



Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development: From Targets to Action

Sixth session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

7-8 October 2019, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Workshop on Industrial Energy Efficiency: making better use of existing resources

13:30-15:15, Monday, 7 October 2019

Summary of session

The session was moderated by Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, who set the scene by outlining the existing barriers to industrial energy efficiency improvements, which were said to be mainly due to communication gap. To bridge this gap, more tight connections between companies, as well as between companies and governments (setting up ecosystem to mobilize energy efficiency implementation), are needed, and this is where the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency takes a lead by mapping of organizations, supporting increased collaboration, and connecting industry to other stakeholders.

The session featured an interactive panel discussion with the experts from a variety of sectors and the audience. The main issues were how to make better use of the array of resources that are already available to industry, and how to ensure that supporting organizations work more effectively together to have greater impact. Such topics as carbon emission reporting, energy efficiency indicators, technical support, financing solutions and business leadership were discussed.

A need to build an energy efficiency network to share and learn experiences among peers was highlighted, and one option suggested was creation of a forum, where business representatives and politicians can cooperate and ensure that importance of energy efficiency is brought to the attention of a broader audience. International organizations should have a coordinating role to make such collaboration more effective. It was stressed that the general approach should not be prescriptive, but rather allowing for dialogue and innovation.

It was also recognized that small actors are sometimes very good in innovating (yet may need additional support and investments for their projects), while implementation of their ideas can be done by bigger companies (which can finance projects), thus collectively coming up with replicable energy efficiency solutions. Several examples were provided in support of such collaboration: implementation of mandatory energy management for the certification of big energy companies, which support small and medium enterprises via implementation of procurement process (Moldova); the bank-led project with large oil company, which further assisted the franchising companies in introducing energy efficiency (Lebanon). Taking account of the country-specific underlying factors that influence the decisions of companies on implementing energy efficiency measures and suitable approaches, this nonetheless proves the point that success stories, pilot projects and benchmarking are required to work with small and medium enterprises on energy efficiency.

Benchmarking is important also for measuring of energy efficiency performance and making comparison of industries. Coupled with a framework of energy efficiency indicators (IEA energy indicators pyramid for industry was presented in this context), this allows to track the progress in terms of energy performance. Yet both prove to be complicated, especially given the different industrial sectors and scales of businesses; and indicators get even more complex as they move to production level. In the context of benchmarking, mechanisms that reward companies for energy efficiency success, as opposed to penalties for their faults, were proposed.

The priorities of the Governments play an important role, as enabling component is a critical aspect, but at the same time it was highlighted that if the 2050 targets are to be achieved, both policy makers and industries must speak the same language and have the communication gap bridged. Moreover, responsible businesses should think about making energy efficiency a part of leadership principles.