

Bureau Call

14 May 2018

16:00-17:30 (Geneva time)

MINUTES

A. Participants:

Bureau Members:

Present

- Mr. Ray Pilcher (Chair)
- Mr. Clemens Backhaus
- Mr. Neil Butler
- Mr. David Creedy
- Mr. C. Ozgen Karacan
- Mr. Jacek Skiba
- Ms. Felicia Ruiz
- Mr. Clark Talkington

Apologies

- Mr. Sergazy Baimukhametov
- Mr. Yuriy Bobrov
- Mr. Hasan Erdoğan
- Mr. Milanko Savic
- Mr. Sergey Ivanovich Shumkov
- Mr. Igor Yashchenko
- Mr. Zhixin Jin

Secretariat:

- Mr. Michal Drabik

B. Draft agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Update by the Secretariat
 - a. GMF
 - b. Workshops in Turkey and Ukraine
3. Progress of the work on the AMM best practice document
4. Participation in the World Mining Congress
 - a. Agenda
5. Workshop in Colombia
 - a. Brief report from the fact-finding mission
 - b. Discussion on content
 - c. Potential for ICE-CMM in Colombia
6. The annual session and the Group's involvement in the 27th session of the Committee.
 - a. Agenda for the annual meeting
 - b. Agenda for the GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting
 - c. Participation in the 27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
 - d. Expansion of the Group's mandate
7. Workshop in Georgia
 - a. Dates of the event and a preceding fact-finding mission
8. Workshop in Ukraine (9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development)
9. Involvement of Members in Bureau's work
 - a. ToR

- 10. Any other business
- 11. Next meeting / call

1. Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted.

2. Update on:

a. GMF;

- The Secretariat reported on a seminar organized jointly with GMI that took place on Wednesday, 16 April within the framework of the Global Methane Forum in Toronto, Canada.
 - The event was described as successful. There were approximately 45 participants. 11 presentations were delivered, all of which are posted on the UNECE [webpage dedicated to the event](#).
- The Bureau members who participated in the event shared the Secretariat's view. High attendance and good quality of discussion were observed and appreciated.

b. Workshops in Turkey and Ukraine

Turkey

- The event is to take place in 2019.
- It will be organized in a form of seminar (i.e. no fact-finding mission).
 - Based on discussions with the Turkish Partners the seminar should focus on:
 - Legal issues;
 - Project development issues;
 - Best practices;
 - SMM;
 - AMM.
- The seminar will be held in English (international experts) and Turkish (local experts) with simultaneous interpretation from English to Turkish and from Turkish to English.
- The division of duties related to organization and delivery of the seminar will be distributed in accordance to the generic *ToR* and the *Workshop Task List*.
- The Group of Experts currently waits for:
 - A formal invitation;
 - Suggested dates and place;
 - List of subjects to be covered at the seminar.

Ukraine

- In accordance with a request by the Ukrainian Government, the event is to take place in November 2018 alongside the 9th Forum organized jointly by Ukraine and the UN Regional Commissions.
- It will be organized in a form of one-day-long seminar (i.e. no fact-finding mission).
 - Based on discussions with the Ukrainian Partners the seminar should focus on:
 - Legal issues;
 - Project development issues;
 - Best practices;
 - Technical issues related to methane drainage and use;
 - SMM;
 - AMM.
- The seminar will be held in English (international experts) and Russian and/or Ukrainian (local experts) with simultaneous interpretation from English to Russian and/or Ukrainian, and from Russian and/or Ukrainian to English.
- The division of duties related to organization and delivery of the seminar will be distributed in accordance to the generic *ToR* and the *Workshop Task List*.

- The Group of Experts currently waits for a more specific list of subjects to be covered at the seminar.
- Ukraine is also interested in hosting the International Centre of Excellence on CMM (ICE-CMM).
- A meeting of the Group of Experts with all Ukrainian stakeholders involved in creation of the future ICE-CMM will be organized by the Ukraine as a side-event accompanying the seminar.
 - At the meeting Ukraine will present the Group of Experts with details on the planned legal status, structure, financing, and activities of the Centre. It will also share the schedule of work leading to the establishment of ICE-CMM in Ukraine.
- ICE-CMM in Ukraine is to be opened in 2019.
- Ukraine, alike other entities hosting ICE-CMMs (currently in Poland and China), will financially contribute to the planned UNECE project necessary for providing coordination of activities between the Centres themselves and the Group of Experts.
- Once ICE-CMM in Ukraine is established, the Group of Experts together with the newly created Centre will deliver a two-day-long workshop, preceded by a fact-finding mission assuring the relevance of the former to the actual local needs.
- The division of duties related to organization and delivery of the workshop and the fact-finding mission will be distributed in accordance to the already mentioned *ToR* and the *Workshop Task List*.

