

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Third session

Geneva, 21–22 April 2016

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Group of Experts on Gas ¹

Draft for discussion

Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers

1. The Group of Experts elected a new Bureau to serve in 2016–17.

Agenda Item 3: Opening session: Role of Gas in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the climate goals set at the Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session (COP 21)

2. The Group of Experts concluded that there is a need to better articulate a clear narrative on the role of gas in sustainable energy systems. The current narrative does not express the contribution that natural gas could make across the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability. Creating a stronger sustainability narrative can underpin the role of natural gas in countries' energy policies in attainment of the sustainable development and climate goals.
3. The Group of Experts recommended that the conclusions and recommendations of the opening session be integrated into respective task force efforts and that stakeholder consultations be carried out to support implementation of the Group of Experts' Work Plan.
4. The Group of Experts recommended that a one-day workshop and stakeholder consultations be organized as part of the fourth session.

Agenda Item 4: Matters arising from the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Group of Experts on Gas

5. In response to the request made by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 24th session in November 2015 for the relevant ECE expert groups to prepare a report on methane management in extractive industries, the Group of Experts on Gas agreed to support preparation of this report with the support of the secretariat.
6. The Group of Experts took note of the project under the Committee on Sustainable Energy on Pathways to Sustainable Energy.
7. The Group of Experts concluded that gas plays an important role in sustainable energy systems and was supportive of the project.
8. The Group of Experts recommended that increased engagement by gas stakeholders could better articulate the role of gas in the context of this project.

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

Agenda Item 7: Best practice guidance in reducing gas leaks along the gas value chain

9. The Group of Experts noted the report by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Global Methane Forum held in Washington, D.C., United States, 28–30 March 2016 and on the meeting of the task force developing the best practice guidance.

10. The Group of Experts recommended increasing collaboration with the Global Methane Initiative and Climate and Clean Air Coalition on topics related reducing gas leaks along the gas value chain.

Agenda Item 8: Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy

11. The Group of Experts noted the report of the secretariat on progress of this task force and recommended that it enhance its collaboration with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.

Agenda Item 9: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas

12. The Group of Experts recommended to publish the report Market Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and noted that work continues on developing best practice guidance for LNG as outlined in the Work Plan.

13. The Group of Experts recommended to review and subsequently publish the policy paper on best practices for small scale LNG and Gas Quality.

Agenda Item 10: Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

14. The Group of Experts recommended to publish the report presented on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel and noted that work continues on delivering on the activities as outlined in the Work Plan.

Agenda Item 11: Work Plan for 2014–2015 and for 2016–2017

15. The Group of Experts concluded that it had made progress in delivering on the concrete activities of both its mandate and Work Plan for 2014–2015.

16. The Group of Experts concluded that whilst the 2014–2015 Work Plan is not yet fully implemented the deliverables remain relevant to gas sector development in the ECE region.

17. The Group of Experts recommended to extend the existing Work Plan for 2014–2015 until the end of its mandate on 31 December 2017 and that this request be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement and to the Executive Committee for subsequent approval.

Agenda Item 12: Preparations for the fourth session of the Group of Experts

18. The Group of Experts recommended the following topics for the substantive portion of its fourth session: **(to be decided at the meeting)**.

19. The fourth session of the Group of Experts will be held on 4-5 April 2017 in Geneva (to be confirmed).

Agenda Item 13: Other business

20. The Group of Experts requested to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that its annual sessions be supported by parliamentary documents and reports as needed in relation to the implementation of the 2016–2017 Work Plan. The Group of Experts recommended to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that the secretariat be invited to continue supporting its work by, inter alia, the following: organizing planned Work Plan activities, preparing formal documentation required for the development, approval, implementation and reporting of Work Plan activities, including the translation of official documents in the three official ECE languages (English, French, Russian) to service the Group of Experts meetings.

Agenda Item 15: 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.