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Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Fourth session

Geneva, 31 October–1 November 2017

Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its fourth session

I. Introduction

1. The fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) was held on 31 October–1 November 2017.

II. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by 86 experts from the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine.

3. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency also participated.

4. The meeting was also attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia, as well as independent experts.

III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/1 – Annotated provisional agenda.

5. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

6. The provisional agenda as contained in ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/1 was adopted without amendment.

IV. Energy efficiency standards in buildings (agenda item 2)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4 – Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings.

7. The delegates discussed the outcomes of the first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and considered next steps for implementation of its activities. It was emphasized that international standards in energy efficiency can play a valuable role in promoting good energy practices, harmonization of public policies, improving investors', consumers' and users' understanding and confidence, avoiding technical barriers to trade related to energy policies, and enabling the creation of world markets for energy technologies. Representatives of Danfoss, Investor Confidence Project (ICP) Europe, and KAPSARC shared their views on the topic. The delegates stressed the importance of the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings for achieving significant progress in improving energy efficiency standards in buildings. Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Montenegro, Poland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and UNDP Office in Turkmenistan shared information from their countries on existing types of energy efficiency standards in buildings and challenges, lessons learnt and successes in their implementation and enforcement.

8. The Group of Experts:

9. Took note of the endorsement of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4 "Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings" and approval of the Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session.

10. Recommended enhanced cooperation with the Committee on Housing and Land Management in the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and in the implementation of extrabudgetary project on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

11. Expressed appreciation to the Governments of Denmark and Russian Federation for their financial support for the extrabudgetary project on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

12. Requested the secretariat, chair of the Group of Experts, co-chairs of the Joint Task Force and interested members of the Group of Experts and the Joint Task Force to develop and propose practical steps for implementation of the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings in the member States of the ECE and other interested United Nations Member States. Such practical steps may include establishment of a research consortium by universities worldwide, establishment of Centres of Excellence on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, training and capacity building of policy makers, architecture and construction practitioners, and other stakeholders. The scale and scope of these activities depend on availability of resources.

13. Requested the secretariat, co-chairs of the Joint Task Force and interested members of the Bureau and the Group of Experts, jointly with the Committee on Housing and Land Management, to organize workshops on the results of activities of the Joint Task Force in the course of 2018, including on promotion of the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings. Possible venues for the workshops are Yerevan, Geneva, and Kiev (the latter in the framework of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable

Development in 2018). Expressed appreciation to the Governments of Armenia and Ukraine for the offer to host the workshops.

V. Best practices in selected economic sectors to improve energy efficiency (agenda item 3)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/3 – Best practices in selected economic sectors to improve energy efficiency. Background paper on achieving the full potential within industry through targeted awareness building and active engagement with governments.

14. The delegates reviewed the outcomes of the two workshops organized by the ECE Policy Maker Meets the Engineer (Geneva, 19 January 2017) and Creating the Business Case for Energy Efficiency: Engaging Governments with Industry (Astana, 13 June 2017). One of the main reasons that the full potential offered by energy efficiency (over 25 percent industrial energy use reduction) remains largely untapped is that in most cases it is treated separately from a company's day-to-day core operations. The workshops intended to explore this situation in more detail. The first workshop considered how to overcome the communication gap between policy makers and industry by engaging with a policy's end user – the engineer – from the beginning of the policy development process. The second workshop looked at energy solutions as a potential driver of many different types of productivity improvements within a company.

15. The delegates then discussed the importance of an effective sustainable energy strategy in place within a company in order to be able to address the challenges posed by the communication gap and lack of an energy efficiency business case. The discussion focused on the challenges of developing business orientated sustainable energy strategies, along with proposals for new approaches to their development, from the perspectives of industry and policy makers. Existing sources of practical information that can help companies and policy makers create more effective business cases for energy efficiency measures were presented. Representatives of BG Consulting Engineers, Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production, KAPSARC, Services industriels de Genève (SIG), University of Geneva, DENEFF (German Industry Initiative for Energy Efficiency), Danfoss, Coty Geneva SA, Givaudan International, and SUSI Partners AG shared their views in presentations and panel discussion.

16. The Group of Experts:

17. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/3 “Best practices in selected economic sectors to improve energy efficiency. Background paper on achieving the full potential within industry through targeted awareness building and active engagement with governments”.