3. Progress of work on AMM best practice document

- The outline of the document accommodating comments to the initial version was prepared by the Chair of the Task Force and it was distributed among the Task Force Members before the meeting in Toronto.
- The Chair of the Task Force will now populate these parts of the outline for which the content has already been prepared. He will also reach out to the Task Force members asking for their help in developing the missing parts.
- First Draft of the document is to be ready for the Group's annual session in September.

4. Participation in the World Mining Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan (20 June 2018).

- The Group is to deliver a one-day-long session, in coordination with the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
- The event is to take place on 20 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- A draft agenda has been developed (available [here](#))
- During the event the Group and GMI are to organize thematic sessions pairing international and local experts.
- The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it would send out an invitation to the event together with a draft agenda within the next few days following the phone call (*please note that the invitation containing the agenda was sent out to the Group on Tuesday, 15 May*)
- A webpage dedicated to the event has been developed (available [here](#))

5. Workshop in Colombia

a. Brief report from the fact-finding mission

- Mr. Pilcher, Ms. Ruiz, Mr. Kelafant, and Mr. Drabik from the Secretariat executed a 5-day-long fact-finding missions to Colombia (12-16 March 2018).
- The Experts had meetings with all relevant Governmental Agencies involved in regulation, exploration or extraction on Coal Mine Methane in Colombia, i.e. Ministry of Mines and Energy, Unit for Mining and Energy Planning (UPME), Ministry of Environment, National Geological Service of Colombia (SGC), National Hydrocarbon Agency (ANH), National Mining Agency (ANM), and learned about their problems, needs and ongoing, as well as planned projects related to the field in question.
- The Experts had also meetings with relevant private sector stakeholders, such as Durmmond Ltd. (the only company running a CBM project in Colombia), Argos (a cement

- company managing an abandoned coal mine project), and Uniminas (an operator of multiple mines across the country), providing insight into the private sector's activities, needs, opportunities, and difficulties in the field of CMM and AMM in Colombia.
- Mr. Pilcher and Mr. Drabik executed two site visits to (1) Casablanca coal mine operated by Uniminas (including visits to smaller mines conducting extractive activities based on the same concession), and to Cementos Argos site in Boyacá, (including visit to the model abandoned mine project run by the company). Visits to both companies featured meetings with their high- and mid-level staff.
 - The Experts executed a visit to the SGC laboratory responsible for determining the characteristic of coal (including its methane content, porosity, etc.)
 - Conclusions from the mission are the following:
 - There are multiple regulatory issues preventing development of CMM and AMM projects in Colombia.
 - There is a need for capacity building activities in Colombia, as well as for technology transfer to the country.
 - There is a will to improve the situation, which provides the Group of Experts with an opportunity to get actively involved and to share its expertise.
 - A two-day-long capacity workshop is to be delivered this summer (tentative dates 24-25 July 2018).
 - The Secretariat will prepare a report from the mission shortly. Once completed, the report will be distributed among the Bureau Members for their information.

b. Discussion on content

- The Secretariat suggested the following content of the upcoming workshop in Colombia:
 - Mine Safety:
 - Risk assessment;
 - Degassing;
 - Outbursts prevention;
 - Ventilation:
 - Best practice;
 - Regulation;
 - CMM/AMM/VAM Project Development:
 - Obstacles;
 - Policies;
 - Economics of successful Project Development;
 - Pre-Mine Drainage:
 - Safety issues;
 - Impact on Mining;
 - AMM:
 - Significance;
 - AMM utilization;
 - Best practices in closing mines.

c. Potential for ICE-CMM in Colombia

- Based on the information gathered in Colombia the Secretariat informed the Bureau that:
 - There is an interest to host an International Centre of Excellence on CMM in Colombia.
 - A potential ICE-CMM should be focused on training trainers and on best practice dissemination activities.
- In this context the Bureau was informed that following the fact-finding mission, the Secretariat was contacted by Ms. Gheorge from National Mining Agency (ANM), who confirmed Colombia's interest in hosting the Centre.
- Ms. Ruiz pointed to the fact that while there is only two months left before the tentatively set dates of the workshop in Colombia, neither its dates are fixed nor is its agenda developed. Consequently, she enquired whether the workshop should not be postponed.

