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Committee on Sustainable Energy

Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 25 April 2012

Report of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme on its twenty-third session

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was attended by the following member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
2. Thailand participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.
3. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF) participated in the meeting.
4. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the African Biofuel and Renewable Energy Company (ABREC), BusinessEffect LLC (Russian Federation), and EnEffect (Bulgaria).

II. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme.
6. A representative of the European Union presented the position of the European Union regarding the adoption of conclusions and recommendations at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE). This year there is an on-going review of the 2005 reform of the UNECE and informal intergovernmental

consultations of the Executive Committee of the UNECE on the Sustainable Energy sub-programme continue. As long as the process is incomplete the European Union and its member States request the subsidiary bodies of CSE not to adopt conclusions and recommendations during its meetings that might interfere with the process.

7. Delegates from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan stated that they did not agree with the position of the European Union. They observed that the UNECE activities were very helpful in addressing energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) issues in the countries with economies in transition and in promoting policy reforms in those countries. International support is particularly important for the promotion of EE in Central Asia. Support from UNECE and from projects supported by the Russian Federation is valuable. A representative of the European Union acknowledged that the UNECE activities in the area of EE are valuable and that the views of national experts are important. The deliberations of the subsidiary bodies of CSE, including the Steering Committee of the EE21 Programme, will feed into the informal intergovernmental consultations.

8. The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Divisions emphasized the important role that energy efficiency activities play in achieving sustainable energy objectives. He listed the projects of the EE21 Programme that have been completed in the seventh three-year phase of the Programme (2009–2012) and those that are proposed for continuation or inclusion in the eighth three-year phase of the Programme (2012–2015).

III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

9. The agenda was adopted as contained in the document ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/1.

IV. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

10. The session reconfirmed the officers of the Steering Committee elected at the previous session: Chair – Mark Hopkins (United Nations Foundation); Vice-Chairs – Zdravko Genchev (Bulgaria), Timur Ivanov (Russian Federation), and Milena Presutto (Italy).

V. Recent developments in implementation of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme (agenda item 3)

11. The secretariat presented recent developments in the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme, including the main objectives, work methods, participation, and procedures for the seventh 3-year phase of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme (2009–2012). Developments in the sub-regional, country-oriented, and interregional projects and interdivisional cooperation activities of the EE21 Programme since the twenty-second session of the Steering Committee were described. The secretariat informed the session of the two International Energy Efficiency Forums as examples of cooperation between the projects of the EE21 Programme. The Draft Programme Plan 2012–2015 for EE21 Programme is presented in the document ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/3, where eight sub-regional and interregional projects and interdivisional cooperation activities are described.

VI. Projects completed in the seventh three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2009–2012) (agenda item 4)

12. The Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee representing Bulgaria presented information on the current status of the “Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in South-East Europe” (RENUER) and the “Energy efficiency market formation in South-East Europe” projects. He stated that there were no changes in the status of these two projects since the last session of the Steering Committee. He emphasized that since its establishment in 1999, RENEUER served as an effective instrument for cooperation in South-Eastern Europe and a number of initiatives and projects were implemented by this regional network. At that time, regional projects/programmes supported by international donors were much more likely than nowadays when such programmes are mostly bilateral and oriented to a specific country. Nevertheless, several attempts were made to initiate a new regional project under the auspices of the UNECE. The latest outcome of these efforts was the proposal “Energy Efficiency Market Formation in South-Eastern Europe” but so far it has not received support from donors. He expressed an opinion that RENEUER is a real asset and that this initiative should not be stopped. However a political decision on this initiative at a higher level is necessary.

13. The secretariat made a presentation on the outcomes of the project “Development of the renewable energy sector in the Russian Federation and in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): prospects for interregional cooperation”. The project was successfully completed in December 2011. Strategy to Promote Enhanced Investment Climate for Renewable Energy Technologies has been developed based on the results from the National Reports, conclusions and recommendations of project workshops and meetings, and conclusions of international and regional reports. Key findings from the Strategy have been presented to the session. The Strategy enhanced investment climate and regional cooperation.

