



## **Methane Management**

Panel Discussion for the Committee on Sustainable Energy

**22 September 2021, 15h00 – 15h40 CEST Geneva time**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

### **Background**

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with an instantaneous climate forcing effect 120 times that of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Global atmospheric concentrations of methane have grown nearly 150% from pre-industrial levels and are far above the 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. Proper management of methane also delivers important improvements in air quality and safety of the oil and gas, and coal industries' operations. It can also enhance the uptake of sustainable hydrogen and support a just transition away from coal.

This session will set forth the case for managing methane as a priority action for countries as they seek to attain their objectives under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The outcome of the session will be a call to action for member States to support declaration of an International Decade for Methane Management. The objectives of the decade would be to: 1. raise awareness of challenges and solutions; 2. obtain tightened commitments ; 3. support action measured by reduced methane losses from anthropogenic sources; 4. deploy best practices for methane management in all sectors; 5. deliver training, regulation, and outreach; and 6. institute enduring programmes and structures such as International Centres of Excellence.

### **Objectives:**

The session will set forth the case for managing methane as a priority action for countries as they seek to attain their objectives under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to issue a call to action by UNECE member States to support of a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly of an International Decade for Methane Management.

### **Issues to be explored:**

- The impact of methane on global warming and the extent of human involvement.
- What is being done on international level, national, and industry levels?
- Barriers to meaningful action on methane, and how can they be removed?
- Benefits of proper methane management.
- Is effective international agreement on methane possible?

### **Moderator:**

- Mr. Dan McDougall, Senior Fellow, Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

### **Speakers:**

*Keynote:* Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, USEPA Office of Air & Radiation

### **Panellists:**

- Ms. Oksana Tarasova, Head, Atmospheric Environment Research Division, WMO
- Mr. Manfredi Caltagirone, Head, *a.i.* IMEO, United Nations Environment Programme

