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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity
Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels

Second session
Geneva, 17-18 November 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 17 November 2008*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie/>), and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session – namely, by **1 November 2008** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Delegates are advised to present themselves at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG 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), for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140).

3. Election of Officers
4. Opening remarks from the Chairperson
5. Review of the programme of work for 2007-2008
6. Trust fund
7. Status of the carbon markets including preparations for post-2012
8. Cleaner Electricity Production Forum – Carbon Capture and Storage
9. Programme of work for 2009
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published in English, French and Russian and will be posted as soon as they become available to the Official Document System of the United Nations website at: <http://documents.un.org/> and the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division website at: http://www.unece.org/ie/se/clep_ahge.html. A detailed time schedule for the session will be posted to the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division website and sent to registrants prior to the meeting.

Item 2: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

2. The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities within the work programme of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/76) following its sixteenth session in November 2007, with particular emphasis on any decisions taken with regard to the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Item 3: Election of Officers

3. In the event of a resignation of any member(s) of the Bureau, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts may elect one or more new officers.

Item 4: Opening Remarks from the Chairperson

4. The Chairperson will deliver opening remarks to the meeting.

Item 5: Review of the programme of work for 2007/2008

5. The meeting will review progress on the action items in the programme of work set forth in the report of the first session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2007/2).

Item 6: Trust fund

6. The meeting will discuss extrabudgetary funding and the establishment of a dedicated United Nations trust fund to administer such funding.

7. The ability of the secretariat and the Ad Group of Expert to carry out activities and deliverables in support of the programme of work could be enhanced by additional resources beyond those provided by the regular UNECE budget. For example, such funds could support the production of capacity building workshops, exchange forums, studies and reports that address issues of importance to the Group of Experts. In addition, funding could also support increased participation by experts from emerging economies.

Item 7: Status of the carbon markets including preparations for post-2012

8. The meeting will take stock of the current markets, namely compliance markets such as the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and the Kyoto Protocol, but also the growing voluntary markets.

9. Meeting the growing demand for electricity and the push for more environmentally sustainable generation will require massive investments in the coming years. The carbon markets are developing rapidly and are an important part of the portfolio of financing options available to meet the need for capital in-flows. The World Bank identifies the existence of 65+ carbon funds with US\$14 billion in assets in its most recent *State of the Carbon Markets*. These are only publicly identified funds and do not take into account additional capital available from large individual investors or more general “clean energy” funds. The World Bank report also highlights the increase in volume and value of trades in the carbon markets. The volume of CO₂ traded increased 50 per cent between 2006 and 2007, and the total value of those trades increased 100 per cent to US\$64 billion.

10. The meeting will also discuss progress in setting a global agenda for the years after 2012, and how member States are preparing for the post-2012 period. With the Kyoto Protocol applicable only through 2012, the process for moving toward a new agreement began with the most recent Conference of the Parties/Meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in Bali, Indonesia in 2007. This is especially critical for large-scale projects like those undertaken in the electricity sector which require regulatory certainty to attract investment.

Item 8: Cleaner Electricity Forum – Carbon Capture and Storage

11. Electricity demand in the UNECE region is expected to grow 50 per cent by 2030. Sixty per cent of current electricity production is fossil fuel-based and this trend is expected to continue given that 40 per cent of the world’s natural gas reserves and 60 per cent of the coal

reserves are in the UNECE region. To continue on a sustainable path, however, carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion must be reduced. One option for large-scale CO₂ mitigation is Carbon Capture Storage. The CO₂ is separated either pre- or post-combustion, transported and injected into subsurface geologic formations such as depleted oil and gas reservoirs, saline aquifers or unmineable coal seams. Since the 1990s, developed countries have put considerable resources toward research, development and deployment of CCS technologies at several test sites around the world. CCS is now moving toward commercialization. Attention is now shifting from technical feasibility, to addressing the market and regulatory challenges including costs, development of legal and regulatory frameworks, and public acceptance. Additionally, almost all work on CCS to date has been limited to countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and there is growing interest in technology and knowledge transfer to emerging economies.

12. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts has identified the surveying of CCS awareness and readiness in the UNECE emerging economies and assistance in the development of compatible regulatory frameworks part of its programme of work. The Cleaner Electricity Forum on CCS will contribute to this objective with presentations and panel discussions on the following:

- (a) Introduction to CCS including the current state of technical and market development;
- (b) Development of enabling legal and regulatory frameworks including the launching of the CCS Regulator's Network, in which the Ad Hoc Group of Experts is playing an important role;
- (c) Financing CCS projects;
- (d) Status of deployment of CCS in North America and Europe;
- (e) CCS awareness and readiness in the UNECE emerging economies; and
- (f) Contribution of CCS to energy security and sustainable development.

Item 9: Programme of work for 2009

13. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be given an opportunity to discuss the programme of work for 2009, including proposal of specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 10: Other business

14. The third session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 14-15 May 2009. The fourth session is scheduled for 16-17 November 2009. Both meetings will be held in Geneva.

15. The meeting 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 Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Annex to ENERGY/GE.4/2006/2). To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under Item 12.

Item 11: Adoption of the report of the meeting

**III. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE
(subject to change)***

17 November 2008

08:00 – 15:00	Registration to receive credentials at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix**
15:00 – 15:30	Items 1-6
15:30 – 18:00	Item 7

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10:00 – 17:30	Item 8
17:30 – 18:00	Items 9-11
13:00	Fourth session adjourns

* Schedule subject to change; detailed timetable will be posted on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/cmm.html> prior to the meeting.

** Registration is open every working day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone numbers for Security at Pregny Gate are +41 (0) 22 917 50 02 / + 41 (0) 22 917 50 42 / + 41 (0) 22 917 12 40