To: Members of TAG
From: Alistair Jones, TAG Chair

**Technical Advisory Group Meeting
4 December 2019
MINUTES**

Attendees: Alistair Jones (Chair), David Elliott, Johann Gotsis, Charlotte Griffiths, Julian Hilton, Sigurd Heiberg, Hari Tulsidas,

Apologies: Karin Ask, Frank Denelle, Ulrich Kral, Marco Petitta, Satinder Purewal

Approval of draft agenda
Document: Draft agenda
1. The draft agenda was approved.

Minutes of previous TAG meeting
Document: Draft minutes TAG Call 29th Oct 2019
2. The draft minutes of the 29th Oct 2019 meeting were approved.

Matters arising
3. All actions from the previous meeting were completed and closed:
Action 1: Charlotte will send an invite to Hendrik Falk to join the forthcoming review of the draft UNFC Update, and also send him information on the UNRMS Outline group.
Hendrik was sent the invitation and information. He volunteered to join both groups.

Action 2: Following a suggestion from TAG, Alistair will arrange for minutes of the meeting to review the draft UNFC Update to be circulated amongst TAG and other WG chairs.
Minutes of the meeting were circulated to TAG (see also the item below on the UNFC Update).

Action3: Each WG chair is asked to make suggestions on the programme and on speakers to invite for the next EGRM Resource Management Week. Please send a list of ideas to Charlotte and copy Alistair by 29th November.
Suggestions were sent from several TAG members and additional ideas for speakers were shared during the meeting.

Status of Documents for EGRM-11
4. Documents being developed by TAG Working Groups for EGRM-11 were reviewed to check status of preparation and reviews, and timing of submission. Input was received both at the meeting and beforehand, by email.
Action 1: Alistair will summarise the status of documents for EGRM-11 and circulate to TAG
Action 2: Alistair will draft the TAG annual report and circulate to TAG, if possible before the next TAG call.

5. It was noted that it is best to keep documents short, if possible, to communicate effectively with EGRM.

6. It was suggested that case studies are particularly valued by EGRM and by external groups to illustrate the use of UNFC. The Commercial Working Group are considering several

possible case studies. One goal is to demonstrate to IASB the applicability of UNFC. Several other Working Groups are considering possible case studies.

Software Initiatives

7. A number of organizations are looking at digitalising UNFC.
   - The National Hydrocarbons Commission of Mexico has advised it will build a digital application for UNFC as part of its phase II petroleum pilot.
   - Aucerna has attended a number of EGRM meetings and noted the need for a digital solution for UNFC.
   - An online-tool to evaluate landfill mining projects from a economic and climate impact perspective has been developed.

8. The Bureau recently discussed working with TARGET:

   - Contact has recently been made with TARGET via the Communications WG. TARGET is an international technology and services company, focused on enabling digital transformation solutions for data-driven industries. Target has built a resource management system for oil & gas that could be extended for use in sustainable management of other resource types. Discussions have been held with Matthias Hartung and colleagues from TARGET, including a meeting on 6 November with the EGRM Chair and other EGRM members, to explore potential collaboration. TARGET sees potential to develop a digital solution for UNFC and UNRMS. To build and demonstrate the value of such a system, partner[s] would be required with data from different resource projects. TARGET's goal is to develop a tool to support decision makers with comparability of resource projects and to manage balanced portfolios at times of energy transition, linked to the 17 SDGs and supporting the needs of their constituents. TARGET hopes to present a Minimum Viable Product to EGRM-11.

   - Whilst a number of Bureau members were supportive and enthusiastic about the development of a digital solution for UNFC, two of the Bureau members expressed concern about any cooperation with TARGET as it is a commercial company. One member was of the view that TARGET should not be provided with information on UNFC, and nor should EGRM members be contacted by the company, as this was giving them an unfair advantage. This member was also of the view that a tender should be issued by the UN for development of a digital application for UNFC to ensure that all potential developers of a digital application for UNFC are aware. During the ensuing discussions, a number of members expressed uncertainty on what such a tender could or should look like.

   - The EGRM Chair underlined that during the 6 November meeting with TARGET he took the time to be clear with the attendees that EGRM cannot and will not have any sort of a commercial relationship with Target. He underlined that EGRM will gladly work with any user to further its knowledge of the system: any cooperation with TARGET would be in the form of a non-exclusive arrangement, in the sense that other software developers are welcome to work with EGRM on similar projects. The Chair noted that whilst the offer by TARGET is of benefit to EGRM, the relationship needs to be conducted in an appropriate and transparent manner.

