

TECHNICAL EXPERT MEETING FOLLOW-UP DIALOGUE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Friday, 20 May 2016, 18:30–20:00

Summary by the facilitator Mr. John Christensen (United Nations Environment Programme)

As part of the technical examination process on mitigation (M-TEP) organized by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, a technical expert meeting (TEM) follow-up dialogue on accelerating energy efficiency in urban environments was held in Bonn, Germany, on 20 May 2016. This dialogue served as a follow-up meeting to the TEM held in 2015,¹ at which participants discussed the following issues: the potential for and benefits of enhanced energy efficiency policies in urban environments; ways to accelerate the implementation of scalable, replicable and transformative actions; and ways to turn potential into action on the ground. The TEM follow-up dialogue provided a platform for relevant organizations and initiatives to demonstrate how they have assisted Parties in implementing policy options identified through the TEMs and/or supported relevant partnerships and initiatives. It also served as a space for Parties to discuss how they envision the continued engagement of these organizations and initiatives in the M-TEP, with a view to maximizing the added value of their ongoing efforts.

Accelerating the implementation of scalable, replicable and transformative actions

Participants highlighted the importance of energy efficiency as an area that could get Parties halfway towards the 2° C target. As technologies are available for implementing energy efficiency on the ground, the focus should now be placed on scaling up and accelerating the implementation of such technologies.

Several partnerships and organizations presented their work on accelerating the implementation of energy efficiency on the ground including:

- (a) **Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)**, an initiative led by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank. The initiative has as one of its three objectives for 2030 a doubling of the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. The Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform is the flagship initiative to reach this objective and it was the major energy efficiency action at the Lima-Paris Action Agenda at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The Accelerator Platform cover areas like lighting and appliances (see below), fuel efficiency, buildings, district energy systems and industry, all aiming at accelerating action at the country, city, state, region, or sector level;
- (b) **The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) en.lighten initiative**, one of the SE4ALL accelerators, supports national regulators and regional bodies in developing countries to advance policies, strategies and actions for the phase-out of inefficient lighting products. Emphasis is placed on an integrated policy approach so that a transition can be sustained by the domestic market without continued reliance on external support or resources. This initiative now has 67 partner countries that have committed to adopt policies to transition to energy-efficient lighting by the target date of the end of 2016. The initiative has also recently established a dedicated city engagement focusing on efficient street lighting systems. Following this success, UNEP

¹ <http://unfccc.int/bodies/awg/items/8896.php>

started the **United for Efficiency initiative**, which includes not only lighting but also air conditioning, refrigeration transformers, electric motors and IT equipment. This new initiative already has 19 partner countries. Household appliances have long lifespans and on aggregate consume substantial amounts of energy during their lifetimes. Given the recognition that stronger action on climate change is required now, i.e. pre-2020, there is an element of urgency for introducing policies and relevant standards that mandate minimum levels of efficiency. Efficient technologies are already available but less efficient appliances are still being installed today, which will be in use for the next 10 years or more;

(c) At the TEM in 2015 there was a call to scale up action in the building sector. The establishment of a global alliance of existing initiatives working on energy efficiency in buildings was deemed essential to provide support and scale up the global engagement of Parties and non-Party stakeholders. France and UNEP had proposed to work in this direction with all stakeholders. This proposal came to fruition at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, where France and UNEP launched the **Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction**. This is an alliance that seeks to facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the context of the building sector. The alliance now encompasses 21 countries, 4 local authorities, 8 companies and more than 50 organizations in its membership;

(d) Urban areas are associated with approximately 70 per cent of global energy consumption and 75 per cent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The **Transformative Actions Program (TAP)** run by **ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability** focuses on action by cities and regions and has received 125 applications from 89 cities and regions. The TAP platform offers enhanced visibility and global trustworthiness aimed at increasing the number and diversity of mitigation and adaptation actions to be implemented by local and subnational governments using global financing mechanisms. The programme connects projects to financing and provides technical support.

Many countries still lack policies and standards for energy efficiency. When developing such standards and policies for the first time, these countries could benefit from the experience of other countries in this sector. Rapid implementation of policies and standards could create an enabling environment to attract new sources of financing.

Next steps

Participants in the meeting underlined the importance of the M-TEP in assisting Parties and other stakeholders to identify policy options to address barriers and utilize mitigation potentials and to form partnerships to foster the implementation of such policy options. Specifically on the topic of energy efficiency in urban environments, there was consensus that this thematic area should continue to be examined in the context of the TEMs and efforts to that end should not cease at the forty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies in May 2016. Participants noted that since energy efficiency has a prominent role in most intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), it should therefore continue to be an area of focus for the M-TEP.

There is growing understanding among participants that the M-TEP is a forum where the ‘outside world’ can engage with the UNFCCC Parties and contribute to the multilateral process. In the history of the UNFCCC process, this is a significant development and should be taken advantage of. The participants called for the M-TEP to be given a more prominent role by Parties.