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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 23-24 March 2020

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 Monday 23 March 2020¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Digitalization and monitoring methane emissions.
5. Cooperation and partnerships.
6. Future of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
7. Overview of delivered and upcoming events.
8. Tenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
9. Global Methane Forum 2020.
10. Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts.
11. Any other business.

* The present document was submitted after the standard deadline.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session online (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53263> and <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52506>) or by e-mail (cmm.energy@unece.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the entrance located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Energy Division's website) to obtain an entrance badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73966 or 74140).



12. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
13. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. 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 coal mine methane website² as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted.

2. Election of officers

2. At its fourteenth session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years, until the end of the sixteenth session in 2021. Any new nominations for additions to the current Bureau will be considered by the Group of Experts.

3. Opening remarks

3. Opening remarks will be delivered covering recent achievements of the Group as well as its goals for the future in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The activities of the Group will be presented in the context of the most important developments in methane management, with an emphasis on coal mine methane.

4. Digitalization and monitoring methane emissions

4. A panel discussion on digitalization and monitoring of methane emissions will be held to discuss new technologies that help to advance the work in areas related to coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane. Special attention will be given to equipment for remote sensing and satellite monitoring of methane emissions from active and abandoned mines, in particular equipment that allows identification and mapping of the latter.

5. Cooperation and partnerships

5. A discussion will be held on the potential involvement of the Group of Experts in the current and future methane-related activities and initiatives undertaken by various units of the European Commission.

6. Future of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

6. The Group of Experts will continue the discussion on its future that was started at the fourteenth session in November 2019. Specific focus will be given to a draft letter to the ECE Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the United Nations underlining the importance of maintaining a debate on the social, environmental, and economic aspects of extraction and use of fossil fuels that is open, inclusive and fact-based. At the request of the Group, the letter was prepared by the Chairs of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems. The members of the Group will be asked to provide their feedback on the proposed text.

² <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

7. Overview of delivered and upcoming events

7. The secretariat will provide the Group of Experts with a brief report on the workshop “Post-Mining Perspectives: Capture and Use of Abandoned Mine Methane and Mine Reclamation and Revitalization of Post Mining Areas” that was delivered within the framework of the XXIX School of Underground Mining, 26 February 2020, Cracow, Poland. The Group of Experts will also discuss the content and objectives of a future workshop that is tentatively scheduled to be held in September 2020 in Tbilisi, Georgia, within the framework of the Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

8. Tenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

8. The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts’ key stakeholders. The twenty-ninth meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the fifteenth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and will discuss, amongst other issues, joint activities.

9. Global Methane Forum 2020

9. A cross-cutting plenary session featuring high-level speakers from governments, international organizations, and industry will be held to discuss matters related to monitoring and mitigation of methane emission from the energy-related extractive industries. The two panel discussions that will follow the keynote speeches will address the financial aspects of methane mitigation, with special attention to the costs and consequences of inaction, and will attempt to identify the most effective drivers of action to reduce emissions, focusing on regulation, industry voluntary action, innovation, and coordination of efforts of various stakeholders across different extractive industries at any stage of their value chains.

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

10. The Group of Experts will discuss the 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 scheduled tentatively for March 2021 in Geneva.

11. Any other business

11. 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 Item 11.

12. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

12. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

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

13. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

14. 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.

III. Tentative timetable

15. Below is a tentative timetable that is subject to change. An updated timetable will be posted on the ECE Coal Mine Methane website dedicated to the fifteenth session³.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
23 March 2020	
10:05	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:10	Item 2: Election of officers
10:15	Item 3: Opening remarks
10:25	Item 4: Digitalization and monitoring methane emissions
11:30	Item 5: Cooperation and partnerships
11:45	Item 6: Future of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
12:15	Item 7: Overview of the delivered and upcoming events
12:30	Item 10: Preparations for the sixteenth session of the Group of Experts
12:45	Item 11: Any other business
12:50	Item 12: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
12:55	Item 13: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Item 8: Tenth joint meeting of ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee
18:00	End of the day
24 March 2020	
10:00	Item 9: Global Methane Forum 2020
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Item 9: Global Methane Forum 2020 (continued)
16:00	<i>Health break</i>
16:15	Item 9: Global Methane Forum 2020 (continued)
18:00	<i>End of the session</i>

³ <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53263> and <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52506>