

Item 2: Opening remarks

Talking Points - Mr. Scott Foster, SED Director

Thank you for coming to Geneva and welcome to the 5th session of Group of Experts on Gas (GEG).

GEG is a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on promoting sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the ECE region. As such, GEG is an excellent example for a successful platform between the public and the private sector.

GEG's areas of work are policy dialogue and exchange of information and experiences among ECE member States on gas, including the ever-increasing share of gas in the total primary energy supply and its social and environmental impacts.

Let me walk you through today's and tomorrow's programme.

The central theme of this session is – the role of gas in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. This morning we'll hear more about concrete SDGs and how gas can help attain them.

Although gas is relevant to all three objectives of Goal 7 – accessing energy, accelerating the uptake of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency – here at UNECE go beyond SDG 7. We often talk about energy for sustainable development. Because none of SDGs could be attained without energy.

Later today we will also talk about promoting sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas and liquefied natural gas.

As you will hear in detail about noon today, yesterday we hosted an industry workshop on methane emissions. Some of you participated in it. Item 7 will feature its outcomes and the way forward.

A few months ago, we started implementation of the x-b project: “Methane Management in Extractive Industries (Upstream Oil and Gas / Downstream Gas)”, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The key project deliverable are best practices for measurement, reporting, and verification of methane emissions, as well as for reducing methane emissions in these industries. You will be updated about progress in the project's implementation. Your active involvement in this project is most welcome.

There are other important topics, stemming from GEG's work plan that we will explore together today and tomorrow:

- The role of gas in improving urban and indoor air quality.
- Synergies between gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Emerging issues such as biogas or hydrogen.

Tomorrow I will also tell you more about the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its priorities.

In short, CSE considers the work of the Group of Experts on Gas as fundamental to delivering on its core mandate and has therefore approved your request for extension of mandate until 31 December 2021.
