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Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

First session

Geneva, 17-18 November 2014

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

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1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) establishes a Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts), which is mandated to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities that, in line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4All) initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts; and strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will concentrate on: (a) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency; and (b) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

Concrete Activities

4. The Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts propose to undertake the following activities¹:

¹ United Nations Development Account (UNDA) and extrabudgetary projects are not included in this Work Plan.

A. Identification of the state of development of energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of energy efficiency in countries in the region to establish a baseline for further activities. The work will be conducted with other relevant international and national actors and be based on existing data and benchmarking indicators in order to identify success stories that can be scaled up.

Work to be undertaken:

- Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of energy efficiency in the ECE region, including an overview of existing energy efficiency indicators and their relevance, availability, timeliness and quality of data, and existing energy efficiency monitoring systems;
- Conduct a survey of ECE member States on the national situation, plans, framework conditions, instruments and high-impact measures that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region; and
- Present the results of the review/survey to the Committee of Sustainable Energy.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Literature review at regional level: October 2014;
- Presentation of the initial results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: November 2014;
- Electronic survey of member States: February 2015.

B. Exchange of know-how and best practices in ECE on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States on how to significantly improve energy efficiency uptake. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Energy Charter Secretariat, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the United Nations Foundation, the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other United Nations Regional Commissions.

Work to be undertaken:

- Identify and contact main stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and work with them (for example through an interactive electronic exchange) to identify best practices on how to significantly improve energy efficiency and how to accelerate energy efficiency in various economic sectors, to be presented at the first session of the Group of Experts;
- Produce a matrix of best practices that lists "low hanging fruit" measures, including successful high-impact policy measures, which can help countries of the region to

significantly improve energy efficiency and that lists the countries that already implement those measures, thus allowing experts to track and report the adoption by ECE member States of such measures, to exchange experiences and to suggest actions that could help the further adoption and implementation of such measures at country level;

- Identify and disseminate best practices, measures and procedures for an energy transition towards significantly improving energy efficiency and with a view to establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency in the longer term, in cooperation with international standardization organisations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
- Assist the development of energy policies, programmes or concepts for countries that request assistance, contributing to a significant improvement in the uptake of energy efficiency in ECE member States in the framework of implementation of the SE4All initiative and promote the development of new approaches that stimulate innovation in energy efficiency.

Deliverables:

- A matrix of best practices and countries implementing them;
- An action plan for SE4All in the ECE region based on successful national case studies;
- Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency in the longer-term;
- Report on best practices.

Timeline:

- Present a first version of the matrix at the first session of the Group of Experts: November 2014;
- Disseminate best practices and facilitate exchanges of experiences to improve/complete the matrix: from November 2014 onwards;
- On that basis suggest best practices, measures and procedures for an energy transition towards significantly improving energy efficiency, and with a view to proposing the development and establishment of ECE standards for energy efficiency in the longer term: November 2014 – September 2015;
- Publication on successful national case studies: December 2014;
- Assessment of the situation with respect to the tasks of the countries of the region in terms of achieving energy efficiency objective of the SE4All Initiative: April 2015;
- Develop a set of recommendations for creation of regional strategies to increase energy efficiency and a Roadmap for the countries of the region in improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use: July 2015.

C. Share experience on smart grids and other advanced transmission and distribution technologies

Description: This activity aims at increasing awareness on the advantages of smart grids and their potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. It will be

carried out with the International Energy Agency (IEA) "Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN)².

Work to be undertaken:

Provide an overview of smart grids initiatives and activities in the region leading to enhanced understanding of the state of development of smart grids, and their impact.

Deliverables:

- Overview of activities and players active in smart grids;
- Discussion paper on possible future UNECE activities in the area of smart grids.

Timeline:

- Prepare an assessment of the state of development of smart grids, including standards, in the ECE region: July 2015;
- Discussion paper for the November 2015 session of the Group of Experts on possible future activities in the area of smart grids: September 2015.

D. Further activities

ECE member States may further decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy within agreed mandates, including:

- The development roadmaps to help interested countries of the region implement measures that significantly improve their energy efficiency record, including development of national action plans;
- The development of technical standards and regulations and labelling programmes that support national energy efficiency policies and are relevant for the whole ECE region;
- Cross-cutting activities related to ongoing activities in ECE, for example in selected sectors including transport, electricity production, sustainable housing and buildings, and renewable energy.

² <http://www.iea-isgan.org>