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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Sixteenth session

Geneva, 3-4 March 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 3 March 2021¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
5. New developments and challenges in the coal sector.
6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2020-2021.
7. Future work of the Group of Experts.
8. Work plan for 2022-2023.
9. Cooperation and partnerships.
10. Eleventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
11. Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts
12. Any other business.
13. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session online (<https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/16th-session-group-experts-coal-mine-methane>) or by e-mail (cmm.energy@un.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the entrance located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Energy Division's website) to obtain an entrance badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every workday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73966 or 74140).

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 adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website² as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as each agenda item is concluded.

2. Election of officers

At its fourteenth session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years. The Group of Experts will elect a new Bureau to take over from the end of the sixteenth session.

3. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered covering recent achievements of the Group as well as its goals for the future in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the strategic review of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme. The activities of the Group will be presented in the context of the most important developments in methane management in the coal sector.

4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its twenty-ninth session, 25-27 November 2020, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE. Amongst other issues, the Committee requested its expert groups to consider in their work the changing social, environmental, and economic contexts for their activities and the principles of a just transition.

The discussions under this item will address a range of issues, including:

- (a) Key messages and policy recommendations for the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe;
- (b) Support for declaration of an International Decade for Methane Management;
- (c) Principles of a just transition;
- (d) Carbon neutrality as a pathway to sustainable energy and the role for the Group of Experts;
- (e) Strategic review of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme;
- (f) Rules of procedure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Annex I to ECE/ENERGY/133).

² <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

5. New developments and challenges in the coal sector

The coal sector worldwide is subject to growing constraints. Many countries have closed coal mines or have set dates for cessation of mining activities. Other countries are working to lower the emissions originating from the sector. Management of methane from underground works remains an important issue that seriously affects the safety of the mining personnel. The Group of Experts will review new developments in methane management in selected countries and will explore their plans for the future of their coal sector.

6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2020-2021

The Bureau and the secretariat will report on implementation of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2020-2021, wherein the Group of Experts has been asked to work on a range of topics, including to:

- (a) Disseminate and facilitate application of best practices for effective methane recovery and use from active and abandoned coal mines;
- (b) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
- (c) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;
- (d) Contribute to work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
- (e) Further engage, in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition of the fossil fuels-based energy sector in the ECE region;
- (f) Contribute to the work of the Expert Group on Resource Management on development of specifications and guidelines for application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to coal bed methane resources;
- (g) Promote broader inclusiveness of the Group of Experts, giving due attention to gender equality;
- (h) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms. Engage and develop robust professional ties with the recognized expert entities operating in the field of fossil-based energy.

Representatives of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and in China will report to the Group of Experts on the status and activities of the respective Centres. Annual reports for both Centres will be submitted for the Group's review and approval.

7. Future work of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss and agree on its mandate and work to better align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and embrace the principles of a just transition. The discussions will be facilitated by document ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2021/3.

8. Work plan for 2022-2023

The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session, 25-27 November 2020, requested the Group of Experts to prepare its draft work plan for 2022-2023 for approval by the Committee at its thirtieth session. The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss and

agree on its draft work plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2021/3). The Group of Experts will also be invited to identify member States, organizations and experts willing to take an active role in delivering on the tasks set forth in the document.

9. Cooperation and partnerships

A discussion will be held on potential involvement of the Group of Experts in current and future methane-related activities and initiatives being undertaken worldwide and that help attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Eleventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. The thirtieth meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the sixteenth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and will discuss, amongst other issues, joint activities.

11. Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its seventeenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The seventeenth session of the Group of Experts will be held in 2022 in Geneva.

12. Any other business

The meeting may discuss any other pertinent 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 Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues 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.

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, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
