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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

Bureau Call

Geneva, 22 June 2015, 11:00 – 12:30

Bureau Call Report, 25 June 2015

Attendance

GEEE Bureau:

Mr. Tim Farrell, Chair, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2)

Mr. Asaf Rzayev, Vice-Chair, Azerbaijan (with Mr. Zaur Mammadov)

Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Vice-Chair, Belarus

Mr. Christian Noll, Vice-Chair, Germany

Mr. Stefan Buettner for Mr. Benoît Lebot, Vice-Chair, International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)

Mr. Martin K. Patel, Vice-Chair, University of Geneva

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Director, Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (nominated Bureau member)

Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski

Apologies received:

Ms. Maria Raytcheva, Vice-Chair, Bulgaria

Mr. Zlatko Pavičić, Vice-Chair, Croatia

Mr. Yusuf Yazar, Vice-Chair, Turkey

Main discussion points

Item 1 Chair's welcome.

Tim Farrell, Chair of GEEE, opened the conference call and welcomed the participants.

Item 2 Approval of the Agenda.

Chair proposed to approve the Agenda as presented. Agenda was approved as presented.

Item 3. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015. Outcomes of the Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy (27 - 28 May 2015). Reporting to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) on the status of implementation.

Chair introduced the document on the Status of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015. The following discussion came to the conclusion that most of the deliverables in the Work Plan have been achieved. The remaining ones are on-track and on-going. It was emphasized that a menu of accelerators that contains high-impact policy measures that could help the countries of the region to significantly improve energy efficiency (publication Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A Structured Framework of Best Practices in Policies to Promote Energy Efficiency for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development) is of particular value to many countries. While it cannot be an exhausting document it contains important examples that have been proven successful and can be used by other countries. A reference was made to the discussion at the Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy (27 - 28 May 2015) and a comment made by a representative of EU that the study does not contain a menu of technologies. A view was expressed and supported that industry can choose technologies as it sees best but the focus on policies is systemic and it is the right policies that make technology choice possible. GEEE can continue work on promoting information on best practices. The publication can be used as a platform to reaching out to countries.

The Bureau agreed that this publication meets the objectives of the Work Plan and GEEE needs to promote it for use by member States.

Chair listed other deliverables that are on-going. These include work on standards, with a focus on opportunities for standards on EE in Buildings. Developing national action plans – as requested and when there is a capacity (some work done by the Regional Advisor, in particular with the Concept of the Energy Strategy of Ukraine). A draft Overview of Smart Grids has been prepared and will be finalized. It is proposed that another Group of Experts continues with this activity or it becomes a cross-cutting activity under CSE.

The Bureau agreed that the main deliverables under the current Work Plan have been achieved.

Item 4 Draft Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017 in the context of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for 2016-2017. Proposals for further improvement.

Chair introduced the Draft Work Plan. He emphasized that additional resources are required to implement all listed activities.

Under Activity A, encouraging countries to adopt policies and measures is important. A cooperation with the World Bank on its RISE initiative is a potentially useful activity. There was a suggestion for identifying one country from the Eastern European region as a leader in EE however it may be a challenge. A need to prioritize and engage countries was stressed. Closer collaboration with IPEEC, making good use of the soon to be available reports prepared by IPEEC on building codes and on metrics was proposed. Principles considered by G20 could be used by GEEE in its work. There was also a proposal to organize a meeting of organizations to coordinate work and collaborate under SE4All. Importance of identifying gaps and finding other organizations to work on those gaps was stressed. Assistance countries when there is demand is important and should continue.

Under Activity B, a clarification on the train-the-trainers proposal was presented. UNECE is a possible platform for the knowledge, in particular on EE standards, to be shared and multiplied. Passive House standards could be promoted by the GEEE, with an opportunity for countries to adopt such

standards. Passive House Institute can help on intermediate standards that may be easier to adopt in some countries. There was an offer to share experience and findings from the adoption of standards for EE buildings in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The idea of train-the-trainers was supported but additional funding/resources would be necessary. It was proposed to check the possibility of using Clean Energy Solution Center (United States), which covers 23 countries of the Clean Energy Mechanism (CEM), as well as other options.

It was noted that currently focus in standards is on individual buildings but more attention should be given to neighborhoods and cities. Taking stock of the existing building stock is also necessary. IPEEC is doing studies in this area. A Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) website <http://www.buildingsdata.eu/> was mentioned as a good resource on the energy performance of buildings.

Tim. Under F – Building Accelerator.

Under Activity C, it was emphasized that ESCOs can be a useful instrument that complements the work done by utilities and in some countries may be even more effective.

Under Activity D, technical and service components and quality for end-users are important.

Under Activity E, the work is needed as EE needs huge investments and for that increased bankability of EE projects is crucial.

Under Activity F, the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2) is a hub that runs several accelerators. Others are the responsibility of UNEP, WRI, and UNIDO. There are opportunities to engage in this activity.

It was stressed that additional resources are needed and the prioritization of the activities is necessary to be realistic about what can be done with existing resources and what can only be accomplished if additional resources are available. There was a suggestion of a possibility to approach German Government with regards to the train-the-trainers activity.

Item 5 Discussion on a draft agenda for the 2nd session of GEEE (5-6 November 2015) and for the energy efficiency segment at the 24th session of the CSE.

Chair asked the Bureau to give thoughts for the structure of the session based on which an agenda would be drafted.

Proposals were given on sharing existing experience (e.g. on standards in buildings); sharing resources and work with other organizations; discussing the train-the-trainers activity; better marketing of the GEEE work, increasing its impact and discussing ways to achieve that.

There is a possibility to conduct a half-day workshop in the framework of the GEEE session. Proposals for workshop topics included Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency (with a focus on what has been done at the national and local levels) and Energy Efficiency in Buildings (with standards component).

Chair requested Bureau members to provide suggestions for the EE segment of the 24th session of the CSE.

Item 6 Dates of important events in 2015.

Secretariat informed the Bureau of the following upcoming events:

Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Yerevan, 29 September – 2 October (secretariat will send an outline of the Draft Agenda).

Second session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Geneva, 5-6 November.

Twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 18-20 November.

It was also noted that UNECE will be involved in events under COP21 in Paris but specific dates for these events are not yet known.

It was also noted that the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York.

Item 7 Other business.

No other business was discussed.

Chair closed the Bureau call.