14. A representative of Belarus made a presentation on the outcomes of the project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency improvements in the state sector in Belarus”. The project was successfully completed in December 2011. As a result of the project’s implementation, a number of regulatory acts were initiated, such as on accumulation and reinvestment of budgetary funds gained as a result of energy savings by organizations of the state sector, the Law on Energy Saving, and on the mechanism of preferential loans for energy saving activities. The projects in the state sector in the amount of US\$ 15.36 million were successfully implemented. Analysis and evaluation of best practices of effective EE investments, ESCOs and other modern schemes was conducted and recommendations for their implementation in Belarus were developed. A methodology for implementing EE projects in Belarus and training materials and guidelines on the most effective financing schemes and the typical design cycle for the major categories of EE projects have been developed. A number of reports and publications have been issued under the framework of the Project. The International Energy Centre (IEC) has been created. It is an instrument for comparative analysis of typical cycles of energy saving projects, exchange of knowledge and experience, providing training, testing of new investment schemes, assistance in developing an investment portfolio, and overall increase in EE investments. Total investment portfolio amounts to US\$ 120 million. The estimated future annual impact of the implementation of the initial activities of the IEC include savings of about 135 t of fuel equivalent and reducing emissions in the amount of 215 t of CO₂ equivalent.

15. In the framework of the project “Removing barriers to energy efficiency improvements in the state sector in Belarus”, the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division organized a three-day study tour in Switzerland in November 2011 for nine delegates from Belarus responsible for the energy sector, including senior government officials and the

management of the IEC. The purpose of the study tour was to present energy efficiency regulations and policies in Switzerland, as well as the best practices and expertise from the leading Swiss private companies and legal entities. The focus of the study tour was on financial schemes promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

16. The secretariat made a presentation on the outcomes of the project “Increasing energy efficiency for secure energy supplies”. The project was successfully completed in 2011. In the process of project implementation, a network of CIS energy experts was created. A draft study “Improving Energy Efficiency for Secure Energy Supplies in CIS Region” was prepared by the International Sustainable Energy Development Centre (ISED). It was discussed at the International Workshop on Cooperation among the selected CIS countries on Enhancing Energy Savings and Improving Energy Efficiency for Secure Energy Supplies held in Moscow in February 2011. The final version of the study was published in English and Russian. The study provides analysis of fuel and energy sector characteristics in the countries of the region; assesses energy saving potential; provides analysis of existing national EE programmes and energy saving policies; outlines opportunities for enhancing interregional cooperation; and provides conclusions and recommendations. Cooperation with the CIS Electric Energy Council was established.

17. A representative of the UNECE Trade and Sustainable Land Management Division, UNECE/ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Forestry and Timber Section made a presentation on the UNECE/FAO activities in wood energy. They include analysis of current trends and status in the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and of the outlook in the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) 2010-2030. It was pointed out that wood energy now accounts for 3% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 47% of the renewable energy supply (RES). Role of wood in TPES supply grew between 2005 and 2009, whereas it slightly declined among renewables due to faster rates of growth among other renewables. In the EFSOS several scenarios were looked at in addition to the Reference (business-as-usual) Scenario. Particular emphasis in the presentation was given to the Promoting Wood Energy Scenario.

VII. Projects proposed for continuation or inclusion in the eighth three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2012–2015) (agenda item 5)

18. The secretariat presented recent developments in the implementation of the project “Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation” (FEEI). In the framework of the project, activities for capacity building on business planning of EE and RE projects were conducted in 2011 and 2012 for 11 project countries through seminars in Kiev, Skopje, Astana and Dnepropetrovsk. Activities on strengthening EE and RE policies included Second International Energy Efficiency Forum and Workshop on Development of Energy Efficiency Policy Frameworks and Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects in Dushanbe and Side event “Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Ways to Make them Business-as-usual” at the 7th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Astana in September 2011. Implementation of contracts by project contractors EnEffect and Conning continued. Implementation of the first set of grants with National Participating Institutions (NPIs) has been completed. Implementation of the second set of grants with NPIs is close to completion. Indicative project pipeline for a future investment fund is work-in-progress. Over 200 project proposals have been submitted by NPIs. Preliminary analysis of the indicative project pipeline has been completed for 10 countries. Mid-term evaluation of the project undertaken by an independent expert contracted by UNEP was completed in 2011 with the project rating “Moderately Satisfactory”. Main conclusions and recommendations

