

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

From: David MacDonald and Charlotte Griffiths

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

14 January 2020

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance 3pm 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 <i>represented by</i> Rodrigo Chanes	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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, Observer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of draft agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of call on 7 November 2019 (attachment 2)
3. Bureau issues
4. UNFC Update 2019 (attachments 3 & 4)
5. UNECE Resource Management Week 2020 (attachments 5 & 6)
6. Technical Advisory Group update
7. UNRMS update
8. Digital solutions for UNFC
9. Education and outreach (attachment 7)
10. Launch of Women in Resource Management Initiative
11. Date of next meeting or call
12. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 14 January 2020
2. Draft minutes of 7 November 2019 v2
3. UNFC Update 2019 Cover
4. UNFC Update 2019 Inside Text
5. List of EGRM-11 parliamentary documents
6. Revised Draft Provisional Agenda for EGRM-11
7. List of events promoting UNFC in 2019–2020 as at 9 January 2020

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 14 January 2020

1. Under AOB would like to add update on decisions of the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2019.

The agenda was approved without any changes.

Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 7 November 2019

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 7 November 2019

2. The revised minutes reflect the written comments provided by a number of Bureau members to the first draft that was circulated. Following discussion and clarification of a number of issues, the revised draft minutes were approved.

Item 3. Bureau issues

Documentation: EGRM Bureau Contact List as at 1 November 2019

3. Bureau elections will be held at EGRM-11 in April. On 19 December, the “Call for nominations to the EGRM Bureau” note that was sent to UNECE member States in November was circulated to the Bureau.
4. A number of Bureau members advised of their plans:
 - Brad Van Gosen has indicated he plans to step down from the Bureau. The Chair on behalf of the Bureau extended sincere thanks to Brad for his input and commitment to the Bureau over many years.
 - Teresa Ponce de Leao has advised she would like to continue and has the support of the Secretary of State of Portugal.

- Kjell Reidar Knudsen advised he will step down from the Bureau this year as he is retiring from NPD. NPD is considering if it will put forward a replacement. NPD is also discussing with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy to explore if it preferably wants to nominate a representative from the hydropower or other sector to the Bureau. The Chair on behalf of the Bureau extended sincere thanks to Kjell Reidar for his input and commitment to the Bureau over many years.
- Bernard Seiller advised he will continue to represent SPE.
- Mike Neumann advised he is unsure if he will continue to represent EFG on the Bureau. If he steps down, Brenda Lothian would be put forward as the EFG representative.
- The Chair advised that he will retire from BP in early March and will be unable to participate in EGRM-11. He indicated he would like to remain on the Bureau either as Chair or Vice-Chair. Igor Shpurov in his capacity as First Vice-Chair will Chair parts of EGRM-11 and other Bureau members are invited to also Chair sessions during the Week. It was proposed that the Chair and Igor should organize a bilateral call to discuss the Chairing of the Bureau and EGRM-11 and the outcome shared with the Bureau during its next call.

5. Bureau members were requested to advise the secretariat should they wish to stand for re-election.

Item 4: UNFC Update 2019

Documentation:

- UNFC Update 2019 Cover
- UNFC Update 2019 Inside Text

6. The near final formatted cover and inside text of UNFC Update 2019 were circulated prior to the call. It was noted that a number of minor edits/comments have been received from the Chinese experts which will be accommodated.

7. The secretariat will circulate and post the final formatted electronic version of UNFC Update 2019 as soon as it is available. Printed copies will take some weeks to be issued.

8. The Chair extended congratulations and sincere thanks to all who contributed to the update and in particular to Alistair Jones, TAG Chair. In view of the wide range of comments received over many weeks, it was noted this had been a challenging “light touch” update to undertake.

9. The substantive update of UNFC was discussed. As noted during the 7 November Bureau call, a substantive update of UNFC was also called for at the 2019 EGRM meeting. A parliamentary document was included for EGRM-11 “Considerations for substantive revision of UNFC”. A survey of stakeholders was planned to be conducted by the Communications Working Group and the UNRMS Sub-group. Work has not yet started on the survey. Clearly investing time in preparing the questions for the Survey is important to get useful feedback. The Bureau discussed if there was adequate time to prepare the EGRM-11 document “Considerations for substantive revision of UNFC” by end-March in view that the survey needs to be prepared, circulated for at least 3 weeks and then the responses need to be analysed.

