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Committee on Sustainable Energy

**Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency
Investments for Climate Change Mitigation****Sixteenth session**

Geneva, 20-22 October 2010

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

Outcome of the International Energy Efficiency Forum and the Workshop on Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects**Outcome of the International Energy Efficiency Forum and
the Workshop on Investments in Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy Projects****Background paper****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. This note outlines the background, objectives and expected outcomes for the International Energy Efficiency Forum and the Workshop on Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects organized jointly by the Government of Kazakhstan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the framework of the UNECE projects Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI) and Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21), as well as the UNECE project Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This activity is included in the Work Plan for the Third Year of Project Operations (2010) of the FEEI project (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/GE.1/2010/3, para. 3).

II. Background

2. In the context of the FEEI project, the Forum and the Workshop are a follow-up to the Seminar on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments and the Workshop on Case Studies on Overcoming Barriers to Investments in Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RE) Projects through Policy Reforms, held on 7–8 October 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland and on 10–11 November 2009 in Kiev, Ukraine, respectively.

3. In the context of GEE21 project, the Forum and the Workshop are a follow-up to the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency held on 10 June 2010 in Geneva. The workshop would aim to incorporate the objectives of both the FEEI and GEE21 projects¹

III. Objectives

4. The objectives of the Forum and the Workshop are:

(a) To feed into the development of a global strategy on investments in EE and RE projects and a joint programme of work among the United Nations Regional Commissions (RCs), namely UNECE, ESCAP, Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as mandated by the terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21;

(b) To identify challenges, obstacles, opportunities and capacity building needs in EE and RE across the different regions as well as available resources among the RCs to contribute to a global strategy and joint programme of work;

(c) To stimulate opportunities for fundraising for dedicated projects on EE and RE within the member states of the RCs and through other multilateral and bilateral donors;

(d) To share experience, best practices and lessons learned, in particular with the countries of Central Asia, based on work accomplished under the FEEI project, including the potential for establishing an energy efficiency investment fund, as well as other sub-projects of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme; and

(e) To encourage the development and implementation of strategies, policies and measures within member states to support EE and RE.

IV. Format and content

5. The Forum will combine an assessment of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) policy and legislative frameworks with the analysis of international best practices in EE and RE. Status and potential of EE and RE in various economic sectors (industry, fuel and energy, housing and communal services, public buildings, construction, transport, etc.) will also be reviewed. Emphasis will be given to energy efficiency in the

¹ The UNECE projects FEEI and GEE21 are carried out under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy by the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme. As a sub-regional project of EE21 Programme, the FEEI project is the direct responsibility of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation. As an interregional project of EE21 Programme, the GEE21 project is the direct responsibility of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21.

residential and municipal sector, as one of the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions with large potential for improvements in energy efficiency. The main focus of the Forum will be on ways and means of financing EE and RE investments.

6. The geographical focus of the Forum will be on countries of Central Asia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). However, the Forum will have a global outreach, in particular for the Asia and the Pacific region as it will offer opportunities to share experiences in overcoming barriers to energy efficiency from other regions of the world. For instance, a number of countries from South-Eastern Europe participating in the UNECE FEEI Project will be represented. Also, case studies from the European Union countries on energy efficient buildings and passive housing will be discussed. In the framework of the UNECE Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) project, representatives from the countries of other UN Regional Commissions (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) are expected to participate.

7. The plenary sessions will feature presentations of high-level officials from Governments of the countries of the UNECE and ESCAP regions, representatives of UN and other intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions, business sector and energy efficiency experts. The second day of the Forum will consist of two parallel workshops.

8. The Workshop on Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects will focus on policy reforms to promote investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and on potential for such investments with specific examples of project proposals. In addition to participants of the FEEI and GEE21 projects, experts from the countries of the UNECE Project 'Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the CIS' will make presentations. Part of the Workshop will be dedicated to the ESCAP Project 'Supporting the implementation of the Baku initiative on energy efficiency and conservation for sustainable and inclusive development' for countries of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs).

9. The Green Buildings Workshop is jointly organized by the UNDP Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) and UNEP's Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI). The workshop targets experts, policy-makers, international and private-sector stakeholders from across the Asia and the Pacific region and countries of Central Europe and CIS. It will share knowledge and best practices by focusing on policies, technologies and know-how for the buildings sector specifically highlighting the significant benefits that buildings offer with regard to energy efficiency, climate change mitigation, and green growth. It will also provide a review of cost-effective policies, base-lines for selected countries and the support provided by the various programmes of UNEP-SBCI, UNDP-GEF, UNECE and ESCAP. The workshop will provide specific, hands-on examples of Building Energy Efficiency projects and generate specific recommendations for policy makers on how to capture the significant environmental and economic benefits provided by buildings.

V. Participation

10. The Forum and the Workshop are open to relevant experts from governments, the private sector, international financial institutions, international organizations, supporting institutions and other major players of the EE21 Programme, relevant projects of ESCAP, UNEP and UNDP, as well as other stakeholders with an interest and experience in EE and RE.

11. Representatives of the National Participating Institutions of the 12 countries² participating in the FEEI Project will be invited to attend and make presentations. Representatives (focal points) from the other RCs (ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA) will be encouraged to participate.

VI. Expected outcomes

12. In the context of the FEEI project, the Forum and the Workshop would be expected to contribute to sharing progress made in enhancing countries' policies and legislation for facilitating market formation in EE and RE, which resulted in the implementation of EE and RE projects, and in preparing project proposals for submission to an investment fund to be established under the project.

13. In the context of the GEE21 project, the Forum and the Workshop would be expected to contribute to the draft framework for a global strategy on investment in EE and RE and a joint programme of work.

14. The Forum and the Workshop would raise awareness and share experience of the FEEI participating countries on the challenges and obstacles in member states in developing and implementing policies, legislation and regulations in support of EE and RE and would identify capacity building needs.

15. The Forum and the Workshop would also help to identify potential sources of funding to support EE and RE projects to be implemented by the regional commissions and member states.

16. The Forum and the Workshop would produce conclusions and recommendations for further work under both the FEEI and GEE21 projects.

VII. Date and venue

17. The Forum and the Workshop are organized from 28–30 September 2010 in Astana, Kazakhstan in parallel to the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific.

² The 12 participating countries in FEEI are: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.