

Item 2: Opening remarks

Talking Points - Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia Chair, Group of Experts on Gas

Thank you for coming to Geneva and welcome to the 5th session of Group of Experts on Gas (GEG).

Our Group is an inclusive and neutral platform for governments and industry to meet and discuss sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the ECE region. As such, we are an excellent example of how the public and the private sectors could work together, in the spirit of SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals.

Our core work is policy dialogue in the ever-increasing share of gas in the total primary energy supply and its social and environmental impacts. In terms of concrete activities, our work plan for 2018-2019 focused on:

- Role of gas in attaining Sustainable Development Goals
- Best practices in managing methane emissions along the gas value chain
- Role of gas in improving urban air quality
- Renewable energy and natural gas as the best combination to enhance the energy efficiency in the whole
- Emerging issues
- Promoting sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas and LNG in the ECE

Today and tomorrow, we will hear more about each of these activities. Please check the just-adopted agenda and the timetable, to check which topic is of your interest.

The Bureau of the Group of Experts was very active in the past 12 months. We met or held teleconferences once a month to discuss and carry out the Group's work plan. Our work plan calls for a lot of things to do. Therefore, we need to strengthen the Bureau with more capable experts willing to work. I hope we will do so this morning.

I would also like to invite all other experts to join some of our task forces and help deliver good results.