10. The Bureau agreed to withdraw the document from the list of EGRM-11 parliamentary documents and to issue a room document instead. The Chair advised he had prepared a slide

pack related to the UNFC substantive update that he would share with the Bureau for review and comment.

11. Following discussion, a number of Bureau members (Roger, Bernard, Hua, Gioia and Mike) volunteered to assist the Communications Working Group and the UNRMS Sub-group with the Survey, in particular to review and comment on the list of questions and stakeholders to be approached.

Item 5: UNECE Resource Management Week

Documentation:

- List of EGRM-11 parliamentary documents
- Revised draft provisional agenda for EGRM-11

12. As per the revised list circulated, 13 parliamentary documents are proposed. Progress is being made by the various Working Groups.

13. Efforts have been made by Petrad in Norway to develop minerals case studies. It is hoped that one might be ready by end-March.

14. The Bureau discussed the revised draft agenda for EGRM-11 that was circulated prior to the call (the first draft was sent to Bureau in early November). This version was also sent to all the Chairs of the EGRM Working Groups and Task Forces with a request for comments by cob 22 January. Bureau members were requested to provide comments in writing to Charlotte by cob 22 January.

15. Keynote speakers were discussed. The Chair advised that Chief Sharleen Gale, Chair, First Nations Canada Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) is confirmed. Feedback is awaited from a number of other potential speakers including EITI. Teresa indicated she has approached Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for IDI from the Junker Commission.

16. The detailed timeline for the week is under development. A range of panel sessions are planned, including on:

- Environmental and social considerations in resource management incl. rights of local people and communities
- Digital solutions for UNFC
- Circular economy
- Women in resource management
- International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management
- Young UNFC
- Potentially also on Mineral Resource Governance – The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), held in Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019, adopted a resolution on Mineral Resource Governance. The resolution recognizes the important contribution of mining towards the achievement of the SDGs, and the dependence of low-carbon clean technologies on metals and minerals. Among other things, it requests UNEP to collect information on sustainable practices, identify knowledge gaps and options for implementation strategies, and undertake an overview of existing assessments of different governance initiatives and approaches on sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, and report to UNEA-5 (February 2021). UNEP is undertaking regional consultations to develop the discussion paper on Mineral Resource Governance. Charlotte is

currently discussing with UNEP if and how the Resource Management Week might offer an opportunity to contribute to the development of the Mineral Resource Governance discussion paper.

17. The Role of Resource Management in attaining SDGs Workshop was discussed. Bureau members were invited to help put together the agenda for the workshop on Monday and Tuesday (20-21 April). It was proposed to invite an expert to speak on SDGs, how they were chosen and designed and the fact that some goals are in conflict with one another.

18. The Chair noted that trainings and discussions on the two UNFC Extrabudgetary Projects would need to be integrated the Week. The projects are:

(a) Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources (funded by Russian Federation) – this project was due to finish end-September 2019. The Russian Federation has just kindly agreed to extend the project to end-May to allow unspent funds to be used. Funds will be used to bring experts to a workshop/training during the Week.

(b) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (funded by the UN Development Account (UNDA)): this project runs until end 2021. Due to the budget freeze at the UN the project was put on hold in Q4 2019. Funds can now be spent so the plan is to organize a workshop/training during the Resource Management Week.

19. It was noted that currently two lunchtime lectures are planned:

- First Nations Major Project Coalition, Canada: resource management, in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), justice and reconciliation.
- Prof Robert Perrons: Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Resource Management.

One of the lectures will be organized jointly with SPE Swiss Section

20. It was noted sponsors for the reception, coffee breaks and lunchtime lectures are being sought.

Item 6: Technical Advisory Group update

(i) Renewable Working Group

21. Frank Denelle has regrettably stepped down as Chair of the Renewable Energy Working Group for personal reasons. The Chair on behalf of the Bureau placed on record sincere thanks to Frank for his exemplary contribution and support during his 7 years as Chair. The WG has achieved a great deal under his leadership: UNFC is now applicable to geothermal, bioenergy, solar and wind. A new Chair of the WG is being sought and it is hoped that an existing member of the WG might volunteer. The Bureau will be invited to review and support any nomination.

