

**UNECE**

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# 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

## PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE UNECE REGION

20-21 APRIL 2021 | ROOM XVII | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



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19 APRIL 2021 | CYBER MONDAY

### Side event programme in the lead up to the Commission

10:00 – 10:15

#### Opening and welcome

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE

10:15 – 11:30

#### Batumi Talkshow:

#### Scoring SDGs through Action on Green Economy and Clean Air

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy. This tool supports countries in their efforts to transition to the green economy and, at the same time, contributes to the implementation of the SDGs. To make the Strategic Framework a reality, Ministers also launched the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E), consisting of voluntary commitments to operationalize the Strategic Framework until 2030. Countries are invited to update on progress related to their commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air in a talkshow format and/or propose new commitments.

Organized by UNECE and UNEP

**Co-moderators:** Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE,  
Mr. Bruno Pozzi, Director, Europe Office, UNEP

#### Participants

- Mr. Jakhongir Talipov, Head of International Cooperation and Projects Department, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection, (Uzbekistan)
- N.N, Belarus
- Mr. Petrus Kautto, Director of the Programme for Sustainable Circular Economy, SYKE (Finland)
- Ms. Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (Ukraine)
- Ms. Elisabete Quintas Da Silva, Head of Department, PO SEUR - Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (Portugal)

11:30 – 13.00

#### Nexus Publication Launch Event

UNECE supports its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through concrete and results-oriented activities in the areas of its eight sub-programmes. This multi-sectoral structure has allowed ECE to address SDG implementation in an integrated manner and to adopt a new way of working that cuts across sectoral boundaries. Four nexus areas have been defined where multiple SDGs converge:

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Sustainable and smart cities
- Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity



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- Measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs.

In each of these areas, a cross-sectoral, inter-divisional team of ECE experts has undertaken an in-depth substantive analysis of current and future challenges and needs of ECE member States and identified ways and means to address them, thus assisting member States to design and implement integrated policies in these areas. The findings of these analyses and corresponding policy recommendations are set out in four flagship publications.

Following the presentation of the four publications, countries will have the opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion on the findings and recommendations and on further steps required for integrated policies to accelerate SDG implementation.

14:00 – 15:00

### A framework for international cooperation on Sustainable Resource Management

Sustainable development depends on the optimal and responsible production and use of natural resources. Extractive industries recover raw materials from the earth, process them, and turn them into products and services for use by consumers. Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) are particularly important in this regard to support green energy, e-mobility and digital transformations that are already underway. Today's resource patterns are unsustainable in terms of their environmental and societal impact and in terms of ensuring the availability of resources both now and in the future. Developments in the extractive industries, including the supply of CRMs, will determine the capacity of countries to attain the 2030 Agenda. There is a need for global, principles-based action to develop a coherent framework for resource industries if the world is to meet its climate objectives and deliver quality of life at the community level. Experts will describe the elements for a broad framework and the proposed collaboration among institutions. Countries will be invited to provide an update on actions they are taking in this area. Countries will also be invited to support and encourage circular economy of CRMs through development of policies based on clear evidence, frameworks, and standards, as well as shaping standards to support and encourage relevant product re-use at end-of-life. This side event is organized by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in cooperation with UNECE.

**Opening Statement:** Lord Mark Sedwill, G7 Envoy on Economic Resilience of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Chair of the independent G7 Panel on Economic Resilience

**Introduction to frameworks for international collaboration:** Dr. Danilo Türk, Former President (Republic of Slovenia) (tbc)

#### Open Discussion:

Moderator: Mr. Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

Panellists:

- Mr. Peter Buchholz, Head, German Raw Materials Agency (DERA), Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) (Germany)



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- Ms. Daniele La Porta, Senior Vice President, Senior Mining Specialist, World Bank
- Ms. Frances Wall, University of Exeter (UK Circular Economy Research Centre on Technology Metals)
- Ms. Eser Torun, Chief of Staff, Everledger
- Kazakhstan (Ministry of Natural Resources) (tbc)

