

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

First session

Geneva, 17-18 November 2014

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Report of the meeting

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency¹

Draft for Discussion

Agenda item 2: Elections of the Bureau

1. The Group of Experts elected Mr. (name, country) as its chair, and Mr. Asaf Rzayev (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Maria Raytcheva (Bulgaria), Mr. Zlatko Pavičić (Croatia), Mr. Christian Noll (Germany), and Mr. Yusuf Yazar (Turkey) as vice chairs for two years.
2. The Group of Experts agreed to invite other stakeholders to strengthen its activities. The following persons have agreed to join the Bureau for two years: Mr. Tim Farrell (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency), Mr. Benoit Lebot (International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation), and Mr. Martin Kumar Patel (Energy Efficiency Chair, University of Geneva).
3. The Group of Experts appreciated the invitation by the Acting Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to strengthen the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy by integrating in its work the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies *ex officio*, and other stakeholders.

Agenda item 3: Options to improve energy efficiency: why energy efficiency is not improving fast enough

4. The Group of Experts took note of the discussion papers "Initial Review of Energy Efficiency in the ECE region" and "A Balanced Matrix of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policies to Pursue Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) objectives and drive sustainable energy for sustainable development" and of the draft publication "Analysis of National Case Studies on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency Investments", acknowledged significant gaps in data availability and quality, and recommended the preparation of further work as specified below.
5. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to prepare a matrix of best practices in energy efficiency in the ECE region in 2015 in collaboration with key partners as a concrete tool aimed at significantly improving energy efficiency in the region and invited governments and other organizations to provide financial and/or in-kind expert support to the preparation of this report.

¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Experts Group after each agenda item and updated as needed.

6. The Group of Experts invited the secretariat to prepare during the biennium 2016-2017 a report on energy efficiency measures and accelerators, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, and a report exploring ways to develop energy efficiency standards or other normative instruments. It further invited the secretariat to explore possible ways and means to raise funds for these reports. The Group of Experts recommended close links to the work of other committees in ECE.

Agenda item 4: Outcomes of the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

7. The Group of Experts endorsed the Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions at the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, on 4-7 November 2014 and requested the secretariat to submit the Joint Statement to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for further consideration and for possible submission to the Economic Commission for Europe for endorsement. The Group of Experts called upon the ECE Executive Secretary to bring it to the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council for further action.

Agenda item 5: Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

8. The Group of Experts agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014-2015 based on the Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014-2015 with modifications resulting from the discussions under this item and requested the secretariat to submit the work plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee of ECE.

Agenda item 5 (a): Best practices in energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

9. The Group of Experts recommended to set up a Task Force on Best Practice Policies in Energy Efficiency with representatives of main stakeholders from government, international organizations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, energy companies, and academia to identify best practices, high-impact measures and procedures on how to significantly improve energy efficiency, with a possible view of establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency in the long-term.

Agenda item 5 (b): United Nations Economic Commission for Europe role in achieving objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General

10. The Group of Experts agreed to closely work with other Groups of Experts, in particular with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, to assist in the development of national action plans on sustainable energy that are tailored to the individual needs of ECE member States in the post-2015 development context and contribute to the global attainment of the objectives of the SE4All initiative. The Group of Experts agreed that the Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions for the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development may serve as the roadmap for such work.

Agenda item 5 (c): Smart Grids

11. The Group of Experts took note of the presentation by the representative of the International Smart Grids Action Network (ISGAN). The Group of Experts agreed that smart grids is an important area of work that can significantly contribute to achieving the objectives of the SE4All initiative. The Group of Experts recommended this activity to be taken on by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity

Production from Fossil Fuels. The Group of Experts requested the Committee on Sustainable Energy to consider this proposal.

Agenda item 5 (d): Cross-cutting issues in energy efficiency and coordination of work with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Divisions and with other international organizations

12. The Group of Experts agreed to strengthen the cooperation and synergies with other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme, Transport subprogramme, and the Statistics subprogramme, and within the overall ECE contribution to the post-2015 development process.

13. The Group of Experts noted the Study on standards related to energy efficiency in buildings undertaken by the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (ECE/HBP/2014/4) and requested the secretariat in collaboration with the Committee on Housing and Land Management to distill possible measures that could be included in a matrix on best practices in energy efficiency.

14. The Group of Experts agreed to strengthen the cooperation and synergies with other international organizations, in particular with the International Energy Agency, the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, IPEEC, the United Nations Foundation, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Agenda item 5 (e): Coordination of work with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

15. The Group of Experts agreed to strengthen the cooperation and synergies in other areas of the Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, in particular with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy within the overall ECE contribution to the post-2015 development process.

Agenda item 6: Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation

16. The Group of Experts took note of the progress in implementation of the UN Development Account project “Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development”. The Group of Experts noted importance of cooperation with other United Nations Regional Commissions and activities aimed at creating favourable conditions for investments in energy efficiency projects.

Agenda item 7. Other business

17. At the time draft conclusions and recommendations were prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Agenda item 8. Report of the meeting

18. The report of the meeting was adopted, including conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

Agenda item 9. Dates of the next meeting

19. The second session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled to take place on (date 2015) in Geneva. The Group of Experts proposed that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.