

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Twelfth session

Geneva, 24-25 October 2017

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

**Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Twelfth Session
of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane¹**

Draft for discussion

Agenda Item 2: Election of officers

1. The Group of Experts elected a new Bureau for the 2018-2019 biennium.

Agenda Item 4: Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative.

2. The Group of Experts thanked the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and its members for their continued support and collaboration. Noting the synergies between the Group of Experts and GMI, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to continue to explore opportunities to strengthen the relationship between UNECE and GMI.
3. The Group of Experts noted that the Global Methane Forum (GMF) will take place in Canada in April 2018, and decided to take an active part in the event. Recognizing the importance of the Forum, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to undertake any efforts necessary to assure UNECE's formal involvement in the event at the highest level.
4. The Group of Experts expressed its wish to organize an informal meeting of experts at GMF comprising a number of technical sessions on CMM and Abandoned Mine Methane (AMM). The secretariat was requested to organize the events in coordination with GMI.

Agenda Item 5: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

5. The Group of Experts concluded that it will participate in the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project, subject to identifying volunteers from the Group.
6. The Group of Experts concluded that it should cooperate with the Group of Experts on Resource Classification, in particular on application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to CMM, CBM, AMM, and VAM.

¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Group of Experts after each agenda item and updated as needed.

7. The Group of Experts confirmed its readiness to take a leading role in the development of the project on the Transformation of the Energy Sector. The secretariat was requested to send out the recently prepared survey to targeted member States and to inform the Bureau of the Group of Experts on the results of this.

8. Following the opening of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM) in China in September 2017, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to invite Shanxi Coking Coal Group to participate in the project on the Transformation of the Energy Sector.

Agenda Item 6: Report on implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017

9. The Group of Experts noted that it has delivered on its 2016-2017 work plan.

10. The Group of Experts was presented with the results of the evaluation of its work in 2014-2016 conducted by an external evaluator. The Group of Experts found the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation relevant and valid, and requested the Bureau to develop an action plan for implementing the recommended measures.

11. The Group of Experts was provided with an update on the status and activities of the International Centres of Excellence (ICE-CMM) in Poland and in China. The Group noted with appreciation the progress made in the development of the worldwide network of the centres, and congratulated the host entities for the work accomplished. The Group requested that the secretariat and the host entities ensure communication and coordination of their respective activities among each other and with the Group. The Group further requested the secretariat to continue to keep the other Regional Commissions informed on the ICE-CMMs and to continue to seek their active engagement.

12. The Group of Experts approved the status report of the ICE-CMM in Poland and endorsed its work plan for 2017-2019.

13. The Group of Experts approved the status report of the ICE-CMM in China and endorsed its work plan for 2018-2019 subject to the revisions made in session.

14. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the interest of the Russian Federation to establish an ICE-CMM in the Russian Federation and requested the secretariat to work with the Russian Federation to determine the details of the offer and to facilitate establishment of such an ICE-CMM.

Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy.

15. Following the results of the workshop held on 23 October, as well as noting with appreciation endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy of activities to address sustainable management of abandoned coal mines, and the recognition the Committee gave to the relevance of this matter in attaining a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Group of Experts recommended development and publication of best practices on AMM.

16. The Group of Experts recommended close cooperation with GMI, as well as with other relevant actors in this field, in its work on AMM

Agenda Item 8: Work plan for 2018-2019

17. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation that the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-sixth session endorsed the work plan for 2018-2019 and extended the Group's mandate to 31 December 2019.

18. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation that the United States Environmental Protection Agency had provided extrabudgetary funds in the order of USD 200,000 for the second phase of the project on Dissemination of Best Practices in the Abatement, Recovery, and Use of Methane (2018-2019).

Agenda Item 9: Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts

19. The Group of Experts recommended the following topics for the substantive portion of its thirteenth session: **to be added during the meeting.**

20. The thirteenth session of the Group of Experts will be held on 24-25 September 2018 in Geneva and immediately prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

21. The report of the meeting was adopted, including the conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
