



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

### Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition

#### **Eighteenth session**

Geneva, 20-21 March 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **DRAFT** Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 20 March 2023.\*

## **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
5. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2022-2023.
6. Just transition of the coal mining sector.
7. Work plan for 2024-2025.
8. Future work of the Group of Experts.
9. Partnerships.
10. Thirteenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
11. Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts.

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1002058/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: [cmm.energy@un.org](mailto:cmm.energy@un.org). Delegates participating in person 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, temporarily located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, Avenue de la Paix 13, Geneva. Please see [UN Geneva Guidance on accessing the Palais des Nations](#) (including security information, maps, and information on transportation). Registration is open every working day at the Villa Les Feuillantines from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

12. Any other business.
13. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
14. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/1 – 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 adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website<sup>1</sup> as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as each agenda item is concluded.

### **2. Election of officers**

At its sixteenth session, 3-4 March 2021, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve until the close of the eighteenth session. The Group of Experts will be invited to elect any members of its Bureau whose term ends at the conclusion of the eighteen session and who stand for re-election, as well as any new nominees, to serve until the conclusion of the twentieth session.

### **3. Opening remarks**

Opening remarks will be delivered by the Chair of the Group of Experts and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division and will cover recent achievements of the Group, as well as its goals for the future, taking into account the recent expansion of the Group's mandate, and the decisions relevant to the work of the Group of the Experts taken by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of ECE.

### **4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts**

*Documentation:* (CSE-31/2022/INF.2) – Building Resilient Energy Systems: Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirty-first session, 21-23 September 2022, giving special focus to the Committee's work on building resilient energy systems and the contribution that the Group of Experts is requested to make to it.

An unofficial room document *Building Resilient Energy Systems: Technical Considerations and Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region* (CSE-31/2022/INF.2), developed by the Bureaux of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, will be discussed under this agenda item.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

## 5. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2022-2023

- Documentation:* (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/4) – Assessment of coal demand in Tajikistan to 2050 and of the alternative options for replacing coal in the country’s energy mix
- (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/5) – Coal mine closure in Albania and Serbia
- (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/6) – Energy sector in Ukraine: challenges, current situation, perspectives for the future - Identifying opportunities for the involvement of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition
- (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/7) – Just Transition – the check list

The Bureau and the secretariat will report on implementation of the Group of Experts’ work plan for 2022-2023, wherein the Group of Experts has been asked to work on a range of topics, including to:

- (a) Disseminate and facilitate application of best practices for effective methane recovery and use from active and abandoned coal mines through, among other means, activation of existing and creation of new national and international centres of excellence on coal mine methane;
- (b) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
- (c) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;
- (d) Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development.;
- (e) Further engage, in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition of the fossil fuels-based industries in the ECE region;
- (f) Contribute to the work of the Expert Group on Resource Management on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System, including specifications and guidelines for coal-associated gas resources;
- (g) Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the project “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);
- (h) Promote broader inclusiveness of the Group of Experts, giving due attention to gender equality;
- (i) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms. Engage and develop robust professional ties with the recognized expert entities operating in the field of fossil-based energy.

Representatives of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and in China will report to the Group of Experts on the status and activities of the respective Centres. Annual reports for both Centres will be submitted for the Group’s review and approval.

## 6. Just transition of the coal mining sector

*Documentation:* (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/6) – Energy sector in Ukraine: challenges, current situation, perspectives for the future - Identifying opportunities for the involvement of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition

(ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/7) – Just Transition – the check list

The commitment to keep global warming to well below two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels requires decarbonization in all economic sectors. While decarbonization efforts will create new opportunities, they will have also certain disruptive effects on high-carbon regions and energy-intensive industries. To address those problems the decarbonization process should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the “just transition”.

The Group of Experts will evaluate the work in the field of just transition that has been carried out so far by the Group of Experts and by other actors operating in that domain, and it will discuss future activities that it should undertake to best serve ECE member States undergoing the process of transformation of their coal mining regions. The discussions will be facilitated by the documents: *Energy sector in Ukraine: challenges, current situation, perspectives for the future - Identifying opportunities for the involvement of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition* (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/6) and *Just Transition – the check list* (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/7).

## 7. Work plan for 2024-2025

*Documentation:* (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/3) – Draft Work Plan for the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition for 2024-2025

The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-first session (Geneva, 21-23 September 2022), requested the Group of Experts to prepare its draft work plan for 2024-2025 for approval by the Committee at its thirty-second session. The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss and agree on its draft work plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2023/3). The Group of Experts will also be invited to identify member States, organizations and experts willing to take an active role in delivering on the tasks set forth in the document.

## 8. Future work of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss the modalities of its future operations. It will discuss the establishment of three task forces: on methane emissions, just transition, and safe operation and closure of coal mines, addressing the issues related to their respective focus, tasks, and membership, as well as consider best strategies for engagement with youth, which is necessary to attract the young generation of professionals to cooperate with the Group on shaping the future of the coal mining regions and their local industries.

## 9. Partnerships

The Group of Experts will listen to presentations on relevant activities of its key partners operating in the fields of monitoring and abatement of methane emissions from the coal sector, and of Just Transition. The Group will provide its feedback and explore opportunities for contributing to their work from its own experience and expertise.

**10. Thirteenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee**

The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. The thirty-second meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the eighteenth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and will discuss, amongst other issues, joint activities.

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

The Group of Experts will discuss the 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 will be held in 2024 in Geneva. The possibility of organizing the session within the framework of the Global Methane Forum 2024 will be considered.

**12. 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 Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

**13. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

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

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.

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