

# UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane Task Force on Just Transition

## First Meeting

16 June 2023

14:00 - 15:30 (Geneva time)

## SUMMARY

### Participants:

Task Force Chair:

- Bobbie Foot

Task Force Members:

1. Jia Baoqiang
2. Jan Bondaruk
3. Neil Butler
4. Pierre De Pasquale
5. Agnieszka Demska Furgal
6. Zhang Ai Dong
7. Ryan Driskell Tate
8. Raphael Heffron
9. Stafanie Held
10. David Jermain
11. Qing Rong Jia
12. Alicja Krzemien
13. Tatiana Lanshina
14. Cristina Martinez
15. Alev Mine
16. Maria Olczak
17. Raymond Pilcher
18. Munira Raji
19. Jennifer Rietbergen
20. Mateusz Rzeszowski
21. Paul Segalard
22. Andrey Shulga
23. Artur Sokolowski
24. Maxim Titov
25. Klaudia Zwolinska

Secretariat:

- Michal Drabik

### Draft agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group
2. Introduction by the Chair of the TF
3. Tour de table
4. Discussion on activities, deliverables, and the mode of operation of the TF
5. Presentation of the RoP by the Secretariat
6. AOB
7. Next meeting
8. Closing the meeting

**Item 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group**

1. The Chair of the Group of experts, Mr. Raymond Pilcher, opened the session, underlined the importance of the work that the Task Force (TF) is to do, reminded participants that the Task force is a part of the UN system and therefore is bound by the UN rules, and asked TF members to be respectful and kind to one another.

**Item 2. Adoption of the agenda**

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any changes.

**Item 3. Tour de table**

3. Each participant briefly presented herself/himself.

**Item 4. Discussion on activities, deliverables, and the mode of operation of the TF**

4. The Chair of the TF presented the result of the questionnaire that was distributed among TF members ahead of the meeting:

- a. 41 experts signed up to the TF;
- b. 22 experts provided answers to the questionnaire;
- c. As it was noticed that the representation of mine operators among TF members is rather low, the latter were asked to help with identifying and engaging with people who work for mine operators and might be interested in joining the Task Force. TF members were encouraged to reach out to some mine operators' employees from their networks and explore opportunities for their engagement in the TF's work
- d. It was decided that the meetings will be held on a monthly basis;
- e. Ten ideas for activities were proposed:
  - i. Mapping existing projects and data sets;
  - ii. Identifying and facilitating the sharing of existing best practice;
  - iii. Understanding research and transitions that are in progress;
  - iv. Understanding lessons learned from transitions that have already occurred, including those from other types of transitions;
  - v. Identifying gaps in knowledge that may require further research or problem solving;
  - vi. Identifying or developing guidelines based on existing best practice, research evidence and lessons learned;
  - vii. Facilitating sharing of case studies to help members and others apply these guidelines;
  - viii. Ensuring that diverse views and perspectives are considered in these activities;
  - ix. Outreach to other stakeholders;
  - x. Working with the other two Taskforces on areas of synergy.
- f. Among those, the respondents found the most interesting activity i. *Identifying and facilitating the sharing of existing best practice* (18 votes) and activity ii. *Understanding lessons learned from transitions that have already occurred, including those from other types of transitions* (17 votes).

5. During the discussion:

- a. There was a proposal to engage in all the proposed activities, starting with those that attracted the most attention from TF members.
- b. A comment was made that before deciding on activities, TF should first decide on products that it wishes to deliver.
- c. A request to work on practical guidance on the JT's next steps was made. The need for providing a guide on actions that render the actual results on the ground was stressed (practical recommendations and solutions-oriented work). In that context, it was highlighted that the focus should be given to actions related to the social aspect of the transition process, which is typically not given a sufficient attention.
- d. A check list of the right questions to ask while preparing the transition process was proposed as an activity that TF could engaged in.

- e. The importance of time was raised. It was observed that it is necessary to identify when things need to happen to meet to the Paris Agreement's and the 2050 net zero goals. It was stated that even though the countries might want to adopt different approaches, there is no time to wait until they find a common understanding.
  - f. Referring to the previous point, a need to focus on implementation strategies and scenario planning over project life cycle was discussed. It was argued that in order to avoid delays in achieving the set results, pathways for implementation should be developed. It was observed that progress of transitions makes it easier for financial institutions to provide funds for the process, whereas delays and inaction have an opposite effect.
  - g. A suggestion to set up a narrow pilot project to test applicability of various solutions and evaluate the results that they lead to was made. It was argued that documentation of such project would provide a toolkit that could be used by others.
  - h. It was observed that transition is a process which has causes and effects. Negative effects that happened in the past can be expected also this time and therefore they can be identified and ranked in terms of severity of their impact. As a result, tools for addressing them can be prepared ahead of time.
  - i. Transition was said to be a process based on interactions between not only people, but also cultures that developed in organizations that are parts of it.
6. On the basis of the results of the questionnaire and the discussion that took place at the meeting, the Chair promised to identify, with the help of the secretariat, the priority actions for the TF, and communicate them to TF members shortly.

**Item 5. Presentation of the RoP by the Secretariat**

7. The secretariat asked participants for their feedback on the draft Rules of Procedure that were shared with TF members ahead of the meeting. It was explained that the RoP are necessary to formally explain the relation between the Group of Experts and the Task Force, and to provide the framework for the work of the latter. As there were no immediate comments to the document, TF members were asked to provide comments (if any) in writing by COB Friday, 23 June 2023.

**Item 6. Any other business**

8. The secretariat underlined the importance of active engagement of TF members, stressing that the actual work of the TF takes place in between its meeting, and asking TF members to stay engaged and responsive.

9. The secretariat informed TF members about the fact that the website dedicated to TF had been created ([Task Force on Just Transition | UNECE](#)). It was stated that all relevant information related to TF's work, such as summaries of past meetings, polls to indicate availability for the future meetings, and a link to a shared folder, would be posted on that page.

**Item 7. Next meeting**

10. The next meeting of the TF will take place in July. The secretariat will distribute a doodle poll to identify the most convenient date and time.

**Item 8. Closing the meeting**

11. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call, and closed the meeting.

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