

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Meeting of the Bureau

Online, 4 July 2022

Report of the Meeting

Introduction

Meeting of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was held online, on 4 July 2022, from 15h00 to 16h00 CEST.

Attendance

Co-Chairs *ad interim*

Mr. Stefan M. Buettner, Co-Chair, Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production)

Mr. Vahram Jalalyan, Co-Chair, Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (United Nations Development Programme in Armenia)

Dr Piyush Verma, Chair, Task Force on Digitalization in Energy (Harvard Kennedy School of Government)

Vice-Chairs (Organizations)

Prof. Martin K. Patel, University of Geneva

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, former Chair of the Group of Experts

Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division

Mr. Igor Litvinyuk

Mr. Grayson Otis Bender

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

The provisional agenda of the meeting was adopted. The agenda comprised the following items:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Administrative matters.
3. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2022-2023
4. Preparations for the ninth session (3–4 October 2022):
 - (a) Agenda;
 - (b) Documents in the pipeline (official; unofficial (English only));
 - (c) Practical arrangements and assignments.
5. Any other business.
6. Close of the meeting.

Administrative matters (agenda item 2)

The secretariat, with reference to the current list of serving Bureau members,¹ informed the Bureau that two-year mandates of several members expire at the end of the ninth session of the Group of Experts, and encouraged the Bureau members to advise the secretariat on their intention to continue service on the Bureau, in which case to submit nomination letter to the secretariat in advance. Election of officers for the Group of Experts will take place during the session. The Bureau was briefed on decisions taken by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at its 121 meeting (3 and 24 March 2022) on the latest developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe as set out in [ECE/EX/2022/L.6](#).

The secretariat also informed the Bureau of the following nominations from the member States received as of 4 July 2022:

1. Mr. Stefan M. Buettner (Germany), as Chair of the Group of Experts
2. Dr Calvin Johnson (United States)
3. Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine)
4. Mr. Omar Tsereteli (Georgia)
5. Ms. Nurangiz Farajullayeva (Azerbaijan)

Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2022-2023 (agenda item 3)

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress in implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 ([ECE/ENERGY/2021/10](#)), which is summarized in Table 1.

It was highlighted that the planned regular budget activities of the Group of Experts, as well as most of the planned activities pending extrabudgetary resources are being timely implemented driven by in-kind contributions by the experts. Implementation of certain activities, notably B(a), B(b), and B(c), was supported by the Regional Advisory Services.

The Bureau acknowledged progress of the Group of Experts in implementing its Work Plan for 2022-2023.

¹¹ See: <https://unece.org/sed/documents/2021/04/post-session-documents/group-experts-energy-efficiency-members-bureau>

Table 1

Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables (shortened)</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Status</i>
A. Improving energy efficiency in industry	(a) Two reports on industrial energy efficiency in line with the Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3) and activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy	First drafts: October 2022; final drafts: October 2023	First: study on Potential for Improving Industrial Energy Efficiency in Kazakhstan and Ukraine Second: title under consideration	In progress, on track
	(b) Workshops and information sharing sessions on relevant topics of interest	2022-2023	As of 4 July 2022, 4 sessions held by the Task Force (on 1 December 2021, 10 February 2022, 4 April 2022, and 16 June 2022)	In progress, on track
B. Improving energy efficiency in buildings	(a) A set of workshops and train-the-trainer seminars on high performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in line with the Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings	2022-2023	Since conclusion of GEEE-8 and as of 4 July 2022, 12 events organized (including with the support of Regional Advisor) [source 1 ; source 2]. A series of events in 2022-2023 are in the planning phase. Official document for GEEE-9: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/3 – Report on enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the ECE region	In progress, on track
	(b) Contribution, within the scope of expertise, to activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies	2022-2023	Planning contribution to the 31 st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (with the support of Regional Advisor)	In progress, on track
	(c) Additional centres of excellence on High-Performance Buildings supporting deployment of the Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings	2022-2023	-	In progress
C. Digitalization in Energy	(a) Two reports covering different topics on digitalization in energy in line with the activities of the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy	First drafts: October 2022; final drafts: October 2023	Official documents for GEEE-9: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/4-ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/4 – Digitalization: Accelerating the Electricity System Transformation. Joint Paper by the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/5 – Addressing behavioural barriers to Energy Digitalization Room document for GEEE-9: Policy discussion – Challenges of big data and analytics-driven demand-side management	In progress, on track
	(b) Compendium of case studies with a standard template of information for each case	January 2023	The task is to develop a compendium of successful case studies that have significant potential of replication	In progress, on track
	(c) Workshops and information sharing sessions on relevant topics of interest	2022-2023	-	In planning phase

