
Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Fourth session

Geneva, 27–28 March 2017

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations
arising from the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Gas¹

Draft for discussion

Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers

1. [The Bureau of the Group of Experts was elected to serve in 2016–2017. The Group of Experts elected XXX to join the Bureau.]

Agenda Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand

2. xxxx

Agenda Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas

3. The Group of Experts concluded that the results of the survey on methane emissions conducted by the secretariat identified some of the critical gaps in information on methane emissions. It noted that best practice guidelines and methods to manage and reduce methane emissions are being developed, and recommended that this work be continued in the 2018–2019 work plan.
4. The Group of Experts concluded that the Model Framework for Reducing Methane Emissions along the Gas Value Chain, as outlined by the secretariat, could be used as a starting point for the future best practice guidance on managing methane emissions along the gas value chain.
5. Thanking companies and organizations that presented case studies at the session, the Group of Experts invited ECE member States, gas companies, and the gas industry associations to continue contributing case studies that illustrate how the guiding principles and recommendations as outlined in the Model Framework are implemented in practice.
6. The Group of Experts recommended that future work on reducing methane emissions should be carried out in close collaboration with the International Gas Union and its relevant Committees and Task Forces, as well as with other international mechanisms, companies, organizations and associations, and invited all interested parties to join this effort.

¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Group of Experts after each agenda item and updated as needed.

Agenda Item 6: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

7. [Welcoming the proposal to upgrade the Group of Experts into a Working Party, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to analyse the implications of such an upgrade. Should ECE member States decide to create a Working Party, the Group of Experts on Gas expressed its eagerness to engage fully in implementing an expanded work plan and welcomed the possibility for its mandate and term to be increased to five years.]

8. The Group of Experts concluded that it should participate in the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and the Ministerial Meeting that will be held from 11–14 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Group of Experts requested the Bureau in cooperation with the secretariat to organize an ECE workshop with relevant partners on the role of gas in supporting attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

9. Noting that uptake of renewable energy will increase and that best practice policies, technology and business models thereon are yet not fully developed, the Group of Experts recommended that its future work on the interaction between the gas and renewable energy sectors be carried out in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels.

Agenda Item 8: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas

10. The Group of Experts took note of the recently published report “Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas” (ECE/ENERGY/101 and ECE Energy Series No 48), as well as the best practices and recommendations presented at the meeting, including on small scale LNG and gas quality, and expressed its appreciation to the Task Force and other experts who prepared the report.

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

11. The Group of Experts thanked DNV GL for drafting recommendations on removing barriers to the use of natural gas in maritime transport, and recommended they be added to the previously developed recommendations on the use of gas as a fuel for land-based transport and the case studies presented at the meeting. The Group of Experts concluded that the work on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel as included in the 2014–2017 work plan has been successfully completed.

Item 10: Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organizations

12. xxx

Agenda Item 11: Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019

13. The Group of Experts recommended that the draft Work Plan for 2018–2019, as contained in GEG-4/2017/INF.2 and subject to the changes agreed during the session, be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement and to the Executive Committee for subsequent approval.

14. The Group of Experts decided to request to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that its mandate be extended for four years.

15. The Group of Experts concluded that successful implementation of the work plan would require active involvement of ‘champions’ who would take responsibility for specific activities.

Agenda Item 12: Preparations for the fifth session

16. The Group of Experts recommended the following topics for the substantive portion of its fourth session: (to be decided at the meeting).

17. The fifth session of the Group of Experts will be held either in March 2017 in Geneva or in June 2017 in Washington, DC, during the 27th World Gas Conference.

Agenda Item 13: Other business

18. The Group of Experts took note of the prospect under consideration by the ECE Executive Committee of establishing of the initiative to establish a Gas Industry Advisory Board (GIAB) to provide support to the activities developed by the Group of Experts to which it will advise and report, based only on specific and concrete requests made by the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts noted that it looks forward to working with GIAB, should ECE member States decide that all legal, financial and political uncertainties associated with the establishment and functioning of GIAB are resolved.

19. The GIAB, should it be established, would help the Group to elaborate best practices, standards, case studies and experiences, and to share and disseminate them with ECE member States. The Group of Experts further concluded that any future GIAB should complement and reinforce – and not compete with – the existing collaborative arrangements between the Group of Experts and relevant international gas organizations and associations.

Agenda Item 15: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

20. The report of the meeting was adopted, including the conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
