

UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane Task Force on Safe Operations and Closure of Coal Mines

Second Meeting

26 October 2023

15:30 - 17:00 (Geneva time)

SUMMARY

Participants:

Task Force Chair:

- Alicja Krzemien

Task Force Members:

1. Sabina Assan
2. Jia Baoqiang
3. Bartłomiej Bezak
4. Peter Cain
5. David Creedy
6. Angel Esparza
7. Sherry Heschuk
8. Stefan Moellerherm
9. Raymond Pilcher
10. Pedro Riesgo Fernández
11. Andriy Shulga

Secretariat:

- Michal Drabik

Draft agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Work plan of the Task Force
 - a. Mine Closure - case studies
 - b. Business models – catalogue
 - c. Other?
4. What's new (opportunity for TF members to bring to the TF's attention relevant recent or upcoming publications, meetings, projects, policies, etc.)
5. AOB
6. Next meeting
7. Closing the meeting

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group

1. The Chair of the Task Force, Ms. Alicja Krzemien, opened the session.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any changes.

Item 3. Work plan of the Task Force

3. The Chair identified three most important activities:
 - a. Cases studies on mine closure that are to be developed following the template prepared by the Chair;
 - b. Catalogue of business models;
 - c. Risk assessment methodology.

a. Mine Closure - case studies

4. Two cases studies, from Poland and Canada were presented (both are available in the shared folder).
5. A template for the cases studies on mine closure was discussed:
 - a. It was raised that in each case study not only the time of closure, but also the time of when the study was performed should be indicated;
 - b. It was also mentioned that it might be of use to identify (to the extent possible) authorities responsible for various issues related to the closure described in each study. A category “Responsibility” was therefore suggested to be added to the template;
 - c. It was suggested to add to the template a category in which it would be indicated whether the volume of methane emissions in each given case was modelled or actually measured;
 - d. A category “Ownership” was requested to be added to the template.
6. Volunteers for preparation of next cases studies were identified.
 - a. Mr. Bartłomiej Bezak offered to prepare two examples and present them at the next meeting.
 - b. Mr. Pedro Riesgo Fernández volunteered to prepare a case study from Asturias in Spain and present it at the next meeting.
 - c. Mr. David Creedy agreed to prepare a case study on mine closure in the UK that took place between 1989 and 2000.
 - d. Mr. Stefan Moellerherm agreed to develop a case study on mine closure in Germany.
 - e. Secretariat offered to reach out to experts from China and Albania and encourage them to develop case studies as well.
7. A discussion about availability of the developed documents to the general public was held. It was decided that all case studies will be kept in a password protected shared folder of the Task Force and as such will be available only to the Task Force members. Task Force members were asked not to share the materials with any third parties.
8. It was agreed that at certain point all case studies might serve as a basis for developing a best practice document on mine closure. The content of such document will need to be agreed on by all contributing experts, and no information contained in any of the case study will be used in such document without receiving a prior authorization from the author of the relevant case study.
9. A potential for cooperation with other Task Forces operating under the supervision of the Group of Experts was identified. Issues related to closure of gassy mines were identified as being potentially of interest to the Task Force on Methane Emissions Reduction, and matters concerning community impact of mine closures were found suitable for being discussed with the Task Force on Just Transition.

b. Business models – catalogue

10. An example of a business model focusing on geothermal energy was presented (and is available in the shared folder).
11. The Task Force members were encouraged to share examples of applied business models and to think about the criteria for selection of those that could be deemed successful.
12. Task force members were asked to provide their feedback on the template developed by the Chair that is available at the webpage dedicated to the [second meeting of the Task Force](#), as well as in the shared folder.

Item 4. What's new?

13. No discussion took place under this agenda item.

Item 5. Any other business

14. No discussion took place under this agenda item.

Item 6. Next meeting

15. The next meeting of the TF will take place in late November/early December. The secretariat will distribute a doodle poll to identify the most convenient date and time.

Item 7. Closing the meeting

16. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call, and closed the meeting.
