



# Economic and Social Council

25 March 2014

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Executive Committee

#### **Decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

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### **V. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**

19. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is mandated until December 2015, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

#### **A. Objective**

20. To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

#### **B. Areas of Work**

21. Best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane.

#### **C. Concrete activities**

(1) Electronically disseminate “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines” to all major stakeholders in the ECE region and beyond as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (Decision 2011/222) before August 2013;

(2) Prepare suggestions, by August 2013, on how to develop, as appropriate, similar best practices guidance for aspects of Coal Mine Methane (CMM) management that are not covered in detail by the current document such as best practice drilling or low-concentration methane drainage;

(3) Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;

(4) Facilitate the establishment by United Nations member States of International Centres of Excellence in effective pre- and post-mining extraction and use of CMM, abandoned mine methane (AMM) and ventilation air methane (VAM) and suggest a rational distribution of labour between the Group of Experts and Centres of Excellence to ensure ongoing exchange of information and experience regarding the profitable recovery and use of CMM, AMM, and VAM;

(5) Consider best practices on issues related to drainage, recovery, and usage of coal mine methane.

22. If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal coal mine safety issues unrelated to drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane, these will not be addressed in the ECE context but they may communicate these to other relevant organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration in the framework of its coal mine safety guidelines.