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Item 7(c) of the provisional agenda

**Review of the implementation of the programmes of work 2018-2019 and 2020:
Carbon-neutral and energy efficient housing**

Terms of Reference for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings for 2022-2023

Note by the Bureau of the Committee

Summary

This document contains the amended “Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings for 2022-2023”

The Committee is invited to endorse the Terms of References and agree to extend the mandate of the Joint Task Force for 2022-2023.



I. Background

1. The Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (the Joint Task Force) was established by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (jointly referred to as the parent bodies) for 2016–2017 with a possibility of extension of its mandate. The mandate was extended for 2018–2019 and for 2020–2021. The mandate of the Joint Task Force is proposed to be extended for the period of 2022–2023 following the request of the Commission at its 69th session (20–21 April 2021), with a possibility of further extension.

II. Reporting

2. The Joint Task Force is hosted by the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and reports to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management.

III. Objective

3. The objective of the Joint Task Force is to enhance the harmonization of the markets for products and technological appliances that increase energy efficiency in buildings of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). It broadens the exchange of experiences and approaches to increased uptake of energy efficiency measures in buildings among the member States. The Joint Task Force is guided by recommendations and decisions of its parent bodies.

4. The Joint Task Force will facilitate ECE support towards the achievement of the targets set by international initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SEforAll), and the “Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing”. All of these initiatives stress the importance of energy efficiency to ensure energy security, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

IV. Planned activities and outputs

5. To achieve its objectives, the Joint Task Force will undertake the following activities:

- (a) Based on the conducted gap analysis, evaluate options for the development, adoption or promotion of energy efficiency standards in buildings;
- (b) Prepare guidance materials;
- (c) Promote partnerships with other international organizations;
- (d) Maintain a network of experts on energy efficiency in buildings; and
- (e) Develop and organize training programmes;

6. The Joint Task Force will deliver the following outputs:

- (a) Assess barriers to adopting and implementing high-performance standards in housing with a focus on financing energy efficiency measures in and maintenance of multi-apartment housing;

(b) Maintain and update an online database of experts on energy efficiency in buildings tailored for the needs of the ECE region;

(c) Organize training seminars in selected ECE member States on energy efficiency standards in buildings; and

(d) Further explore the contributions that the built environment can make to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement and consider policies and actions that could assist countries in achieving their objectives and commitments.

7. All the above-mentioned activities and outputs are subject to regular consultations with and between the parent bodies, the WP 6, partner organizations, donors and members of the Joint Task Force, and might be subject to adaptations.

V. Funding

8. The activities of the Joint Task Force are supported by extra-budgetary funds and in-kind contributions. The listed activities will be implemented depending upon the availability of funds.

VI. Timetable

9. The mandate of the Joint Task Force will cover the period of 2022–2023 with a possibility of extension

VII. Methods of work

10. The Joint Task Force is expected, subject to availability of funds, to have two to four face-to-face meetings during its mandate. The Joint Task Force will also work via various means of electronic communications. Donors are invited to provide voluntary contributions to support its work.

VIII. Membership

11. The Joint Task Force is open to all ECE member States. Representatives from other Member States and Intergovernmental Organizations are also welcome to participate. Representatives of private sector and academia and independent technical experts on building standards and state of the art technologies are invited to support the work of the Joint Task Force by providing written contributions and participating in its meetings.

IX. Secretariat support

12. The Joint Task Force will have two Co-Chairs representing its parent bodies. The Committees on Sustainable Energy and on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management will jointly service the Joint Task Force. This will include:

(a) Servicing the Joint Task Force meetings (with interpretation and translation where possible), including the preparation of meeting agendas and reports;

(b) Preparing background documents and studies for the Joint Task Force at its request; and

(c) Arranging for financial support for members of the Joint Task Force from ECE member States, so that they can participate in its meetings.

13. Provision of the secretariat support is dependent on the availability of additional resources as described in Section V.
