

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA



4162321
NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE
POUR L'AFRIQUE

Dist.:
Limited

NRD/MES/ERU/SA/6
Original: ENGLISH

3 May 1993

Ad Hoc meeting of Senior Advisers
on Energy Strategy and Policies

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17-19 May 1993

Note on
Modalities of Enhancing
Energy Efficiency: Project
Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE 21)-
an Interregional Approach

Introduction

1. Energy is a major source of atmospheric pollution. However, energy economy and efficiency can significantly reduce environmental degradation and contribute to more sustainable energy developments, improved energy security, reduced investments in energy supply infrastructure, and reduced dependence on energy imports. The combination of these factors will contribute to more sustainable economic development.
2. The proposed Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE 21) is based upon the approach successfully undertaken by the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project (EE 2000) within the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE). The EE 2000 project was designed to enhance trade and cooperation in energy-efficient, environmentally sound technology practices among ECE participating States, in particular between formerly centrally planned economies and the market economies. The project was mandated by the 1990 Bergen Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development and began operations in 1991. The EE 2000 Project has been financed through bilateral "in kind" and cash contributions from participating ECE member States to an extra-budgetary Trust Fund.

Aims of the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project

3. There is a need to develop a more systematic exchange of experience and technical know-how among countries of the other regions of the world in order to achieve sound energy consumption management and contribute to the protection of the atmosphere within the framework of Agenda 21 and other decisions reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. It is proposed that the EE 2000 Project concept be extended whereby interested member States in each of the other UN regional commissions would undertake a similar initiative. This will necessarily involve modifications to activities in each region to reflect the local context, and there will also be increased emphasis on capacity building.
4. Representatives from the Energy Divisions of the regional commissions together with interested donor delegations met in Geneva twice in 1992 for Ad Hoc meetings to discuss and confirm the interest of countries for a global approach. This broad project plan was approved by the Ad Hoc meetings. Work is now under way to develop the regional plans to account for local conditions and to convene a meeting of interested countries and donors in each region in the near future.

5. It was agreed at the Ad Hoc meeting that the individual Regional Energy Efficiency programme need to have a regular link amongst themselves, in the form of an Interregional Steering Committee, served by a small secretariat, which would act as a place for concentration on methods of operation and for coordination with, inter alia, the other initiatives and programmes resulting from the UNCED through the Commission for Sustainable Development and/or the ECOSOC Energy Committee.

6. These five regional Energy Efficiency Projects (including the existing EE 2000 Project), combined with the Interregional Steering Committee, would compose the projet entitled Global Energy Efficiency 21. (GEE 21).

7. This global approach will rely upon the commitments of concerned beneficiary and donor countries. Funding will be used for expanding contacts between business people, trade officials, bankers, engineers and energy managers; improved information services and data-base development and servicing this with small regional secretariats. It is recommended that the Interregional secretariat, as a very light structure, be financed in the initial phase through contributions from each regional project and that the secretariat be located in Geneva.

8. The Regional Projects would be financed on extra-budgetary funds provided by donors and participating countries, similar to the EE 2000 project. Owing to the commitment of the same donor countries in the Global environment Facility (GEF), it is proposed by the beneficiary countries that GEF participation, from the GEF's Technical Assistance Fund, be a major source of funding for the project. This mechanism would be used in particular for strengthening the part of the projects concerned with capacity building as well as early screening of investment programmes, whose financing is to be taken care of by normal financing methods (loans or grants), external to GEE 21.

9. The four new Regional Projects (excluding EE 2000 which has been operational since 1991) and the Interregional secretariat represents an expense of approximately \$14.3 million over three years of operation starting in 1993.

Status of the Project

10. The first segment of the Project was submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for financing as a free-standing technical assistance project for the fifth phase by Environment, Energy and Housing Ministries in central, east and south European ECE member States as the Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones Project in December 1992. Preparations are under way in each of the regional commissions. In particular, Regional Steering Committees are in formation within the ECA and ESCAP regional activities. The GEE 21 Project is on the agenda of the meeting of the Senior Advisers to ECA Governments on Energy Strategies and Policies to be held from 17-20 May in Addis Ababa. In the ESCAP region a meeting of Senior Energy Officials is to be convened from 31 March to 2 April 1993 to form and constitute a Regional Steering Committee. The ECE Committee on Energy at its second session in November 1992 adopted a draft decision on the project for consideration by the forty-eight session of the Commission in April 1993.

Possible future action of Regional Commissions

11. Regional commissions may therefore wish to consider the following action:

- (a) to inform their respective annual sessions of the advanced status of the project and seek their endorsement with a view to its transmission to ECOSOC;
- (b) to encourage further preparatory work in each region resulting in the establishment of a regional steering committee (comparable to the ECE Steering Committee on "Energy Efficiency 2000") and of a regional activity plan including a budget;
- (c) to prepare for the first interregional steering committee meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the third session of the Steering Committee of the "Energy Efficiency 2000" Project in Geneva in June 1993;
- (d) to invite beneficiary governments in their respective regions, after approval of the regional activity plan, to submit a joint funding request to the GEF;

(e) to inform the Secretary-General that the project, an outcome of the UNCED process, is the first interregional project in the field of energy efficiency.

12. The fifteenth Congress of the World Energy Council took place in Madrid from 22-25 September 1992. Staff members from ECE, ECA, UNHQ, UNDP, UNESCO and FAO took part and contributed as authors of papers, invited speakers, panel members or chairman.

13. In its "Conclusions and Recommendations", the Congress called on the United Nations

"to provide a mechanism for a better dialogue between the industrialized countries and the developing countries on technology transfer, management and training, and the mobilization of investment funds to deal more urgently with the energy needs of developing countries".

The recommendation will be submitted to the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, as the sole ACC Inter-Agency body responsible for the survey of ongoing programmes, the identification of issues for joint cooperation, the organization of the "dialogue" recommended by the WEC and in a position to speak with one voice on global energy issues.

14. The questions to be raised relate to whether the UN should continue to abstain from global energy issues and from promoting global energy solutions, or rather take a fresh, active stance. Similarly, the regional commissions may wish to consider taking a lead in calling for a meeting of senior officials on energy with a mandate to compare programmes, select a theme for joint consideration and enhance the information transfer from developed to developing countries.

Draft Decision on Global Energy Efficiency 21

An Ad Hoc meeting of the Senior Advisers to ECA on Energy Strategies and Policies held on 17-20 May 1993 in Addis Ababa.

Noted with appreciation the progress achieved in the preparation of the Project in cooperation with the other Regional Commissions of the United Nations system (ECE, ESCWA, ESCAP and ECLAC), the draft Project Plan and the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of Ad Hoc Steering Committee;

Agreed that Global Energy Efficiency 21: An Interregional Approach would make an important contribution to implementing AGENDA 21, approved by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

Took note with considerable interest of the proposed Project and agreed to transmit it for consideration of potential donors;

Requested the ECA secretariat to continue assisting the further preparation of the Project and to report to the first meeting of Regional Steering Committee on progress made.