

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Unofficial Online Meeting
Geneva, 22 July 2020
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Draft Agenda¹

Draft for discussion

Draft agenda for the unofficial online meeting

To be held online, starting at 16:00 on Wednesday, 22 July 2020

I. Updated agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Overview of delivered and upcoming events.
5. Future of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
6. Tenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee
7. Preparations for the fifteenth and the sixteenth sessions of the Group of Experts.
8. Any other business.
9. Approval of draft conclusions and recommendations.
10. Approval of a draft report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the updated agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website² as they become available.

¹ The draft agenda will be presented to the Group of Experts for its review and approval under agenda item 1.

² <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

2. Election of officers

2. At its fourteenth session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve until the end of the sixteenth session in 2021. Any new nominations for additions to the current Bureau will be considered by the Group of Experts.

3. Opening remarks

3. Opening remarks will be delivered by the Chair of the Group addressing the current unusual and challenging situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the Group's activities.

4. Overview of delivered and upcoming events

4. The secretariat will provide the Group of Experts with a brief report on the workshop "Post-Mining Perspectives: Capture and Use of Abandoned Mine Methane and Mine Reclamation and Revitalization of Post Mining Areas" that was delivered within the framework of the XXIX School of Underground Mining, 26 February 2020, Cracow, Poland. The Group of Experts will also discuss available options for future events, giving particular attention to their location, content, and objectives and continuing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Future of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

5. The Group of Experts will continue the discussion on its future that was started at the fourteenth session in November 2019. Specific focus will be given to the proposal to draft a letter to the ECE Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the United Nations underlining the importance of maintaining a debate on the social, environmental, and economic aspects of extraction and use of fossil fuels that is open, inclusive and fact-based. The members of the Group will be presented with the current position on that matter of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division and the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

6. The Group of Experts will discuss the contribution that it can make to the project on Carbon Neutrality that is to be delivered under the leadership of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems.

7. The Group of Experts will review and, if necessary, update recommendations that it made within the framework of the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project. The final document containing policy recommendations arising from the project will be presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session, 25-27 November 2020.

8. The Group of Experts will discuss a need for developing Rules of Procedure for the Group and its Bureau, as well as their potential content.

9. The secretariat will present the Group of Experts with an update on discussions and preparations for requesting the UN General Assembly to declare in the near future either an International Year of Methane, or International Decade of Methane.

10. The secretariat will present the Group of Experts with three potential areas of cooperation with the European Commission that the Group could get engage in in the fields of coal mining and methane emissions from the coal sector.

11. The secretariat will seek an approval by the Group of Experts of a text for a proposed ECOSOC decision that is to be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy as a first step of seeking the ECOSOC's endorsement of the "Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines" developed by the Group.

6. Tenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

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

7. Preparations for the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Group of Experts

13. The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its fifteenth and sixteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the sixteenth session will be proposed and discussed. The fifteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled tentatively to take place between 22 and 25 September 2020 in Geneva, and the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled tentatively for 22-23 March 2021 in Geneva.

8. Any other business

14. The meeting 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 Item 7.

9. Approval of draft conclusions and recommendations

15. The Group of Experts will be invited to approve draft conclusions and recommendations that will be presented for adoption at the fifteenth session of the Group in September 2020.

16. Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts.

10. Approval of a draft report and close of the meeting

17. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the approved conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to approve a draft report that will be presented for adoption at the fifteenth session of the Group in September 2020, following which the Chair will close the meeting.