of the Mid-term evaluation were presented to the session. The project did not receive new disbursements of funds in 2011. The reason is that one of the supporting institutions – Global Environment Facility (GEF) – instructed UNEP to stop disbursements because of the fact that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is not playing the role of a co-implementing agency. The project has been extended until December 2012 by the United Nations Foundation (UNF) / United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Global Environment Facility, FFEM). The project is valid until February 2014 with UNEP/GEF. The secretariat informed that more information on the project would be provided at the eighteenth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation on 26 April 2012.

19. The secretariat presented recent developments in the implementation of the project “Global Energy Efficiency 21” (GEE21) (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/5). The first GEE21 project “Global Energy Efficiency 21: Cooperation between the United Nations Regional Commissions on Energy Efficiency for Climate Change Mitigation” was successfully completed in December 2011. Publication “Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation” was prepared and issued in six official UN languages. Global Strategy for Energy Efficiency Market Formation was developed in close cooperation with all UN Regional Commissions (RCs). Jointly with the FEEI project and in cooperation with other partners two International Energy Efficiency Forums were organized in 2010 and 2011. The implementation of two new GEE21 projects has started. The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development” has as its overall goal strengthening capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attract investments in energy efficiency projects. The project “Analysis of Advanced Technologies in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Framework of the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project and Preparation of Recommendations on its Application with Special Emphasis on Central Asian Region” will develop a comprehensive Regional Study to identify the most effective institutional, legal, financial and other mechanisms to encourage excellence in EE and RE, with an emphasis on the possibilities of implementing best practices in the Central Asian region. A Global Policy Advocacy Initiative to Accelerate the Deployment of Energy Efficiency is a new initiative, which is being led by UNF and is currently in its preparatory stages. It was noted that successful cooperation among the five UN RCs takes place in the context of GEE21 and that GEE21, given its multi-agency nature and its commitment to a system-wide approach to transfer knowledge and expertise while avoiding duplication, is a natural partner of UN-Energy.

20. The secretariat presented recent developments in the project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security” (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/7). The objectives of the project, which started in December 2011, are to support development of energy efficiency and energy saving (ES) common programmes; to reduce domestic consumption of energy in the CIS countries; and to enhance energy security. Expected accomplishments include: analysis of existing national energy programmes and their application in the CIS countries in the context of potential mutual cooperation; improved capacity of the CIS countries to implement policies and practices on EE and ES improvements; and enhanced regional energy cooperation. Work on developing a regional network has started. An annotated outline for the National Reports has been prepared.

21. The secretariat presented recent developments in the UNDA project “Enhancing and improving access to energy services through development of public-private renewable energy partnerships (PPPs)”. UNECE is one of the executing agencies of the project along with the other UN RCs and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with ESCAP the lead agency. Expected accomplishments of the project include: enhanced

capacity of participating countries to develop effective policies and programmes to scale up the use of renewable energy for integrated rural development; enabling environment created to deploy PPPs in enhancing and widening access to affordable renewable energy services in rural areas of developing countries; enhanced collaboration on the application of PPPs for better access to energy services; increased use of locally available renewable energy resources; and developed and implemented demonstration projects and initiatives on PPPs. UNECE team of experts conducted an inventory of recent UNECE activities, publications and initiatives on PPPs which could be useful and facilitate the development of guidelines and training materials as required by the project. Training manuals are expected to be completed by August 2012. Cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on project implementation has been established.

22. The secretariat presented recent developments in the UNDA project “Mitigating Climate Change through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies” (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/6). The project combines three elements: mitigating climate change; advanced fossil fuel technologies; and attracting foreign investments. UNECE, in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and ESCAP, is the Executing Agency for the project. Improving fossil fuel technologies is an effective way to decrease GHG emissions by replacing obsolete fossil fuel power plants with more efficient ones. Improving the efficiency of electricity generation (“upstream” efficiency) has not received the attention it deserves. Investment in improving the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired electrical power plants provides significant climate change benefits along the value chain of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and consumption. Main project activities and outputs include: national “baseline studies” undertaken by national consultants, their comparative analysis and synthesis report; sharing the experience of global best practices; regional workshops in China, Central Asia and/or Eastern Europe; briefing countries’ officials on the results from baseline studies and synthesis report; training on independently conducting pre-feasibility studies for national experts; and a major conference in Eastern European/Central Asian region with participation of Government officials and domestic and foreign investors.

