Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Eighteenth session
Geneva, 19-20 September 2022
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 September 2022

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
5. Election of officers.
6. Roundtable on financing clean energy technologies.
7. Roundtable on digitalizing energy systems.
8. Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts.
9. Any other business.
10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

1 Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. For in person participation register here (https://indico.un.org/event/1000460/) and for online participation register here (https://forms.office.com/r/kMwfZrQmaP ), 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.5/2022/1 – 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. The documents for the session will be published on the website as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session can be found in section III, an update will be posted on the website should it become necessary shortly before the meeting.

2. Opening remarks

The opening remarks will be given by the Chair, Mr Jim Robb. The Chair will reflect on challenging situation in the ECE region caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical crisis, supply chain disruptions and looming climate change. This eighteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems will be preceding the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and will be part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week.

3. Session on attaining carbon neutrality in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation:  ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/3 – Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region: Project update

The Group of Experts implemented a project on enhancing the understanding of the implications 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.

Since project inception, the Task Force and the wider project stakeholder community delivered a number of technical workshops on role of selected technologies to attain carbon neutrality across power sector and energy intensive industries. This interactive session will present to-date project results and the Group of Experts will have the opportunity to discuss how to further build its program and implement the current work plan based on the findings and recommendations deriving from this project implementation.

4. Update on Work Plan 2022-2023 implementation

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

The Chair will provide an update on the implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023. The Group of Experts will be invited to elaborate on concrete steps towards full implementation of the Work Plan for 2022-2023.

5. Election of officers

At its sixteenth session in 2020, the Group of Experts elected a representative from the United States as a Chair and additional Vice-Chairs from the Russian Federation, World Nuclear Association and International Institute for Sustainable Carbon to serve until the end of the eighteenth session. At its seventeenth session in 2021, the Group of Experts elected for two

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2 https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/18th-session-group-experts-cleaner-electricity-systems
years the representatives of Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom, and a representative from Hydro-Québec. Following the request for additional nominations received prior to the eighteenth session, the Group of Experts will elect Bureau members that have newly been nominated to serve until the end of 2024.

6. **Roundtable on financing clean energy technologies**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2022/5 Financing clean energy infrastructure

Findings from the Carbon Neutrality project show that all low- and zero-carbon technologies will be needed to attain carbon neutrality by 2050 and limit climate change to 1.5-2°C. The objective of this session is to launch a dialogue and cooperation with the global financial community on developing investment framework that facilitates the development and deployment of all low- and zero-carbon technologies (incl. fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and storage, capture and use or conversion of methane released during fossil fuel extraction, low-carbon and renewable hydrogen production, nuclear power, and renewable energy). Recommendations from this technical dialogue will feed into the ECE High Level Round Table on ‘Regional cooperation on enhancing sustainable management and financing for the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions’ that will be held on the same date.

7. **Roundtable on digitalizing electricity systems**


Digital solutions enable advances in connectivity, data, and analytics, and bring potential to accelerated implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Digital technologies, as means to coordinate, analyze, and interpret increasing quantities of energy system data, user preferences and system requirements, may facilitate the complex system-level optimization of a decentralized energy sector, and will be at the core of multi-sector electrification. Digital innovations will be at the core of multi-sector electrification as we move towards electrification of transport and buildings sectors, grid edge technology solutions, electrification of industrial processes, etc.

The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems joined forces under the Task Force on Digitalization to explore opportunities and side-effects of digitalizing electricity systems, with a focus on increased system efficiency, innovative business models and effective policymaking. This session will discuss opportunities and benefits of digitalizing electricity systems, maps stakeholders involved, and outlines challenges for consideration by public authorities, private sector actors, and customers. It will also highlight recommendations on policies to accelerate the electricity system transformation through digitalization, to achieve higher levels of efficiency while ensuring security and sustainability of the system.

8. **Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts**

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its nineteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The nineteenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 3-4 October 2023 in Geneva, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.
9. **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.

10. **Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems on its eighteenth 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.

### III. Tentative timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19 September 2022</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Item 1: Adoption of the agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Item 2: Opening remarks</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Item 3: Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Item 3: Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region (cont’d)</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Item 4: Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2022-2023</td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>Item 5: Election of officers</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>End of the day</td>
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| **20 September 2022** |                                                |
| 10:00        | Item 6: Roundtable on financing clean energy technologies |
| 12:00        | Break                                                 |
| 15:00        | Item 7: Roundtable on digitalizing electricity systems |
| 16:30        | Item 8: Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts |
| 16:35        | Item 9: Any other business                           |
| 16:40        | Item 10: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting |
| 17:00        | End of the session                                   |