



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Sixteenth session

Geneva, 23-24 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 11 a.m. on Monday, 23 November 2020¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Election of officers.
4. Attaining carbon neutrality.
5. Roundtable on carbon capture and storage.
6. Subregional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality.
7. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy.
8. Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts.
9. Any other business.
10. 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=55063>), 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.



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. This provisional agenda was prepared to reflect a content of the meeting that has to be adjusted to unusual circumstances caused by COVID-19. The documents for the session will be published on the website² as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session can be found in section III, an update will be posted on the website should it become necessary shortly before the meeting

2. Opening remarks

The opening remarks will be dedicated to Mr. Barry Worthington, and a minute of silence will be held *in memoriam*. Further, the current unusual and challenging situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the activities of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (Group of Experts) will be mentioned.

3. Election of officers

At its fifteenth session held on 5-6 November 2019, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years until the end of its seventeenth session in 2021. Following the request for additional nominations sent to member States in August 2020, the Group of Experts will elect Bureau members that have newly been nominated to serve until the end of 2022. Further, the Group of Experts will be requested to elect its Chair.

4. Attaining carbon neutrality

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/3 – Pathways to Sustainable Energy – policy recommendations by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/4 – Interplay of technologies including between flexible clean coal, natural gas and renewable energy

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/5 – Alternative electricity market models in support of carbon neutrality

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/6 – The role of ICT in enabling high-performance buildings and smart, sustainable cities

ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/8 – Framework for attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region by 2050

The Group of Experts has embarked on a project to enhance the understanding of the implications of and opportunities for moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050 (Carbon Neutrality project). Work has begun in May 2020 with a kick-off workshop led by the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and following the recommendations made by the Group of Experts during its fifteenth session. This interactive session will present the resulting Framework on carbon neutrality with a focus on the interplay of technologies and selected energy intensive industries. The Group of Experts will further have the opportunity to refine the recommendations from the project Pathways to Sustainable Energy, so that outcomes can be reported to the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee).

² <https://www.unece.org/energy/se/ces.html>

5. Roundtable on carbon capture and storage

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/5 – Alternative electricity market models in support of carbon neutrality
ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/7 – Technology brief: Carbon capture, utilization and storage

This high-level dialogue about the barriers to a much needed accelerated and wide-spread roll out of carbon capture and storage and carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCS/CCUS) technologies will touch upon storage capacity in the ECE region, alternative electricity market models, options for financing and raising awareness about the contributions of these technologies to the Paris Climate Agenda. CCS/CCUS technologies have been a focus area of the Group of Experts and resulting recommendations will lay the foundation for the development of financial guidelines for the modernisation of relevant sectors as part of the Carbon Neutrality project.

6. Subregional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/4 – Interplay of technologies including between flexible clean coal, natural gas and renewable energy
ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/8 – Framework for attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region by 2050

This interactive workshop with a focus on Central Asia and the Caucasus will allow an exchange with the modelling team and experts to advance the modelling architecture that will be used in the implementation of the Carbon Neutrality project. Special focus will be given to assumptions and cost curves featured in the model.

7. 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-eighth session of the Committee, held on 25-27 September 2019 and of other events, including requests by the Secretary General, the United Nations Development System, and Conference of Parties meetings (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021 with respect to the mandated activities of the Group of Experts.

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 joint work on the transition of the energy sector and the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project under the auspices of the Committee.

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

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its seventeenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed, including the possibility to hold remote or hybrid meetings, should the situation around COVID-19 persist. The seventeenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 7-8 October 2021 in Geneva, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.

9. Any other business

The Group of Experts 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 secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item. Such a discussion could include reference to the items of the work plan that due to COVID-19 restrictions have not been discussed, for

example contributions related to the modernization and decarbonisation of electric power systems and promoting a gender perspective in the work of the Group of Experts.

10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2020/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems on its sixteenth session

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat, then the Chair will close the meeting. Draft conclusions and recommendations presented in the draft report will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

III. Tentative timetable

Time *Agenda item*

23 November 2020

11:00	Item 1:	Adoption of the agenda
11:05	Item 2:	Opening remarks
11:20	Item 3:	Election of officers
11:30	Item 4:	Attaining carbon neutrality
13:00	<i>Break</i>	
15:00	Item 5:	Roundtable on carbon capture and storage
17:00	<i>End of the day</i>	

24 November 2020

11:00	Item 6:	Subregional workshop on attaining carbon neutrality
13:00	<i>Break</i>	
15:00	Item 7:	Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy
16:00	Item 8:	Preparations for the seventeenth session of the Group of Experts
16:15	Item 9:	Any other business
16:30	Item 10:	Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
17:00	<i>End of the session</i>	
