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|  | United Nations | ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/2 |
| _unlogo | **Economic and Social Council** | Distr.: GeneralOctober 2019Original: English |

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Sustainable Energy

 Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

**Sixth session**

Bangkok, 7–8 October 2019

Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency
on its sixth session (draft)

 I. Introduction

1. The sixth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) was held on 7–8 October 2019 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, in the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

 II. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by … experts from the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tunisia participated under Article IX.

3. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Energy Community Secretariat, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), International Energy Charter, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency also participated.

4. The meeting was also attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia, as well as independent experts.

 III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/1 – Annotated provisional agenda

5. In accordance with the rules of procedure of ECE, the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

6. The provisional agenda as contained in ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/1 was adopted.

 IV. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

7. Elected Ms. Antonela Solujić (Serbia) as Vice-Chair for two years. The Group of Experts invited Mr. Romanas Savickas (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency) to join the Bureau for the next two years to strengthen its activities.

8. The Bureau of the Group of Experts has the following members: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski (Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency) as Chair, and Ms. Nurangiz Farajullayeva (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Biljana Trivanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ms. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia), Mr. Christian Noll (Germany), Mr. Alfredo Pini (Italy), Mr. Boris Melnichuk (Russian Federation), Ms. Antonela Solujić (Serbia), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine), Mr. Benoît Lebot (International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation), Mr. Martin Kumar Patel (University of Geneva), Mr. Zlatko Pavičić (Croatian Inventors Network), Mr. Romanas Savickas (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency), Ms. Alisa Freyre (Services Industriels de Genève), and, *ex officio*, Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty and Mr. Stefan Buettner (co-chairs of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency) and Mr. Burkhard Schulze Darup and Mr. Andres Jaadla (co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings) as Vice-Chairs.

 V. Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (agenda item 3)

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/5 – Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency. Background paper on outcomes of workshops to promote energy efficiency in industry

9. The delegates were invited to discuss the outcomes of the workshop of the Industry Working Group (IWG) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna, 7–8 May 2019, and the ECE/UNIDO workshop in Kyiv, 27–28 May 2019, as well as other activities of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, and elaborate on further practical steps.

10. Experts provided their opinions on how to make better use of the existing resources available to industry, covering such topics as carbon emission reporting, energy efficiency indicators, technical support, financing solutions, and business leadership. The industrial energy efficiency projects and initiatives, which demonstrated how industry could lead the way on energy efficiency topics after being given initial capacity building and experience sharing support, were described.

11. The delegates stressed that energy efficiency in the industry sector already has been proven, as it brings financial benefits to the companies not only by the value of the energy saved, but also of increased productivity due to process optimization. Innovation and targeted research and development are of particular importance for efficiency improvements in highly energy-intensive processes in industrial sectors.

12. The delegates nonetheless recognized that implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency measures remains sporadic and slow. Different understanding of energy efficiency and how it can be practically implemented, as well as asymmetry in the distribution of information that exists, were referred to as key reasons for this limited progress.

13. The Group of Experts:

14. Reiterated the importance of overcoming communication gap and improving collaboration between government and industry, and thus supported the activities of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency to enhance dialogue between governments and business sectors to improve significantly energy efficiency in industry, as well as its approach to doing so by organizing workshops with participation of policy makers and representatives of industrial companies and by developing case studies on successful implementation of energy efficiency improvement in industry, which take into account its multiple benefits.

15. Supported enhanced cooperation in these activities with UNIDO, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, other international organizations, academia, and private sector.

16. Acknowledged that scale and scope of activities depend on availability of resources and characteristics of each sector, and requested the secretariat and interested members of the Bureau and the Group of Experts, jointly with partnering organizations, to explore opportunities for developing project proposals to support activities of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency.

 VI. Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (agenda item 4)

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/4 – Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. Background paper on main findings of the study on mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region

17. Delegates discussed the activities and reviewed the accomplishments of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.[[1]](#footnote-2) The focus was made on the main findings of the study on mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region, which was carried out from July 2018 to February 2019 (discussed, reviewed, and validated during the meetings of the Joint Task Force at its third session in Geneva on 3 October 2018, the fourth session in Kyiv on 13 November 2018, and the fifth session in Yerevan on 14 March 2019).

18. Delegates discussed the developments in activities under the UNECE Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, which include setting up international centres of excellence for high performance buildings and a consortium of educational and research institutions to promote and implement the High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI). Status reports on the activities of the centres will be posted to the UNECE website.