23. The secretariat presented recent developments in the “Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use”. The “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines” publication intended for managers, mine operators, regulators, and government officials was launched and printed in 2010. The work on promoting the publication was undertaken by UNECE jointly with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). After the first workshop in China in 2010, two more were held in Kazakhstan and Ukraine in 2011. The project received additional funding from the Government of Russian Federation with planned activities focusing on best practices in mine safety.

24. A representative of UNEP inquired if any studies were undertaken on prevention of venting or flaring of coal-bed methane. The secretariat explained that UNECE does not have a mandate for activities related to coal-bed methane and that the work is focused on safety, environmental and economic issues related to coal mine methane only.

25. The Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee representing Italy presented information on the recent developments in the project “Buy Smart – green procurement for smart purchasing” and on the new project “ATLETE II: Appliance Testing for Washing Machines Energy Label & Ecodesign Evaluation”. The “Buy Smart” project was successfully completed in October 2011. A set of standardized supporting tools are now available for download from the project website, to help public and private institutions in developing green procurement actions. They include guidelines, performance sheets, calculation tools, free consulting, and best practices database. The project will be followed up by the project “Buy Smart+” – Green procurement in Europe, with 18 partners from 15 EU Member

States. The project “ATLETE II: Appliance Testing for Washing Machines Energy Label & Ecodesign Evaluation” is a follow-up to the project “ATLETE: Appliance Testing for Energy Label Evaluation”, which was successfully completed in May 2011. The ATLETE project set up a shared procedure for the verification of the labelling declarations, including a methodology for laboratories accreditation and models selection, as a concrete guidance to EU and National Authorities for effective market surveillance; developed the first pan-EU verification action on a large number of household appliances (80 models of refrigerators and freezers); and tested for the first time all parameters declared for energy labelling purposes. Compliance results and direct impact were presented. The goal of the new ATLETE II project is to enhance and further promote the effectiveness of the energy labelling and ecodesign implementing measures through: identifying examples of effective enforcement of labelling and ecodesign legislation and national market surveillance; addressing the issue of the feasibility and affordability of verification compliance testing; further upgrading and sharing of the verification procedure, including the laboratories and appliance models selection; providing the European Commission and national Market Surveillance Authorities of its Member States with the results of pan-European testing on a large number (about 50) of washing machines; and raising National Authorities’ awareness of the impact of the energy labelling and ecodesign on national energy efficiency.

26. A representative of the UNECE Secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management made a presentation on the recent developments in the project on energy efficiency in housing: “The Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region”. The Action Plan was approved by the Committee on Housing and Land Management in September 2010. Proposed actions in the Plan include: introducing framework laws supporting institutional changes; developing a system of subsidies, tax incentives and taxes on energy inefficiencies; developing institutional capacities for housing management; introducing energy certification for all residential buildings; developing on-site renewable energy generation; and developing retrofitting programmes for public housing. In support of implementation of the Action Plan, the first national action plan has been developed – the National Action Plan of Montenegro for Energy Efficiency Measures in the Residential Sector. Preparation of Training Workshops in UNECE subregions have started. Their purpose is to present the Action Plan, to discuss regional challenges and opportunities, and to advise on national application of Action Plan. Currently planned activities will take place in Albania, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Russian Federation. A Casebook on Energy-efficient Housing Practices will be developed.

