



Committee on Sustainable Energy

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Eighth Session

Geneva, 29 April 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the Eighth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations¹, Geneva, Switzerland

starting at 10 a.m. on 29 April 2013

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. Opening remarks from the Chair
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts
5. Review of the current Terms of Reference and the programme of work for 2013/14

¹ According to new accreditation procedures for attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form, available at the ECE Sustainable Energy Division website (<http://www.unece.org/energy/>), and transmit it to ECE secretariat by **Friday, 19 April 2013** – by either fax (+41 22 917 0038) or e-mail (liliane.mauranne@unece.org). Delegates are advised to arrive at least 30 minutes before the meeting at the Pass and Identification Unit, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website), for the issuance of an identification badge. Please take a copy of the registration form with you. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone numbers for the Security Office at the Pregny Gate are: +41 (0) 22 917 50 02 / +41 (0) 22 917 50 42 / +41 (0) 22 917 12 40. If need be, please contact the secretariat by telephone (extension 72446 or 74140).

6. Update on the extra-budgetary project on methane capture and use: “Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines”
7. Expanding *Best Practice Guidance*’s scope to specialized fields
8. Update on the extra-budgetary project: “Coal Mine Safety and Life Support Systems”
9. Revision of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) methodology ACM0008
10. Follow up to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision on promoting “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines” as a global standard in methane management
11. Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane
12. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
13. Other business
13. Adoption of the meeting report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission’s rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published in English and will be posted at the ECE Sustainable Energy Division website: <http://www.unece.org>. A detailed timetable for the session will also be posted to the Sustainable Energy Division website.

Item 2: Election of Officers

2. The *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts will elect a new Bureau to serve in 2013 and 2014. Members of the existing Bureau may be re-elected.

Item 3: Opening remarks from the Chair

3. The Chair will deliver opening remarks to the meeting.

Item 4: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts

4. The secretariat will update the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on the relevant decisions taken by the Executive Committee during the review process of 2005 UNECE Reform, and on the outcomes of the 21st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, held on 28-29 November 2012, and the 65th session of the Economic Commission for Europe, held on 9-11 April 2013. The secretariat will bring attention of experts to the decisions that may affect the status of *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts, and its Terms of Reference and programme of work.

Documentation:

ECE/ENERGY/89

Item 5: Review of the current Terms of Reference and the programme of work for 2013/14

5. The *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts will review its current Terms of Reference (Annex 1 to the provisional agenda). The *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts will discuss and propose changes to the Terms of Reference, for approval by its parent body, the Committee on Sustainable Energy and UNECE member States. The *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts should take into account the recommendations of the 21st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, held 28-

29 November 2012, and the outcomes of the 65th session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

6. Based on the draft Terms of Reference, the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts will discuss its programme of work in the coming period. Members of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts are encouraged to propose concrete activities, in line with the outcomes of the Informal Consultations on Sustainable Energy, which are reflected in the report from the 21st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (excerpt from ECE/ENERGY/89, relevant to CMM is given in Annex 2 to the provisional agenda).

Item 6: Update on the extra-budgetary project on methane capture and use: “Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines”

7. This extra-budgetary project was intended to disseminate the publication “*Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*” (ECE Energy Series no. 31). Project’s objectives—to reach out through regional workshops, create awareness and spread best practices in methane drainage and use—were achieved in 2011. Additional activities were planned for 2013, to put the remaining funds to good use.

Documentation:

Room document: BPG Progress Report

Item 7: Expanding *Best Practice Guidance*’s scope to specialized fields

8. At its previous session, held in October 2011, the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts decided—if sources of funding could be secured—to look into the possibility to further develop some technical fields of *Best Practice Guidance*, such as, e.g., best practice drilling, or low concentration drainage.

Item 8: Update on the extra-budgetary project: “Coal Mine Safety and Life Support Systems”

9. The secretariat will update participants on the preparations for the implementation of the extra-budgetary project, funded by the Russian Federation: “Coal Mine Safety and Life Support Systems”. According to the Project Plan endorsed by the Steering Committee following the previous session, the project has two principal objectives: to act preventively and avoid methane-related coal mine accidents through a better management of methane, coal dust and other hazards inherent to underground coal mining by implementation of best practices; and to minimize fatalities and other damage through a better use of life support systems.

10. The *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts will discuss project implementation modalities and possible partnerships, taking into account the following recommendation of the informal consultations: "If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate these to the ILO for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines".

Documentation:

Room document: Update on CMS and LSS

Item 9: Revision of CDM methodology ACM0008

11. The Methodological Panel (MP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in 15 to 19 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany, agreed to revise² Clean

² http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/meth/meeting/12/058/mp58_report.pdf

Development Mechanism (CDM) methodology ACM0008 “Consolidated methodology for coal bed methane, coal mine methane and ventilation air methane capture and use for power (electrical or motive) and heat and/or destruction through flaring or flameless oxidation”, to simplify the baseline emissions calculation and improve clarity. In addition, the possible expansion of the applicability to methane capture from abandoned mines was considered. The representative of UNFCCC will update the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on these developments.

