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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Second session

Geneva, 5–6 November 2015

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the second session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 5 November 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Workshop on best policy practices for promoting energy efficiency.
4. Report on the implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2014–2015.
5. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/energy>), and transmit it to the ECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail to laurence.rotta@unece.org with a copy to feei@unece.org. Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Sustainable Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one and a half hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 75976 or 74140).



6. Renewal of Mandate and Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017:
 - (a) Exchange of know-how and best practices in selected economic sectors on how to improve significantly energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
 - (b) Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the role of standards and guidelines to improve significantly energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
 - (c) Exchange of approaches and best practices for utilities and energy service companies to improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, including quality of service regulation;
 - (d) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency;
 - (e) Facilitate engagement in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform.
7. Key messages for the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
8. Other business.
9. Report of the meeting.
10. Dates of the next meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2015/1 – Annotated provisional agenda.

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

2. Election of officers

2. During its first session, the Group of Experts elected representatives from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Germany and Turkey as Vice Chairs for two years. The Group of Experts invited representatives from the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), and the University of Geneva to participate in the Bureau for two years. The Group of Experts elected a representative of the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency as its Chair for the period of two years. The Group of Experts will be invited to elect additional members of the Bureau. At the time this document was prepared the following member States nominated members of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency: Serbia – Ms. Antonela Solujic and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski.

3. Workshop on best policy practices for promoting energy efficiency

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/100 – 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

3. Despite the multiple benefits, improving energy efficiency remains elusive. The state of the global economy and the economics of energy markets have prioritized short-term economic considerations, and geopolitics has moved energy security to the forefront of policy considerations. To make the first step in overcoming the current inertia, countries need to develop policies and capabilities in the private and public sectors at the local level to identify, formulate and present energy efficiency investment projects that are bankable; introduce policy and institutional changes to support energy efficiency investments; and create favourable conditions for financial institutions and commercial companies to invest in energy efficiency projects.

4. Delegates at the workshop will have an opportunity to discuss a structured framework of policies and measures to promote energy efficiency investments and a menu of high-impact policies and measures presented in the publication. They will be invited to share existing practices of implementation of energy efficiency policies and measures in their countries and discuss the opportunities for exchanging experience among the ECE member States.

4. Report on the implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2014–2015

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2014/2 – Annex I, Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its first session

5. The Chair and the secretariat will report to the Group of Experts on the status of implementation of the Work Plan 2014–2015, highlighting the activities that have been accomplished, the on-going activities and those that may continue in the next biennium and therefore can be considered for the renewal of the mandate and reflected in the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2016–2017.

5. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

6. The Government of Armenia, five United Nations Regional Commissions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Armenia, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are jointly organizing the Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Yerevan, Armenia, on 29 September – 2 October 2015 in order to discuss progress on achieving the goals of the Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative and operationalizing the Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions to the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (the “Hammamet Declaration”). Participants will report and discuss the outcomes of the Forum, particularly on practical steps to improve significantly energy efficiency in the ECE member States. Participants will be consulted on the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

6. Renewal of Mandate and Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2015/3 – Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017

7. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) established the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency with a mandate approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension. During its first session on 17–18 November 2014, the Group of Experts agreed on the draft Work Plan which was subsequently endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19–21 November 2014 and approved by the ECE Executive Committee on 10 February 2015.

8. The Chair and the secretariat will present the Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2016–2017. The Group of Experts is expected to review and discuss the Draft Work Plan with a view to agree on the document taking into account possible modifications resulting from this discussion.

(a) Exchange of know-how and best practices in selected economic sectors on how to improve significantly energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

9. The delegates will be invited to discuss the best ways to exchange know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States and relevant international actors on how to improve energy efficiency in the region and to establish energy efficiency as a resource in its own right on equal footing with the supply side in energy policy. In particular, the views will be sought on how to provide an effective platform for expanding already developed policies and measures across countries in the region based on the report by the Group of Experts entitled “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”.

(b) Exchange of know-how and best practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the role of standards and guidelines to improve significantly energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

10. International standards in energy efficiency can play a valuable role in promoting good energy practices, harmonization of public policies, improving consumers’ and users’ understanding and confidence, avoiding technical barriers to trade related to energy policies, and enabling the creation of world markets for energy technologies. Preliminary work of the Group of Experts, jointly with the Committee on Housing and Land Management, explored the potential for activities on energy efficiency standards in buildings. The delegates will be invited to discuss the areas where introduction of ECE-wide standards and guidelines on energy efficiency would be most beneficial to member States. A proposal to establish a Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies will be presented for approval by the Group of Experts.

(c) Exchange of approaches and best practices for utilities and energy service companies to improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, including quality of service regulation

11. Among the major potential drivers of improving energy efficiency are utilities and energy service providers. There is a need for an increased effort to consider energy market

policies that mandates, enables and motivates utilities and energy service companies (ESCOs) to profit from improved retail and distribution policies and practices. This work could also support cross-sectoral activities within the Sustainable Energy Sub-programme on understanding of the state of development of smart grids and increasing awareness of their advantages. In particular, close cooperation is expected with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels.

12. Traditional regulatory approaches in gas and electric power often involve rate-setting based on cost of service regulation. The prices paid by end users are determined by the commodity and infrastructure costs paid by the service providers. As a consequence, traditional utilities have always had an incentive for sales growth by increasing the quantity of electricity or heat sold, which means that the industry's interests are not aligned with those of government. The delegates will be invited to discuss this area of work, which would consider how quality of service regulation could enhance the uptake of energy efficiency investments.

(d) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency

13. A number of legislative, policy, economic, and financial barriers remain to improve significantly energy efficiency. Naming energy efficiency as “the first fuel” has not yet been converted into adequate investment that would make possible achieving one of the goals of the SE4All initiative – doubling the global rate of improvement of energy efficiency by 2030. The delegates will be invited to discuss the area of work, which would explore which financing strategies work best, how governments can improve their bankability and scope to expand private financing of energy efficiency; which policies and legislation have been proven to deliver results.

(e) Facilitate engagement in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform

14. The Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform is a public-private partnership to scale-up energy efficiency policy, action and investment, with the aim of contributing to doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency worldwide by 2030. The Platform provides governments with the means for engaging with a variety of stakeholders whose knowledge of technologies, markets, financial instruments and implementation approaches can support scaling-up of energy efficiency actions in different sectors. The delegates will be invited to discuss the area of work, which would facilitate engagement of national and local governments, private sector and other stakeholders in the Accelerator Platform.

7. Key messages for the Committee on Sustainable Energy

15. The Group of Experts will convey a set of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 18–20 November 2015. During the session of the Committee, the Chair of the Group of Experts will present the outcomes of the second session of the Group of Experts and ECE role, through renewed mandate and Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2016–2017, in contributing to significant improvement of energy efficiency in the ECE region.

8. Other business

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

9. Report of the meeting

17. 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.

10. Dates of the next meeting

18. The third session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 18–19 October 2016.
