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Committee on Sustainable Energy

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

Approval of documents

Revised Terms of Reference of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency was established in 2018 under the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, with the mandate for 2019-2020 to enhance involvement of industry in achieving more sustainable and energy-efficient production, logistics and consumption, to encourage collaboration between policymakers and the industrial sector, and to enable exchange of know-how and best practices among relevant experts.

At its tenth session, the Group of Experts of Energy Efficiency underscored that “energy resilience, cost-competitiveness, and reduction of emissions in the industrial sector are best served by emphasizing systemic efficiency measures that comprise on-site measures in parallel to the increasing generation capacity based on cleaner forms of energy, including renewable energy, and expansion of associated transmission and distribution infrastructure” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/2, para. 27). In its recommendations towards building a more resilient energy system, the Committee on Sustainable Energy underscored that to improve systemic efficiency, optimize resources use, and reduce associated carbon footprint, policymakers should, among other: “Prioritize and maximize the implementation of energy efficiency solutions. Increase energy efficiency and enhance systemic efficiencies across industry, buildings and transport sectors, as well as across energy generation, transmission, distribution systems. This will improve the ability of energy systems to absorb shocks and recover quickly.” (ECE/ENERGY/146 Box 1).

To support achievement of energy resilience, cost-competitiveness, and reduction of emissions in the industrial sector (with focus on on-site measures, associated policies, removal of barriers and identification of enabling mechanisms), to address the contemporary challenges within its area of competence, to implement the activities identified in the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/2023/10) and further address recommendations made by the Group of Experts at its tenth session, and to effectively support the policy agenda of the Committee on Sustainable Energy going forward, the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency requests an extension of its mandate for 2025-2026 (with a possibility of further extension) and a revision of its Terms of Reference as laid out in this document.

I. Background

1. The Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (the Task Force) was established under the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts) by the Committee on Sustainable Energy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), at its twenty-seventh session on 26-28 September 2018 for the period of 2019-2020. The mandate of the Task Force was extended for 2021-2022, along with the update of its Terms of Reference as contained in ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3 (Annex) which remained in force during the following extension of the mandate for 2023-2024. The mandate of the Task Force was extended with a possibility of extension.

2. The Task Force remains a facilitator and enabler on the topic of industrial energy efficiency in relation to businesses, policymakers, and organizations providing supporting programmes, as well as the platform that effectively addresses complications associated with the existing communication gaps, asymmetry in the distribution of information, and means to address the above to accelerate practical implementation of industry-led energy efficiency measures based on a business case approach.

II. Reporting

3. The Task Force reports to the Group of Experts and to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

III. Objectives

4. The Task Force has the following key objectives:

(a) To serve as a platform for dialogue among industrial energy efficiency experts and policymakers, to provide contextual insights and sound basis for informed decision-making;

(b) Bring together energy efficiency information resources for business and industry, scientific and technological community, to help them navigate the range of industrial energy efficiency and related sustainable energy, resiliency, and net-zero initiatives;

(c) Improve recognition that industrial energy efficiency, with multiple interactions and interdependencies between its various components, goes beyond the efficiency of individual hardware and is in such the combination of measures that in aggregate lead to systemic efficiency;

(d) Noting that energy resilience, cost-competitiveness, and reduction of emissions in the industrial sector are best served by emphasizing systemic efficiency measures that comprise on-site measures (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/2), collaborate with adjacent subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and that of other Sectoral Committees of ECE on matters of common concern.

5. The Task Force will be guided by recommendations and decisions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Group of Experts, and will facilitate support to ECE member States towards the achievement of the targets set by international agreements, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, and the Paris Agreement.

IV. Planned activities and outputs

6. To achieve its objectives, the Task Force will undertake the following activities:

(a) Maintain a network of industrial energy efficiency experts and policymakers representing ECE member States, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, business and industry, scientific and technological community, and other Major Groups;

(b) Promote and enable adoption of systemic efficiency measures that comprise measures for reducing on-site carbon footprint through energy efficiency improvement, as means to achievement of energy resilience, cost-competitiveness, and reduction of emissions in the industrial sector;

(c) Serve as a platform for subject-matter dialogue among experts and policymakers.

7. All the above-mentioned activities and outputs are subject to regular consultations with the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy and might be subject to adaptations.

V. Funding

8. The activities of the Task Force are expected to be supported by in-kind contributions and extrabudgetary funds. The listed activities depend on such contributions and the availability of resources, and donors are invited to provide voluntary contributions to support work of the Task Force.

VI. Timetable

9. The planned activities will be implemented, subject to provisions outlined in para.8, during the term of the mandate.

VII. Methods of work

10. The Task Force is expected to have at least four meetings during its mandate. The Task Force will work via various means of electronic communications.

VIII. Membership

11. The Task Force is open to all ECE member States. Other United Nations Member States are also welcome to participate. The Task Force comprises experts notably from governments, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, business and industry, scientific and technological community, and other Major Groups and relevant stakeholders.

12. The Task Force has a Chair or a maximum of two Co-Chairs, elected at annual sessions of the Group of Experts for the period of two years and serving on the Bureau of the Group of Experts *ex officio*.

IX. Secretariat support

13. The secretariat of the Group of Experts services the Task Force. This includes coordination and oversight of substantive work and outputs of the Task Force, and servicing meetings of the Task Force.
