



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Second session

Geneva, 20-21 January 2015

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the second session

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Tuesday 20 January 2015***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Elections of officers.
3. Opening remarks from the Chair.
4. Matters arising from the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Group of Experts on Gas.
5. The role of gas in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
6. Best practice guidance in reducing gas leaks along the gas value chain.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to either register online or complete the registration form posted to the website of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36606>) and transmit it to the ECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by e-mail (natural.gas@unece.org) or fax (+41 22 917 0038). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves, at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting, 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).

7. Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy.
8. Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas.
9. Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel.
10. Tour de table: recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates.
11. Overview of the activities of international organizations in the field of gas.
12. Overview of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to natural gas.
13. Work plan for 2014–2015 and for 2016–2017.
14. Preparations for the third session.
15. Other business.
16. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
17. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. The first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2015/1). An updated agenda, detailed timetable, and other documents will be posted on the natural gas website of the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)¹.

Item 2: Election of officers

2. At its first session in April 2014, the Group of Experts elected its Bureau to serve in 2014–15. Member States may consider nominating additional experts to the Bureau.

Item 3: Opening remarks from the Chair

3. The Chair will deliver opening remarks. He will provide an overview of the key deliverables of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2014–15 that was approved by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of ECE at its sixty-eighth meeting, on 30 April 2014.

Item 4: Matters arising from the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Group of Experts on Gas.

4. The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts on the outcomes of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/96) that was held on 19–21 November 2014.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36606>

Item 5: The role of gas in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

5. The Group of Experts provides a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the ECE region. Natural gas is a critical part of any future energy equation. Stakeholders from ECE member States will provide their insights as to how gas can help achieve the goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

Item 6: Best practice guidance in reducing gas leaks along the gas value chain

6. Following its first session in April 2014, the Group of Experts established four Task Forces to carry out the four activities defined in the Group of Experts' work plan for 2014–2015.² The Task Force A is now working on developing best practice guidance in reducing gas leaks along the value chain. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress and will discuss possible next steps.

Item 7: Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy

7. The Task Force B was established to work on developing best practices on the role of natural gas in significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region, and to help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE Region. This work is to be carried out in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress and will discuss possible next steps.

Item 8: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas

8. The Group of Experts established Task Force C to work on developing best practices for liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress and will discuss possible next steps.

Item 9: Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

9. The Group of Experts established Task Force D to work on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel. This work is to be carried out in close collaboration with the ECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) and its Task Force on Liquefied Natural Gas Vehicles. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress and will discuss possible next steps.

² http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/wpgas/session/1st_Session_Group_Experts_on_gas/WorkPlan_GEG_2014_15.pdf.

Item 10: Tour de table: recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates

10. Representatives of ECE member States and gas companies will be invited to present developments in 2014 in their countries' gas industry operations and condition. National of company reports on developments should be submitted in writing for distribution to delegates at the meeting. National representatives are requested to provide electronic versions of any presentations to the secretariat in advance and in one of the UNECE three working languages (English, French, or Russian).

Item 11: Overview of the activities of international organizations in the field of gas

11. International governmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to present their activities in the field of natural gas in 2014.

Item 12: Overview of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to natural gas

12. The secretariat will report on the work of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy as they relate to natural gas.

Item 13: Work plan for 2014–2015 and for 2016–2017

13. Progress in implementation of the work plan for 2014–2015 will be presented. The Group of Experts will be invited to propose modifications as needed in the timeline, deliverables or activities proposed.

14. The Group of Experts will consider other possible activities for inclusion in its work plan for 2016–2017.

Item 14: Preparations for the third session

15. The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its third session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The third session of the Group of Experts is to be scheduled in early 2016 in Geneva.

Item 15: Other business

16. 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.

Item 16: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

17. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the conclusions and recommendations, previously agreed after each agenda item. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the conclusions and recommendations.

Item 17: Adoption of the report of the meeting

18. The meeting report is expected to be adopted at the meeting. If it is not adopted at the meeting, the draft report of the meeting will be circulated for comments and approval to the members of the Group of Experts and the Geneva Permanent Representations. After approval, the report will be posted on the ECE natural gas website.³

³ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36606>