

**To: Members of the Bureau of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management**

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Hari Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) 5 March 2020 FINAL MINUTES
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Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol (alternate tbc), IEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TBC, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JU Jianhua (alternate YANG Hua), China	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, (alternate Dhiti Tulyatid), CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Msoma, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Olga Trofimova and Kate Lovchuk for Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bradley Van Gosen, USA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Draft Agenda

1. Approval of draft agenda (Attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of call of 14 January 2020 (Attachment 2)
3. Bureau issues (Attachment 3)
4. UNECE Resource Management Week 2020 (Attachments 4, 5, 6 & 7)
5. Proposed dates for UNECE Resource Management Week 2021
6. UNFC Substantive Update (Attachment 8)
7. Technical Advisory Group update
8. Carbon neutrality project (Attachment 9)
9. Education and outreach (Attachment 10)
10. Date of next meeting or call
11. Any other business

## Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 5 March 2020
2. Draft minutes of 14 January 2020 call
3. Bureau nominations as at 2 March 2020
4. List of EGRM-11 parliamentary documents
5. Draft Programme Workshop “Role of Resource Management in attaining the SDGs” 20-21 April
6. Draft Detailed Timeline for EGRM-11, 22-24 April
7. Draft Conclusions and Recommendations for EGRM-11
8. UNFC Substantive Update PowerPoint presentation
9. Concept note of Carbon Neutrality project
10. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020 as at 2 March 2020

As the Chair was delayed in joining the call, it was agreed that Alistair Jones should chairing the call in the interim. The Chair joined the call at Item 3.

### **Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda**

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 5 March 2020

1. The Chair requested to add “update of ECOSOC Decision 2004/233” and “Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project and policy recommendations” under AOB. The agenda was approved with these changes.

### **Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 14 January 2019**

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 14 January 2020

2. The draft minutes of the call of 14 January were approved without any changes.

### **Item 3. Bureau issues**

Documentation: Bureau nominations as at 2 March 2020

3. It was noted that Bureau elections would be held at EGRM-11 in April. On 19 December 2019, the “Call for nominations to the EGRM Bureau” note that was sent to UNECE member States in November was circulated to the Bureau.

4. Following a request for clarification on procedures for Bureau nominations and elections, the Chair informed that all nominations received from a UNECE member State are accepted. It was noted that no formal procedures exist for the election of officers to the EGRM Bureau nor the Committee on Sustainable Energy and hence the Rules of Procedure

of ECE apply mutatis mutandis. All non-member State nominations need to have been reviewed and discussed by the current Bureau prior to the list of nominees being submitted to the EGRM for consideration and possible election – this is to avoid there being self-nominations. Discussions are underway to develop Rules of Procedure for the Committee and also for all the Committee’s subsidiary bodies. It was noted that the EGRM Bureau has previously agreed that all organizations with whom UNECE has an MoU should have a seat on the Bureau. These currently include:

- European Federation of Geologists
- EuroGeoSurveys
- International Geothermal Association
- SPE.

5. The Chair noted that a representative of CRIRSCO was also agreed even though no MoU is in place. The Bureau also agreed that the TAG Chair should have a seat.

6. All other nominations from non-UNECE member States, international organizations, professional societies and associations, private sector etc. need to be reviewed and agreed upon by the Bureau before being submitted to the EGRM.

7. The Chair advised the Bureau of the meeting held with Igor Shpurov on 25 February 2020 during which nominations for the Chair of EGRM were discussed. Following this discussion, Igor supported the proposal for Dave’s name to be put forward for consideration as Chair (for election for one or two years) and for Igor to remain as First Vice-Chair subject to being elected. No other proposals for Chair have been received as yet. It was confirmed that any nominations for Chair other than those received from a member State would require review and confirmation by the Bureau. **The Chair encouraged other nominations for Chair.**

8. The following nominations have been received for First Vice-Chair and Vice-Chairs from UNECE countries:

- RUSSIAN FEDERATION – Igor SHPUROV as First Vice-Chair.
- PORTUGAL - Teresa Ponce de Leão
- AZERBAIJAN - Nurangiz FARAJULLAYEVA
- KAZAKHSTAN - Viktor BABASHEV **WILL BE NEW TO THE BUREAU**
- SWEDEN - Erika INGVALD
- TURKEY - Mucella ERSOY
- Waiting to hear from Germany, Norway, Poland, Serbia and USA.

