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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Twelfth session

Geneva, 25-26 March 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 25 March 2025.*

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 Committee on Sustainable Energy.
5. System resilience and security of supply and demand.
6. The enabling role of biogases in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. The role of gas infrastructure in accelerating hydrogen projects.
8. Hydrogen as a resource (*joint session with the Expert Group on Resource Management*).
9. Gas as an enabler of Just Transition.
10. Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage: the role of gas infrastructure.
11. Abatement of methane emissions from the gas sector in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1011630/>. Should you experience difficulties to register online, <mailto:natural.gas@un.org>; please send a message to: natural.gas@un.org. 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 entrance to the Palais des Nations. 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 Pass and Identification Unit at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.



12. Mandate and work plan of the Group of Experts for 2026-2027.
13. Update on activities in member States, the gas industry, and organizations (*tour de table*).
14. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts on Gas.
15. Any other business.
16. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
17. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

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.

2. Opening remarks

The Chair of the Group of Experts will outline key developments in the gas sector since March 2024 and will introduce the topics and expected outcomes of the twelfth session.

3. Election of officers

At its eleventh session held in March 2024, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for a period of two years, until March 2026. The Group of Experts will not elect new members in 2025, but may note changes in the Bureau composition since, if any.

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

The secretariat will brief the Group of Experts on the outcomes of the thirty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee) (Geneva, September 2024) and the outcomes of the 2024 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).

5. System resilience and security of supply and demand

A resilient energy system is designed to maximize energy security, affordability, and environmental sustainability. It contributes to a country's social, economic, and environmental development, and is robust enough to recover quickly from any unanticipated shocks and considers the impacts of climate change on energy resources. The Group of Experts will discuss the role of natural gas in resilient energy systems, from a perspective of both stable energy supply and demand, both of which are needed to maintain the level of industrial development in the ECE region.

6. The enabling role of biogases in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

The biogas and biomethane, produced by converting organic matter, are already a net contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigation. The Group of Experts will be updated on how biogases could play a pivotal role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG2 (Zero hunger), SDG3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender equality and women empowerment), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG7

(Affordable and clean energy), SDG9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG13 (Climate action), and SDG15 (Life on land), (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2025/4).

7. The role of gas infrastructure in accelerating hydrogen projects

The Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) and its Hydrogen Task Force (HTF) have jointly agreed to identify best practices for stakeholder engagement and facilitate the development of an environmentally, technically, and economically viable hydrogen economy. The Group of Experts will discuss a case study that offers several recommendations to guide ECE member States in establishing a coherent hydrogen economy, based on input from stakeholders involved in shaping this new energy model (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2025/5).

8. Hydrogen as a resource (*joint session with the Expert Group on Resource Management*)

This joint session of the Expert Group and the Group of Experts on Gas will examine hydrogen as a resource and address three interconnected topics:

(a) Specifications for the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) to hydrogen projects: this will involve exploring the potential to apply UNFC and UNRMS to hydrogen projects and production technologies, aiming to develop a hydrogen taxonomy based on a full life cycle analysis (LCA) approach;

(b) Resource requirements of a future hydrogen economy: The discussion will focus on the resources needed for a large-scale hydrogen economy (water, methane, land, and storage), the demand for steel, copper, nickel, silicon, and cement necessary for renewable electricity generation, and the availability of critical materials for electrolysis-, steam reforming- or pyrolysis-based hydrogen production;

(c) Geologic hydrogen as a low-carbon energy source: Consideration will be given to recent announcements, potential opportunities, and limitations of geologic hydrogen as a source of low-carbon energy and as a provider of critical materials (e.g., helium).

9. Gas as an enabler of Just Transition

A Just Transition ensures that the benefits and costs of the transition are distributed fairly and equitably. At its thirty-third session, the Committee mandated its subsidiary bodies to collaborate with one another to develop a just energy transition approach, suitable for the needs and different perspectives of member States in the ECE region. The Group of Experts will discuss, in close cooperation with the Task Force on Just Transition, how to advance a just energy transition in the context of priorities of its current and future work plans, taking in account the developments within the gas sector in the ECE region.

10. Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage: the role of gas infrastructure

The Group of Experts will be updated on developments in carbon capture use and storage, including the use of depleted on- and off-shore gas fields for carbon dioxide storage.

11. Abatement of methane emissions from the gas sector in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Following the success of the Global Methane Forum held in March 2024 in Geneva, the Group of Experts will discuss the next steps in managing methane emissions along the gas value chain, and in promoting replicable methane mitigation successes and mobilizing action at international and national levels.

12. Mandate and work plan of the Group of Experts for 2026-2027

At its 33rd session the Committee requested the Group of Experts to discuss a possible change of the Group's name to "Group of Experts on Gases" at its annual session in March 2025. The Committee noted that such a change would reflect the increasingly important role of low carbon and renewable gases. Group of Experts will discuss whether to recommend such a change or propose an alternative approach.

As the current work plan ends on 31 December 2025, the Group of Experts will discuss its proposed work plan for 2026-2027 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2025/3) and propose it for adoption by the Committee at its 34th session in September 2025.

13. Update on activities in member States, the gas industry, and organizations (*tour de table*)

Representatives of ECE member States, the gas industry, and international organizations will present their work and other developments since March 2024. The Group of Experts requests representatives of member States and other organizations to submit, when possible, electronic versions of their presentations to the secretariat in advance, in one of the ECE three working languages (English, French, and Russian).

14. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts on Gas

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its thirteenth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The thirteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026.

15. Any other business

The meeting may discuss other 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 or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

16. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

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

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session and the Group of Experts will be invited to adopt them.

17. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau of the Group of Experts, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
