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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Fourth session

Geneva, 31 October-1 November 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10:00 on Tuesday, 31 October 2017

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

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

2. Energy efficiency standards in buildings

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

A Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings has been established by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Housing and Land Management. Two co-chairs have been elected. Project proposals for implementation of tasks by the joint task force have been approved and received funding from Denmark and the Russian Federation. The first activities of the joint task force are mapping of energy efficiency standards and technologies in buildings in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and the first meeting of the joint task force. An interest for developing ECE-wide principles based performance standards and guidelines has been explored with various stakeholders, in particular with the Passive House community. The Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings have been developed, discussed at various international fora and are proposed for review and recommendation for endorsement.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and to recommend ways for further implementation of its tasks. Delegates will be invited also to review the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings and recommend them for endorsement.

3. Best practices in selected economic sectors to improve energy efficiency

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.

Energy efficiency policies can serve as strong and cost effective enabler for greening of the economy. A particular focus of the Group of Experts has been on improving energy efficiency in industry, as a sector where significant improvements can have one of the most tangible impacts overall. Existing economically viable technology solutions have the potential to reduce energy consumption in industry by 30 percent. However, even specifically designed policies have not yet managed to overcome the barriers that still continue to impede the achievement of this large potential. Despite the multiple benefits (energy and non-energy), improving energy efficiency to the extent possible today remains elusive. Implementing energy efficiency measures has been demonstrated to be cost effective and generally in line with typical industry investment criteria, but it is still over-reliant on climate change as a driver rather than on a solid business case. There is therefore still a need to convince industry of the beneficial role energy efficiency improvements can play within their overall business model and policy makers of the need to develop policies that focus more on industry's business approach.

A common challenge today is the communication gap between the people who develop energy efficiency policies and the engineers who have to implement projects driven by these same policies. As a result, there often exists a situation where, despite the best intentions, even targeted and financially well supported policies are unable to deliver on the full potential offered by industrial energy efficiency. Promoting and facilitating pragmatic and constructive engagement between policy makers and policy end users - the engineers - is a worthwhile and important way to drive actions that will improve industrial energy efficiency uptake. Delegates will be invited to share existing practices and exchange experience in implementation of energy efficiency policies and measures in their countries as well as challenges to their implementation in the industry sector. They are invited also to discuss the outcomes of the two workshops on industrial energy efficiency and the best way forward to improve significantly energy efficiency understanding and uptake within industry.

4. Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency

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.

A number of legislative, policy, economic, and financial barriers to significant improvements in energy efficiency remain. It is important to identify policies and measures in the ECE region that reduce barriers to increasing investment and financing flows to energy efficiency projects, with particular attention given to commercial energy efficiency projects and private financing. A valuable aspect is transferability of successful measures in selected countries to other member States of ECE. Particular attention needs to be given to the reasons why energy efficiency improvement is lagging behind what is necessary to achieve climate goals and sustainable development goals.

A joint study by ECE and the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency looked into barriers to investing in energy efficiency and ways to overcome them. It is often the perception of those who work in the field of energy efficiency as a practitioner that provide valuable insights on the challenges and solutions for overcoming barriers to energy efficiency investments. To obtain this input a survey that looks into various aspects of the problem was developed and widely distributed among energy efficiency experts representing governments, private sector, financial institutions, international and intergovernmental organizations, non-profit organizations, academia, and independent experts. Based on the responses received and follow-up correspondence and conversations with selected experts, the analysis of barriers to investing in energy efficiency and ways to overcome them has been prepared. Delegates will be invited to discuss the outcomes of the study, policies and actions that increase the bankability of energy efficiency, and propose next steps for energy efficiency finance options in the region.

5. Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/6 – Role of utilities and energy service companies in improving energy efficiency.

Two major potential actors for improving energy efficiency are utilities and energy services companies (ESCOs). There is a need for an increased effort to consider energy market policies that mandate, enable and motivate utilities and ESCOs to profit from

improved retail and distribution policies and practices (including taxation policies). Traditional utilities have always had an incentive for sales growth by increasing the quantity of electricity or heat sold, rather than providing customers with the energy services that they use. Industry's interests have not been aligned with those of government or end users.

In the United States, a large body of experience has been gathered with utility-operated energy efficiency programmes since their launch after the energy crisis in the 1970s. The background paper compares the level of expenditure of these programmes and the levelized cost of saved energy across 11 states, which are exemplary for this type of programmes. A comparison is provided of the respective values of the energy saving programme run by a utility in the canton of Geneva, which is a protagonist for such energy efficiency programmes in Switzerland. Specific findings are drawn for programmes targeting low-income households. Delegates are invited to propose ideas on ECE involvement in analysing the business opportunities for utilities and energy service companies in the ECE region and to discuss sources of funding for such analysis.

6. 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

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.

The Government of Kazakhstan and five United Nations Regional Commissions with support and participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) organized the Energy Ministerial Conference and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan on 11-14 June 2017. Ministers and high-level officials from 85 countries sent a strong call to accelerate the transition towards sustainable energy systems in a statement adopted at the conference. The Ministerial Statement contains seven voluntary actions, which outline ways to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy system, that include establishing national sustainable energy action plans, developing internationally recognized minimum energy performance standards in all sectors, and advancing methods for public data collection and indicators on energy for sustainable development. The participants of the International Forum, in its plenary sessions and multiple parallel workshops, seminars, and trainings discussed ways to put the Ministerial Statement into practice and endorsed the outcome document that outlines activities for the implementation of the document adopted by ministers.

Delegates will be invited to discuss the outcome of the Energy Ministerial Conference and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, challenges and potential solutions for implementation of the decisions, and ways to translate the declarations in 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. They will also discuss the cross-cutting activities on transition of the energy sector to be implemented in cooperation with other Groups of Experts under the Committee on Sustainable Energy, other intergovernmental bodies of ECE, in particular dealing with housing, environment, and transport, and other international partners. They will also have an opportunity to propose ideas for the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development to be held in Ukraine in 2018.

Secretariat will make a presentation on the outcomes and key messages of the report Global Tracking Framework: ECE Progress in Sustainable Energy. This report builds upon the ECE regional profile within the 2017 Global Tracking Framework (GTF) report, which provides analysis on the progress within the three SEforALL pillars – renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access. Secretariat will also brief delegates about the objectives and activities related to the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy, which 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. Delegates will be invited to share their opinions on these presentations and the way forward, in particular in relation to energy efficiency.

7. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2018-2019

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

Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) establishes a Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts). The mandate of the Group of Experts is to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities that, in line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SEforALL) initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts; and strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The draft Work Plan has been sent to the Group of Experts for consideration by written procedure as stipulated in the Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its third session (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2016/2, para. 46). It has then been submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement and for renewal of mandate of the Group of Experts until December 2019, with the possibility of extension. The delegates are invited to discuss the Work Plan and outline the practical ways for its implementation.

8. Election of officers

At its third session in 2016, the Group of Experts elected a representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as its Chair and representatives from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, and Ukraine as Vice Chairs for two years. Also at the third session in 2016, the Group of Experts invited representatives from the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the University of Geneva, BG Consulting Engineers, and EEP - Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production to participate in the Bureau for two years. Representatives of Portugal and Serbia were elected by the Group of Experts as Vice Chairs for two years at its second session in 2015. The Group of Experts will be invited to elect members of the Bureau according to submitted nominations.

9. Other business

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

10. Report of the meeting

The Chair of the Group of Experts and the secretariat will draft the report of the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion and approval by the delegates.

11. Dates of the next meeting

The fifth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 29-30 October 2018.