9. The following nominations have been received from Non-UNECE member States

- CHINA - Jianhua JU (previously confirmed by Bureau)
- JORDAN - Hussein ALLABOUN
- NIGERIA - Tunde ARISEKOLA
- AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION - Paul MSOMA

10. Others nominations received are:

- CRIRSCO - Roger DIXON
- CCOP - Young Joo LEE

- European Federation of Geologists: Mike NEUMANN
- International Geothermal Association: Gioia FALCONE
- Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) - Bernard SEILLER
- Technical Advisory Group - Alistair JONES

11. The Chair noted that advice is awaited from the European Commission, EuroGeoSurveys, IAEA, and IEA.

12. The Chair requested approval of nominations received for Vice-Chairs from non-UNECE member States, international organizations, professional societies and associations, and the private sector. The Bureau approved the nominations.

13. The Chair noted that as advised on the last call of 14 January the following Bureau members are stepping down and he thanked them again sincerely for their longstanding contribution and support:

- NORWAY - Mr. Kjell Reidar KNUDSEN
- UNITED STATES - Mr. Bradley VAN GOSEN

14. The Chair requested those who wish to stand for re-election and have not yet done so, to please advise Charlotte at the earliest.

#### **Item 4: UNECE Resource Management Week 2020**

##### Documentation:

- List of EGRM-11 parliamentary documents
- Draft Programme Workshop “Role of Resource Management in attaining the SDGs” 20-21 April
- Draft Detailed Timeline for EGRM-11, 22-24 April
- Draft Conclusions and Recommendations for EGRM-11

15. The Bureau discussed the COVID-19 situation. The status of the UNECE Resource Management Week 2020 as of 5 March is that it will continue to be held. Two Groups of Experts (on CMM and Gas) were due to meet the week of 23 March – following a decision of its Bureau, the CMM meeting has been postponed. The Group of Experts on Gas Bureau is meeting early next week to discuss and make a decision.

16. The situation in Switzerland related to COVID-19 is being monitored closely by the UN in cooperation with the relevant authorities. Guided tours for visitors to the UN building have been stopped, but other than that meetings seem to be going ahead although the length of some is being reduced, all side events have been cancelled (i.e. lunchtime lectures) and international travel is being discouraged. Hand gel is being made available outside meeting rooms. Participants invited to UNECE meetings are advised to follow the official national travel advisory guidelines of their home and of the destination country where the event will be taking place (as well as transit destinations where applicable). For an increasing number of countries travel to a country with the virus (i.e. Switzerland) measures being implemented mean experts would need to go into quarantine on their return.

17. The Chair suggested the Bureau could make a decision to postpone the meeting or transform the meeting to virtual-only to discuss and agreed on key issues needing a decision. Postponing the meeting physically to later in the year is not an option due to lack of meeting

rooms at the Palais. The only possibility is if a country offers to host the meeting. Milan suggested that it could be possible to see whether the meeting could be held in parallel with the EU Raw Materials Week, in Brussels in November.

18. The Bureau decided that an early decision regarding postponement would be helpful as travel arrangements will have to be made/cancelled at the earliest. The Bureau agreed to discuss the COVID-19 situation through email and make a decision before 13 March. [Taking into consideration the worsening COVID-19 situation, the Bureau later decided to postpone the Resource Management Week 2020. A decision regarding the alternate dates for either physical or virtual meeting(s) will be made later.]

19. The Secretariat will update all registered participants on any change related to the status of the UNECE Resource Management Week 2020.

20. The Chair noted that ten substantive EGRM-11 parliamentary documents are now envisaged.

- Principles of Resource classification is now available on the website (English only)
- China Petroleum BD Case Study is available in English – being translated
- China Minerals BD Case Study is available in English – being translated
- UNFC Applied to Commercial Assessments Update – draft was submitted to Bureau for review on Tuesday – deadline is cob 9 March
- UNRMS Concept Note is under finalization and will be available for Bureau review this week

21. Progress is being made on two other documents by the Nuclear Fuels and SDGs Delivery Working Groups. The Nordic case study is being prepared. Many room documents are under preparation. The Chair thanked all who have contributed to the documents.

