



Links between Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition



UNECE

Michal Drabik, Secretary,
UNECE Group of Experts on CMM & JT
Astana, Kazakhstan
5 July 2023

ENERGY

Transformation of the Economy

- Modernization **cannot be avoided** or delayed.
 - To conform with **climate** objectives, decarbonization of states' economies is necessary.
- **Decarbonization** includes a need to modernize the energy sector.
 - Transformation of the coal sector is necessary (repurposing)
 - As is also addressing methane emissions from the coal sector
- Decarbonization will create **new opportunities**, but it will also entail certain **disruptive effects**, which are likely to fall disproportionately on the shoulders of the localities that are economically reliant on energy-intensive industries.
- It is in states' best interest to undertake the process in the most efficient, socially acceptable, and cost-effective manner.



**ENERGY**

Timing

- Energy transitions are occurring throughout the ECE region at **different rates** depending on the subregional economic and political response to the need to decarbonize.
 - UNECE recognize different states' situations and capabilities
- These **localized responses** range from mine closures and the end of coal production to consolidation of older mining enterprises coupled with modernization of coal extraction and power production.
- In some parts of the ECE region, **coal extraction** and use is for the time being expected to **continue** as member States have to balance their environmental efforts with the need to secure reliable and affordable energy supply and the necessity to maintain social peace.



Approach

- Energy transformation has **more than two dimensions** of technology and finance. For a transition to truly succeed, it must be **socially sensitive** and acceptable.
- Effective “just transition” strategies require local, **bottom-up** engagement of all affected stakeholders and commitment by the governments to guarantee their buy-in and provide planning security.
- A **comprehensive all-encompassing strategy** encompassing all aspects (social, economic, environmental) is necessary.
 - Without such approach, undertaken projects will be developed in **silos** and will not add up to a strategy allowing to change the economic profile of a given region.
 - Developing a comprehensive strategy will take **time**, but it is necessary to prepare a plan that **addresses all the matters in a coordinated** manner in order to ensure sustainability of the results.
 - Only with a comprehensive strategy will the regions in transition be able to precisely **identify** their **needs** and thus request a particular and detailed help from the donors and supporters.



Karaganda

- In Karaganda region coal mines, power-generating plants, metallurgical processing plants, manufacturing and shipping facilities are integrated into dense, interrelated businesses, which will also be affected by the upcoming coal phase down/out. Nearby population centres provide the workforce for such complexes and thus render themselves vulnerable to secondary impacts on the local economy and expose their communities to a degraded local environment.
- What it takes to build a **carbon neutral industry cluster in the Karaganda region** and enable a just transition towards a net-zero society?
- How to address the issue of **methane emissions** from the region? Could their contribute to the development of the new **hydrogen-based local economy**?



UNECE Events

- 32nd Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 13-15 September 2023, Geneva, Switzerland
 - Sessions dedicated to methane and just transition, Friday, 15 September 2023
- 3rd Almaty Energy Forum, 6-8 November 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan
 - Workshop on methane
 - Sessions dedicated to methane and just transition with focus on local conditions.
- Global Methane Forum, 18-20 March 2024, Geneva, Switzerland
 - High level plenary
 - Session on methane across various sectors
 - Session of UNECE Group of Experts on CMM&JT
 - Session of UNECE Group of Experts on Gas
 - GMI Sub-committees meetings





Kazakhstan's involvement

- On a high political level
- On a technical level
- In strategic matters
- In technical matters
- In events
- In projects

MUCH NEEDED AND WELCOMED
!!!



Michal Drabik

Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UNECE
Secretary of the GoE on CMM and JT

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 3966

Email: michal.drabik@un.org

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



Thank you!

