IFIs) provided an overview of possible solutions in private sector development that are often supported by advisory services and emphasized the role of IFIs as “matchmakers”. Specific examples in the Russian Federation were provided by Mr. Patrick Willems, IFC. Main challenges were highlighted in terms of complex legislation and regulation, lack of policy and market experts as well as lack of understanding of latest developments of the market. Local expertise and know-how are often not recognized by international actors. There are serious project developer concerns and very often a perception that risks are pretty high, as mentioned by Mr. Karen Arabyan, Energocredit (EBRD ArmSEFF). Among the suggestions provided was the need to tailor support and expertise to conditions on the ground. As a positive example, a USAID-funded Energy Sector Capacity Building (ESCB) Program on Clean Energy Finance Innovation in Jordan was presented by Ms. Mary Worzala, Deloitte.

According to the evaluation conducted at the end of the training course, all participants were satisfied or strongly satisfied with the content and quality of the training. They stated that due to the training course they acquired new skills and knowledge, which they plan to apply in their work.

Workshop on Access to Energy in Remote Areas

The workshop held on 1 October 2015 was organized by UNECE with participation of other partners. It focused on the most effective institutional, legal, financial, technical and other mechanisms to improve energy access, in particular in remote rural areas. Mr. Viktor Badaker, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE moderated the workshop. The workshop was attended by 32 participants (including 10 women) from 17 countries.

Session 1 *Application of clean, renewable and/or alternative energy technologies for rural areas in Central Asian countries* was focused on the main outcomes of the UNECE project “Application of clean, renewable and/or alternative energy technologies for rural areas in Central Asian countries”. National experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan presented national assessments on access to energy services provided by off-grid solutions with the focus on rural and remote areas, and on identifying potential renewable energy sites close to productive use loads in rural and remote areas. UNECE staff member summarized the findings on identified sites and described the selection of a particular site for the development of a prefeasibility study for future implementation as a pilot project. National consultant from Kyrgyzstan presented detailed information on potential project *Production and effective consumption of biogas for agricultural farm near Kant town*. The implementation of the project will be based on utilization of locally manufactured equipment. Its objective is to provide sustainable energy services (heat and electricity supply) for an agricultural farm.

Session 2 *Access to energy in remote areas in other regions* was focused on barriers and solutions for this issue in other (non-UNECE) regions. Representatives from ESCWA and ESCAP presented information on modern energy access in off-grid rural areas in their regions. Expert from Malaysia introduced Accelerating Clean Energy Business Model for Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development in ASEAN countries. A representative of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the United States made a presentation on Energy Access and Gender Mainstreaming – Policy Opportunities. A representative of Chinese Renewable Energy Society made a presentation on Photovoltaic (PV) Market in China and Rural Electrification.

Presentation of publications

On 30 September, at the closing of Day 2 of the Forum, UNDP Armenia presented the recently issued publications. The presentation was led by Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, UNDP Armenia.

The bilingual (Armenian-English) *Green Architecture* textbook describes multiple solutions and approaches contributing to the wider application of green architecture practices in construction. These include renewable energy, passive solutions, energy audit, integrated building design approach, etc. The authors demonstrate interdisciplinary approaches and refer to the latest sectoral developments with references to the latest available publications and online resources. The textbook is intended for a wide range of interested professionals, including architecture and civil engineering faculty and students. The textbook has been developed within the framework of the “Improving Energy Efficiency in Buildings” UNDP-GEF/00059937 project, implemented under the oversight of the Ministry of Nature Protection and Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of Armenia.

Reference book on organizations and services provided in lighting sector of Armenia and *Guidebook on design of the LED street lighting* were also presented.