### Q & A

15:00 – 16:00

### Methane Management in the Extractive Industries

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with more than 80 times the climate forcing effect of CO<sub>2</sub>. Global atmospheric concentrations of methane have grown nearly 150% from pre-industrial levels and is far above the natural range of the last 650,000 years. Global emissions from human activity are projected to increase another 20% by 2030. Reducing methane emissions offers significant climate change benefits, especially in the near term, as there is a large reduction potential and cost-effective mitigation technologies are readily available. Achieving a 50% reduction in methane emissions by 2050 and maintaining them through 2100 would reduce global temperatures 0.55°C. UNECE has developed best practice guidance related to methane management in the coal, oil, and gas sectors, and UNECE is working with partners to prepare a UNGA declaration of an International Decade for Methane Management. Experts will summarize the current state of play in methane management, and countries will be invited to provide an update on actions they are taking this area.

**Opening Statement:** Ms. Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change (Canada) (tbc)

**Moderator:** Ms. Pamela Franklin, Chief, Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Programs Branch, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USA)

### Panellists:

- Mr. Fiji George, Senior Director, Climate and Sustainability, Cheniere (tbc)
- Head, Climate & Clean Air Coalition (tbc)
- Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, UNEP (tbc)
- Mr. Michael Stanley, Global Leader Coal Decarbonization, Oil, Gas, Mining and Chemicals Department, World Bank Group

### Q & A

16:00 – 17:00

### High-Performance Buildings

Buildings are central to meeting the sustainability challenge. In the developed world, buildings consume over 70% of the electric power generated and 40% of primary energy and are responsible for 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the energy services they require. UNECE has launched a programme known as the High-Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI) to disseminate and deploy its Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings worldwide. The objective is to improve health and quality of life within the built environment while simultaneously decarbonizing building-related energy requirements. Experts from the research and education consortium and from the



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international centres of excellence on high-performance buildings will set forth their activities and engage with countries on the path forward in 2021 and 2022.

**Moderator:** Mr. David Chikvaizde, Chef de Cabinet, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) (tbc)

**Keynote:** Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland (tbc)

**Panellists:**

- N.N. Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany)
- Ms. Vivian Loftness, Professor/Former Head of School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University (tbc)
- Ms. Jenna Cramer, Executive Director, Green Building Alliance (tbc)
- Mr. Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division
- Mr. Vahram Jalalyan, Co-Chair UNECE Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Project Manager, Climate Change Programme, UNDP Armenia (tbc)

**Q & A**

17:00 - 18:00

### Hydrogen and Sustainable Energy

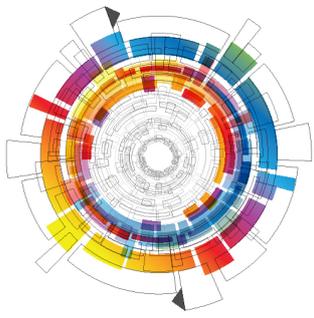
Hydrogen is considered to have a potentially important role in decarbonizing the industrial sector and integrating a higher share of renewable energy sources. The gas is widely recognized as the key bridge to achieving carbon neutrality of the energy system, especially in hard-to-abate sectors. In a future sustainable energy system, hydrogen may be used in transport, homes, industry, and power generation. It will enable the creation of an integrated service-based society. However, hydrogen, although clean and versatile, is not an energy source but an energy vector: it must be produced, transported and stored before being converted to other forms of energy, such as electricity or heat, or to other feedstocks. Bearing in mind that a solution to achieving a carbon neutral energy system may be found within the triangle of “gas-renewable-energy efficiency”, the potential role of hydrogen cannot be overstated. Countries will be invited to provide their views on the potential role of hydrogen in a session moderated by experts in the field of hydrogen.

**Keynote:** Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy (Ukraine)

**Moderator:** Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Gas, and Enagas (Spain) (tbc)

**Panellists:**

- Mr. Simon Bennett, Co-lead on Hydrogen Projects, Energy Supply and Investment Outlooks, International Energy Agency (tbc)
- Mr. Dolf Gielen, Director, Innovation and Technology Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency (tbc)
- Mr. Florian Marko, Policy Adviser, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (Austria) (tbc)



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- Ms. Tatiana Mitrova, Head of Research, Skolkovo Energy Centre (Russian Federation)

Q & A

**Closing remarks** by the Executive Secretary