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Item 4:

Activities and Priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy & Matters for Consideration by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane



CSE Decisions Related to the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

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The Committee:

- endorsed the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines and requested appropriate measures to ensure broad dissemination and application of the Best Practice Guidance;
- Invited the Commission to propose to ECOSOC that it endorse the BPG and recommend application worldwide;
- Requested the Group of Experts to address, where possible, methane emission issues in the broader context of the whole coal life cycle along the entire value chain;
- Noted the progress on ICEs to disseminate and deploy the family of methane-related BPGs
- Encouraged the Group to develop additional centres and to seek additional XB resources

69th ECE April 2021

Proposed Declaration on Methane

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*Noting that ECE's work on **methane**, CO₂, and hydrogen and on high-performance buildings can have a notable near-term benefit for both climate and quality of life:*

The Economic Commission for Europe invites the Committee on Sustainable Energy to pursue diligently further work on the role of natural gas, hydrogen, carbon capture, use, and storage, and high-efficiency, low-emissions technology for those countries that choose to use it as well as on **the management of anthropogenic methane emissions** in the transition to a carbon neutral economy.

CSE Decisions Related to the Group of Experts on Coal Mine MEthane



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The Committee requested member States to support calls by partners for the UN General Assembly to consider declaring an International Decade for Methane Management.

Declaring an International Decade for Methane Management

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Methane is a significant GHG emitted from many sectors (agriculture, coal mining, municipal solid waste, municipal wastewater, and oil and gas).

Proper management would bring substantial near-term climate and economic benefits.

In energy, growing demand for natural gas would increase emissions if not managed properly, but if we limit use of natural gas to constrain growth in methane emissions, we would lose a possible decarbonization strategy.

UNECE secretariat recommends:

International Decade for Methane Management

International declarations

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- The United Nations designates days, weeks, years and decades to promote its objectives.
- Usually, member states propose them and the general assembly establishes them with a resolution.
- Can be declared by specialized agencies of the UN (e.g., UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO) when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their competencies. Some may be adopted later by the general assembly.

Procedures for organizing the celebration of international decades



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- **The basic objectives should be clearly defined.**
- **2 years between proclamation and start.**
- **Activities at int'l level should support activities at national level.**
- **There should be nat'l mechanisms for preparing for, conducting and following up the int'l year at national level.**
- **Co-ordination of UN bodies concerned to avoid duplication.**
- **Proclamation should not lead to proliferation of posts in UN or other international organizations;**
- **Any secretariats established to celebrate int'l decades should be dissolved immediately after.**

Procedure for the evaluation of international years



- Each int'l year should lead to identifiable and practical results.
- Evaluation should be part of implementation/follow-up of each int'l year.
- Evaluation of activities during and after the year with a view to integrating those activities in regular programmes.
- Evaluation after the year should facilitate the follow-up process and provide guidance for future international years.
- Evaluation within budgetary resources provided, results should be submitted to intergovernmental bodies for consideration.

Intended Outcomes

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- **Awareness across all sectors**
- **Tightened Commitments/Protocols/Convention**
- **Action and Measurable Results: Reduced methane concentrations in the atmosphere (anthropogenic, all sources)**
 - Detailed best practice guidance for all sectors
 - Dissemination, demonstration, and deployment
 - Training, regulation, and outreach
- **Enduring Programmes and Structures (centres of excellence?)**

**These outcomes cannot be achieved in a year,
which is why a decade is recommended.**

Progress in Obtaining a Declaration

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- **UNECE sent a recommendation to its executive committee that in turn recommended it to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**
- **ECOSOC took note**
- **Need to put a resolution before the General Assembly (GA) for action**
- **Easier and faster if member States pushed directly with the GA**
- **While the earliest start date appears to be 2023. UNECE believes with concerted effort this could move to 2021:**
 - **It already has been sent to ECOSOC**
 - **An active coalition of the willing can move things forward.**

Possible Activities for an International Decade for Managing Methane



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1. GMF
2. Workshops/Seminars on CMM & AMM
3. Workshops/Seminars on Methane Management in Oil & Gas
4. CMM conference in China (ICE-CMM China)
5. CSE dedicated to methane
6. IFESD featuring a methane track
7. Webinars on methane
8. Development/Negotiation of standards, protocols or convention on methane

Others

1. Scientific meetings (WMO, EDF, CCAC, GHGSat, ...)
2. Global Methane Alliance leading States to add methane emission reductions to their NDCs (UN Environment)
3. Meetings on methane in Davos (WEF)
4. EU conference on methane (DG ENER)
5. UN conference on methane in NY
6. Meetings on methane at COP
7. Activities in other sectors

Principles of a Just Transition

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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;

Carbon Neutrality

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The Committee reiterated its request for closer cooperation among the expert groups to address cross-cutting issues, notably related to the project on “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” (Carbon Neutrality project).” (Carbon Neutrality Project). The Committee noted the need to address achieving carbon neutrality across the broader energy system and beyond.



The Committee expressed appreciation to the Committee's expert groups for finalizing the strategic review of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme and agreed to have consultations with member States on the draft with a view to having the text approved and adopted at its thirtieth session;

- Noted the calls for the work of the Committee to reflect the scale, scope, role, and values of the United Nations in making concrete, measurable progress on energy;
- Encouraged closer cooperation among the subsidiary bodies on cross-cutting issues;
- Encouraged collaboration with the Environment and Transport subprogrammes to explore in some detail the range of opportunities for reducing the carbon intensity and environmental impacts of transport;
- Requested the secretariat to take appropriate steps to increase organization of cross-sectoral activities among the expert groups, with other ECE subprogrammes, the other UN regional commissions, and other organizations, undertaking a broad resource mobilization effort, and modern methods of working, and;
- Called on member States to provide needed extrabudgetary and in-kind resources to the subprogramme to achieve its objectives.

Rules of Procedure

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The Committee noted that draft Rules of Procedure were prepared in accordance with the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe; noted that the objective of instituting Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Sustainable Energy is to streamline the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, to provide a basis for accelerated delivery of the sustainable energy subprogramme, and to solidify ECE's reputation as a credible, relevant, and responsive partner; endorsed the Rules of Procedure as contained in ECE/ENERGY/2020/5 and as revised by the Committee (Annex I), and requested the Bureaux and Groups of Experts to apply them henceforth.

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Thank you!

