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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition

Nineteenth session

Geneva, 18-19 March 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 18 March 2024*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
4. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2022-2023.
5. Work of Task Forces.
6. Work plan for 2024-2025.
7. Fourteenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
8. Global Methane Forum 2024
9. Preparations for the twentieth session of the Group of Experts.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1007245/registrations/12410/>. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please send a message to: cmm.energy@un.org. Delegates participating in person 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 to obtain an entrance badge. Please see [UN Geneva Guidance on accessing the Palais des Nations](#) (including security information, maps, and information on transportation). Registration is open every working day at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.



12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2024/1 – Annotated provisional 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 adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website¹ as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as each agenda item is concluded.

2. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered by the Chair of the Group of Experts and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division and will cover recent achievements of the Group, as well as its goals for the future, taking into account the recent decisions relevant to the work of the Group of the Experts taken by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of ECE.

3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirty-second session, 13-15 September 2023, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE.

4. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2022-2023

Documentation: (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2024/5) – Mapping Albania's readiness for green and just transition in post-coal mining areas

The Bureau and the secretariat will report on implementation of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2022-2023, wherein the Group of Experts was asked to work on a range of topics, including to:

(a) Disseminate and facilitate application of best practices for effective methane recovery and use from active and abandoned coal mines through, among other means, activation of existing and creation of new national and international centres of excellence on coal mine methane;

(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, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development;

¹ <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/coal-mine-methane>

(e) Further engage, in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition of the fossil fuels-based industries in the ECE region;

(f) Contribute to the work of the Expert Group on Resource Management on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System, including specifications and guidelines for coal-associated gas resources;

(g) Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the project “Enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” (Carbon Neutrality Project);

(h) Promote broader inclusiveness of the Group of Experts, giving due attention to gender equality;

(i) 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.

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 both Centres will be submitted for the Group’s review and approval.

5. Work of Task Forces

At its eighteenth session held in Geneva in March 2023 the Group of Experts established three Task Forces on (i) Methane Emissions Reduction, (ii) Just Transition, and (iii) Safe Operations and Closure of Coal Mines to manage better the knowledge and skills of its members and thus improve efficiency of the Group’s work in those subject areas, which constitute the core of the Group’s mandate and activities. Since then, each Task Force met on several occasions, developed its work plan, and undertook certain work, on the progress of which it is going to report to the Group of Experts.

6. Work plan for 2024-2025

Documentation: (ECE/ENERGY/2023/5) – Work plan for the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition for 2024-2025

(ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2024/3) – Best Practice Guidance on VAM Processing

(ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2024/4) – Coal in the 21st Century; Meeting Sustainable Development Goals and Managing Investor Expectations

The Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-second session (Geneva, 13-15 September 2023), approved the Group of Experts’ work plan for 2024-2025, wherein the Group of Experts is asked to work on a range of topics, including to:

(a) Disseminate and facilitate application of best practices for effective methane monitoring, recovery, and use from active and abandoned 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 the best practices identified by the Group of Experts in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;

(d) Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to the work on integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development;

(e) Further engage, in cooperation with other groups of experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in the work on transition of the fossil fuels-based industries in the ECE region;

(f) Contribute, in cooperation with other Groups of Experts and under the leadership of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, to work on building resilient energy systems in the ECE region;

(g) Contribute to the work of the Expert Group on Resource Management on United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System specifications and guidelines for coal-associated gas resources;

(h) Promote broader inclusiveness of the Group of Experts, giving due attention to gender equality and youth engagement;

(i) 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.

At its meeting the Group of Experts will discuss the two main streams of its work, namely coal mine methane and Just Transition. Regarding the former a draft document on processing ventilation air methane (VAM) will be presented to the Group for its review and comments. Giving attention to Just Transition the Group will present a new approach that sees coal mining not as a fuel provider, but a multipurpose platform that might be an important component of the green economy, and therefore promises to facilitate the process of just transition of the fossil-based energy sector. It will also discuss a potential for building a regional platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange on Just Transition among the universities in Central Asia.

7. Fourteenth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. The thirty-third meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the nineteenth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and will discuss, amongst other issues, joint activities.

8. Global Methane Forum 2024

The Global Methane Forum is the premiere global event for discussing methane issues across the energy-related extractive industries. It is a unique platform to explore opportunities to reduce methane emissions and to encourage a dialogue on approaches to effective monitoring, reporting, and mitigation. At its meeting the Group of Experts in cooperation with the Group of Experts on Gas will host the 2024 edition of the Forum titled Mobilizing Methane Action, which will convene global thought and industry leaders to promote replicable methane mitigation successes and mobilize action on effective methane management. Various topics related to monitoring and mitigation of methane emissions from the coal sectors will be discussed during the plenary session featuring high-level speakers from governments, international organizations, and industry, as well as at the accompanying meetings that will be held back-to-back with the Group's session, on Wednesday 20 March.

9. Preparations for the twentieth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its twentieth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The twentieth session of the Group of Experts will be held in 2025 in Geneva.

10. 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 Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

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

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

12. 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 in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
