Around 15% of global power consumption and 5% of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to electricity used for lighting. The United Nations Environment Programme’s en.lighten initiative estimates that more than $140 billion per year could be saved in energy costs and CO2 emissions could be reduced by 580 million tonnes annually with a global switch to efficient lighting. Many different initiatives are currently underway to support the transition to efficient lighting – through different market transformation strategies - such as awards, incentives and procurement policies, and through different regulatory approaches – such as energy efficiency standards, minimum energy performance standards, and energy labelling.

Different regulatory approaches for lighting will be the focus of the third SPEx call. The International Energy Agency (IEA) 4E initiative will provide an introduction and present the context for regulatory approaches to energy efficient lighting and different initiatives supporting the transition to energy efficient lighting. Three presentations will follow on the approaches to lighting taken in the United States, in the European Commission, and in the region of Central America.

The United States (US) Department of Energy (DoE) will present a detailed look at the federal standards programme, with an overview of history and objectives of the programme, the elements that make the programme and how it engages stakeholders in the decision making process. The standards for lighting that are currently under development will be discussed, and then the impact of US appliance standards will be explained.

The European Commission’s DG Energy will explain how they regulate the required minimum efficiency of lighting products within three different regulatory measures: one for non-directional lamps typically used in households (Regulation 244/2009), one for lamps and equipment typically used in offices and street lighting (Regulation 245/2009), and one for directional lamps and LEDs (Regulation 1194/2012). The presentation will then cover the recent amendment that was passed to better align all three different Regulations, and
postpone the phase-out of non-directional halogen lamps from 2016 to 2018, which will allow LED technology to advance further and be ready to replace these halogen lamps. Further, a market assessment recently undertaken showed that LEDs are ready to replace directional halogen lamps, which confirmed their phase-out in 2016. Finally, future plans to replace all three regulatory measures with just one act will be presented.

A representative from Proyecto Mesoamerica will provide information on the regional lighting efficiency strategy in Central America. The countries in the region (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic) have undertaken numerous initiatives to improve energy efficiency for lighting, however, results have been marginal due to a lack of systematic measures being adopted by the countries. The presentation will feature information on the project, challenges and solutions encountered with a regional approach, and the actions taken under the project - such as efficiency standards and an implementation plan with a timeframe that are the same for the entire region.

Questions to be addressed by all presenters include:
- What are the particular strengths of your approach?
- What challenges do you or have you faced?
- Are you aware of how your approach may have impacted on other regions?
- Are there any collaborative activities that could support these activities?

Following the presentations, all participants are invited to participate in a discussion forum with questions to the presenters and to each other. Participants are also encouraged to share information on their national approaches, challenges and lessons learned.

This will be the first in a series of calls focused on lighting. With sufficient interest, the SEAD initiative looks forward to hosting calls that focus on lighting test methods, promotional efficient lighting strategies, and any other topics raised by interested participants.

If you are a non-governmental representative and have questions you would like addressed on the call, please send them to Nicole Kearney, the SPEx Coordinator, at nkearnery@clasp.ngo.