Presentation of the Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org)

The workshop held on 1 October 2015 was organized by ESCAP. At the event ESCAP presented the newly launched Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org), which has the following objectives:

- To provide a tool that encourages and supports member State actions in the areas of sustainable energy and regional cooperation
- To establish the informational foundation for ongoing dialogues as well as analysis and reporting on energy development within the Asia-Pacific region
- To provide centralized and easy-to-access data and policy information related to the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) outcome documents
- To fulfill the mandate given to the secretariat by ESCAP member States to “review the progress made” in the implementation of the APEF outcome documents
- To serve as a regional component for the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy Global Tackling Framework being developed by the UN Secretariat and the World Bank.

The presentation was followed by the panel discussion with participation of the delegates from India, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, as well the representatives of the World Bank, UNDP, and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The participants gave a high assessment to the work of ESCAP on the Portal and recommended to create a space for national energy statistics and other relevant information provided by the member States. Importance of the mobile application for the Portal was also mentioned. The delegates stressed the importance of keeping the Portal operational and maintaining it and suggested cooperation in its update and maintenance.

Workshop on Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator

The workshop held on 1 October 2015 was organized by UNIDO in cooperation with SE4All Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator partners. Ms. Marina Ploutakhina, Chief, Industrial Energy Efficiency Unit, UNIDO moderated the workshop

At the introductory session of the workshop, representatives of the accelerator co-leads (UNIDO, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and Institute for Industrial Productivity (IIP)) and the SE4All global facilitation team (GFT) delivered statements that emphasized the role of energy in a new era of cooperation for development.

Ms. Marina Ploutakhina, UNIDO indicated that nowadays we see an increasing number of multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together partners towards action. A good example is the SE4All initiative under which the industrial energy efficiency accelerator emerged as a new coalition for action in support of the energy efficiency goal of the SE4All focusing on the industrial sector. Industry was not part of the initial package of accelerators that was launched at the Rio+20 Summit however it is a sector that has a large potential for energy savings. Although energy intensity of the industrial sector has been falling, the current rate of decrease is less than what is required. Accelerator partners believe that the right set of policies can help move this forward. Therefore the accelerator targets industries responsible for 50% of total energy consumption in the industrial sector.

Mr. Thibaud Voita, Programme Officer, Energy Efficiency, SE4All provided an overview of the SE4All initiative and emphasized the importance of the industrial sector in delivering energy efficiency in support of the SE4All goals. Ms. Meaghan Phelan, IIP added that multiple benefits can add 50% on top of the economic benefits and that adds on to the projected impacts of the accelerator. She explained that the role of the accelerator is to leverage existing efforts and expertise of energy

and industry to achieve deeper and bigger results on a global scale. Mr. Girish Sethi, TERI explained that the industry accelerator is one of the most complex ones as industry is divided into numerous sectors and sub-sectors and within these sub-sectors the size of the industry presents yet another challenge. In India for example, SMEs account for at least 30 to 40% of the energy consumption and the potential for energy savings in SMEs is significant. Energy Management Systems is a prominent tool for achieving improved industrial energy efficiency but so is the skills of the service providers and company personnel.

At Session 2 *Industrial Energy Management Systems and Standards*, Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Industrial Development Officer, Energy Branch, UNIDO, introduced UNIDO's industrial energy management programme, which at present includes a portfolio of projects in 14 countries including South Africa, Egypt, Turkey, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The programme focuses on creating a market for the energy efficiency services by supporting countries in developing an adequate set of policies, building the capacity of technical experts and company staff responsible for energy management while simultaneously implementing pilot projects in the selected industries. She explained the methodology followed by UNIDO in delivering the extensive expert training and the linkage to implementation of pilot projects as part of a practical training. She presented achievements of the programme over the past few years and in particular achievements of the South Africa project and a few case studies from selected industries.

Mr. Joe Almaguer, Dow Chemicals presented the company's experience in implementing energy management. He explained that the turning point for Dow Chemicals was when the company realized the value proposition that energy holds in improving the company's productivity and competitiveness. He added that energy is integrated into the company's vision for sustainability and explained the process and benefits that energy management brought to the company. He highlighted that the senior management commitment is key to the success of an energy management system and displayed the improved energy intensity performance of the company with energy intensity reduction savings of about 6,100 trillion BTUs and USD 29 billion from 1990 to 2014.

