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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Eighth session

Geneva, 25 and 26 March 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 25 March 2021.¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Election of officers.
4. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Committee.
5. Implementation of the current work plan (2020-2021):
 - (a) Gas-powered post-COVID-19 recovery as a step towards a decarbonized world;
 - (b) Role of gas in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals: air quality;
 - (c) Best practices in methane management in the gas sector;
 - (d) Decarbonization through synergies between gas and electricity;
 - (e) Low-carbon gases: hydrogen;
 - (f) Sustainable production and consumption of gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/34880>, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, 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. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73158).

(g) Update on the project “Improving capacities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States to decarbonize the transport sector by increasing the use of natural gas as a motor fuel”.

6. Presentation of results and recommendations of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”.
7. Emerging issues and work plan for 2022-2023.
8. Update on activities in United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States, the gas industry and organizations (tour de table).
9. Preparations for the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Gas.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division natural gas website,² as soon as they become available.

2. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered, including on the efforts of the Group of Experts to help ECE member States deliver on key political commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

3. Election of officers

At its seventh session, 22-25 September 2020, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for a period of two years, until the close of the ninth session. The Group of Experts will be informed of any new nominations, or of other changes to the Bureau, and will decide accordingly.

4. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Committee

The secretariat will brief the Group of Experts on the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee), 25-27 November 2020. Recognizing in its report (ECE/ENERGY/133) the progress the Group of Experts had achieved in delivering on its mandated activities, the Committee, among other things: noted that the extrabudgetary project “Improving capacities of ECE member States to decarbonize the transport sector” would enhance the capacity of interested ECE member States to develop infrastructure to use gases in transportation as a low-carbon alternative fuelling option; invited ECE member States to exchange best practices in achieving an interlinked gas-electricity model; requested that the Groups of Experts on Gas and on Renewable Energy support interested ECE member States in developing effective policies that accelerate a transition to carbon neutrality; encouraged ECE member States to collaborate on developing

² <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/natural-gas>

a comprehensive and science-based terminology for hydrogen, and invited ECE member States to expand collaboration on hydrogen production across the ECE region and beyond.

The discussions under this item will also address a range of other issues, including: (a) Key messages and policy recommendations for the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe; (b) Support for declaration of an International Decade for Methane Management; (c) Carbon neutrality as a pathway to sustainable energy and the role for the Group of Experts; (d) Strategic review of the ECE sustainable energy subprogramme; (e) Rules of procedure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Annex I to ECE/ENERGY/133).

5. Implementation of the current work plan (2020-2021)

The Group of Experts will review activities from its current work plan 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/10). Speakers and panellists will address the following topics, followed by a discussion with the Group of Experts:

- (a) Gas-powered post-COVID-19 recovery as a step toward a decarbonized world;
- (b) Role of gas in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals: air quality;
- (c) Best practices in methane management in the gas sector;
- (d) Decarbonization through synergies between gas and electricity;
- (e) Low-carbon gases: hydrogen;
- (f) Sustainable production and consumption of gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
- (g) Update on the project “Improving capacities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States to decarbonize the transport sector by increasing the use of natural gas as a motor fuel”.

6. Presentation of results and recommendations of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy”

The Group of Experts will be informed of the results and key insights of the first phase of the project “Strengthening capacity of the ECE member States to achieve the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals” (Pathways to Sustainable Energy), which began in early 2017, and plans for the next phase. The emphasis will be on policy recommendations for member States, global and regional energy challenges, and the role of gas in achieving the transition to a sustainable energy future.

7. Emerging issues and work plan for 2022-2023

The Group of Experts will review, discuss and refine its draft work plan for 2022-2023 (GEG-8/2021/INF.2). The work plan for 2022-2023 will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for approval at its thirtieth session, 22-24 September 2021.

8. Update on activities in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States, the gas industry and organizations (tour de table)

Representatives of ECE member States, the gas industry, and international organizations will present their work and other developments since March 2019. The Group of Experts requests representatives of member States and other organizations to submit, when possible, electronic versions of their presentations to the secretariat in advance, in one of the ECE three working languages (English, French, and Russian).

9. Preparations for the ninth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its ninth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The ninth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

10. Any other business

The meeting may discuss other 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 secretariat or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

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

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

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

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 in cooperation with the Bureau of the Group of Experts, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