- The secretariat also underlined that the United Nations and EGRM cannot and will not endorse a vendor or product and that all information shared with TARGET is publically available. It was noted that EGRM operates in an inclusive and transparent manner. No EGRM member is required to provide or share any information if not willing to do so.

9. Matthias has had follow-up discussions to identify possible case studies: with Satinder on the Mexico case study; with Jeremy Webb and Alistair on a Solar case study, with a Dutch agency on an energy transition study. There is also the possible of a Bioenergy case study.

10. Before the TAG call, one member expressed support in principle of these initiatives provided that appropriate, clear and complete, contractual agreements are in place between all involved parties and that these agreements are approved by the EGRM Bureau and the UNECE Legal Department. I would also like that the EGRM Bureau gives a formal response to Gioia who does not support these initiatives if the software companies intend to realize profits from their UNFC-based software.

11. The Secretariat clarified that neither UNECE nor EGRM could or would enter into a contractual agreement with a software company that plans to issue a product for commercial gain. Any work undertaken by a software company would be at their own volition and neither the company nor any product developed would be endorsed by UNECE or EGRM.

12. It was pointed out that, at its 10th session, EGRM agreed on the need for digital solutions for UNFC and UNRMS. The Communications Working Group was tasked to work on this. EGRM does not have the expertise to develop software. Hence the initiative with TARGET is considered an appropriate way forward. Transparency and non-exclusivity should continue to be maintained.

UNFC Update

13. The Bureau had previously agreed to the TAG recommendation of a small group, representative of the WGs, to assist in reviewing drafts of the UNFC update. David MacDonald and Alistair produced a draft update in October which this small group discussed on 31st Oct. Alistair and Frank, who is a member of the group, had a follow-up discussion on 7th Nov. David and Alistair then produced a next version and the group met to discuss this on 28th Nov. TAG has been sent the current draft, together with the comments from meetings and responses for TAG consideration.

14. Ulrich had sent comments before the meeting. Ulrich had raised several issues: a) There is possible confusion in referring to classification of products since the term "product classification" is used in other contexts. b) Further clarification is recommended on whether projects or products/quantities are being categorised c) Further clarification of the term "classification" and its consistent use throughout the document is also recommended.

15. In discussion it was noted that coherence between the UNFC quantities and the coding used for statistical information (e.g. UN Statistics Division work on data on international trade, national accounts, energy, industry, environment etc.) is very desirable.

16. David (Elliott) had also sent comments before the meeting. He clarified that his comments on clarity of product vs project classification and on facilitating classification of inventory stocks, were for the future update not the current. He supported clear definition of terminology.

17. Frank had commented, by email, that he compliments the progress and improvements made in the latest draft, but has quite a few comments that he will send to Alistair before the week-end. He has also asked all members of the REN WG to review the latest version of the UNFC update and revert with their comments to Alistair by Sunday 8 December.

18. Waste management, including nuclear waste is a significant issue and should perhaps be included in the remit of UNFC. This is a component of the larger topic of net zero emissions which EGRM should address.

19. Attendees at this TAG call the agreed that, apart for polishing of the document, the current draft is suitable as a light-touch update.

Action 3: TAG members are urged to send feedback on the draft UNFC Update to Alistair by 8th Dec. Both endorsements and suggestions are welcomed as input to the Bureau consideration. Please clarify whether any issues raised are for the current, light-touch, update are suggestions for the future significant update.

UNRMS development
20. It is expected that a short discussion note will be drafted by early January.

21. The Communications Working Group will be conducting a stakeholder survey on UNFC. The Bureau has asked that this survey also addresses what stakeholders want from a Resource Management System. Feedback from this survey will be presented at EGRM-11.

22. Different stakeholders will have different requirements for a resource management system. EGRM should aim to provide flexibility in UNRMS so that it can meet the range of stakeholder needs.

PWG activity (input received by email before the meeting)

23. There is a possible telecom with IOGP on 16th Dec.

24. Olaf Klarner has resigned from PWG due to lack of time as he is very busy with his business.

25. Updates on PWG documents and on discussions with TARGET were shared under earlier agenda items.

Next meeting
26. Alistair will send out a poll for the next call. Potential dates are during the week of 13th January.