Draft concept note

A debate

Conventional and Unconventional Gas as a Destination Fuel for the Green Economy

Date: December 10, 2018

Venue: Polish National Pavilion at COP24 Katowice, Poland

Duration: 2 hours

Scope:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that comprise an integrated whole that the global community is striving to achieve. The goals are all equally important and none of them is more equal than the others. The future that we seek is thus not only green, it is also built on the premises of equality, partnership, development, sustainability, and social responsibility. Therefore, we cannot afford to reject any solutions that can contribute to the attainment of SDGs.

From an energy perspective, delivering on all the goals becomes ever more challenging as the world becomes more populous and prosperous. Ensuring reliable and affordable access to energy for all poses therefore a challenge that requires a comprehensive and sustainable approach. In the short- and medium- terms, *i.e.* during the transition towards low emission economy, hydrocarbons will remain an essential part of the energy mix. As a result, it is crucial that the energy sector addresses its environmental footprint through *deployment of cleaner and more efficient hydrocarbon technologies.*

Using natural gas, whether from conventional or unconventional sources, can substantially reduce GHG emissions and improve both air quality and quality of life. Modern energy production from gas generates virtually no emissions of SO_x, very low quantities of NO_x, and only half as much CO_2 as the most efficient coal-fired plants.

The above-mentioned qualities coupled with the industry's commitments to minimize the sector's environmental footprint *position natural gas as an affordable, reliable and secure partner in the future energy mix*.

The gas industry has heavily invested in a broad range of solutions designed to improve its operations. Research and development of CMM, CBM, and CCUS projects, as well as a number of either obligatory or voluntary actions aiming at reducing methane emissions along the gas value chain are among those that most vividly show not only the sector's strong commitment to delivering on the objectives of the Paris Agreement, but also *a great potential of natural gas for becoming a destination, rather than transition, fuel for the low carbon economy*.

During the debate the panelists will share with the audience best practices developed to effectively monitor and manage methane emissions from the energy sector. The debate will adopt a broad approach, including also unconventional gas sources such as CMM, CBM, VAM and AMM, which all have a great economic, as well as emission-reduction potential. Various relevant initiatives undertaken on the national and international levels by the industry, governments, academia, civil society, and international organizations will be discussed, as will also be the challenges and opportunities standing before the sector in the near future.

Speakers:

Moderator:

- **UNECE, Sustainable Energy Division** (Mr. Scott Foster, Director)

Panelists:

- **Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG SA)**
  (Mr. Piotr Woźniak, CEO and President of the Management Board; Poland)
- **UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**
  (Mr. Raymond C. Pilcher, Chair; United States)
- **UNECE Group of Experts on Gas**
  (Mr. Torstein Indrebo, Vice-Chair; Norway)
- **International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in China**
  (Mr. Jin Zhixin, Vice President, General Manager, Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co., Ltd.; China)
- **International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)**
  (Mr. Olaf Martins, Global Engagement Manager)
- **Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia**
  (Dr. Tim A. Moore, Adjunct Associate Professor; Managing Director, Cipher Consulting Pty. Ltd.; Australia)