Mr. Al-Karim Govindji, Senior Manager, the Carbon Trust introduced the services that the Carbon Trust offers and their role in accelerating sustainable low carbon development particularly in the United Kingdom. He explained how the Carbon Trust worked with companies in the chemicals, refineries, food processing, paper and printing, iron and steel, cement, aluminium, and glass, which account for 51% of the industrial emissions, to deliver energy savings in manufacturing processes of these industries. He described the drivers (increased competitiveness and requirements of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) and barriers (lack of knowledge of innovative measures and non-conducive policies) behind deploying energy efficiency in industry. He presented the industrial accelerator programme implemented by the Carbon Trust in the United Kingdom, which started 13 years ago as a fully Government funded programme that became a self-funded programme at present. The programme covered 14 sectors, over 100 companies and delivered around 30% of the sector's carbon saving potential.

At Session 3 *Industrial Energy Efficiency Policies and Tools*, Ms. Meaghan Phelan, IIP, introduced the building blocks of IIP's policy pyramid: implementation toolbox, supporting measures and effort-defining policies. She presented examples of how energy management transformed United States-based industries such as DuPont and improved their productivity. IIPs work shows that in formulating policy packages, "one size fits all" approach does not work. She presented examples of the policy pyramid and related policy packages for China, United States and Denmark. She also emphasized the importance of government-industry consultations for the success of policies. She concluded that efforts in defining policies and raising awareness are important drivers for energy efficiency in the industrial sector. However the challenge is the need to monitor and evaluate implemented policies in

order to adapt them to the industry needs. Finally it is important to factor in the co-benefits as they add to the economic benefits of energy efficiency.

Mr. Girish Sethi, TERI, presented the significance of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector within the Indian context as it is a sector that employs 100 million people and accounts for 45% of the manufacturing output. It is characterized by clustering as over 200 energy intensive clusters exist around the country. He explained that energy accounts for up to 40% of the production costs of MSMEs particularly in energy intensive sub-sectors such as forging, foundries, glass, and ceramics. Therefore MSMEs hold great potential for energy savings. He outlines the key requirements to accelerate the adoption of low-carbon technologies in MSMEs, which include among others the R&D, demonstration and dissemination of these technologies, capacity building and skill development, and improved access to finance. He presented examples of technologies implemented in MSME clusters in India.

Mr. Stefan Buettner, Head of International Affairs & Strategy, Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production shared insights from the Industry Energy Efficiency Barometer developed and used in Germany as a tool for identifying the overall saving potential, which can be economically tapped. The Barometer has proven to be an important tool to unleash action towards increasing energy efficiency in industry as it shows industries where they stand, informs legislators whether the instruments they have in place are effective, and enables financial institutions to assess the potential and financial requirements. However it does require comparable, objective information to reduce the unknowns and the risks. The Barometer allows the analysis of the variables relevant for the large, medium, small and micro enterprises.

Mr. Stefan Buettner also presented activities of the Energy Management Working Group, which leverages the extensive expertise of its 12 member governments to accelerate the adoption and use of energy management systems such as ISO 50001.

At Session 4 *Expanding international cooperation on industrial energy efficiency*, Mr. Thibaud Voïta, SE4All, presented Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. International partnerships are forming under the SE4All umbrella bringing together 100 Governments, 100 companies and 100 financiers to the COP21 in Paris and supported by over 23 organizations to bring about results in 50 high impact opportunity areas. He presented the Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform, which for the time being consists of a set of 6 sectoral accelerators on lighting, appliances and equipment, vehicle fuel efficiency, buildings, district energy, and industry. Accelerators on financing and power sector will be launched soon. He showed where accelerator activities are implemented around the world and provided examples of what is required to ensure a transition towards energy efficient lighting and appliances.

