

**Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for  
Climate Change Mitigation**

Opening 10:00 am on Thursday 1 December 2005  
Salle IX Palais des Nations, Geneva

Remarks by the Director  
UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development  
Division

- On behalf of the ECE, and the Acting Executive Secretary, Mr. Paolo Garonna, I would like to welcome you to Geneva and to the Palais des Nations.
- It is a pleasure for me to open this meeting on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation following the decisions of the Council of the Global Environment Facility during its session on 8-10 November.
- This morning, I would like to describe briefly the key mandates that the United Nations system has established for your work and the position of energy efficiency within the UNECE reform proposals.
- I think it is important for us to understand and acknowledge the institutional setting of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project. Then, I will say a few words on the most recent developments related to EE21.
- We are fortunate today to have the Chairman – Bernard Laponche - and most of the Bureau of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project as well as the Chairman – Bernard Jamet - of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

- They will explain to you, in much greater detail, some of the very positive decisions taken about this project by our partners in the supporting institutions.

## **United Nations General Assembly**

- Let me now start with the overall UN setting and UN General assembly Resolutions of relevance to your work.
- The first UN General Assembly Resolution (48/190) of significance for your work is the one regarding the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1993 which confirmed the role of energy efficiency and conservation in sustainable energy development.
- Then, at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, energy issues, including energy efficiency, were central features of the Summit's Declaration and Plan of Action.
- In Johannesburg, world leaders committed themselves to establish domestic programmes for promoting energy efficiency with the support of the international community. They also agreed to accelerate the development and dissemination of energy efficiency and energy technologies, including the promotion of research and development.
- Following that, in 2004, the General Assembly adopted two Resolutions relevant to your work: one on the promotion of renewable sources of energy (58/210) and the other on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the WSSD outcomes (58/218).
- This year the General Assembly Resolution (60/1) adopted at the World Summit, which was convened to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN, among many other things 'seeks to promote ... energy efficiency and conservation; improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks'.

## **UN Economic and Social Council**

- There are also a number of resolutions passed by the UN Economic and Social Council supporting work on energy efficiency. The latest Resolution (2003/61) was in 2003. It requested the Regional Commissions of the UN system to contribute to implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Action, working with the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- Indeed, energy efficiency will be a crucial part of the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that will take place from 1-12 May 2006 in New York. During this second two-year cycle (2006-2007), the Commission on Sustainable Development will focus its attention on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.
- For your information, the Second ECE Regional Implementation Forum to review the progress achieved in the ECE region in these four thematic areas will take place on 15-16 December here in the Palais. You are all cordially invited to attend.

## **ECE Reform Process**

- I would now like to address the issue of ECE Reforms which is much closer to home.
- The last major reform of the Economic Commission for Europe was in 1997 (Decision A/52). Those reforms established energy efficiency as one of three priorities of the Sustainable Energy programme.
- It is also useful to remind ourselves that the Energy Efficiency 21 Project was itself established by the 1991 UNECE Regional Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development held in Bergen, Norway.
- ECE Member States decided in 2004 to initiate a review of the mandate, role and programme of work of the ECE. First, they commissioned an outside evaluation by 4 consultants. This report was prepared and transmitted to Member countries at the end of June 2005.

- The outside evaluators recommended that the Energy Programme be retained, largely in its current form. The report also made positive references to UNECE work on energy efficiency and carbon trading.
- Starting in September 2005, our Member countries commenced consideration of the Outside Evaluators' Report. Negotiations on the reform package were completed on 22 November. The Commission will now officially adopt the Reforms on 2 December, that is, tomorrow. These will then be implemented during the first half of 2006.
- In short, the programme of work in energy is retained with the recommendation that "The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall strengthen activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns".
- So once again, energy efficiency has been recognized as an important element of work for the energy programme.
- The reason that I have gone through this process of trying to tie your work to resolutions of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Europe is that, in addition to the ECE Reforms, there is also an UN-wide Reform underway. The Secretariat has been asked to identify the various resolutions mandating work currently underway.
- Mr. Chairman, with this very brief review, I would like to assure you that mandates for your work have been accorded at every level within the United Nations system. The institutional setting for your activities has been repeatedly confirmed. The most recent confirmation is the 2005 ECE Reform Package where work on energy efficiency is suggested to be strengthened.

### **Most Recent Developments**

- Let me now touch very briefly on the most recent developments in respect to EE 21.

- The Committee on Sustainable Energy approved the Energy Efficiency 21 activities including 'Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation' in 2003 and 2005.
- As you may know, the Advisory Board of the UN Fund for International Partnerships and the Board of Directors of the UN Foundation approved this particular project 'Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation' in June 2004. The UNF/UNFIP Boards allocated US\$ 2 million for this project conditional on matching pledges from other donors.
- In March of this year, the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial approved a US\$ 2.5 million co-financing grant. On 9 November, the Council of the Global Environment Facility completed the co-financing requirement of the UNF by according the project a US\$ 3 million grant.
- During the next two days, you will need to review and begin to reconcile the positive responses received from the three major donors to the proposal made by the Steering Committee in 2003 to launch a new phase of its work that included a Fund to finance energy efficiency investments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the three funding agencies for their very generous contributions. I would also like to thank all the individuals, such as Bernard Jamet and Bernard Laponche, who have worked very hard to make this possible. It is now up to you to ensure that this undertaking is a success.
- In closing, I wish you a productive session and I look forward to your conclusions and recommendations.
- Thank you for your kind attention.