(ii) China Petroleum Classification and Petroleum Bridging Document Case Study

22. The TAG review of the Case Study and recommendation was sent to Bureau on 19 December with a deadline for comments of 13 January 2020. No comments were received

The case study will be published as an official EGRM-11 document.

22. The TAG Chair noted that the TAG contributed to the UNFC Update 2019 and also the UNRMS outline document.

23. The Chair thanked the TAG for its continued hard work and rigour.

Item 7. UNRMS update

24. Following a number of calls and discussions, a concept note has been drafted by the UNRMS Sub-group Interim Chair (Hari Tulsidas) that briefly explains the background for the development of the United Nations Resource Management System, its broad objectives, requirements and intended users. The need for integrated resource management as called for by various international initiatives including the 2030 Agenda is also briefly explained in the note. The note proposes twelve fundamental principles of sustainable resource management. The note is currently with the UNRMS Sub-group for comment. The intent is for the note to be issued as an English only parliamentary document for EGRM-11.

Item 8: Digital solutions for UNFC

25. It was noted that there is increasing interest in developing digital solutions for UNFC around the world.

26. The Bureau at its last call discussed in detail the interest from and engagement by TARGET Energy Solutions. The following text is now included in the revised minutes of the Bureau call of 7 November:

Para 41. “Whilst a number of Bureau members were supportive and enthusiastic about the development of a digital solution for UNFC by TARGET, a number of Bureau members expressed concern about any cooperation with TARGET as it is a commercial company. Noting that while the public can use the UNFC documents that are publicly available as it wishes (though it would not be able to claim compliance or endorsement without formal UNECE approval), a Bureau member expressed the opinion that EGRM Bureau members should not be asked to provide one-to-one guidance to individuals or organisations wishing to develop an exclusive commercial tool based on that one-to-one guidance, unless the opportunity was equally given to all. The Bureau member proposed that EGRM could ‘spec’ the requirements for a digital solution for UNFC/UNRMS and share those publicly, e.g. via a white paper to be posted to the UNECE website and presented at the next EGRM meeting in Geneva. The Bureau member noted that this does not imply a subsequent tender process. During the ensuing discussions, a number of members expressed that they did not share the abovementioned views.”

27. Those who have expressed interest in developing a digital solution for UNFC are as follows. Some have already started work:

- Mexico
- China
- International Geothermal Association (IGA)
- Vienna University of Technology
- Aucerna

- TARGET Energy Solutions.

28. Positive dialogue started with the International Geothermal Association (IGA) during the Renewable Energy WG meeting held in April 2019 in Geneva; IGA was keen to jointly progress the development of e-workflows and digital solutions of UNFC/UNRMS, stemming from the decision trees developed by Harmen Mijnlieff/TNO within the Geothermal subgroup. The Executive Director of IGA was expecting UNECE to open the discussions on how to do this together (including with other stakeholders for other commodities).

29. The Bureau discussed if the requirements for a digital solution for UNFC/UNRMS in the form of a white paper should be prepared and discussed at EGRM-11. A number of Bureau members were in favour and others were of the view that defining the requirements for all the applications of UNFC could be a lot of work and also beyond the primary expertise of the EGRM. There was also discussion as to whether the lack of digital tools for UNFC was hindering its application.

30. Discussions then focussed on what the EGRM should/could do and what should be left to the commercial market to do spontaneously.

31. A Bureau member highlighted that the work could start by creating digital versions of the decision trees mentioned in para 28 above and as included in pages 23-25 of the geothermal specifications. The Bureau member offered the time of a university student to create the e-document.