27. Delegates from Albania, Switzerland and Belarus and the Chair of the Committee asked questions on the experience on EE in private sector buildings, on obtaining financing for EE in buildings since the know-how on EE improvements exists, on the possibilities for influencing building owners to introduce EE measures, and on tracking the results of implementation of the Action Plan. A representative of the UNECE Secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management explained that increasing EE in condominiums with multiple ownerships remain a challenge in many UNECE member States due to the lack of home owners’ associations. These issues will be explored at the regional workshop in Albania. Financing of EE in housing and buildings is indeed a major issue; the UNECE value-added is advice on policy reforms and creation of the legal and institutional framework. Recommendations are provided to authorities for dealing with owners’ associations and individual owners, including on financial incentives. Regular feedback process on the implementation of the Action Plan has not yet been developed. The results of its implementation are expected in several years’ time.

VIII. Other business (agenda item 8)

28. A representative of the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division made a presentation on the project “Development of Biomass Action Plans for the Regions of the Russian Federation”. The goal of the project is to assist the regions of the Russian Federation to develop and implement Regional Biomass Action Plans. Among its objectives are: development of regional economies and the capacity to produce, market, and use biomass resources in a sustainable way; implementation of federal policies and legislation; cooperation between regions; and standardization of the development process of Regional Biomass Action Plans at the federal level. The main results of the project implementation include: introduction of biomass in the Russian Federation; the first biomass pellet plants in the Leningrad oblast; establishment of the Confederation of Associations, Enterprises and Organizations of the Forestry Complex of the Northwest; improved customs procedures; international conferences and site visits; and the first regional biomass action plans in the Russian Federation.

29. A representative of UNEP made a presentation on the project “The UNEP/GEF en.lighten initiative”. The global strategic target is that by 2016 all countries in the world have either phased-out inefficient incandescent lamps or are in the process of phasing-out or have policy/standards in place to phase-out within an identified timeframe. The en.lighten initiative gathers and disseminates global best practices; promotes globally harmonized performance standards; assists countries in setting up adapted policy and technical approaches to phase-out; and establishes a global network of stakeholders committed to promoting efficient lighting. In the area of expertise and guidance, en.lighten uses services of over 50 international lighting experts. Its Center of Excellence members include Government and public institutions, private sector, international organizations, civil society and academia. The Energy Efficient Lighting Toolkit provides best practice guidance on policy and technical tools to promote transition. The Country Lighting Assessments provides estimates of energy savings, CO₂ reduction and financial savings by moving to efficient lighting for 100 countries. The Global Efficient Lighting Partnership Programme delivers policy change in countries. Currently there are 45 voluntary initiatives for countries. It supports national regulators/regional bodies in developing efficient lighting policy.

IX. Outcome of the Second International Energy Efficiency Forum and preparations for the Third International Sustainable Energy Forum (agenda item 6)

30. The secretariats of UNECE and ESCAP made a presentation on the outcome of the Second International Energy Efficiency Forum and preparations for the third International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/4–ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/GE.1/2012/3). The Forum has become a regular annual event, with the second Forum in Dushanbe in September 2011 being a follow-up to the first Forum in Astana in September 2010. The second Forum gathered over 100 participants from 25 countries. It included plenary sessions: Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Global and Regional Aspects; Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies: International Best Practices; and Energy Economics and Financing Mechanisms: Approaches to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The Workshop on Development of Energy Efficiency Policy Frameworks and Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and the Workshop on Attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies were held at the Forum, along with the Roundtable Discussion on the Market Opportunities for Promotion of Energy

Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects in Central Asia. Main conclusions of the Forum were presented to the delegates of the session. The outcome of the second Forum was presented at a side event Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Ways to Make them Business-as-usual at the 7th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Astana, Kazakhstan on 22 September 2011.

31. The third International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development is co-organized by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, UNECE, ESCAP, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with participation of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). It will take place at the Issyk Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan from 12-14 September 2012. The geographic focus of the Forum, similar to that of the two previous Forums, is on Central Asia and its neighbouring regions, with participation not only from Europe and Asia but from other regions of the world as well. The Forum will include a high-level segment with participation of ministers and officials of the government bodies responsible for energy and sustainable development in the countries of Central Asia and neighbouring countries. The Forum will focus on the following topics: Sustainable energy in Central Asia and neighbouring regions; Energy efficiency (EE) in buildings and in housing sector; Investments in energy efficiency and cleaner energy; and Role of the private sector in promoting cleaner energy options. The following workshops will take place at the Forum: 1) Policies and legislation to promote energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in Central Asia; 2) Energy efficiency in buildings; 3) Foreign direct investments (FDI) in advanced fossil fuel technologies; and 4) Financing of advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in Central Asia. Two meetings will be held in the framework of the Forum: 1) Subregional consultation meeting on preparation for Asia and the Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) 2013 and 2) Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources.

