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Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Seventh session

Geneva, 22–23 September 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session

to be held in Geneva on 22 and 23 September 2020.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/1 – Annotated provisional agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.



2. Election of officers

At its sixth session in 2019, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts) elected Ms. Antonela Solujić (Serbia), Mr. Romanas Savickas (UNEP-DTU Partnership, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency) and Mr. Piyush Verma (International Energy Research Centre) as Vice-Chair for two years.

The Bureau of the Group of Experts has the following members: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski (Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency) as Chair, and Ms. Nurengiz Farajullayeva (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia), Mr. Christian Noll (Germany), Mr. Alfredo Pini (Italy), Mr. Boris Melqvist (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 (UNEP-DTU Partnership, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency), Ms. Alisa Freyre (Services Industriels de Genève), Mr. Piyush Verma (International Energy Research Centre), 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.

At its fifth session in 2018, the Group of Experts elected the following members of the Bureau to serve for two years, whose mandate therefore expires in 2020 at the end of the seventh session: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski (Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency) as Chair; Ms. Nurengiz Farajullayeva (Azerbaijan), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia), Mr. Christian Noll (Germany), Mr. Alfredo Pini (Italy), Mr. Boris Melqvist (Melnichuk) (Russian Federation), 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), 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.

The Group of Experts is invited to elect members of the Bureau.

3. Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3 – Draft Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan, and assessment of the role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in delivering on it

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.2 – Framing the ambition of carbon neutrality

The Group of Experts, through its Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency established in 2018, is expected to enhance involvement of industry in achieving more sustainable and energy-efficient production, logistics and consumption, to encourage collaboration between policy makers and the industrial sector, and to enable exchange of know-how and best practices among relevant experts, with the general goal to establish energy efficiency as a resource in its own right. One of the key reasons for this work is a need for eliminating the communication gaps on understanding energy efficiency and how it can be practically implemented. Communication gaps, as well as asymmetry in the distribution of information exist within companies, between enterprises and policy makers, and between the numerous supporting organizations providing resources and programmes to companies. This work is undertaken collaboratively with other organizations, academia and relevant stakeholders.

Problems associated with such communication gaps and means to address them have been discussed at several workshops, which set in motion a process of engaging policy makers and industry in discussions on actions to accelerate industry-led energy efficiency

implementation based on a business case approach, and subsequent development of policy recommendations.

In the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2020-2021, the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency was tasked to: (a) develop an industrial energy efficiency action plan drawing on the identified key operational policy priorities in industry and barriers and options for developing delivery of energy efficiency by utilities in the ECE region, and; (b) assess the roles of ECE and other stakeholder organizations in delivering on this action plan.

Delegates are invited to consider, review and eventually approve the resultant document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3, which was prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force in collaboration with the Chair of the Group of Experts and with the support of the secretariat. The document presents the draft Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan and assessment of the role of ECE in delivering on it and contains a proposal to extend the mandate of the Task Force for 2021-2022 with the possibility of extension, to implement the activities mentioned thereof. The document will further seek endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session.

4. Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4 – Updated Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

ECE/ENERGY/121 – Promoting Energy Efficiency Standards and Technologies to Enhance Energy Efficiency in Buildings (ECE Energy Series No. 60)

By way of background, the ECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings developed the ECE Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (the Framework Guidelines, ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/4). In 2017, the parent Committees (the Committees on Sustainable Energy and on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (previously the Committee on Housing and Land Management) endorsed the Framework Guidelines. To deploy the Framework Guidelines, ECE launched its high-performance buildings initiative to accelerate the transformation of the world's building stock. The Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8) included review and update of the Framework Guidelines, as needed. The draft updated Framework Guidelines are presented in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4. Delegates are invited to consider and eventually endorse the updated Framework Guidelines.

In the course of 2017-2019, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and its Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings implemented several projects that were funded by the Governments of Denmark and the Russian Federation and by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC).

Delegates are further invited to discuss the activities and review the accomplishments of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and to recommend ways for further implementing its tasks that are set forth in the Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the ECE Region for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8, Annex). The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is, in particular, invited to see what concrete role it could play to raise awareness of the role of renewable energy in high performance buildings.

5. Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/5 – Pathways to Sustainable Energy – Policy Recommendations from the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.3 – Digitalization: enabling the new phase of energy efficiency

An important goal of public policy to stimulate transition to a sustainable energy system is to improve energy efficiency. Indeed, improving energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective options for meeting growing energy demand, ensuring more rational use of energy, securing economic well-being and improved quality of life, and contributing to a better environment and to energy security in most countries. Yet there remain a few legislative, policy, economic, and financial barriers that moderate improvement of energy efficiency.

Based on the results of modelling exercise and related consultations held in the frames of implementation of the project “Strengthening capacity of the ECE member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals” (“Pathways to Sustainable Energy”), in an effort to provide information on viable energy efficiency policies to facilitate attainment of sustainable energy in the ECE region, certain conclusions and policy recommendations have been developed as contained in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/5.

The role of digitalization in provision of energy services and improving energy efficiency is explored in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.3, which also proposes a set of related issues that represent the areas of common concern for the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and thus have a potential for future nexus activities

Delegates are invited to comment on the documents presented under this agenda item.

6. Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.4 – Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase

Role of micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment can become crucial in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase if they are provided with necessary incentives. This can be one of the ways to restart MSMEs or even to create new ones when job opportunities are scarce.

The recent study on that issue, developed by ECE in the framework of the UNDA project “Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector”, includes: analysis of the environment that MSMEs face as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; best practices in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy that show how MSME may respond; measures that MSMEs can undertake in delivering energy-efficient products and in providing renewable energy equipment that would help them restore business confidence, and; recommendations on creating enabling environment for MSME to facilitate an economic recovery that would be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. This study also serves as a basis for an online training course.

Delegates are invited to discuss the outcomes of this study, taking note of the best practices identified in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy relevant for post-COVID-19 recovery of MSMEs, and review the developed guidelines, best practices and recommendations.

7. Other business

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.5 – Strategy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency: vision, mission, goals and objectives

The vision of the Chair concerning the future of the Group of Experts was presented to the Bureau at its meeting on 12 May 2020 and was well received. Specifically, the following three distinct (but connected) activities, along with their messaging, were suggested as the future main focus of the Group of Experts: (a) Energy for quality of life, which should entail

the message of not only decreasing energy consumption, optimizing industrial processes and reducing energy bills, but also of perception of energy itself as enabler of socio-economic and health benefits. (b) Energy conservation, providing a clearer vision of how to achieve reductions of energy use and emissions through behavioural change, hence avoiding dramatic market and business model changes. (c) Increased affordability of energy through implementation of energy efficiency measures, whereas the latter should not be assessed only against financial performance and monetary values, but rather bring focus on economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

An information document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/INF.5, developed by the Chair with support from the secretariat, outlines the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the Group of Experts, as well as the Group of Experts' value added, relevance of its work, common goals within the ECE Sustainable Energy Subprogramme, and other issues. The document is presented to the Group of Experts for information and possible comments.

8. Dates of the next meeting

The eighth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 20 and 21 September 2021.

9. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the session.

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations.

The Chair of the Group of Experts and the secretariat will draft a report of the session, including conclusions and recommendations, for discussion by delegates.

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on the prepared draft, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
