

**Economic Commission for Europe**  
**Committee on Sustainable Energy**

**Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**  
**Thirteenth session**

Geneva, 24-25 September 2018

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Thirteenth Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane<sup>1</sup>**

**Draft for discussion**

**Agenda Item 3: Opening remarks.**

1. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the work of the Bureau and its efforts to manage and direct the Group's work plan between annual sessions despite human and financial resource constraints. The Group of Experts requested the Bureau to develop Terms of Reference, including the functioning of the Bureau and the role of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, and requested the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau to prepare them in the first quarter of 2019 and to post them to the CMM website for review and comment by experts. The final draft ToR should be submitted to the Group of Experts at its fourteenth session for endorsement.

**Agenda Item 4: Eighth 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 Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and its members for their continued support and collaboration.

3. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the success of the Global Methane Forum held in April 2018, Toronto, Canada and expressed gratitude for having had an opportunity to contribute to the event.

4. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the added value and success of other events that it has recently organized in cooperation with GMI, namely the seminar Turning Coal Mine Methane into an Asset: Implementing Best Practices and Policies delivered at the twenty-fifth World Mining Congress, 19-22 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan, and the capacity-building workshop on Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization, 24-25 July 2018, Bogota, Colombia.

5. The Group of Experts expressed interest in continuing to develop joint projects with GMI and requested the secretariat to ensure, facilitate, and coordinate continued cooperation between the two entities.

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

## **Agenda Item 5: Update on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019**

6. The Group of Experts reviewed its work plan for 2018–2019 and noted that all activities planned for 2018 had been successfully delivered.

7. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the completion of the translation of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines (BPG) into French, Spanish, Polish and Chinese. It thanked the International Centres of Excellence (ICE-CMM) in Poland and in China for their in-kind contributions in respectively translating the BPG into Polish and Chinese. The Group of Experts welcomed that the French BPG had been issued in print by ECE and encouraged ICE-CMMs in Poland and in China to also issue their versions of the BPG in hard copies.

8. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the array of BPG dissemination activities successfully organized in 2018 and thanked the members for their active involvement in their delivery.

9. The Group of Experts welcomed the progress on the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines that is being developed in the framework of the extrabudgetary project “Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane, Phase II”. It approved the proposed outline, requested the Task Force to submit the first draft of the Guidance for review by the Editorial Group by **to be added during the meeting**, and invited all members to contribute to the development of the document.

10. The Group of Experts welcomed the progress made to develop a risk management tool and thanked David Creedy for leading the work on this task.

11. The Group of Experts noted that, in accordance with the 2018-2019 work plan, a standard training module needs to be developed before the end of the biennium and asked the members to contribute to the work on this deliverable.

12. In light of ECE’s work on methane management in extractive industries, the Group of Experts decided to evaluate the value of and need for developing in the next biennium a document on best methods and practices in monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of methane emissions in the coal industry. Aligned with the current BPG, which serves as a principles-based and practical approach to addressing various safety and environmental problems caused by methane that is liberated during coal mining, the proposed publication would provide guidance for incorporating MRV as a way of measuring progress in reducing emissions. The Group requested the Bureau to present a proposal on such an activity to the fourteenth session.

13. The Group of Experts thanked the Government of Ukraine for its invitation for the Group to participate in the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development that will be held in Kiev, Ukraine, 12-15 November 2018. The Group agreed to deliver a one-day-day seminar on Best Practices in Coal Mine Methane Capture and Utilization during the Forum and tasked the secretariat and Bureau with its organization.

14. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the updates provided on the status and activities of the ICEs in Poland and in China. The Group further noted with appreciation the progress made in the development of a worldwide network of 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 also requested the secretariat to continue to keep the other Regional Commissions informed on the activities of ICE-CMMs undertaken beyond the ECE region and to seek their engagement in any such initiatives.

15. The Group of Experts approved the status report of the ICE-CMM in Poland.

16. The Group of Experts approved the status report of the ICE-CMM in China.

17. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the interest of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States, and Colombia in establishing ICE-CMMs in these countries and requested the secretariat to provide the local entities involved in the process of their creation with any information and assistance necessary for setting up the Centres.

18. Noting with appreciation the presentation of the activities, goals, and accomplishments of the World Mining Congress (WMC), the Group of Experts identified areas with potential for development of joint projects and recommended that it strengthen cooperation with WMC. Noting the proposal for a joint project on a global-scale mapping of abandoned coal mines, the Group requested the secretariat to explore with the WMC the viability and modalities of such a project. Should WMC accept the offer, the project could be started in the next biennium subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources.

19. The Group of Experts underlined the importance and inevitability of the transition of the energy sector and invited member States and relevant organizations to cooperate with ECE on modernization project that it is developing in this field. The Group of Experts invited the Government of Kazakhstan and ArcelorMittal Temirtau with which it is engaged in development of the ECE project on transition of the energy sector to identify an industrial site for the pilot stage of the venture. The Group also encouraged its partners to organize, upon selection of the host unit, an on-site stakeholder meeting.

20. The Group of Experts recommended that it stays informed of the facts related to, and becomes more involved in the ongoing debate on the role of coal in the future energy mix in the context of CMM and AMM. Methane emissions from coal mining is driven by the demand for coal and contribute to the overall carbon footprint of the coal industry and coal consumers. The need for an open and inclusive dialogue based on facts was underlined and the Group invited other subsidiary bodies of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy to join the discussion and to develop a common position on the future of energy.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Gender issues and promoting broader inclusiveness.**

21. Recognizing the importance and value of broader inclusiveness in its work, the Group of Experts requested that measures aimed at raising awareness on barriers to women's engagement and professional development in the mining and the energy sectors should be promoted at all activities organized by the Group to the extent possible.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Preparations for the fourteenth session of the Group of Experts**

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

23. The fourteenth session of the Group of Experts will be held on 7-8 November 2019 in Geneva, immediately after the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels.

**Agenda Item 8: Any other business**

24. The Group of Experts noted the need to expand its membership from both within and beyond the ECE region, and to secure additional extrabudgetary resources. Both are prerequisites to be able to deliver on the current work plan. The Group requested the secretariat to work, in cooperation with the Bureau, to identify new members, as well as potential sources of funding.

25. Noting that a request is to be made by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its upcoming twenty-seventh session in Geneva, the Group of Experts recommended to

- (a) engage in a discussion with the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the role, programme of work, structure, and mode of operation of the Committee, and
- (b) review its own mandate and programme of work

in order to ensure their relevance to, and suitability for delivering on the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Group of Experts underlined that it stands ready to contribute from its experience and expertise to the summary document containing recommendations on these matters that is to be jointly prepared by the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and presented to the Committee's twenty-eighth session in 2019.

**Agenda Item 10: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

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

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