

---

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

**Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems**

**Sixteenth session**

Geneva, 23-24 November 2020

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the sixteenth session of  
the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems<sup>1</sup>**

**Draft for discussion version 29 October 2020**

**Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers**

1. The Group of Experts elected a new Chair:
2. The Group of Experts elected new Bureau members: [to be updated]

**Agenda Item 4: Attaining Carbon Neutrality**

3. The Group of Experts endorsed the document “Pathways to Sustainable Energy – policy recommendations by the Group of Experts” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/3) and recommended that it be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
4. The Group of Experts took note of the Committee’s recommendations to develop ambitious instruments to reduce the environmental footprint of fossil energy use, including finalizing guidelines for new investment in fossil energy in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the objectives and targets of the 2030 Agenda, undertaking finalization, deployment, and dissemination of best practice guidance on methane emissions, and further deployment of ECE recommendations on carbon capture and storage (CCS) (ECE/ENERGY/123 and ECE/ENERGY/2019/2).
5. In response, the Group of Experts initiated a project on “Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” (“Carbon Neutrality”). A Task Force on Carbon Neutrality (Task Force) was formed to provide expertise and help in project implementation. The Task Force developed the carbon neutrality framework and presented it to the Group of Experts.
6. The Group of Experts endorsed the document developed by the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality “Framework for attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region by 2050” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/8) and concluded that the framework developed serves as a basis for further implementation of the Carbon Neutrality project.

---

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

7. The Group of Experts recommended conducting a closer assessment of the roles of energy efficiency, Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS), nuclear energy and hydrogen in attaining carbon neutrality across the power and energy intensive industries in ECE region. The Group of Experts encouraged closer collaboration with all the other Groups of Experts to deliver on the Carbon Neutrality project.

8. The Group of Experts welcomed the progress made on the CCUS brief and insights about role of CCUS in the power sector (ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/5).

9. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the progress made on the nuclear energy brief and welcomed the contribution from and the collaboration with the Expert Group on Resource Management thereon.

10. The Group of Experts stressed the importance of electricity for energy system transformation, including notably the interplay of technologies including flexible clean coal, natural gas and renewable energy (ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/4).

11. The Group of Experts requested the Task Force to continue engaging in the dialogue on technology interplay under the auspices of the Carbon Neutrality project. The document is the basis for future work and will be expanded further to explore the roles of additional technology options.

12. The Group of Experts requested the Task Force to conduct a series of sub-regional workshops to gather data and improve understanding about market conditions in the eastern reaches of the UNECE region, namely the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russian Federation and Eastern and Southeast Europe. A report on the interplay of selected technology options within the carbon neutrality concept will be presented at the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Roundtable on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage**

13. The Group of Experts noted that there is need to raise awareness on the potential of CCUS across the ECE region and for institution of policy mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to advance the economic viability of CCUS projects. Both public and private sector actors need to ensure early readiness for CCUS projects before full commercialisation of CCUS technologies can be achieved.

14. The Group of Experts reiterated its view that continued financing of low carbon technologies is crucial to modernise the energy system and to meet the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the Group of Experts requested the Task Force to continue with its multistakeholder dialogue and development of financial guidelines for the modernization of the power and energy intensive industries.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Sub-regional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality**

15. The Group of Experts requested the Task Force to explore the potential of carbon storage in the Eastern part of the ECE region, namely the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russian Federation and Eastern and Southeast Europe.

16. The Group of Experts requested the Task Force to conduct workshops with a sub-regional focus to improve understanding on similarities and differences across sub-regions.

## **Agenda Item 7: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy**

17. The Group of Experts agreed to continue its activities on: (a) attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050; (b) dialogue on financial guidelines for the modernisation of the power and energy intensive industries; and (c) promoting the concept of “just” transition in collaboration with the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.

18. The Group of Experts agreed to collaborate with the other Groups of Experts on appraisal of opportunities for digital technology to enhance system efficiency and accelerate attainment of country commitments.

## **Agenda Item 8: Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts**

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

20. The seventeenth session of the Group of Experts will be held on 7-8 October 2021 in Geneva **[to be confirmed]**, immediately after the eighth session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (5-6 October 2021).

## **Agenda Item 9: Any other business**

21. **[to be updated]**.

## **Agenda Items 10 and 11: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

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

---