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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Seventh session

Geneva, 26 and 27 March 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 26 March 2020¹.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Election of officers.
4. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Committee.
5. Gas and the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Decarbonization.
7. Gas value chain: gas for transport and other end-uses.
8. Update on activities in United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States, the gas industry and organizations (*tour de table*).
9. Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 and the work plan for 2020-2021.
10. Presentation of results and recommendations of the project "Pathways to Sustainable Energy".
11. Preparations for the eighth session of the Group of Experts on Gas.
12. Any other business.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52737>), if possible at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73158).

13. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
14. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with

the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division natural gas website², as soon as they become available.

2. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered, including on the efforts of the Group of Experts to help ECE member States deliver on key political commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

3. Election of officers

At its fifth session held in March 2018, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for a period of two years, until March 2020. The Group of Experts will elect a Bureau to serve from the end of the seventh session for a period of two years.

4. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Committee

At its twenty-eighth session, 25-27 September 2019, the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Committee) noted in its report (ECE/ENERGY/123) the progress the Group of Experts achieved in delivering on its mandated activities. The Committee approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2020-2021, as presented in ECE/ENERGY/2019/10, and the extension of its mandate until 31 December 2021, with a possibility of extension.

An update will be provided on activities of the Committee of interest to the Group of Experts and any decisions of relevance of the Executive Committee.

Among other issues, the secretariat will update the Group of Experts on developments related to proclaiming an International Year of Methane by the United Nations General Assembly.

5. Gas and the Sustainable Development Goals

The Group of Experts will hear about recent efforts to utilize natural gas as a driver to attain economic, environmental and social objectives of the 2030 Agenda, expressed through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The discussion will focus on SDGs dealing with energy access, gender and diversity, climate action through mitigating methane emissions, air quality, jobs and just transition, and sustainable cities.

6. Decarbonization

At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee reaffirmed that gaseous fuels—whether conventional natural gas, renewable/decarbonized gas, or hydrogen—will continue to serve as

² http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/natural_gas.html

an energy vector for the foreseeable future. The Committee requested the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to support ECE member States in developing policies that accelerate uptake of renewable, decarbonized and low- and zero-carbon gases.

The Group of Experts will discuss new approaches to decarbonization that harness synergies between renewable energies (electricity and gas) while utilizing gas infrastructure as the backbone of a low-carbon energy system. The Group of Experts will present: several options for an interlinked model between electricity and gas; technologies to produce low-carbon, decarbonized and renewable gases; and case studies for carbon capture (use) and storage (CCS/CCUS), demonstrating how these technologies have a positive impact on the efficiency and decarbonization of the energy system.

7. Gas value chain: gas for transport and other end-uses

The Group of Experts' core mandate is to provide a forum for dialogue on sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the ECE region. In 2019, the Group of Experts discussed four incoming pipeline routes into Europe. In 2020, the Group of Experts will focus on trends, developments, and new markets and innovative end-uses for LNG in Eurasia.

The Group of Experts will also hear about several new initiatives that promote the use of compressed natural gas and LNG in road transportation in selected ECE member States.

8. Update on activities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States, gas industry and organizations (*tour de table*)

Representatives of ECE member States, the gas industry, and international organizations will present their work and other developments since March 2019. The Group of Experts requests representatives of member States and other organizations to submit, when possible, electronic versions of their presentations to the secretariat in advance, in one of the ECE three working languages (English, French, or Russian).

9. Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019 and the work plan for 2020-2021

The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress in implementation of the 2018-2019 work plan which was also presented to the Committee at its twenty-eighth session.

The Group will discuss its work plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/10) and identify champions to lead each of the activities.

10. Presentation of results and recommendations of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”

The Group of Experts will be informed of the results and key insights of the first phase of the project, which began in early 2017, and the plans for the next phase. The emphasis will be on policy recommendations for member States, global and regional energy challenges, and the role of gas in achieving transition to sustainable energy future.

11. Preparations for the eighth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its eighth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The eighth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.

12. Any other business

The meeting may discuss other issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

13. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

Where possible the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

14. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau of the Group of Experts, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
