United Nations ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2021

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Eighth session
Geneva, 20-21 September 2021
Item 1of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 20 and 21 September 2021.[1]

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[1] Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session either online (https://indico.un.org/event/1000131/) or by email (energy.efficiency@un.org). Delegates participating in-person are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the entrance located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, to obtain a badge.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/1 – Annotated provisional agenda

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

Documents for the session will be published on the website as they become available.[2] A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

In view of the continuing restrictions to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this session will be conducted in a hybrid mode with the possibility of online and physical participation.

2. Election of officers

At its sixth session in 2019, the Group of Experts elected the following officers (members of the Bureau) to serve for two years, whose mandate therefore expires in 2021 at the end of the eighth session: 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-Chairs.

At its seventh session in 2020, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts) reappointed Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski (Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency) as Chair. The Group of Experts also reappointed Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Mrs. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia) and Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairs, and elected Mr. Vahagn Atayan (Armenia), Ms. Sanja Kapetina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Mr. Mikhail Sonin (Russian Federation) (further replaced by Mr. Petr Bobylev) as Vice-Chairs. The Group of Experts further reappointed Prof. Martin K. Patel (University of Geneva) and Mr. Zlatko Pavicic (Croatian Innovators Network) as Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Stefan M. Buettner (Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production) as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency and Vice-Chair ex officio. The Group of Experts invited Mr. Benoit Lebot (Senior Policy Advisor at Ministry of Environment, France) and Dr. Alisa Freyre (independent expert) to join the Bureau to strengthen its activities, and also invited Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty (Mac Nulty Consulting) to continue serve as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency and Vice-Chair ex officio, and Mr. Vahram Jalalyan (United Nations Development Programme in Armenia) to co-chair the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and serve on the Bureau as Vice-Chair ex officio. The term of office for the elected Chair and members of the Bureau is two years.

The Group of Experts has the following members to serve on its Bureau:

(a) Until the conclusion of the eight session: Ms. Antonela Solujic (Serbia), Dr. Romanas Savickas (UNEP-DTU Partnership, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency) and Dr. Piyush Verma (International Energy Research Centre) as Vice-Chairs;

(b) Until the conclusion of the ninth session: Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski as Chair, and Mr. Vahagn Atayan (Armenia), Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Ms. Sanja Kapetina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mrs. Natalia Jamburia (Georgia), Mr. Petr Bobylev (Russian Federation), Mr. Kostiantyn Gura (Ukraine), Dr. Alisa Freyre, Mr. Benoit Lebot, Prof. Martin K. Patel, and Mr. Zlatko Pavicic as Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Stefan M. Buettner and Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty (Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency) and Mr. Vahram Jalalyan and Ms. Irena Perfanova (Co-Chairs of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings) as Vice-Chairs ex officio.

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

[2] See: https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/sustainable-energy/energy-efficiency

3. Opening remarks

The Chair will deliver opening remarks.

4. Introductory plenary session

The experts will be invited to participate in a moderated discussion on topical issues. The discussion will be facilitated by the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy.

5. Improving energy efficiency in industry

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/3 – A pathway to reducing greenhouse gas footprint in manufacturing: determinants for an economic assessment of industrial decarbonization measures

The work of the Group of Experts on industrial energy efficiency is carried out by its Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency. The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 29th session (25-27 November 2020), took note of the draft Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3) developed by the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, supported the role set forth therein for ECE to deliver on it, and extended mandate of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency for 2021-2022 to implement the action plan (ECE/ENERGY/133).

The Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency hence works towards implementation of the Industrial Energy Efficiency Action Plan, while remaining engaged in related activities and projects, notably the project on "Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050".

The Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, following its Action Plan, conducted research on possible economic measures to reduce greenhouse gas footprint. The outcomes of this research are presented in the document entitled "A pathway to reducing greenhouse gas footprint in manufacturing: determinants for an economic assessment of industrial decarbonization measures" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/3). In the document, the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency identifies six types of measures that differ in terms of their impact on investment and running costs, evaluates these measures from an economic point of view, and show the limits as well as advantages and disadvantages of various measures with regard to necessary actions and consequences. The Group of Experts will be invited to further elaborate on the matter and propose further steps.

6. Improving energy efficiency in buildings

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/4 – Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings: analysis of progress towards the performance objectives

The work of the Group of Experts on energy efficiency in buildings is carried out by its Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, established under the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and hosted by the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.

ECE is implementing project "Enhancing National Capacities to Develop and Implement Energy Efficiency Standards for Buildings in the UNECE Region". The project is overseen by the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. One of the project activities includes conducting a gap analysis between the performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4) and the current energy efficiency standards and their implementation in the selected countries. The gap analysis was conducted, and the study is available online. It addresses the situation in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), Eastern Europe (Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), and the Russian Federation.

The Group of Experts at its seventh session (22 and 25 September 2020) requested the results of the gap analysis to be reported at the eighth session (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/2). The document entitled "Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings: analysis of progress towards the performance objectives" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/4) was developed in response to this request. It contains key conclusions of the gap analysis and recommendations on attainment of the performance objectives set forth in the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. The document will be presented to the Group of Experts for further consultation.

7. Unlocking energy efficiency potential through digitalization

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/5 – Improving Efficiency of Buildings through Digitalization – Policy Recommendations from the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy

The work of the Group of Experts on digitalization is carried out by its Task Force on Digitalization in Energy.

The Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, recognizing that the building sector globally represents over one-third of total final energy consumption, focused on exploring opportunities that digital technologies provide to achieve higher energy performance of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings at any stages of their lifecycle (construction, occupancy, or retrofitting).

As a result of this work, the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy developed an evidence-based document entitled "Improving Efficiency of Buildings through Digitalization – Policy Recommendations from the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/5) that elaborates on the role that application of digital technologies could play and aims to raise awareness of policymakers and stakeholders of related benefits, risks, uncertainties, and trade-offs. The document also contains key recommendations for further consideration by the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss the document and refine its recommendations as appropriate.

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

Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency will be held in the form of a plenary session. The plenary session will feature a concluding debate on the above thematic areas and will enable sharing conclusions on the issues raised, as well as discussing how to overcome identified challenges and to make use of opportunities. The plenary will also elaborate on possible next steps for the Group of Experts in line with its Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/10).

9. Status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2020-2021 and considerations regarding Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/10 – Draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2022-2023

The Group of Experts will discuss its activities over 2020-2021 and the status of implementation of the Work Plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8).

The Group of Experts will also discuss its Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/10) approved by written procedure and submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for consideration at its thirtieth session. The Group of Experts will be invited to elaborate on concrete steps towards implementation of the Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023.

10. Other business

The Group of Experts may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the mandate of the Group of Experts. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and the Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

11. Dates of the next meeting

The Group of Experts will be invited to confirm the dates for its ninth session, which is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 3 and 4 October 2022.

12. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

Documentation: GEEE-7/2021/INF.1 – Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the eighth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

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.

13. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its eighth session

The Chair of the Group of Experts, 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.