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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Seventeenth session

Geneva, 6-8 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday, 6-8 October 2021¹

I. Provisional agenda

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2. Opening remarks.
3. Roundtable on financing decarbonisation of energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
4. Roundtable on technology interplay and innovation: the potential for hydrogen in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
5. Attaining carbon neutrality: update on “Carbon Neutrality” project.
6. Work plan for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023.
7. Election of officers.
8. Roundtable on digitalising energy systems.
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10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online (<https://forms.office.com/r/VsWsNN6FVU>), if possible, at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division’s website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2021/1 – Annotated provisional 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 the adoption of the agenda. This provisional agenda was prepared to reflect a content of the meeting that has to be adjusted to unusual circumstances caused by COVID-19. The documents for the session will be published on the website² as they become available.

2. Opening remarks

The Chair will deliver opening remarks, including reflections on the challenging situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the activities of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (Group of Experts). This session of the Group of Experts will be delivered jointly with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and will be co-Chaired by the Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The joint session will be part of the 11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

3. Roundtable on financing decarbonisation of energy systems in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2021/3 – Renewable Energy Financing and Investment in selected United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2021/4 – Background document on financing clean energy projects

This roundtable will be delivered jointly by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. It will also be supported by the Expert Group on Resource Management. Energy transitions in the ECE region will require both private and public financing of zero- and low-carbon technologies. Strengthening international cooperation is necessary to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear power and advanced fossil-fuel technologies, and to promote investments in modernisation of energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies. Recommendations from this session will create the basis for further multi-stakeholder dialogue on financing decarbonisation of energy systems across the ECE region.

4. Roundtable on technology interplay and innovation: the potential for hydrogen in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2021/3 - Opportunities for development and deployment of coal-based gasification for both power and combined heat and power, fuel cells, production of chemicals, and specialist products

This session will be delivered jointly by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. It will also be supported by the Group of Experts on Gas. The three Groups of Experts have been implementing activities on hydrogen in the ECE region jointly. This roundtable will discuss clean energy pathways to a rapid shift to a hydrogen economy that will require hydrogen production through electrolysis from both

² <https://www.unece.org/energy/se/ces.html>

renewable energy and nuclear power as well as from fossil fuels with Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS). Recommendations from this session will further shape hydrogen-related activities at ECE.

5. Attaining carbon neutrality: update on “Carbon Neutrality” project

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/15 – Considerations for draft position on attaining carbon neutrality in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Group of Experts has been implementing a project on enhancing the understanding of the implications of and opportunities for moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050 (Carbon Neutrality project). This project was initiated in May 2020 with a kick-off workshop led by the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality (Task Force) and following the recommendations made by the Group of Experts during its fifteenth session. In the course of 2020 and 2021, the Task Force and the wider project stakeholder community delivered a number of workshops on role of selected technologies to attain carbon neutrality across power sector and energy intensive industries. This interactive session will present project results and the Group of Experts will have the opportunity to refine the recommendations deriving from project implementation to date.

6. Work Plan for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/2021/8 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2022-2023

The Group of Experts will discuss its activities during 2020-2021 and the status of implementation of the Work Plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/7).

The Chair will present the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/2021/8) approved by written procedure and submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for consideration at its thirtieth session (Geneva, 22-24 September 2021). The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss its Work Plan for 2022-2023 and elaborate on concrete steps for its implementation.

7. Election of officers

At its fifteenth session held on 5-6 November 2019, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years until the end of its seventeenth session in 2021. In addition, at its sixteenth session (Geneva 23-24 November 2020) the Group of Experts elected a Chair and additional Vice-Chairs to serve for two years until the end of the eighteenth session. Following the request for nominations, the Group of Experts will elect additional Vice-Chairs to serve for two years until the end of the nineteenth session.

8. Roundtable on digitalising energy systems

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2021/5 – Improving Efficiency of Buildings through Digitalisation – Policy Recommendations from the Task Force on Digitalisation in Energy

Digitalisation is making energy systems more connected, efficient, reliable and sustainable. Energy sector has been an early adopter of digital technologies. Digital innovations are offering new ways of looking at the existing energy efficiency challenges and finding exceptional ways to address them. The Group of Experts and the Task Force on Digitalisation, run under the auspices of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, are launching a series of activities on digitalising energy systems.

9. Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its eighteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The eighteenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 19-20 September 2022 in Geneva, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.

10. Any other business

The Group of Experts 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 secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2021/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems on its seventeenth session

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat, then the Chair will close the meeting. Draft conclusions and recommendations presented in the draft report will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.