	(d) Roundtable on energy digitalization policy for policymakers	March 2022	Based on the Bureau proposal of 2 March 2022, a roundtable for policymakers from ECE member States engaged on energy digitalization agenda to share activities of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, brainstorm on stakeholder complexities as well as implementation challenges, and shape the future activities of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, will take place at GEEE-9	In progress, on track
D. Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency	(a) A set of workshops and seminars to enable policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency	2022-2023	See B(a)	In progress, on track
	(b) A report on barriers for delivery of energy efficiency improvements in the ECE region	First draft: GEEE-9; final draft: GEEE-10	See A(a)	In progress, on track
	(c) A report on the existing mechanisms promoting energy efficiency uptake and more efficient use of energy resources	First draft: GEEE-9; final draft: GEEE-10	Room document for GEEE-9: Building Resilient Energy Systems: Technical Considerations and Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region. Note by the Bureaux of the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, Energy Efficiency, Gas, Renewable Energy, and Resource Management	In progress, on track
D. Assessing energy consumption and emissions of electric vehicles	(a) Continue dialogue among vehicle and energy experts to assess energy consumption and emissions of electric vehicles and explore pathways for a balanced integration of electric mobility	2022-2023	Preparations are underway to participate and contribute to the “Inter-regional workshop on electrification of urban mobility – opportunities and challenges” organized by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee at its 35 th session	In progress, on track
	(b) A report containing considerations on viable pathways for a balanced integration of electric mobility	First draft: December 2022; final draft: GEEE-10	Contribution from GEEE (jointly with GECES) to the WP.5 proceedings and notably parliamentary document “Taking stock of new trends towards electric vehicle charging infrastructure” (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2022/2). Further, assess how digital technologies could enable more accurate measurement and reporting of real-time emissions of EV.	In progress, on track

Preparations for the ninth session (3–4 October 2022) (agenda item 4)

(a) Agenda

The secretariat presented to the Bureau members the draft Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session, which took into account the discussions at the previous Bureau meeting on 2 March 2022 and the proposal to include considerations related to energy security and resilience.

The Bureau members were requested to provide guidance developing detailed timeline and propose speakers for substantive events.

(b) Documents in the pipeline (official; unofficial (English only))

The secretariat informed the Bureau members of the documents that were being prepared for the ninth session, which are listed in Table 2.

Table 2

Documents developed for the ninth session of the Group of Experts

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Official</i>	<i>Unofficial</i>
1. Adoption of the agenda	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/1, Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session	-
2. Election of officers	-	-
3. Opening remarks	-	-
4. Plenary session	-	[CSE INF., tbd], Building Resilient Energy Systems: Technical Considerations and Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region. Note by the Bureaux of the Groups of Experts [...]
5. Improving energy efficiency in industry	-	GEEE-9/2022/INF.2, Potential for Improving Industrial Energy Efficiency in Kazakhstan and Ukraine GEEE-9/2022/INF.3, [title tbd]
6. Improving energy efficiency in buildings	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/3, Report on enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the ECE region	
7. Unlocking energy efficiency potential through digitalization	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/4- ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/4, Digitalization: Accelerating the Electricity System Transformation. Joint Paper by the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/5, Addressing behavioural barriers to Energy Digitalization	GEEE-9/2022/INF.4, Policy discussion – Challenges of big data and analytics-driven demand-side management
8. Other business	-	-
9. Dates of the next meeting	-	-
10. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations	-	GEEE-9/2022/INF.1, Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency
11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting *	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/2, Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its ninth session	

Note: * post-session.

The secretariat was tasked to share the official documents for final review by the Bureau and, following clearance, submit the documents as appropriate.

(c) Practical arrangements and assignments

The secretariat informed that the ninth session will take place in Geneva, on 3-4 October 2022, in hybrid mode. On both days, there will be two two-hour sessions per day (from 10h00 to 12h00 and from 15h00 to 17h00).

The secretariat extended its invitation to the Bureau to share concrete suggestions as concerns themes, speakers, and detailed timeline of the substantive events of the ninth session and welcomed Bureau members' leadership.

The Bureau questioned as to whether the Group of Experts is accounting enough for ongoing and new projects in the ECE region, and encouraged exploring the ways to give more opportunities for speakers to share case studies on such projects to make the session more lively.

The Bureau also highlighted, on that note, the need to position the Energy Efficiency work of ECE in a way that showcases its uniqueness. Most notably, standardization was argued to be the potential key strength as energy transition was hampered by the lack of certain standards. In response, an example of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy was given as an exemplary instance of a developing cooperation on that matter, particularly with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Bureau agreed to explore other opportunities for the Group of Experts in the areas under its purview.

The secretariat also invited the Bureau members to consider feasibility of organizing informal (English only) events between 12h00 and 15h00, calling on the Bureau for proposals on possible themes for such events.

The secretariat also informed the Bureau that the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will take place in Geneva on 6-7 October 2022, and a proposal in this regard to organize an informal (English only) workshop on 5 October 2022 on the matters of common interest to both Groups. The Bureau supported the proposal in principle.

Any other business (agenda item 5)

The Chair informed the Bureau on the actions taken towards organizing a side event at COP27, on the topic of "Circular carbon economy" jointly with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

There were no other issues raised under this item.

Close of the meeting (agenda item 6)

The Chair closed the meeting at 16h03 CEST.