- Secretariat apologized for the delay in preparing the event. It informed the Bureau that the draft agenda for the workshop will be developed and shared with the Bureau by the end of the week (i.e. by Friday 18 April).
- In light of the above, in order to expedite the process of finalizing the agenda, another Bureau call to discuss the draft document was set for Thursday, 24 May at 16:00 Geneva time.
- Before the call the Secretariat will also contact the Colombian Partners in order to confirm the dates (*Please note that it has been done and that now both parties, i.e. UNECE and the Colombian Partners work under the assumption that the workshop will take place on the said dates, i.e. 24-25 July. However, the event might still be postponed if the Secretariat does not manage to secure the speakers whose expertise matches the agreed agenda.*)

5. The annual session and the Group's involvement in the 27th session of the Committee

a. Agenda for the annual meeting

- The annual session will this year take place on 24-25 September 2018 in Salle XII of Palais des Nations in Geneva.
- The session will be held back to back with the 27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- The Secretariat described to the Bureau the planned content of the annual session and informed Bureau members that it will distribute an electronic version of a draft document by the end of the week (i.e. by 18 May 2018).
- The proposed content includes the following items:
 - 1st day: GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting;
 - 2nd day:
 - Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019;
 - Seminars and Workshops;
 - BPG on AMM;
 - General discussion on methods and practices in MRV of methane emissions in the coal industry – contribution to UNECE work on Methane Management in Extractive Industries;
 - ICE – CMMs:
 - Poland, China;
 - Colombia, Ukraine, Russia;
 - Strengthening cooperation with WMC;
 - Gender issues in coal mining sector - Panel discussion;
 - Panel discussion on transition of the energy sector.
- Ms. Felicia Ruiz thanked UNECE for hosting the GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting.
- The Secretariat underlined the importance of the partnership with GMI and U.S. EPA.
- Mr. Talkington, pointed to the fact that addressing gender related issues in the whole coal mining sector might be overly broad given the specific focus of the Group. The Secretariat agreed, explaining that the session will focus on these gender related matters that are within the scope of the Group's mandate, interest, and activities.

b. Agenda for the GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting

- Since the first day of the annual session will be dedicated to matters related to the GMI Coal Subcommittee, the Secretariat said to rely on GMI to develop an agenda for this event. Mr. Ruiz confirmed that she would prepare such an agenda and that she will present it to the Secretariat shortly.

c. Participation in the 27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

- The Secretariat informed the Group about the fact that there is a 90-minute-long time slot reserved for Methane Management issues in the afternoon of the first day of the

Committee meeting. The Secretariat encouraged Bureau members to contribute to this session. At the same time, it was underlined that the time slot in question is to address not only CMM matters, but a broader work that UNECE does in the field of methane management in extractive industries.

- Mr. Pilcher suggested that the Group presents the Committee with hard data on methane emissions, thus highlighting the importance of the matter. He also recommended to bring to the Committee's attention such information as: the main sources of methane emission, as well as the current monitoring and reporting practices, and the need for their improvement. Mr. Pilcher argued that such data would clearly show the relevance of the Group's work, particularly if the presentation shown to the Committee clearly indicates that methane emissions from abandoned mines will continue to pose an environmental threat even after cessation of coal extraction activities.

7. Workshop in Georgia

- The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Group was formally invited by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia to deliver a technical workshop in this country. The dates of the event, which is to be preceded by the fact-finding mission have been tentatively set for October 2-4, 2018

8. Workshop in Ukraine (9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development)

Please see point 2b

9. Involvement in Bureau Work

- The Secretariat informed reminded the Bureau that the issue of drafting a ToR for membership in the Bureau was previously discussed without leading to any specific conclusion.
- It was observed that involvement of all Bureau members in the work of the Group is necessary.
- The Secretariat informed the Bureau that number of Bureau Members who have for various reasons difficulties to participate in Bureau calls, committed themselves to providing their written comments in response to the minutes shared by the Secretariat after each meeting. The Secretariat observed that such a solution could be included in the ToR, underlining that the goal of the latter is not to put pressure on the current or future members of the Bureau, but rather to clarify the duties associated with the membership in the Bureau, and assure broad engagement in the Bureau's work.
- Mr. Talkington suggested that the ToR could have a form of an introductory letter that each new Bureau member would receive upon his/her election. He also observed that such letter/ToR could be standardized across all subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- The Secretariat noted that such standardization might be difficult to achieve, yet expressed its willingness to explore the issue in greater detail should the Bureau request it to do so.
- Ms. Ruiz supported the idea of developing a welcome letter/ToR indicating the duties of Bureau members.
- Mr. Pilcher volunteered to prepare a draft ToR and to submit it for Bureau review once completed. He also asked the Secretariat to allocate some time at the annual session to discuss this issue with the Group.

10. Any other business

- Ms. Tinschert, who is in charge of the Pathways Project that is being developed by the Division on Sustainable Energy asked the Group for help in identifying both, the existing, as well as model policies for effective methane management and emission reduction. She also notified the Group that such request is very likely to come from the Committee at its upcoming session.

- Mr. Pilcher and Ms. Ruiz provided Ms. Tinschert with information on the work in this field that has been done by U.S. EPA. Ms. Ruiz informed Ms. Tinschert that the document developed by U.S. EPA was currently under review, and offered to provide her with a link to it once the process is completed.

8. Date of the next Bureau call

- The next call to will take place on Thursday, 24 May at 16:00 Geneva time.

9. End of the meeting.

- The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call.
- The meeting was closed
