Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

28 February 2018, Cracow, Poland
Michal Drabik, Secretary, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Coal is highly polluting and increasingly expensive

Discourse on energy and climate change is usually based on emotions rather than the truth

Need for discussion on energy based on facts
Fossil fuels today: 80% of primary energy and key to energy access

In 2050, even under a 2 degree scenario, fossil energy will represent 40% of the energy mix

We are headed for a 4 degree climate change scenario
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Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG7: is not about “clean energy”, but about “sustainable, reliable, modern, accessible, and affordable” energy

- There are 17 different SDGs, not just SDG13

- Without fossil fuels, SDGs will not be achieved
Certain options for improving the performance of the energy system are arbitrarily excluded.

We don’t have the luxury to reject any solution.

Low emissions are better than high ones.

R&D and access to financing are necessary in both renewable energy, and fossil fuel technology.
Reduction of the carbon footprint of the coal industry does not need to happen by its closure

There are:
- HELE technologies
- CCS
- CMM
Capture and use of CMM is among the most effective near-term options to minimize the carbon footprint of the mining sector.

It mitigates climate change, but also:
- enhances mine safety and productivity
- localizes energy production
- improves local/regional air quality
- serves as a catalyst for investment
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Group of Experts

Group of Experts develops, promotes and disseminates best practices for:
- effective drainage of methane in coal mines, and
- economically viable and socially responsible use or destruction of the captured gas

Prepares proposals for case studies on the application of such practices
Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines

- First edition: 2010

In 2011, ECOSOC invited UN Member States, International Organizations, and the Regional Commissions to take measures to ensure the application of BPG in countries worldwide
International Centres of Excellence on CMM:

- operate under the auspices of UNECE and in partnership with local specialized entities
- are depositories of knowledge
- promote best practices developed by the Group
- facilitate international communication and cooperation in the field of CMM
- identify new good practices
Problem of emissions persists throughout the whole coal-mining life cycle

There is great potential for GHG reduction in proper AMM management

AMM will constitute one of the focus points of the Group in 2018-2019
Problem of mine closure has become gradually more challenging

Closure affects employees, and requires remedial policies to alleviate distress

Proper management of AMM could be a cost-effective means of reducing GHGs emissions
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http://www.unec.org/energy/se/cmm.html
Thank you!

Sustainable Energy Division
UNECE
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