



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

### Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

#### **Eighteenth session**

Geneva, 19-20 September 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth session**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 19 September 2022\*

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks.
3. Elections of officers.
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts.
5. Attaining carbon neutrality in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
6. Round table on financing clean energy technologies.
7. Round table on digitalizing electricity systems.
8. Update on work plan 2022-2023 implementation.
9. Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. For in person participation please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000460/> and for online participation at <https://forms.office.com/r/kMwfZrQmaP>, if possible, at least two weeks prior to the session. Should you experience difficulties with registering online, please indicate your wish to participate by email [clean.electricity@un.org](mailto:clean.electricity@un.org). On the day of the meeting, 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 Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website here) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every workday at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.



## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/1 – 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 the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the website<sup>1</sup> as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session is provided in section III; an updated timetable will be posted on the website should it become necessary shortly before the meeting.

### **2. Opening remarks**

The opening remarks will be delivered by the Chair. The Chair will reflect on the challenging situation in the ECE region resulting from a range of issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the current geopolitical crisis, supply chain disruptions and climate change. The eighteenth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems will precede the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Geneva, 21-23 September 2022) and will be part of the ECE Sustainable Energy Week 2022.

### **3. Election of officers**

At its sixteenth session in 2020, the Group of Experts elected a representative from the United States as Chair and additional Vice-Chairs from the Russian Federation, the World Nuclear Association and the International Institute for Sustainable Carbon to serve until the end of the eighteenth session. At its seventeenth session in 2021, the Group of Experts elected representatives of the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom, as well as a representative from Hydro-Québec, to serve until the end of the nineteenth session. The Group of Experts will be invited to elect Bureau members that have been nominated to serve until the end of the twentieth session.

### **4. 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 thirtieth session, 22-24 September 2021, as well as any decisions taken related to the work of the Group of the Experts including by the Executive Committee of ECE.

### **5. Attaining carbon neutrality in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/3 – Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region: project update

Since 2022, the Group of Experts has been implementing a project on enhancing the understanding of the implications and opportunities for moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050 (Carbon Neutrality project<sup>2</sup>). This project, which was initiated in May 2020 with a kick-off workshop led by the ECE Task Force on Carbon Neutrality (Task Force), has followed the recommendations made by the Group of Experts at its fifteenth session.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/18th-session-group-experts-cleaner-electricity-systems>

<sup>2</sup> Carbon Neutrality Toolkit: <https://carbonneutrality.unece.org/>

Since the inception of the project, the Task Force and the wider project stakeholder community have delivered a number of technical workshops on the role of the selected technologies to attain carbon neutrality across the power sector and the energy intensive industries.

An update on the project and recent results will be presented during this interactive session. The Group of Experts will be invited to discuss next steps, potential new activities and implementation of its current work plan based on the findings and recommendations of the project.

## 6. Round table on financing clean energy technologies

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2022/5 – Financing clean energy infrastructure

Findings from the Carbon Neutrality project show that all low- and zero-carbon technologies will be needed to attain carbon neutrality by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5-2°C. The objective of this session is to launch a dialogue and cooperation with the global financial community on developing an investment framework to facilitate the development and deployment of all low- and zero-carbon technologies (including fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS), capture and use or conversion of methane released during fossil fuel extraction, low-carbon and renewable hydrogen production, nuclear power, and renewable energy). Recommendations from this technical dialogue will feed into the ECE Forum “Towards COP27: Regional cooperation on enhancing sustainable management and financing for the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions”<sup>3</sup> that will also take place on 20 September.

## 7. Round table on digitalizing electricity systems

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2022/4, ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/4 – Digitalization: Accelerating the Electricity System Transformation. Joint Paper by the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems

Digital solutions enable advances in connectivity, data, and analytics, and offer the potential to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Digital technologies, as a means to coordinate, analyze, and interpret increasing quantities of energy system data, user preferences, and system requirements, may facilitate the complex system-level optimization of a decentralized energy sector. They will be at the core of multi-sector electrification as the world moves towards electrification of the transport and buildings sectors, grid edge technology solutions, electrification of industrial processes, etc.

The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems joined forces under the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy to explore the opportunities and side effects of digitalizing electricity systems, with a focus on increased system efficiency, innovative business models, and effective policymaking. This session will discuss the opportunities and benefits of digitalizing electricity systems, map stakeholders involved, and outline challenges for consideration by public authorities, private sector actors, and customers. It will also highlight recommendations on policies to accelerate transformation of the electricity system through digitalization, to achieve higher levels of efficiency while ensuring security and sustainability of the system.

## 8. Update on work plan 2022-2023 implementation

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/2021/8 – Work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for 2022-2023

<sup>3</sup> Please visit event website here: <https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/events/368377>

The Chair will provide an update on the implementation of the work plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023. The Group of Experts will be invited to elaborate on concrete steps towards full implementation of the work plan for 2022-2023.

## **9. Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts**

The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its nineteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The nineteenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled to be held on 3-4 October 2023 in Geneva, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.

## **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 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**

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2022/2 – Report of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems on its eighteenth session

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. Draft conclusions and recommendations presented in the draft report will be circulated to participants and the Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

### III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>19 September 2022</b>	
10:00	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:05	Item 2: Opening remarks
10:15	Item 3: Elections of officers
10:20	Item 4: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Group of Experts
10:30	Item 5: Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region
12:00	<i>Break</i>
15:00	Item 5: Attaining carbon neutrality in the ECE region (cont'd)
17:00	<i>End of day one</i>
<b>20 September 2022</b>	
10:00	Item 6: Round table on financing clean energy technologies
12:00	<i>Break</i>
15:00	Item 7: Round table on digitalizing electricity systems
16:30	Item 8: Update on work plan 2022-2023 implementation
16:35	Item 9: Preparations for the nineteenth session of the Group of Experts
16:40	Item 10: Any other business
16:45	Item 11: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
16:55	Item 12: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
17:00	<i>End of the session</i>