22. The Draft Programme for the Workshop on the role of resource management in attaining the SDGs (20-21 April) was circulated as part of the documentation for the call.

23. The draft detailed timeline for the EGRM-11 annual session 22-24 April was circulated with the documentation for the call. Keynote speakers confirmed include Chief Sharleen Gale, Chair, First Nations Canada Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) and Professor Christine Ehlig-Economides, U.S. National Academy of Engineering.

24. The Chair noted that currently two lunchtime lectures are planned:

- UNECE and SPE Swiss, France and Italian Sections Lecture - Rob Perrons AI and Resource Management
- Niilo Edwards and Angel Ransom, First Nations Major Projects Coalition - A look inside the development of the tools, governance, and processes for Indigenous resource management
- A third lecture could also be planned on Tuesday, 21 April if a speaker is identified.

25. The draft Conclusions and Recommendations of EGRM-11 were also circulated as part of the documents for the call. The Bureau was asked to provide comments if any as soon as possible.

26. There was discussion on the status of the Renewable Energy Working Group Chair – Frank Denelle indicated some weeks ago that he was stepping down as Chair for personal reasons. Gioia encouraged that a stand-in be found to Chair the RE session at EGRM-11 to ensure that it runs smoothly. A proposal was made that Frank could be invited to be Past Chair and remain engaged in that capacity and that the RE Working Group have Co-Chairs in order to spread the heavy workload of this Group.

**Item 5: Proposed dates for UNECE Resource Management Week 2021**

27. The Chair advised that the Resource Management Week 2021 is proposed to be held 19-23 April 2021. The finalization of the dates will be subject to availability of rooms, which will be severely restricted due to the ongoing renovation of the Palais. [Later the secretariat was informed that rooms are not available on those dates, and the dates now proposed for EGRM-12 are 26-30 April 2021.]

28. The UNECE Commission Session is also planned on 20-21 April 2021 with the theme “Circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources”. EGRM could organize side events with the Commission related to the above theme and highlight the adoption of UNFC and the development of UNRMS. The Commission could potentially unveil some policy statements, where UNFC and UNRMS could be prominently mentioned. Additionally, the Commission will potentially approve the update of UNFC’s ECOSOC endorsement. Any revised ECOSOC Decision would need to be approved by the Commission Session before going to ECOSOC.

**Item 6: UNFC Substantive Update**

Documentation: UNFC Substantive Update PowerPoint presentation

29. The Chair noted that a draft presentation was circulated as part of the documentation for the call. Gioia and Teresa had provided comments.

30. The UNFC language update has been done. However, UNFC could be further improved through some substantive changes which are summarized in the presentation.

31. EGRM would need to get feedback from current UNFC users, such as UNFC-Europe, UNFC-Africa, Mexico, Ukraine etc. before attempting the next major change to the system. The Communications WG, in cooperation with UNRMS Sub-group, is planning to issue a survey in order to solicit this feedback. The Chair requested the Bureau to provide comments on the substantive update.

**Item 7: Technical Advisory Group update**

32. Groundwater WG: Marco Petitta stepped down as the Chair of Groundwater WG due to personal issues. The group has proposed Kevin Parks as the new Chair of the WG. A message was sent to the Bureau on 14 February to this effect with Kevin’s bio. No feedback was received opposing this proposal. Kevin Parks is the Principal Hydrogeologist and President, Deep Time Advisory Services Ltd., Calgary, Canada. The Bureau approved the proposal and thanked the outgoing Chair, Marco Petitta for his hard work and support in establishing the WG.

33. Hydro and Marine Energy Sub-group: As per the message to the Bureau of 14 February, the Hydro and Marine Energy Sub-group is currently being established. Gioia Falone has kindly agreed to Chair it. The Sub-group will report to the Renewables Working Group and will focus on the development of specifications for the application of UNFC to Hydro and Marine Energy resources (the actual name of the specifications to be confirmed as the work progresses).

34. Other updates: Alistair Jones provided other brief updates. Petroleum and Mineral specifications are progressing. The SPE representative noted the request of SPE to review the draft of the UNFC Petroleum Specifications at an early stage. Groundwater WG has started work on its draft specifications, based on the updated UNFC (2019). Nuclear WG is developing a concept note on “Integrated lifecycle management of nuclear fuel resources for sustainable energy.” Social and Environmental Considerations WG is developing a document on Guidance for social and environmental considerations for UNFC

### **Item 8. Carbon neutrality project**

Documentation: Concept note of Carbon Neutrality project

35. The Chair advised that the project “Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy-intensive industries by 2050” has been approved by UNECE’s Executive Committee. The project is funded jointly by the US Energy Association and the World Nuclear Association.