18. Took note that the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session supported activities to enhance dialogue between governments and business to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry.

19. Expressed its support to continue exploring barriers that constrain energy efficiency implementation in the industry sector and ways to overcome these barriers by organizing workshops with participation of policy makers and representatives of industrial companies both at international and national levels and by developing case studies on successful implementation of energy efficiency improvement in industry, which take into account its multiple benefits. The scale and scope of these activities depend on availability of resources.

20. Supported enhanced cooperation in these activities with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, other international organizations, academia, and private sector.

21. Requested the secretariat and interested members of the Bureau and the Group of Experts, jointly with UNIDO, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, and other interested partners, to organize a workshop on various aspects of industrial energy efficiency at the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Kiev in 2018.

VI. Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency (agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/5 – Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency. Background paper on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – conclusions and recommendations.

22. The secretariat presented main conclusions and recommendations of the joint study by ECE and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency. The delegates discussed the outcomes of the study and considered various ways to address these barriers at the international, national, regional, and municipal levels. Representatives of Belarus, City of Astrakhan (Russian Federation), and the Energy Policy Research Center (ENERPO) of the European University at Saint-Petersburg made presentations on the topic.

23. The Group of Experts:

24. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/5 “Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency. Background paper on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – conclusions and recommendations”.

25. Took note that the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session supported activities to address barriers to improve energy efficiency based on the outcomes of the study “Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency.”

26. Supported outcomes of the policy analysis in the joint study by ECE and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency on overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency and recommended wide promotion of its results through workshops, webinars and other activities.

27. Requested the secretariat to explore possibility of further activities to address barriers to improve energy efficiency depending on the availability of resources.

VII. Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency (agenda item 5)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/6 – Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency. Background paper on lessons learned from utility-operated energy efficiency programmes in the United States and Switzerland.

28. The delegates discussed a significant role that utilities and energy service companies play in the transition to clean energy system of the future and a need for shifting the focus to customer-driven service models, greenhouse gas emissions controls, affordability and reliability. Representatives of Ukraine, University of Geneva, and Zimmermann Energy Services made presentations on the topic. The delegates further considered the use of geo-spatial and big data in energy transition. Representatives of Over Morgen, University of Geneva, and Kaemco made presentations on the topic.

29. The Group of Experts:

30. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/6 “Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency. Background paper on lessons learned from utility-operated energy efficiency programmes in the United States and Switzerland.”
31. Noted that utilities and energy service companies will play a significant role in the transition to clean energy system of the future and that the focus needs to shift to customer-driven service models, greenhouse gas emissions controls, affordability and reliability.
32. Took note of presentations on the use of geo-spatial and big data in energy transition.
33. Requested the secretariat and interested members of the Bureau and the Group of Experts to organize a workshop on the role of utilities and the use of geo-spatial and big data in energy transition at the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Kiev in 2018.

VIII. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, actions to achieve energy-related Sustainable Development Goals, and cross-cutting activities on transition of the energy sector (agenda item 6)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/2 – Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: Building on Regional Cooperation.

ECE/ENERGY/2016/7 – Pathways to sustainable energy.

ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2017/3 – Renewable Energy Status Report 2017 – Key findings: from bottlenecks to opportunities.

34. The delegates discussed the outcome of the Energy Ministerial Conference and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development held in Astana on 11–14 June 2017, challenges and potential solutions for implementation of the decisions, and ways to translate the declarations into concrete actions as they relate to energy efficiency and its role in achieving energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular energy efficiency target of SDG7. Two actions identified in the Ministerial Statement are of direct relevance to the Group of Experts: improving energy efficiency in buildings and improving energy efficiency in industry.

35. The secretariat presented information on the ECE contribution to track sustainable energy progress in the region, in particular in the ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, the World Bank reports Readiness for Investments in Sustainable Energy (RISE), Global Tracking Framework (GTF), and its ECE regional report “Global Tracking Framework: ECE Progress in Sustainable Energy”. The latter report builds upon the ECE regional profile within the 2017 GTF report, which provides analysis on the progress within the three Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) pillars – renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access. The secretariat presented information on the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” overseen by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, which links the work of its Groups of Experts and seeks to explore how countries can attain sustainable energy in the future. With the overall objective to engage in a policy dialogue, the project applies modelling tools in order to derive a set of sustainable energy scenarios and adaptive policy pathways. A representative of Canada, in his capacity as secretariat of the Electric Vehicles and the Environment Informal Working Group (EVE IWG) under the Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE), a subsidiary body of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), presented information on potential cooperation with the ECE Inland Transport Committee, specifically on assessing upstream emissions from electrified vehicles.