Documentation:

Room document: Update on ACM008

Item 10: Follow up to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision on promoting *Best Practice Guidance* as a global standard in methane management

12. On 25 July 2011 the Economic and Social Council invited³ Member States, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines in countries worldwide. The ECOSOC decision effectively recommended *Best Practice Guidance* as a global standard for coal mine safety through better methane management and thus provided an opportunity to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts to expand its activities beyond ECE region, in particular in countries that faced serious methane-related challenges, such as, for example, China, India or South Africa.

Item 11: Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

13. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will discuss the possibility to establish an International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane. In 2012 UNECE³ established an International PPP Centre of Excellence that consists of a hub, established within the UNECE in Geneva, and a number of affiliated PPP specialist centres (dedicated to one sector, such as, e.g., roads, water, health, food security, prisons, sustainable development, education, renewable energy, coal mining, etc.), hosted by various countries. In this sense, UNECE's International PPP Centre of Excellence is an umbrella organisation that coordinates activities of and enables cross-sectorial interactions among its affiliated centres. An individual International (Specialist) Centre of Excellence is an organization or part of an organization that cooperates with the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence in promoting and disseminating best practices in a specific area.

14. A Centre of Excellence on coal mine methane may serve as a vehicle for application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world, promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines, as requested by UNECE Member States.

Documentation:

Room document: Blueprint for ICE-CMM

Item 12: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

15. The Expert Group will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed. As per the guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies to be presented to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission for adoption, the secretariat should make available only those draft conclusions and recommendations for discussion and adoption that are proposed by one or more ECE member States. Where possible all such

³ <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/dec%202011.222.pdf>

draft conclusions and recommendations should be circulated to all participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

Item 13: Other business

16. The Ninth session of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is tentatively scheduled for 21-22 November 2013 in Geneva, unless the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts decides otherwise.

17. 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 *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Chairman in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

Item 14: Adoption of the meeting report

18. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the agreed conclusions and recommendations and close the meeting. The report will be adopted at the meeting. If not adopted at the meeting, the draft report of the meeting and the list of participants will be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and circulated for comments and approval to the Expert Group members and the Geneva Permanent Representations. After approval, the report will be posted on the ECE website⁴.

⁴ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31719>

III. Tentative timetable

19. A tentative time table is below. It is subject to change; an updated timetable will be posted on the UNECE coal mine methane [website](#).

29 April 2013

10:00 Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

10:10 Item 2: Election of Officers

10:20 Item 3: Opening remarks from the Chairman

10:30 Item 4: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts

10:40 Item 5: Review of the current Terms of Reference and the programme of work for 2013/14

11:15 *Coffee break*

11:30 Item 6: Update on the extra-budgetary project on methane capture and use: “Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines”

12:00 Item 7: Expanding *Best Practice Guidance*’s scope to specialized fields

13:00 *Lunch*

15:00 Item 8: Update on the extra-budgetary project: “Coal Mine Safety and Life Support Systems”

15:30 Item 9: Revision of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) methodology ACM0008

16:00 Item 10: Follow up to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision on promoting “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines” as a global standard in methane management

16:30 Item 11: Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

17:30 Item 12: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

17:45 Item 13: Other business

17:50 Item 14: Adoption of the report

17:55 Chairman's closing remarks

18:00 *End of the session*

Annex 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL MINE METHANE

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, an intergovernmental body launched in December 2004 to specifically support the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development in the area of coal mine methane (CMM), is established for a period of two years by the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will carry out, under the Committee's guidance, activities related to development and profitable recovery and use of CMM and abandoned mine methane (AMM), with a specific focus on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental – recovery and use of CMM otherwise emitted mitigates climate change, improves mine safety and productivity, and generates revenues and cost savings.

The tasks of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts are to:

- (a) Promote and provide support where applicable to the UNECE extra-budgetary project on “Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)”. This project, which is financed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the UN Foundation, will run for three years commencing in 2005;
- (b) Seek to facilitate financing of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, including through actively engaging in a dialogue with the international finance community to understand their needs and the barriers to funding of CMM projects in this region;
- (c) Provide a forum for exchange of information and experience on ongoing activities in the area of CMM development and for enhanced collaboration and cooperation thereof;
- (d) Identify and seek to mitigate the problems associated with the creation of incentives for CMM recovery;
- (e) Establish a clear link between the economic benefits and the mining of gassy coal seams based on the safe drainage and use of the gas, and to facilitate this through the establishment of a dedicated Task Force with membership from the technical, business and regulatory communities;
- (f) Explore opportunities for the CMM sector, in particular in UNECE member States with economies in transition, to participate in and benefit from the various public and private greenhouse gas emissions markets;
- (g) Identify any significant new developments affecting CMM, in particular in UNECE member countries; and
- (h) Seek to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and to cooperate and collaborate with all stakeholders, including other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community/private sector, in order to realise the above objectives.

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Annex 2

Excerpt from the Outcome of the Informal Consultations on Sustainable Energy

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V. Coal Mine Methane

Objective

To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

Areas of Work

Best practice guidance for Effective Methane Drainage development and dissemination.

Concrete Activities

- Electronically disseminate Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines to all major stakeholders in the UNECE region and beyond as recommended by ECOSOC (Decision 2011/222) before August 2013;
- Prepare suggestions, by August 2013, on how to develop, as appropriate, similar best practices guidance for aspects of CMM management that are not covered in detail by the current document such as best practice drilling or low-concentration methane drainage;
- Prepare proposals, by August 2013, for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extra-budgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world.

If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate these to the ILO for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines.

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