Ms. Fabienne Babinsky, Accenture, presented (by video) the details of the “We Commit” campaign, which is calling for private sector companies to announce energy efficiency commitments using a set of consistent indicators, setting a baseline and a target. She went through the form that the companies complete online and explained the scope of the commitment and what it entails for the companies to be part of the campaign. The results of this global campaign will be featured during the official Energy Day at COP21 in Paris that will take place on 7 December 2015, which will allow to enhance the visibility of the companies and give them global recognition. It also allows the companies to form partnerships and business opportunities through joining the accelerator platform.

Mr. Etienne Kechichian, IFC, explained the key challenges faced by industry such as the energy security, the firm preferences, and the consumer preferences. He presented IFC’s programme for Climate Efficient industries, which focuses on standards and incentives for industrial equipment, priority sectors such as textiles, cement, as well as “cleantech” and eco-industrial parks, and climate

resilient industries. The portfolio includes 18 active projects, 4 pipeline projects and 2 completed ones. IFC estimates the overall potential of financing energy efficiency with a moderate effort to exceed USD 500 billion per year by 2035. However there are significant challenges for initiating financial mechanisms in developing countries including the political and economic instability, limited liquidity and limited capacity of local financial institutions to finance energy efficiency measures. He discussed green investments that IFC supported between 2005 and 2014 in different sectors and how they are contributing to overcoming the main financial barriers.

Workshop on Status and Best Practices on Energy Efficiency

The workshop held on 1 October 2015 was moderated by Mr. Tim Farrell, Senior Adviser, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2). He presented the four reports released recently by the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, which summarize the barriers to and opportunities for energy efficiency. A total of 53 countries were covered in the four regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, South-East Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Ms. Ksenia Petrichenko, Researcher, C2E2 highlighted some of the key findings from the report on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia that was being officially launched at the Forum. The report maps energy efficiency developments in 10 countries with economies in transition and identifies countries, which can be targeted for accelerating energy efficiency actions. Country rankings were presented across five indicators including national efforts, power and heat, industry, buildings and transportation. Technical, economic and market potential was also presented for each country. A country snapshot of Armenia was presented that showed that while energy intensity had been reduced by 4 percent each year in the period 2000-2012 there was still large untapped energy efficiency potential across the economy.

A recorded presentation by Ms. Ivetta Gerasimchuk, Senior Researcher, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on international experience on energy subsidy reforms for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia was shown. Around 30 countries in the world reformed their subsidies to fossil fuel consumption in 2014-15. The benefits of energy subsidy reforms include budgetary savings, reallocation potential, pollution reduction and climate change. Energy subsidy reform was highlighted as broader cross-cutting issue that requires broad planning and engagement with government, industry, public and other key stakeholders.

Mr. Robert Tromop, Independent Expert talked in detail about the recently issued UNECE publication *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency*, which presents a structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development. The importance of best practice policies and programmes being adjusted to national circumstances was discussed as was the importance of monitoring and evaluation. Examples of best practice policies for households, transport and industry were discussed and participants were encouraged to share their best practice policies. The barriers to energy efficiency faced by countries were discussed including diverse socio-political factors, institutional barriers and underestimated consumer indifference. Capturing the broad range of multiple benefits of energy efficiency was highlighted as being critical for accelerated uptake and expansion of policies and programmes. The workshop also considered how energy efficiency outcomes can be accelerated in countries and noted that the ultimate aim is to improve human welfare, not just reduce energy demand. Marketing energy efficiency requires a well informed and clear strategy that has supportive policies and programmes. Participants actively shared their experiences. Ms. Tatiana Vedeneva, President of the Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREED) provided some perspectives on how these best practices could accelerate energy efficiency in Kyrgyzstan.

In the evaluation all participants agreed that the workshop was useful for countries wanting to accelerate energy efficiency. During the workshop participants indicated a strong demand for more guidance material on how to implement best practice energy efficiency measures.

Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Multi-unit Residential Buildings: Challenges and Solutions in Residential Energy Efficiency in Eastern Europe

The workshop held on 1 October 2015 was organized by Habitat for Humanity Europe Middle East and Africa (HFH EMEA). The workshop builds on the experiences of the Residential Energy Efficiency for Low-Income Households (REELIH) Project funded by USAID. Ms. Susana Rojas Williams, Director, International Shelter Initiatives - Global Programs, HFHI provided opening remarks.

Session 1 *Experience from Armenia based on research and projects/Working with the home owners associations* was moderated by Luiza Vardanyan, Executive Director, HFH Armenia. HFH Armenia shared their experiences based on the REELIH and condominium projects and on the conference they organized previously with the support of the Visegrad Fund. A government representative from Armenia mentioned that the government is changing the legislation on condominiums and most of the recommendations formulated by HFH Armenia after the Visegrad conference will be included in the new draft law. The topic sparked a lively discussion between Armenian participants.

Session 2 *The eco-system of stakeholders in residential energy efficiency*, was moderated by Mr. Besim Nebiu, Project Manager, HFH EMEA REELIH. Representatives of the MRI-Metropolitan Research Institute Hungary presented main findings of their regional study “Analysis of subsidy schemes aiming to support energy efficient renovation of multi-family buildings in selected countries of Central and Eastern Europe” (case studies from Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Romania). The results of the study demonstrate the evidence-based knowledge that can be shared. The discussion on the Eco-system of stakeholders that followed promoted the main message that came out from the implementation of the REELIH project and highlighted some of the options for financing models.

Session 3 *Policy discussion – lessons learned and key recommendations* was moderated by Ms. Susana Rojas Williams, Director, International Shelter Initiatives - Global Programs, HFHI. Representatives of several international organizations participated in the discussion: Mr. Vahram Jalalyan (UNDP Armenia), Ms. Domenica Carriero (UNECE), Mr. Gyorgy Sumeghy (HFH EMEA), and Ms. Vivien Foster (World Bank). They emphasized commonalities and differences of problems and solutions in countries and regions and provided information on specific work of their respective organizations. An important issue that was raised was the need for international organizations to promote the integration of social development, financing and policy. The need for cooperation and coordination of activities among various international organizations was stressed.

Final Plenary Session

Wrap-up Session of the Forum was held on 1 October 2015 after all parallel workshops ended their sessions. The Session was chaired and moderated by Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Armenia Mr. Hayk Harutyunyan. He emphasized the importance of the Forum for Armenia and other countries and proposed to call the Statement of Common Action adopted at the Forum the Yerevan Statement. The proposal was welcomed and approved by the delegates. Closing statements were made by representatives of co-organizers Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA, Mr. Bradley Busetto, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia, Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, Ms. Marina Ploutakhina, Chief of Industrial Energy Efficiency Unit of UNIDO,

Mr. Tim Farrell, Senior Advisor, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, Ms. Susana Rojas Williams, Director of International Shelter Initiatives-Global Programs, Habitat for Humanity International, Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE, Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Chief, Energy Security and Water Resources Section (ESCAP), and Mr. Soteri Gatera, Chief, Industrialization and Infrastructure Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division (ECA). In the closing statements the speakers expressed the opinion that the Forum is an important step in achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It was also emphasized that achieving all Global Goals is not possible without solving energy problems. The delegates supported the proposal to continue organizing the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development as an annual event.

Visit to the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center

On 2 October the site visit to the Khoren and Shoushanig Avedisian School and Community Centre was organized for the Forum participants.

Located in the south-western part of Yerevan, the school is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building in the region that includes among its mandatory requirements application of energy saving and environmentally clean technologies in construction and operation of buildings. UNDP Armenia has provided technical assistance for implementation of the building's thermal insulation as well as introduction of the real-time energy monitoring system. The school was commissioned in September 2014.

Participants of the site visit were presented with the history of the school conception, design and construction and details of the LEED standard implementation by Mr. Edward Avedisian, benefactor of the Avedisian School and Mr. Armen Gharibyan, international member of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). The presentations were followed by a guided tour of the school facilities.