



# Economic and Social Council

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(other items may be added once agreement is  
reached among the membership)

## Economic Commission for Europe

Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 20 and 21 April 2021

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

**EXCOM may wish to transmit the below draft decisions, as agreed informally by interested delegations, to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission for consideration.**

### Other issues calling for decision by the Commission

Note by the secretariat\*

#### **I. Circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources**

*(text agreed at EXCOM 114, 12 February 2021 for onward transmission to the sixty-ninth Commission for consideration).*

#### **II. Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development**

*(text agreed at EXCOM 112, 14 December 2020 (Informal document 2020/53) for onward transmission to the sixty-ninth Commission for consideration).*

#### **III. Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee**

*(text agreed at EXCOM 114, 12 February 2021 for onward transmission to the sixty-ninth Commission for consideration).*

#### **IV. Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines**

The Commission:

31. Endorses the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines, contained in document ECE/ENERGY/128 and ECE Energy Series No. 64, and endorsed by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

\* The present report was submitted after the deadline as a result of consultations among member States.

(ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2020/2) and the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/123 and ECE/ENERGY/133).

32. Recommends that the Best Practice Guidance be disseminated widely, inviting States Members 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 in countries worldwide.

33. Decides to propose to the Economic and Social Council that it recommends its application in countries worldwide.

#### **Draft ECOSOC Decision on the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines**

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Noting* that at its twenty-ninth session (25–27 November 2020), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines” as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/128 and ECE Energy Series No. 64, requested the secretariat and invited member States to take appropriate measures to ensure broad dissemination and application of the Best Practice Guidance, and invited the Economic Commission for Europe to propose to ECOSOC that it endorse the Best Practice Guidance and recommend its application worldwide, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications;

*Endorses* the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Recovery and Use from Abandoned Coal Mines, contained in document ECE/ENERGY/128 and ECE Energy Series No. 64 and endorsed by the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2020/2) and the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/123 and ECE/ENERGY/133).

*Recommends* that the Best Practice Guidance be disseminated widely, inviting States Members 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 in countries worldwide.

*Decides* to propose to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend its application in countries worldwide.

## **V. Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources**

The Commission:

34. Recalling its decisions C(52) of E/ECE/1355 Annual Report (20 April 1996 to 24 April 1997), and paragraph 55 of E/ECE/1416 Annual Report (7 March 2003 to 26 February 2004),

35. Endorses the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) of 2019, contained in document ECE/ENERGY/125 and ECE Energy Series No. 61.

36. Recommends that the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of UNFC worldwide.

37. Decides to propose to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend its application worldwide.

#### **Draft ECOSOC Decision on the Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources**

*The Economic Commission for Europe,*

*Noting* that at its twenty-ninth session (25-27 November 2020), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the updated United Nations Framework Classification for

Resources (UNFC) of 2019 as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/125 and ECE Energy Series No. 61 and invited the Executive Committee to consider submitting the draft ECOSOC Decision on UNFC as contained in ECE/ENERGY/2020/7 to the sixty-ninth session of ECE for consideration, and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications;

*Recalling* its decisions C(52) of E/ECE/1355 Annual Report (20 April 1996 to 24 April 1997), and paragraph 55 of E/ECE/1416 Annual Report (7 March 2003 to 26 February 2004),

*Endorses* the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) of 2019, contained in document ECE/ENERGY/125 and ECE Energy Series No. 61.

*Recommends* that the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of UNFC worldwide.

*Decides* to propose to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend its application worldwide.

## **VI. Resource management, near-term acceleration of achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through action on gases and buildings, and study of the impact of subsidies as well as carbon pricing options**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

38. Noting that at its twenty-ninth session (25–27 November 2020), the Committee on Sustainable Energy requested the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-ninth session consider decisions on resource management, near-term acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through action on gases and buildings, and study of the impact of subsidies as well as carbon pricing options (ECE/ENERGY/133, paragraph 36), and noting that this proposal does not have financial implications;

39. Noting that sustainable management of natural resources is fundamental to attainment of the 2030 Agenda, is at the heart of the cross-cutting theme of the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, and is crucial for supporting inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 socio-economic crisis, requests the Committee on Sustainable Energy to undertake further development, dissemination, education and research, consultation, and engagement among stakeholders on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and its derivative the United Nations Resource Management System.

40. Noting that work of ECE on methane, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen and on high-performance buildings can have a notable near-term benefit for both climate and quality of life:

41. Invites the Committee on Sustainable Energy to pursue diligently further work on the role of natural gas, hydrogen, carbon capture, use, and storage, and high-efficiency, low-emissions technology for those countries that choose to use it as well as on the management of anthropogenic methane emissions in the transition to a carbon neutral economy.

42. Requests its sectoral committees on Sustainable Energy and on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management to undertake dissemination, education and research, consultation, and engagement among stakeholders on high-performance buildings and to support member States further developing and deploying normative instruments to improve energy efficiency in buildings.

43. Requests the Committee on Sustainable Energy to continue studying how best to address efficient use of energy resources, and in this regard the impact of subsidies as well as carbon pricing options.