36. The objective of the project is to enhance the understanding of the implications of and opportunities for moving to carbon neutrality (or to net-zero societies) in the UNECE region across the power and energy-intensive industries by 2050. “Carbon neutrality” refers to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or simply by eliminating carbon emissions. This will require deployment of carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies (CCUS) and other compensating technologies such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and nuclear energy as increasing the absorptive capacity of forests that would enable the persistence of fossil fuels in national energy mix well beyond 2050.

37. The project will start soon on receipt of funding from the donors. The Chair requested the Bureau to be fully engaged with the work of this project. Gioia volunteered to be the EGRM/Bureau focal point for this project. The Chair thanked Gioia for taking up this role. Following discussion and the level of interest in the focus of the project and the number of EGRM WGs that could contribute, it was agreed that Gioia would look to establish a Sub-group in order for EGRM and the Bureau to better contribute to the Project.

### **Item 9. Education and outreach**

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2019–2020 as at 2 March 2020

38. The list of events as at 2 March 2020 was circulated with the documentation for the call. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of upcoming events have been cancelled or postponed. 36th session of the International Geological Congress, Delhi, India, planned for 2–8 March 2020 has been postponed to 9-14 November 2020. The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, Geneva, Switzerland, 19–20 March has been reduced to a one-day virtual meeting with no side events.

## **Item 10. Date of next Bureau Call**

39. The next Bureau call will be during the period 17-20 March for 30 minutes to discuss the COVID-19 situation.

## **Item 11. Any other business**

(i) Revised ECOSOC Decision 2004/233

40. The Chair noted that the proposed draft text of a revised decision was circulated just before the call:

*“At its XX plenary meeting, on XX 2021, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decisions of 1997/226 of 18 July 1997 and of 2004/233 of 16 July 2004, welcomed the endorsement by the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and decided to invite the Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and regional commissions to consider taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of UNFC and resource management systems based on it. The Council notes that this new classification system which is applicable to mineral, petroleum, nuclear fuel, renewable energy and anthropogenic resources, as well as injection projects for geological storage, is an extension and update of the earlier framework developed for fossil energy and mineral commodities on which the Council took similar action in 2004 upon endorsement and recommendation by the Economic Commission for Europe. UNFC is intended to satisfy the requirements of different resource sectors and applications, as well as making it fully aligned to the sustainable resource management called for by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Council notes that in order to facilitate worldwide application, publications on UNFC and resource management systems based on it need to be issued in all UN languages.”*

41. The proposed text would need to be made available to the EGRM in English, French and Russian ahead of EGRM-11 and then any text agreed on at the meeting would be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its meeting in November. Any text agreed to by the Committee would go to the Executive Committee for approval and following that to the Commission session in April 2021. Following that, it would be submitted to ECOSOC for review and consideration by all UN Member States. The Chair requested the Bureau to comment on the draft text at the earliest. It was noted that the language “... *and resource management systems based on it ...*” could prove problematic.

(ii) “Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the UNECE Region”

42. The Chair advised that the final report of the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the UNECE Region” is now posted online: <http://www.unece.org/energy/pathwaystose.html> The report is available in English and Russian together with the report on the role of gas in sustainable energy. A video of Scott Foster in which he provides a summary of process and findings will be available soon.

43. The Committee on Sustainable Energy has asked for policy recommendations resulting from the project for adoption at its 29th session (November 2020). EGRM can contribute to



this. The Bureau was invited to provide comments which could then be discussed during EGRM-11. A process for collecting feedback from EGRM members needs to be put in place.

43. Gioia Falcone was thanked for having facilitated Anastasia Ioannou's internship in the Sustainable Energy Division during which time Anastasia worked on and contributed to the Pathways project. She also facilitated engagement of EGRM, "the role of UNFC" and the perspective of resource management in the discussions. Anastasia was thanked for her excellent contribution to the work of EGRM during her internship.

44. No other business was discussed.

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