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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Sixteenth session
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Item 10(a) of the provisional agenda

**STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
AND ITS INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In response to the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), the Committee at its fifteenth session made a number of decisions with regard to streamlining its activities. These decisions involved changes to the structure of the Committee and its intergovernmental bodies. At the request of the Committee at its fifteenth session, this document provides details of the updated structure of the Committee and its intergovernmental bodies.

II. STREAMLINING OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE COMMITTEE

2. The Committee has streamlined its activities through the discontinuation of a number of activities and the creation of one new activity, as follows:

(a) Discontinued Activities

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power, and Joint Energy and Environment Task Force on Reforming Energy Prices for Sustainable Energy Development were all discontinued with effect from December 2006. Additionally, the mandate of the Energy Security Forum was only extended to end-November 2007. The extension was given solely to complete the activities undertaken during 2003-2006 and, in particular, completion

and publication of the Study on Emerging Global Energy Security Risks. Activities related to energy security are now being undertaken directly by the Committee. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology was also only extended to end-November 2007 since the Group of Experts is currently exploring options to create a governance structure consistent with the requirements for long-term stability and reliability of a terminology that forms the basis for energy and mineral policies and practices, such as a United Nations Centre for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources. This will be the subject of discussion at the Group's fourth session, 17-19 October 2007.

(b) New Activity

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels was established in December 2006. Further details are provided in section IV.

3. It should be noted that this document provides details only of those changes made as a result of the decisions taken at the fifteenth session of the Committee and hence should be read in conjunction with document ECE/ENERGY/2006/8, which was prepared for the fifteenth session and which provides details of the role and activities of the Committee and each of its subsidiary bodies.

III. REVISED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

4. A revised organigram of the Committee is annexed.

5. The subsidiary bodies of the Committee are: Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply and Use of Gas, Gas Centre, Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology. The detailed programmes of the work of these subsidiary bodies are contained in their respective reports.

6. A short description of the role and activities of the Committee and each body, other than the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, is provided in section I of ECE/ENERGY/2006/8. Further information on the programme elements undertaken by the Committee and each body is provided in the draft programme of work in the field of energy for 2008-2009 (ECE/ENERGY/2007/9).

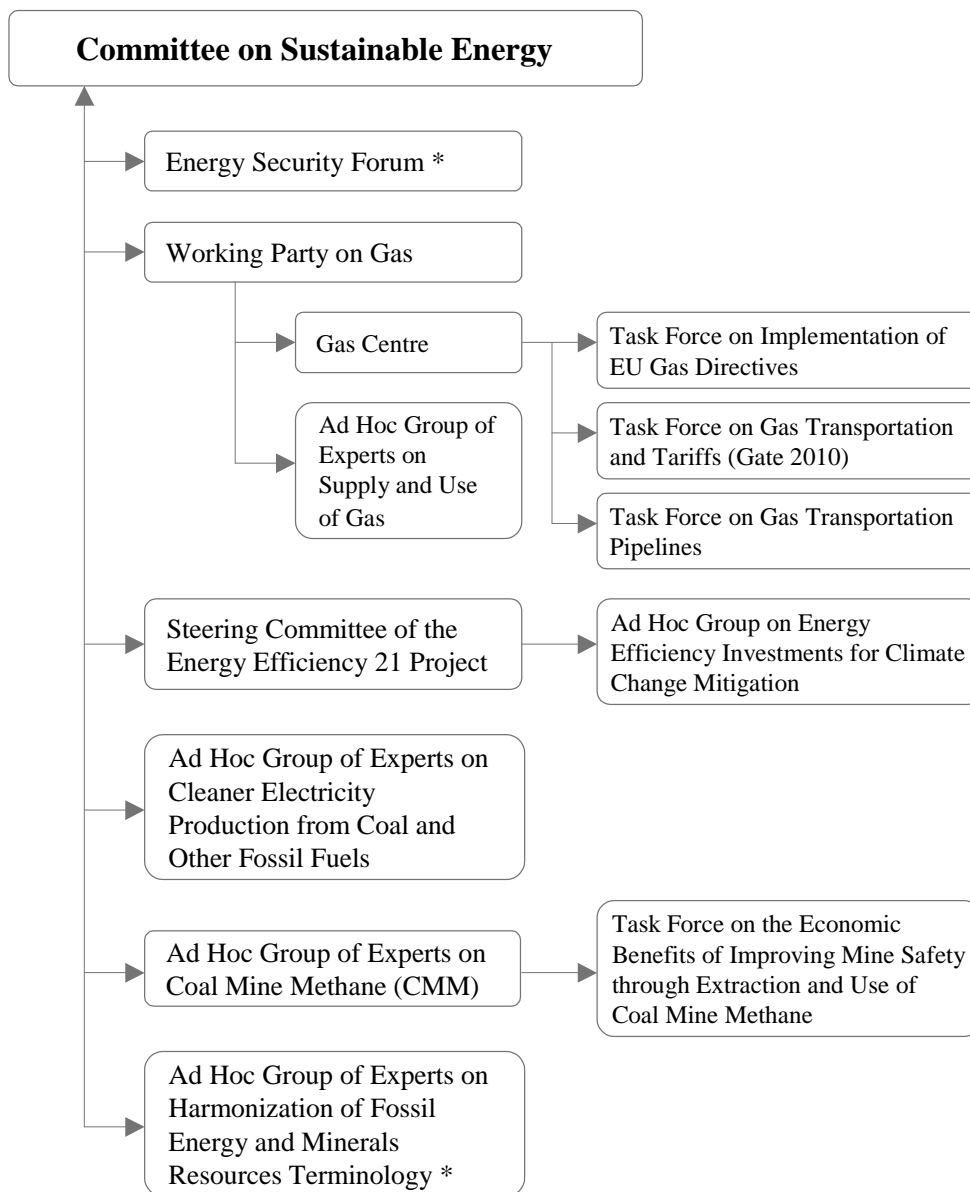
7. The revised Terms of Reference for the Committee and each of its subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee are contained in document ECE/ENERGY/68/Add.1.

IV. NEW ACTIVITY: AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CLEANER ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION FROM COAL AND OTHER FOSSIL FUELS

8. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels was created in December 2006. The Group held a preparatory meeting on 19 March 2007 and its first official session will be held in Geneva, 26-27 November 2007, at which it will approve its Terms of Reference and agree upon its work programme for 2007-2008.
9. The key objective of the Group of Experts is to provide for an intergovernmental dialogue on investment and regulation for the promotion of cleaner electricity production between governmentally appointed experts, complemented by the participation of representatives from the electric power industry and other related industries, as well as the international financial sector and relevant international organizations.
10. The key tasks of the Group are to provide a forum for the exchange of information and experiences on a range of topics, including but not limited to: clean coal technologies; carbon capture and storage (CCS); zero emissions technologies; the impact of regulation on cleaner electricity production; competitiveness, investments and operating costs of cleaner electricity production; and the contribution of renewable energies. The Group will also look to: assess the relationship between electricity industry regulation and choice of fuel mix with a special emphasis on cleaner electricity production methods; evaluate policies and measures to reduce the electricity efficiency gap between developed market and emerging market economies in the UNECE region; appraise the development of a regulatory framework conducive to promoting investment in cleaner electricity production; and assist member States develop norms and standards to integrate new electricity production technologies such as CCS into regulatory structures, including environmental regulations.

ANNEX

ORGANIGRAM OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



* mandate expires end-November 2007
