

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Fifteenth session

Geneva, 22 July 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Draft Updated Agenda¹

Draft for discussion

Updated agenda for the fifteenth session

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. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts.
7. Any other business.
8. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
9. Adoption of the 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.

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.

¹ The draft updated agenda was prepared to reflect the content of the meeting that has to be adjusted to unusual circumstances caused by COVID-19. The draft updated agenda will be presented to the Group of Experts for its review and approval under agenda item 1.

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

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 the draft Rules of Procedure for the Group and its Bureau, as developed by the secretariat in cooperation with the Groups of Experts. These Rules of Procedure would be applicable to all the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in accordance with the guidelines provided by the latter.

9. The secretariat will present the Group of Experts with an update on discussions and preparations for having 2021 or 2022 declared an International Year 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.

6. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts

11. The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its sixteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The sixteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled tentatively for 22-23 March 2021 in Geneva.

7. Any other business

12. 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 11.

8. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

13. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

14. Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

15. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat, following which the Chair will close the meeting.