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Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

Tenth session

Geneva, 21 October 2014

Report of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

I. Introduction

1. The tenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels was held on 21 October 2014¹.
2. This report summarizes the discussions on the work of the Group of Experts at its tenth session. All the documents and presentations of the tenth session are available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.

II. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by experts from the following ECE member States: Czech Republic, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
4. Representatives of the European Union, including from the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, participated.
5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated: Bellona Foundation, Global Carbon Capture and Storage

¹ Official documents of the session are available at <http://documents.un.org/>. Unofficial room documents and presentations delivered at the meeting are available on the ECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35130>.

Institute (GCCSI), International Gas Union, International Energy Agency (IEA) Clean Coal Centre (IEACCC), and the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia.

6. In addition, the private sector was represented including by experts from Cintech Ltd, GDF Suez, Jupiter Oxygen Corporation, Karpology Global Advisors, RWE Power AG Power Engineering Ltd, Swift Global Results, United States Business Council for Sustainable Energy, and the Zero Emissions Platform. Academia was represented by experts from the Center for Applied Energy Research of the University of Kentucky and the University of Applied Management, Economy and Finance, Switzerland.

III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2014/1

7. After discussion, the Group of Experts agreed that item 9 of provisional agenda as contained in ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2014/1 should be modified to read “Information from the project: Mitigating Climate Change through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies to the extent relevant for cleaner electricity production”. The provisional agenda was adopted subject to this amendment.

IV. Opening remarks from the Chair (agenda item 2)

8. The Chair delivered opening remarks. He provided an overview of the key deliverables of the Group of Experts’ work plan for 2014–15 (provided in the Annex to the agenda for the meeting) that was approved by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of ECE at its sixty-eighth meeting, 30 April 2014.

V. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 3)

Documentation : ECE/EX/2014/L.13
ECE/ENERGY/91, Annex II

9. The Director of the Sustainable Energy Division of ECE provided the Group of Experts with an update on the relevant decisions adopted by EXCOM, including on the Group of Experts’ work plan. The Director drew attention to the overarching mandate of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to provide access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. He emphasized the need for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to carry-out concrete and results-oriented activities and noted that the Group of Experts is undertaking concrete and results-oriented activities as per its work plan. The Director then provided an overview of the work of the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, including the Expert Group on Resource Classification, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, the Group of Experts on Gas, and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. He drew attention to the cross-cutting nature of the work of all the subsidiary bodies and the opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

VI. Report and recommendations from the workshops and stakeholder consultations on carbon capture and storage and energy efficiency in electricity production (agenda item 4)

10. The Chair presented a report on and the recommendations from the workshops and stakeholder consultations on carbon capture and storage (CCS) and energy efficiency in electricity production held in Washington D.C, United States, on 2 June 2014; in London, United Kingdom, on 23 July 2014; and in Geneva, Switzerland, on 20 October 2014. The Chair outlined the process that he proposed be followed in submitting the recommendations on CCS to UNFCCC. The need to ensure that the Committee on Sustainable Energy review the draft recommendations at its twenty-third session was emphasized.

VII. Survey of carbon capture and storage: landscape, recent developments and stakeholders (agenda item 5)

Documentation: CEP-10/2014/INF.2 – Unofficial room document: Survey of carbon capture and storage: landscape, recent developments and principal stakeholders in an intergovernmental context (as at 19 October 2014)

11. The Group of Experts reviewed the draft CCS survey covering the landscape, recent developments, and principal actors and requested that the secretariat update the document on a regular basis. The Group of Experts agreed that in its next stage of work it will focus on the exchange of experiences with the development, installation and operation of CCS with a view to defining lessons learned, best practices and guidelines to be shared with all interested countries and stakeholders. The Bureau was requested to prepare a proposal for future work in this area for consideration by the Group of Experts at its eleventh session.

VIII. Recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the use of carbon capture and storage in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (agenda item 6)

Documentation: CEP-10/2014/INF.3 – Unofficial room document: Executive Summary - Recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the use of carbon capture and storage in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (as at 8 October 2014)

CEP-10/2014/INF.4 – Unofficial room document: Recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the use of carbon capture and storage in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (as at 19 October 2014)

12. According to the Group of Experts' work plan for 2014–2015, one of the activities is to assist the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in assessing CCS technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). The Chairman presented a document including the communication for formal endorsement by the Group of Experts.