32. It was noted that the Vienna University of Technology (Johann Fellner and David Laner) have developed an online-tool to evaluate landfill mining projects from an economic and climate impact perspective. This is available online at: <https://landfill-mining.at/> Users have to provide predefined input parameters (e.g. waste composition) and the economic and climate impact results are finally converted into a box in the UNFC cube. The tool is free and the methodology is fully transparent and documented in a handbook available online: https://landfill-mining.at/static/manual/Manual_Ontol_V1.2.4.pdf On page 69, it is possible see what the classification looks like. Development of the tool was financed by the Flemish Waste Agency and the Austrian Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism. The tool was released at the end of 2019.

33. The Bureau agreed that the tool can be made available on the UNFC website. It was proposed to add a title, brief text and link to the landfill mining website. It was noted that a number of other case studies are available that have used UNFC in the context of anthropogenic resources. These have been published in peer-reviewed international journals. The Bureau agreed that these could also be posted to the UNFC website.

34. The Bureau was advised for information that Matthias Hartung from TARGET Energy Solutions was invited to join the Commercial Working Group which he accepted.

Item 9. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2019–2020 as at 9 January 2020

35. The list of events as at 9 January 2020 was circulated with the documentation for the call. The Chair noted with appreciation that 2019 was an impressive year with over 80 events worldwide that included a presentation or training on UNFC.

36. A number of events have already taken place in 2020 and a number are planned:
- Meeting with Nordic Mining re development of UNFC Mineral Case Studies, Oslo, Norway, 7 January
 - 34th Nordic Geological Winter Meeting, Oslo, Norway, 8–10 January
 - Application of UNFC to Geothermal and results of joint deployment project of UNECE, IGA, IRENA and World Bank presented at the Global Geothermal Alliance Meeting during Tenth Session of the IRENA General Assembly, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 12 January
 - MINEA Scientific Conference, Bologna, Italy, 20–21 February
 - 36th session of the International Geological Congress, Delhi, India, 2–8 March 2020
 - GeoERA Mid-Term Event, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 17–20 March 2020
 - Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, Geneva, Switzerland, 19–20 March – with a strong focus on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources

37. Teresa Ponce de Leao advised that she would present on UNFC and UNRMS at the Congresso Luso-Moçambicano de Engenharia (CLME2020), Beira, Mozambique, 30 August – 3 September 2020.

Item 10. Launch of Women in Resource Management Initiative

38. The EGRM work plan for 2020-2021 has a number of gender-related deliverables:

Extract from Work Plan: Deliverables and timeline:

“(i) Policy dialogue(s) on promoting gender participation in resource management: December 2021.

(ii) A network of women engaged in resource management projects: December 2021.

(iii) Recommendations on mainstreaming gender in resource management: December 2021.”

39. A small group of women interested in diversity and gender issues met in November and December to debate the Women in Resource Management Initiative and what it could/should focus on in order to add value and not duplicate what has already been done or is being done by others.

40. The Group will be Co-chaired by Cristina Robinson, SPE Swiss Chair and Maria Capello who is an SPE Honorary Member, SEG Director at Large and Consultant with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

41. The small group discussed a range of issues and agreed it would be useful to focus on sustainability in the context of resource management. This topic is not controversial and hence engagement from both women and men can be assured. In particular, the group is keen to focus on issues around social value - how to apply innovative thinking to build social value

into the future as we plan for the energy transition, and to do so in a way that empowers and benefits everyone in the community, including women and girls.

42. The plan is to (i) create a tool for women to have access to information on resource management and sustainability. This could be as simple as PowerPoint presentations; and (ii) build a network of women in resource management encompassing all energy and mineral sectors. This will be discussed further at EGRM-11 including during a panel session.

43. The Co-Chairs are also considering submitting an abstract on this work to the SPE ATCE 2020 (Denver, Colorado, 5-7 October). Deadline for abstracts is 29 Jan 2020.

Item 11. Date of next Bureau Call

44. The next Bureau call will be held during the period 24 February to 6 March 2020.

Item 12. Any other business

(i) Decisions of UNECE Executive Committee meeting of 16 December 2019.

45. The UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) at its meeting on 16 December 2019 endorsed the work plan of the EGRM for 2020-2021 and also endorsed the renewal of the mandate of EGRM to end-2024. Both endorsements demonstrate a sign of confidence in EGRM's work by UNECE member States. The Bureau was advised of the above by email on 19 December 2019.

46. No other business was discussed.
