

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Ninth session
Geneva, 3–4 October 2022

Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency as adopted on 4 October 2022

II. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

1. The Group of Experts elected Mr. Stefan Buettner (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Nurangiz Farajullayeva (Republic of Azerbaijan), Mr. Omar Tsereteli (Georgia), and Mr. Calvin Johnson (United States of America) as Vice-Chairs. The term of office for the elected members of the Bureau is from the close of the ninth session until the close of the eleventh session. The Chair of the Group of Experts is *ex officio* also a Vice-Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

2. The Group of Experts also elected the following candidates as Vice-Chairs (without the right to vote) to join the Bureau to strengthen its activities: Mr. Zlatko Pavicic (Croatian Inventors Network) and Mr. Serhiy Porovskiy (Professional Association of Ecologists of Ukraine) nominated by organizations; Mr. Benoit Lebot (French Ministry of Ecological Transition) and Mr. Martin K. Patel (University of Geneva) invited by the Bureau, and; *ex officio* Mr. Hannes MacNulty (Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Industry), Mr. Vahram Jalalyan (UNDP Armenia, as Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings), Ms. Elizabeth Massey (The Energy Authority, as Co-Chair Task Force on Digitalization in Energy), and Mr. Andrei-Silviu Covatariu (Energy Policy Group, as Co-Chair Task Force on Digitalization in Energy).

3. The Group of Experts has therefore the following members to serve on the Bureau:

(a) Until the conclusion of its tenth session: Mr. Romanas Savickas (UNEP-CCC, Copenhagen Climate Centre) and Ms. Irena Perfanova (Real Estate Tribune / AIIC Ltd.) as Vice-Chairs (without the right to vote);

(b) Until the conclusion of its eleventh session: Mr. Stefan Buettner (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Nurangiz Farajullayeva (Republic of Azerbaijan), Mr. Omar Tsereteli (Georgia), and Mr. Calvin Johnson (United States of America) as Vice-Chairs. Also as Vice-Chairs (without the right to vote): Mr. Zlatko Pavicic (Croatian Inventors Network), Mr. Serhiy Porovskiy (Professional Association of Ecologists of Ukraine), Mr. Benoit Lebot (French Ministry of Ecological Transition), Mr. Martin K. Patel (University of Geneva). Further, as Vice-Chairs *ex officio* (without the right to vote): Mr. Hannes MacNulty (Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Industry), Mr. Vahram Jalalyan (UNDP Armenia, as Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings), Ms. Elizabeth Massey (The Energy Authority, as Co-Chair Task Force on Digitalization in Energy), and Mr. Andrei-Silviu Covatariu (Energy Policy Group, as Co-Chair Task Force on Digitalization in Energy).

V. Plenary session on the role of energy efficiency in building resilient energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 5)

7. The Group of Experts requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to consider and formulate activities that would support efforts to increase the resiliency of the energy systems in the ECE region.

VI. Improving energy efficiency in industry (agenda item 6)

8. The Group of Experts:

(a) Recognized the progress of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency to implement the activities included in the Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3).

(b) Welcomed the regular exchanges of know-how and best practices on improving energy efficiency in the industrial sector in the ECE region organized by the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the form of information sharing sessions, as well as the Task Force's efforts to enhance involvement of industry in achieving more sustainable and energy-efficient production, logistics, and consumption.

(c) Acknowledged the continued engagement of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency in the work of the Group, and its substantial contribution, within the scope of its expertise, to sustainable energy projects, activities, and initiatives, including on cross-cutting issues, such as systemic efficiency improvements.

(d) Welcomed extension of the mandate of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency for 2023-2024.

(e) Encouraged ECE member States to support the activities of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, including through provision of extrabudgetary funding.

VII. Improving energy efficiency in buildings (agenda item 7)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/3 – Report on enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the ECE region

9. The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the findings of the extrabudgetary project, funded by the Russian Federation, “Enhancing National Capacities to Develop and Implement Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings in the UNECE Region” contained in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/3 “Report on enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the ECE region”.

(b) The Group of Experts encouraged ECE member States to pay attention to technologies and legislation for the development and implementation of energy efficiency measures in the context of the ongoing geopolitical crises that are disrupting the reliability of the energy system and impeding the energy flows across the ECE region and beyond.

(c) Expressed its support to member States for their efforts to ensure implementation of energy efficiency standards in buildings in conformity with the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4). Invited member States to implement recommendations from the project to overcome barriers to effective achievement of the potential of energy efficiency policies, to bridge the existing gaps, and to enhance national capacity to develop and implement high-performance energy efficiency standards for buildings.

(d) Recognized the support from the Regional Advisory Services and took note of the delivered training workshops on energy efficiency standards in buildings and high-performance buildings addressed to building sector practitioners, policymakers, and trainers that were held as mandated activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings (workshop on Best practices to address the issues of energy efficiency in buildings and their implementation in ECE member States, 11 March 2022, Yerevan, Armenia and online; workshop on Regional and National Studies on a Gap Analysis between the Performance Objectives of the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and Implementation of Current Building Energy Efficiency Standards, 20 September 2021, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland and online; workshop to validate the gap analysis between the performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines

for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and current energy efficiency standards and their implementation in the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and in the Russian Federation, 9 April 2021, Geneva, Switzerland, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, and online; national training seminars on high-performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in the project focus countries: Armenia, 25–26 October 2021; Kyrgyzstan, 29–30 November 2021, and Republic of Moldova, 20–21 January 2022).¹ The Group of Experts recommended continuation of such trainings subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and provided that circumstances permit.

(e) Acknowledged the contribution by the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, made within the scope of its expertise, to the activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies, notably on the issues of buildings' energy supply. The Group of Experts commended the Task Force for its efforts to promote application of a holistic systems approach to building design, delivery, and operation, that helps to align buildings with the highest standards of health, comfort, well-being and sustainability, thus improving energy productivity and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

(f) Encouraged ECE member States to support the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, including through provision of extrabudgetary funding.

VIII. Unlocking energy efficiency potential through digitalization (agenda item 8)

Documentation: 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

10. The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the documents prepared by the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy (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” and ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/5 “Addressing behavioural barriers to Energy Digitalization”) and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

(b) Urged representatives of ECE member States to participate in greater numbers in the activities of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy and encouraged them to provide their support through development of national case studies and conceptual application of findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the documents prepared by the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, as well as through provision of extrabudgetary funding facilitating its work.

(c) Welcomed extension of the mandate of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy for 2023-2024.

IX. Report on the status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2022–2023 (agenda item 9)

11. The Group of Experts:

¹ See: <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/regional-advisory-services/about-project>

(a) Took note of the progress of implementation of the Work Plan 2022–2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/10) as concerns the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy.

(b) The Group of Experts underscored that energy efficiency should be valued as energy resource of its own right. Possibilities and solutions to improve systemic efficiency, optimize resources use, and reduce associated carbon footprint (including by means of digitalization), should be prioritized, duly assessed, and implemented if feasible for economic recovery, and when planning building new, modernization and restoration of older or existing, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed buildings, industry, and infrastructure.

(c) Noting the growing complexity of energy efficiency issues, recognized the value of the ongoing Regulatory and Policy Dialogue Addressing Barriers to Improve Energy Efficiency that is being carried out through extended cross-sectoral cooperation and interdisciplinary research, notably within the trade, environment, housing, and transport domains at ECE.