13. The Group of Experts requested that the revised version of the draft recommendations as contained in document CEP-10/2014/INF.4 should be made available by the secretariat on the ECE website and circulated to all relevant stakeholders with an

invitation to suggest possible improvements to the text before the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy with a view to endorsing recommendations that could be transmitted by the Executive Secretary of ECE to UNFCCC.

IX. Assessing the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 7)

Documentation: CEP-10/2014/INF.4 – Unofficial room document: A baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired plants in the ECE region (as at 19 October 2014)

14. The Group of Experts noted the progress made in the preparation of a baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuels-fired power plants in the ECE region. The Group of Experts requested that a task force and an inclusive electronic process be established to complete the study with further data gathering and analysis on ways to increase the efficiency of power plants (with an initial focus on coal-fired power plants) and reduce GHG emissions with a view to developing best practices in close collaboration with IEACCC, national authorities and other relevant stakeholders and to submit the results for review at the eleventh session of the Group of Experts.

15. The Group of Experts further requested that the task force begin considerations on potential normative instruments.

X. Other activities in the field of cleaner electricity production (agenda item 8)

16. The Group of Experts reviewed proposals on future activities in the field of cleaner electricity production and established several task forces to suggest concrete and results-oriented activities for the Group of Experts, including:

(a) A task force on further exploratory activities that might be carried out in relation to work undertaken by other organizations, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank Group, as regards cleaner electricity production.

(b) A task force, led by Swift Global Results with support from IEACCC, to explore what work is currently being undertaken on goals, targets and indicators on efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants and the impact on GHG emissions with a view to developing best practice guidance. The task force will undertake the exploratory work and provide a report on its findings and any recommendations on potential future work to the Group of Experts.

(c) A small task force, including representatives from the United Kingdom and the United States, to determine if further work could be undertaken on the transfer of Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) technology.

(d) A task force assessing what the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) has already undertaken in relation to capture readiness. The United Kingdom agreed to lead this activity, with the support of Swift Global Results. Based on its initial research, the task force will submit a proposal on any future work for consideration by the Group of Experts.

17. The Group of Experts agreed to establish the task forces outlined in paragraphs 14 and 16 to explore future activities in the field of cleaner electricity production for the Group of Experts to pursue and to prepare more detailed descriptions for consideration and approval by members through an open, transparent, and inclusive electronic process. The task forces will be established by and report to the Bureau.

XI. Information from the project: “Mitigating Climate Change through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies” to the extent relevant for cleaner electricity production (agenda item 9)

18. The secretariat presented information on the completed project: “Mitigating Climate Change through Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies”.²

XII. Work plan for 2014–2015 (agenda item 10)

19. Progress in implementation of the Work Plan was presented. Noting that its Work Plan for 2014–2015 was approved by the ECE Executive Committee at its sixty-eighth meeting, on 30 April 2014, the Group of Experts agreed that no changes were needed to the work plan for 2014–2015 and recommended that a draft Work Plan for 2016–2017 be prepared for the eleventh session by means of an inclusive, interactive electronic process involving all stakeholders and carried out by the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat.

XIII. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 11)

Documentation: CEP-10/2014/INF.1 – Unofficial room document: Draft Conclusions and Recommendations for the Group of Expert on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, Tenth Session (as at 8 October 2014)

20. The Chair summarized the agreed conclusions and recommendations that were included under the relevant agenda items

XIV. Preparations for the eleventh session of the Group of Experts (agenda item 12)

21. The eleventh session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 30 October 2015 in Geneva. It will be prepared by means of an inclusive, interactive electronic process involving all stakeholders and carried out by the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat.

22. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau and the task forces, to prepare the necessary proposals and background documentation for the eleventh session.

² http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/unda_sed/unda_sp1.html

XV. Other business (agenda item 13)

23. No other business was discussed.

XVI. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 14)

24. As proposed by the Chair and accepted by the Group of Experts, a draft meeting report will be prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and the Bureau, and subsequently circulated electronically for comments and approval to meeting participants and the Geneva Permanent Representations. After approval, the report will be posted to the ECE website.