32. A representative of Turkey asked if academic presentations are supposed to be part of the agenda of the third Forum. The secretariat responded that participation of academia in the Forum is encouraged however all presentations should be oriented towards practice rather than be of a purely research nature.

X. Draft Programme Plan 2012–2015 for the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme (agenda item 7)

33. The secretariat made a presentation of the draft Programme Plan for the eighth three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2012–015) (ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2012/3). All projects proposed for continuation or inclusion in the eighth three-year phase of the EE21 Programme (2012–2015) were presented to the delegates under agenda item 5. The secretariat proposed that the draft Programme Plan be submitted to the member States for their consideration and approval. Proposed modifications in the draft Programme Plan include addition of the project "ATLETE II – Appliance Testing for Washing Machines Energy Label & Ecodesign Evaluation", which would replace the completed project Buy Smart – green procurement for smart purchasing. Description of the ATLETE II was distributed to the delegates. Addition of the projects "Development of Biomass Action Plans for the Regions of the Russian Federation" and "The UNEP/GEF enlighten initiative" presented under agenda item 8 was also proposed. There were no objections from the delegates for all these proposals.

34. A representative of Thailand suggested that not enough had been done on EE in the transport sector under the EE21 Programme. EE in transport, urban design and urban planning are all important issues when energy efficiency is considered. Inclusion of projects related to these issues should be considered in the future. In the meantime, these issues could be looked at in the framework of the International Forum. The secretariat reported

that it will look into possibilities for closer cooperation with the UNECE Transport Division on the issue of EE in the transport sector.

XI. Other business (agenda item 8)

35. The Chair of the Steering Committee representing the United Nations Foundation made a presentation on the Utility Energy Efficiency Policies and Programmes in the United States. Electric utility energy efficiency programmes spent US\$5.5 billion in 2011, double the amount spent in 2008. Leading utilities are spending 3-5% of revenues on efficiency and load management programmes. Types of programmes were listed, including financial rebates, consumer price discounts, financial incentives, load controls to reduce peak demand, recycling programmes for older appliances, “one-stop service” for small businesses, energy audits, information and training. Utility EE policies and programmes, as well as EE spending per capita and savings resulting from EE differ significantly by the state. Cumulative savings are 24 TWh/year in 2010, equal to about 3.3% of national electricity use. Average cost of saved energy is about 2.5 cents per kWh, making energy efficiency the lowest cost supply resource. Policies to stimulate utility EE programmes include: setting energy savings goals or requirements; undertaking integrated resource planning; providing convenient EE programme cost recovery; decoupling sales and fixed cost recovery so that utilities do not lose money for lower sales; and allowing utilities to earn a profit on their EE investment in addition to cost recovery. US appliance and lighting efficiency standards currently cover over 50 types of residential, commercial and industrial products. Total 2010 energy savings from standards is 280 TWh/year (7.5% of national electricity use). Federal ENERGY STAR Programme helped to avoid greenhouse gas emissions in 2010 equivalent to 38 million vehicles.

XII. Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 9)

36. The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division informed the delegates that a draft report of the session will be prepared and distributed to the delegates, Permanent Missions of the member States in Geneva, and the members of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. A representative of the Russian Federation inquired how long the situation would last that the working parties and groups of experts are not allowed to make conclusions and recommendations and pointed out that this should be resolved as soon as possible. The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division informed that once the informal consultations between member States are completed the operating mode should revert to normal. The Chair of the Steering Committee proposed to the delegates to contact their country Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their representatives in Geneva to explain the concerns expressed by the Steering Committee and to convey the message of the importance of the EE21 Programme and its recent achievements.

XIII. Dates of the next meeting (agenda item 10)

37. The twenty-fourth session of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme will be held on 19 April 2013.
