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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Eleventh session

Geneva, 20-21 March 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday
20 March 2024.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Global Methane Forum 2024.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Election of officers.
5. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Sustainable Energy.
6. The role of gases in building a resilient energy system.
7. Activities of the Hydrogen Task Force.
8. Update on activities in member States, the gas industry, and organizations (*tour de table*).
9. Preparations for the twelfth 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.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1007245/registrations/12410/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: natural.gas@un.org. Delegates participating in person 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 entrance to the Palais des Nations.



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 Global Methane Forum website,¹ as soon as they become available.

2. Global Methane Forum 2024

The 2024 Global Methane Forum (GMF 2024) will convene global thought and industry leaders in Geneva, Switzerland from 18-20 March 2024 to promote replicable methane mitigation successes and mobilize action to continue making progress toward addressing methane. The Forum will be hosted by the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in partnership with the Global Methane Hub and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). On 20 March 2024 the Group of Experts will review recent developments and international efforts in managing methane emissions along the gas value chain.

3. Opening remarks

The Chair of the Group of Experts will inform the participants about the key elements of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2024/3) that the Committee on Sustainable Energy adopted in September 2023.

4. Election of officers

At its ninth session held in March 2022, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for a period of two years, until March 2024. The Group of Experts will inform a new Bureau to serve until the end of the 13th session in March 2026.

5. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Sustainable Energy

The secretariat will brief the Group of Experts on the outcomes of the thirty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) (Geneva, September 2023) and the outcomes of the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

6. The role of gases in building a resilient energy system

A resilient energy system is designed to maximize energy security, affordability, and environmental sustainability. It thus contributes to a country's social, economic, and environmental development, is robust enough to recover quickly from any unanticipated shocks and considers the impacts of climate change on energy resources. The Group of Experts will discuss the role of natural gas in resilient energy systems, from a perspective of both stable energy supply and demand needed to maintain industrial development of the UNECE region (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2024/5).

¹ <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/global-methane-forum-2024>

7. Activities of the Hydrogen Task Force

UNECE Hydrogen Task Force (HTF) was launched in June 2023. The Group of Experts will consider several topics from three HTF's streams of work: classification, value chain development, and synergies with renewable energy. The Group of Experts will also discuss several related technical and political challenges to jumpstarting hydrogen economy, such as hydrogen-natural gas blending, hydrogen emissions, production challenges, future extrabudgetary projects, as well as different approaches to hydrogen classification.

8. Update on activities in 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 2022. 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 twelfth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its twelfth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The twelfth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.

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

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

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session and the Group of Experts will be invited to adopt them.

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

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.