36. The Group of Experts:

37. Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and the Energy Ministerial Conference.
38. Took note of the recommendations outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/2 “Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: Building on Regional Cooperation” and discussed at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and supported the steps for their implementation (Annex I, para. 3 (c) improving energy efficiency in buildings and (d) improving energy efficiency in industry), as reflected in the draft programme of work for the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme for 2018 in document ECE/ENERGY/2017/11.Rev.1.
39. Took note of the ECE contribution to track sustainable energy progress in the region, in particular in the ECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2017, its contribution to the World Bank reports Readiness for Investments in Sustainable Energy (RISE), Global Tracking Framework (GTF), and its ECE regional report.
40. Took note of the relevance of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” overseen by the Committee on Sustainable Energy in linking the work of its Groups of Experts and agreed to contribute to the delivery of the project by providing energy efficiency related inputs and recommendations to the development of policy and technology options and pathways.
41. Supported the request of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session to the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy to deepen their collaboration on deploying renewable energy sources in conjunction with energy efficiency measures and requested the secretariat and the Bureau to explore practical steps for such collaboration.
42. Requested the secretariat and the Bureau to explore the possibility of cooperation with the ECE Inland Transport Committee on selected issues in energy efficiency in the transport sector as recommended by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session (pending availability of resources).
43. Requested the secretariat to explore with Ukraine the possibility of organizing the fifth session of the Group of Experts under the auspices of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in 2018 in Kiev.

IX. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018-2019 (agenda item 7)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2017/5–ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/7 – Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018–2019.

44. The Chair outlined the main accomplishments of the Group of Experts in implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017 and presented the main activities of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018–2019. The delegates discussed concrete ways and means to implement these activities and achieve the objectives of the Work Plan in the coming two years.

45. The Group of Experts:

46. Acknowledged that the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session noted with appreciation the progress that the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017 and approved the request of the Group of Experts on

Energy Efficiency for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2019 and the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2018–2019 with a possibility of further extension.

47. Requested the secretariat and the Bureau to explore possible ways and means to develop an umbrella programme or specific projects to be submitted for consideration and possible funding by potential donors and partner organizations.

X. Election of officers (agenda item 8)

48. The Group of Experts elected Mr. Samir Israyilov (Azerbaijan), Ms. Biljana Trivanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Ms. Antonela Solujic (Serbia) as vice chairs for two years. The Group of Experts invited Ms. Maria Gabriela Soares de Menezes Prata Dias (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency) and, *ex officio*, Co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings Mr. Burkhard Schulze Darup and Mr. Marko Nokkala to join the Bureau for the next two years to strengthen its activities.

49. The Bureau of the Group of Experts has the following members: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) as chair and Mr. Samir Israyilov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Biljana Trivanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Zlatko Pavičić (Croatia), Ms. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia), Mr. Christian Noll (Germany), Ms. Antonela Solujic (Serbia), Mr. Valeriy Pysarenko (Ukraine), Mr. Benoit Lebot (IPEEC), Mr. Martin Kumar Patel (Energy Efficiency Chair, University of Geneva), Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty (BG Consulting Engineers), Mr. Stefan M. Buettner (Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production (EEP)), Ms. Maria Gabriela Soares de Menezes Prata Dias (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency), and, *ex officio*, Mr. Burkhard Schulze Darup and Mr. Marko Nokkala (co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings) as vice chairs.

XI. Other business (agenda item 9)

50. No issues were raised under this item.

XII. Report of the meeting (agenda item 10)

51. The Bureau and the secretariat drafted the report of the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion and approval by the delegates at the meeting.

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

XIII. Dates of the next meeting (agenda item 11)

53. The fifth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled to take place on 29–30 October 2018 in Kiev or Geneva. The Group of Experts proposed that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.