

**DRAFT terms of reference for the  
Joint Task Force on  
Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings  
of the UNECE Region for 2016-2017**

## **I. Background**

1. The UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) agreed on its seventy-fourth session the programme of work for 2014-2015, which included the preparation of *a study on energy efficiency standards in buildings*, and on facilitating the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock (item 1.5. of the programme of work) (ECE/HBP/2013/10). The CHLM programme of work was approved by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 6 February 2014.
2. After its seventy-fifth session, the CHLM Bureau and the secretariat discussed cooperation with the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (Working Party 6), the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE), and other international organizations. During these discussions, the secretariat of the CHLM suggested establishing a Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and invited these organizations to join forces in the establishment thereof.
3. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE), a subsidiary body of CSE concentrates 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 gases emissions. GEEE, according to its mandate, is well positioned to participate in the proposed Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.
4. In March 2015 the secretariat of the CHLM and of CSE sent a questionnaire on building standards and building regulations to member States with the aim to identify areas and activities in the field of building standards and regulations where the UNECE can support member States. The results of the survey suggest that UNECE should focus on the following topics: thermal performance of buildings and their building components; construction materials; minimum habitable standards for healthy and safe living. The survey also identified some activities that the Joint Task Force may perform.
5. In order to analyze and discuss the results of the survey, the CHLM and CSE organized an Expert Consultation on Energy-Efficiency Standards in Buildings in Geneva on 20-21 April 2015 to discuss UNECE's activities related to energy efficiency standards in buildings. The participants of the Expert Consultation strongly supported the proposal of the establishment of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.
5. The Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings will be established by the CHLM and the CSE with the participation of the Working Party 6 for the period of 2016-2017 with a possibility of extension.

## **II. Reporting**

6. The Joint Task Force will report to its parent bodies, the CHLM and the CSE. According to the UNECE procedures, the CSE will be invited to approve the proposal for the establishment of the Joint Task Force at its twenty-fourth session, on 18-20 November 2015. The CHLM will be invited to approve the proposal for the establishment of the Joint Task Force at its seventy-sixth session, on 14-16 December 2015.

## **III. Objective**

7. The objective of the Joint Task Force is to enhance the harmonization of the markets for products and technological appliances that increase energy efficiency in buildings of the UNECE member States. It broadens the exchange of experiences and approaches to increased uptake of energy efficiency measures in buildings among the member States. The Joint Task Force is guided by recommendations and decisions of the CSE and the CHLM.
8. The Joint Task Force will facilitate the UNECE's support towards the achievement of the targets set by international initiatives such as the Global Goal 7, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. All of these initiatives stress the importance of energy efficiency to ensure energy security, mitigate greenhouse gases emissions and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

## **IV. Planned activities and outputs**

9. To achieve its objectives, the Joint Task Force will undertake the following activities:
  - (a) To map energy efficiency standards in buildings and prepare gap analyses;
  - (b) To prepare guidance materials;
  - (c) To promote partnerships with other international organizations;
  - (d) To establish a network of experts on energy efficiency in buildings;
  - (e) To develop and organize training programmes
10. The Joint Task Force will deliver, in particular, the following outputs:
  - (a) Mapping of existing energy efficiency standards in buildings in the UNECE region
  - (b) An online database of experts on energy efficiency in buildings tailored for the needs of the UNECE region
  - (c) A roadmap for future UNECE activities on standards.
11. All of the above mentioned activities and outputs are subject to regular consultations with and between the parent bodies, the CHLM and the CSE, the WP 6, partner organizations, donors and members of the Joint Task Force and might be subject to adaptations.

## **V. Funding**

12. The activities of the Joint Task Force are supported by extrabudgetary funds and in-kind contributions. The listed activities will be implemented depending upon the availability of funds.

## **VI. Timetable**

13. The mandate of the Joint Task Force will cover the period from 2016 to 2017 with a possibility of extension.

## **VII. Methods of work**

14. The Joint Task Force is expected, subject to availability of funds, to have four face-to-face meetings during its mandate. The Joint Task Force will also work via various means of electronic communications. Donors are invited to provide voluntary contributions to support its work.

## **VIII. Membership**

15. The Joint Task Force will be open to all UNECE member States. Other UN member States are also welcome to participate. The Joint Task Force comprises experts from the CHLM, the CSE, and the Working Party 6, other UNECE bodies, international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE), the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and other relevant experts, to ensure a cross-sectoral approach to addressing energy efficiency standards and building codes. Independent technical experts on building standards and state of the art technologies will be invited to support the work of the task force by providing written contributions and participating in its meetings.

## **IX. Secretariat support**

16. The Joint Task Force will have two co-chairs representing the CHLM and the CSE. The CHLM and the CSE will jointly service the Joint Task Force. This will include:
  - (a) To service the Joint Task Force meetings (with interpretation and translation), including the preparation of meeting agendas and reports;
  - (b) To prepare background documents and studies for the Joint Task Force at its request;
  - (c) To arrange for financial support for members of the Joint Task Force from UNECE member States, so that they can participate in its meetings.
17. Provision of the secretariat support is dependent on the availability of additional resources as described in Section V.