19. At the panel discussion the delegates gave consideration to the behavioural barriers in achieving energy efficiency targets for residential buildings, specifically related to behaviour of end-users, and elaborated on possible policy mix that may help reducing the adverse effect of the identified barriers.

20. The Group of Experts:

21. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/4 – Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. Background paper on main findings of the study on mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region. Noted with appreciation that comments and suggestions received from member States and experts were taken into account when finalizing its draft.

22. Took note of the conducted and planned training workshops on energy efficiency standards in buildings and high-performance buildings for building sector practitioners, policy makers and trainers, held in the framework of implementation of the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and recommended continuation of such trainings subject to availability of resources.

23. Noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings in promoting the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and encouraged the ECE member States to continue support for the Joint Task Force through extrabudgetary funding.

24. Acknowledged HPBI as means to deploy and disseminate the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, including through international centres of excellence, the Global Building Network, and development of case studies on application of these guidelines, and encouraged the secretariat to seek extrabudgetary funding to support activities in this area.

25. Encouraged member States to propose candidates for the global consortium of universities participating in the Global Building Network and the network of local institutions constituting international centres of excellence for high-performance buildings.

26. Took note that ECE at its sixty-eighth session focused on smart sustainable cities as drivers for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that ECOSOC took note of the UNECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings at the recommendation of ECE. Welcomed engagement with the other United Nations Regional Commissions to encourage their global uptake.

27. Recommended continued cooperation with CUDHLM in the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and in the implementation of relevant extrabudgetary projects.

28. Took note of the approval by Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-eighth session of the 2020-2021 Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region, as amended, and extension of its mandate for 2020-2021 with a possibility of extension.

 VII. National sustainable energy action plans – from commitments to actions (workshop) (agenda item 5)

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/3–ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/3 – Workshop on the national sustainable energy action plans – from commitments to actions. Background paper on Sustainable Energy for All in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

29. The workshop was a joint session of the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and on Renewable Energy organized in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), which is co-implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”. The goal of the project is to strengthen capacities of beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan) for the preparation of National Action Plans to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to energy. Under the project, national reports that include a baseline review of sustainable energy data in each beneficiary country were prepared to assess the existing gaps in data collection. National case studies were developed, and a synthesis report was prepared to provide an analysis of the case studies and give the assessment of existing policies and practices in sustainable energy, focusing on existing regulatory and institutional frameworks and pointing out gaps and challenges that governments face in implementing these policies.

30. Consultants from the project countries presented draft National Sustainable Energy Action Plans (NSEAP), and delegates were invited to exchange experiences, good practices and discuss possible recommendations for policymakers that would assist them in reforming and adjusting policies aimed at achieving targets of SDG 7 and at fostering favourable climate for investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

31. The Group of Experts:

32. Took note of the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2019/3–ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/3 – Workshop on the national sustainable energy action plans – from commitments to actions. Background paper on Sustainable Energy for All in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

33. Expressed appreciation with the main outcomes of the implementation of the UNDA project “Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) for Eastern Europe. the Caucasus, and Central Asia” by ECE (lead agency) and UN ESCAP and the beneficiary countries of the project – Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

34. Took note of the potential that NSEAPs have in achieving SDG 7 and other energy-related sustainable development goals and targets by the countries that develop, adopt and implement NSEAP and encouraged other ECE member States to consider developing, adopting and implementing NSEAPs.

35. Encouraged Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan to adopt their draft NSEAPs (with modifications as appropriate) and begin their implementation.

36. Requested that the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency assists interested countries in developing, adopting and implementing NSEAPs in its area of competence and based on the availability of resources.

37. Requested that ECE secretariat assists Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in implementation of NSEAPs after their adoption in coordination with other international organizations and other partners based on the availability of resources.

38. Noted with appreciation the acknowledgement of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-eighth session of the Group of Experts’ contribution for shaping the Committee-overseen project “Strengthening capacity of the ECE member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals” (“Pathways to Sustainable Energy”) and for engaging in the policy and technology dialogues. Took note of the results of the first phase of the project.

 VIII. Other business

39. The Group of Experts:

40. Expressed appreciation to UN ESCAP and the Royal Thai Government for hosting the sixth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

 IX. Dates of the next meeting

41. The seventh session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 22–23 September 2020. The Group of Experts confirmed its proposal from previous sessions that its meetings may take place in venues outside Geneva.

 XX. Report of the meeting

42. The report of the meeting was adopted, including conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

1. With the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM, previously the Committee on Housing and Land Management) and the participation of ECE Working Party 6 on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)