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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Fifteenth session
Geneva, 5-6 November 2019
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 5 November 2019[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 Committee on Sustainable Energy.
5. Electricity as driver for achieving deep transformation of the energy system.
6. Modernization and decarbonisation of electric power system.
7. Promote a gender perspective in the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Groups of Experts.
8. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts.
9. Any other business.
10. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
11. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

[1] Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48532), 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 work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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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 cleaner electricity production website[2] as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session will be posted to the same location.

2. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered, including a presentation on the status of cleaner electricity systems in the ECE region and the role of electricity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Election of officers

At its thirteenth session held in October 2017, the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels elected a Bureau to serve for two years, until the end of 2019. Following the request for nominations sent to member States in July 2019, the Group of Experts will elect a Bureau to serve until the end of 2021.

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

The secretariat will update the Group of Experts on the relevant decisions, recommendations and outcomes of the twenty-eight session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25- 27 September 2019, including the work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, the outcomes of the session on 26 September dedicated to Achieving carbon neutrality in the ECE region. The Group of Experts will discuss concrete steps on how to operationalize the Committee's requests and/or recommendations.

Following the recommendation of the Committee to explore opportunities for closer cooperation among its subsidiary bodies, the Group of Experts will also be briefed on current and planned cross cutting initiatives, including the joint work on the transition of the energy sector and the "Pathways to Sustainable Energy" project under the auspices of the Committee.

5. Electricity as driver for achieving deep transformation of the energy system

Electricity continues to be a pacing factor for energy systems' transformation. Power plants have become more flexible, with the effect that their ability to vary output rapidly enables incorporation of intermittent generation sources (primarily, wind and solar energy) to the grid. Opportunities for interplay of technologies, including between flexible clean coal, natural gas and renewables, alternative electricity market models, and chemical use of coal, will be presented.

[2] http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cep.html

6. Modernization and decarbonisation of electric power system

A discussion on options for financing carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) technologies; generic guidelines on minimum efficiency and carbon dioxide reduction standards in the ECE region and HELE technologies deployment will be conducted.

7. Promote a gender perspective in the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Groups of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss development of gender-responsive policy recommendations to ensure gender equality in access to sustainable energy, in participation in decision-making and management of the energy and related sectors, and in opportunities for jobs and career development.

8. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its sixteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The sixteenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for November 2020 in Geneva, unless the Group of Experts agrees otherwise.

9. Any other business

The meeting may discuss any other pertinent 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 Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

10. 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.

11. 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, following which the Chair will close the meeting.