



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

##### Fourteenth session

Geneva, 7-8 November 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday  
7 November 2019<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Role of fossil fuels in decarbonizing energy systems.
5. Ninth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019:
  - (a) Best practices on methane recovery and use from abandoned coal mines;
  - (b) International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
  - (c) Modernization of the energy sector as a pathway towards low-carbon energy and a green economy.
7. Cooperation and partnerships.
8. Work plan for 2020-2021.

<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session online (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51081>) or by e-mail ([cmm.energy@unece.org](mailto: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).



9. Gender issues in the coal mining industry.
10. Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts.
11. Any other business.
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 website<sup>2</sup> as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted.

### **2. Election of officers**

2. At its twelfth session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years. The Group of Experts will elect a new Bureau to take over from the end of the fourteenth session.

### **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. Role of fossil fuels in decarbonizing energy systems**

4. A joint session organized by the Group of Experts on CMM and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems will be held in order to discuss the role of fossil fuels in the future energy mix. A paper titled “Attaining carbon-neutrality in the ECE region by 2050 – a discussion paper about the role of clean fossil fuels in sustainable energy” (ECE/ENERGY/2019/2) presented at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 September 2019, will be discussed with a view to developing a common position for both Groups on the matter. Opportunities for greater involvement of electricity producers in CMM projects will be explored, as will other avenues for increased cooperation between the two Groups. The issue of incorporating CMM into countries’ renewable or alternative energy portfolios will also be addressed.

### **5. Ninth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee**

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

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

## 6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019

6. The Bureau and the secretariat will report on the implementation of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2018-2019, wherein the Group of Experts has been asked to:

- (a) Disseminate and Expand the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines;
- (b) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
- (c) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;
- (d) Contribute to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
- (e) Further engage in the work on transition of the coal industry in the ECE region, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;
- (f) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms. Engage and develop robust professional ties with the recognized expert entities operating in the field of fossil-based energy.

### (a) Best practices on methane recovery and use from abandoned coal mines

7. The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts on the progress in implementation of the extrabudgetary project "Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane, Phase II". The project, which is implemented through targeted, demand-driven workshops and seminars, is in support of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 2011/222 inviting "Members States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance [for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (ECE Energy Series No. 31)] in countries worldwide."

8. A final draft of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines will be presented to the Group. The document will be published in 2019 as one of the deliverables in the work plan for 2018-2019.

### (b) International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

9. Representatives of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and in China will report to the Group of Experts on the status and activities of the respective Centres. Annual reports for each Centre will be submitted for the Group's review and approval. The Centre from China will present a proposed best practice programme prepared for implementation in the local mining group. The Russian Federation will deliver an update on the status and activities of the new entity established in the country to work on matters broadly related to CMM. Opportunities to integrate it with the existing network of International Centres of Excellence operating under the auspices of the Group will be discussed.

### (c) Modernization of the energy sector as a pathway towards low-carbon energy and a green economy

10. The Chair will provide an update on the work undertaken to launch a project on Modernization of the Energy Sector. The outcomes of cooperation with Boston University will be presented, as will any progress to obtain funds to implement the project.

## **7. Cooperation and partnerships**

11. Research needs in the field of CMM will be discussed. In this context, opportunities for greater cooperation with the European Commission's Research Fund for Coal and Steel will be explored. A presentation on the work and achievements of Française de l'Energie in developing CMM and AMM projects in northern France will be delivered and followed by a general discussion on potential actions that the Group of Experts could undertake in order to facilitate greater uptake of such projects worldwide.

## **8. Work plan for 2020-2021**

12. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee on Sustainable Energy approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/6). Noting that the work plan for 2020-2021 is ambitious and to a large extent subject, in its delivery, to availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Group of Experts will discuss the tasks set forth in the document with a view to identifying potential donors, as well as member States, organizations and experts willing to take an active role in delivering on them. The future of the Group will also be discussed for the purpose of defining the suitability of the current mandate to the challenges faced by the stakeholders represented by the Group, as well as to the organizational structure of the Sustainable Energy Division.

## **9. Gender issues in the coal mining industry**

13. In line with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", the gender issues in the coal mining industry will be discussed. The barriers impeding women from entering the industry, as well as those hindering their professional development at the later stages of their careers will be addressed. Special focus will be given to problems and challenges faced by women as a result of the gradual phase-out of coal in many countries around the world. The particularities of the situation of female employees in the aftermath of mine closures will be discussed, as well as any actions that could be undertaken by the Group of Experts to alleviate the identified problems.

## **10. Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts**

14. The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its fifteenth session. The fifteenth session will be held in March 2020 in Geneva as a part of the Global Methane Week organized jointly by ECE and GMI. Possible events to be delivered by the Group within the framework of that event will be discussed. The Global Methane Week will feature, among other activities, the annual meetings of the Groups of Experts on CMM and on Gas, as well as of four sectoral subcommittees of GMI.

## **11. Any other business**

15. 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**

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

17. 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

18. 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

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 fourteenth session<sup>3</sup>.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>7 November 2019</b>	
10:05	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:10	Item 2: Election of officers
10:15	Item 3: Opening remarks
10:35	Item 4: Role of fossil fuels in decarbonizing energy systems
11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00	Item 4: Ninth joint meeting of ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Item 5: Ninth joint meeting of ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued)
16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45	Item 5: Ninth joint meeting of ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued)
18:00	Networking Event
<b>8 November 2019</b>	
10:00	Item 6: Report on implementation of the work plan for 2018-2019
11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00	Item 7: Cooperation and partnerships
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51081>

14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:00	Item 8:	Work plan for 2020-2021
15:40	Item 9:	Gender issues in the coal mining industry
17:00	Item 10:	Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts
17:20	Item 8:	Any other business
17:30	Item 9:	Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:45	Item 10:	Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
18:00	<i>End of the session</i>	

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