

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

First Meeting

24 July 2023

14:00 - 15:30 (Geneva time)

SUMMARY

Participants:

Task Force Chair:

- Bobbie Foot

Task Force Members:

1. Yurii Bobrov
2. Jan Bondaruk
3. Conal Campbell
4. Javier Cañas Andreu
5. Andrei Iatsenia
6. David Jermain
7. Beau Jia
8. Kusum Lata
9. Tatiana Lanshina
10. Gift Richard Maloya
11. Cristina Martinez
12. Alev Mine
13. Maria Olczak
14. Hongye Pei
15. Raymond Pilcher
16. Munira Raji
17. Mateusz Rzeszowski
18. Paul Segalard
19. Andrey Shulga
20. Artur Sokolowski
21. Klaudia Zwolinska

Secretariat:

- Michal Drabik

Draft agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Work plan of the Task Force (presentation, discussion, approval)
4. Preparation for implementation of the work plan (identifying next steps, setting up a timeline, distribution of tasks)
5. What's new in the field of Just Transition
6. AOB
7. Next meeting
8. End of the meeting

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

1. The Chair of the Task Force (TF) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any changes.

Item 3. Work plan of the Task Force (presentation, discussion, approval)

3. The TF discussed the proposed work plan for 2023-2024. During the discussion on the document the following issues were raised:
 - a. Social dialogue is not the only means of democratic governance
 - b. Institutional resilience has its well-established definition provided by OECD, which does not match the meaning in which it is used in the discussed work plan and therefore that term used in the latter should be changed.
 - c. Actions referring to social progress should indicate taking risks and acceptance for experimentation and learning, as any proposed solutions are likely to involve a risk of failure. However, acknowledging that fact should be done very carefully for communication reasons (not to instigate fear among the stakeholder).
 - d. In certain languages the term “subculture” has negative connotations, and therefore TF should consider it with a different word in its work plan.
 - e. Proposed strategies should be evidence-based and anchored in a reliable data.
 - f. Definition of a success in the context of the transition should be defined, as should also be KPIs.
 - g. The systemic scope of the upcoming transformation, and thus also of the proposed strategies, should be underlined.
 - i. Failed transition actions and strategies should be studied and serve as lessons for the future. The TF should not only be looking for best practices, but rather try to identify lessons learnt, indicating also the most common mistakes.
 - j. Work of the TF should not focus only on the ECE region.
 - k. The TF should embrace the concept of multi-level governance, so that it does not only break silos horizontally between departments and sectors, but also facilitate the alignment of international, national, regional and local political agents.
 - l. TF should define a list of indicators that could demonstrate whether the already delivered transition were just or not.
 - m. In order not to get overwhelmed with the complexity of the problem, TF should start small, in terms of the scope of its work, and gradually grow bigger over time.
 - n. At certain point the TF should aim to develop a pilot project to test its ideas and recommendations.
 - o. Any theoretical model for Just Transition must acknowledge that its implementation will always be case-specific.
4. The secretariat was requested to reflect the comments made during the meeting in the text of the work plan, and to make the updated document available to TF members, so that they can provide their further input. (**Please note** that the file which incorporates the proposed changes is available to TF members in the shared folder accessible from the [TF's webpage](#). It is saved in the “Work plan for 2023-2024” folder. The TF Members are kindly asked to review the document and provide their comments and/or edits in track changes by **COB Friday 8 September**).

Item 4. Preparation for implementation of the work plan (identifying next steps, setting up a timeline, distribution of tasks)

5. Since a discussion on the work plan has not been completed, consideration of matters under this item were postponed until the next session.

Item 5. What's new in the field of Just transition

6. Under this item the participants had an opportunity to bring to the TF's attention relevant recent or upcoming publications, meetings, projects, and policies that they find of value and worth sharing.

7. Four papers were presented (information about them including their abstracts is available on the [webpage dedicated to the 2nd meeting of the TF](#), under the tab “Resources” on the bottom of the page), as were also new reports on Just Transition in the Asia Pacific region developed by ILO (links to those reports are also available under the “Resources” tab on the above-mentioned website).

Item 6. Any other business

8. The secretariat invited all participants to the upcoming [Sustainable Energy Week](#). The event will take place on 11-15 September and it will feature the [32nd Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy](#) and the [10th session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy](#). It was highlighted that on the last day of the Committee meeting (Friday, 15 September), the Group of Experts will deliver a session dedicated to Just Transition, during which it will present a new concept of coal, in which the latter is not perceived as merely a fuel, but a multi-purpose resource significantly broadening the range of opportunities for just transition strategies.

Item 7. Next meeting

9. The next meeting of the TF will take place in the second half of September. The secretariat will distribute a poll requesting the TF members to identify the most convenient date and time.

Item 8. Closing the meeting

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