

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

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

Geneva, 24-25 October 2016

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations**

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

**Draft for discussion**

**Agenda Item 2: Update on the Bureau**

1. The Group of Experts noted that at its tenth session, held in October 2015, a new Bureau was elected to serve until the end of 2017.

**Agenda Item 4: Sixth 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 explore a possible strategic alliance between GMI and UNECE that could be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and GMI.

**Agenda Item 5: The role of the best practices for effective methane drainage and use in coal mines in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and combatting climate change**

3. The Group of Experts noted that not only is coal mine methane a strong greenhouse gas but it also causes accidents in mines, which adversely affect entire communities. Proper methane management may thus have beneficial effects in attaining several Sustainable Development Goals.

**Agenda Item 7: Report on implementation of the work plan for 2016–2017**

4. The Group of Experts reviewed its work plan for 2016–2017. The Group of Experts noted that it had delivered on its activities planned for 2016 and is on track to achieve all the remaining objectives in 2017, as reported by the Chair at the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in September 2016.

---

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

5. In particular, the Group of Experts noted with appreciation the second edition of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines, published in October 2016, and recommended its continued worldwide dissemination.

**Agenda Item 8: Report on the implementation of the extrabudgetary project: “Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane”**

6. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation that the first capacity-building workshop on disseminating best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane took place on 4 October 2016 in Kazakhstan and was well attended, interactive and productive.

7. The Group of Experts recommended that the secretariat and the Bureau continue preparations for the next workshop, tentatively planned for early 2017 in India in collaboration with the Ministry of Coal of India and the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute. The Group of Experts invited all interested to participate in the workshop.

**Agenda Item 11: Work plan for 2018–2019**

8. After a preliminary discussion of possible topics for its work in 2018–2019, the Group of Experts concluded that the following core activities continue to be relevant:

- Dissemination of best practices in methane drainage and recovery through targeted workshops and seminars
- Collection of case studies on the application of best practice guidance in coal mines in different regions of the world
- Collaboration with the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in implemented all mandated activities
- Contribution to the Committee on Sustainable Energy’s report on methane management in extractive industries
- Work on recommendations on the enabling role of coal mine methane projects in restructuring coal mining industry.

9. The Group of Experts also concluded that a number of the emerging issues may deserve its particular attention:

- Xxxx
- Xxxx
- Xxxx

10. The Group of Experts agreed to work by written procedure during inter-sessional periods for topics that are time sensitive.

11. In such a written procedure, approval of documents, including work plans and all other documents that require endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, should conform to the following procedure:

- (a) A “task force”, supported by the secretariat, should prepare a draft document. During the preparation, the Bureau should be involved in periodic review and consultation.
- (b) The draft will be subject to a minimum 21-day comment period by the Group of Experts. Not submitting comments during this period is considered as tacit approval. Comments submitted to the secretariat should be considered for possible inclusion and the draft modified as appropriate. Reasons for not acting on specific comments should be documented.
- (c) Once comments have been considered, the Bureau should review the revised draft for approval. Any significant changes in the revised draft should be highlighted to the Group of Experts for consideration as per step 11(b).
- (d) The final draft should be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement.

12. Noting that its two-year mandate expires in December 2017, the Group of Experts recommended that a request for the renewal of its mandate be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in 2017.

**Agenda Item 10: Preparations for the twelfth session of the Group of Experts**

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

14. The twelfth session of the Group of Experts will be held in October 2017 in Geneva.

**Agenda Item 11: Other business**

15. The Group of Experts recommended 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 work plan 2016–2017. 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 into the three official ECE languages (English, French, Russian) to service the Group of Experts’ meetings.

**Agenda Item 14: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

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

---