

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

From: Dave MacDonald and Hari Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) 17 July 2018 MINUTES
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Attendance 4 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRC Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol (alternate Glenn Sondak), 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 (alternate Rodrigo Chanes), EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adrienne Hanly, 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, EGRC TAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Mugenyi, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hubert Schwarz, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adichat Surinkum (alternate Dhiti Tulyatid), CCOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bradley Van Gosen, USA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radoslav Vukas, Serbia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda for EGRC Bureau Call on 17 July

1. Approval of draft agenda
2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 11 April and Bureau Meeting 26 April 2018
3. UNECE Resource Management Week 2018 debrief
4. New Bureau Membership (2018–2020)
5. Technical Advisory Group Update
6. UNFC update/revision
7. UNFC for Europe and Africa Initiatives Updates

8. Draft ToR for Expert Group on Resource Management
9. Representative of EGRC Bureau in UNECE Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project
10. 27th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-27 September
11. Energy Ministerial & 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, Ukraine, 12–15 November
12. UNFC workshops and events
14. Date of next Bureau call
15. Any other business

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Calls on 17 July 2018

1. The agenda was approved without changes.

Item 2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 11 April and Bureau Meeting 26 April 2018

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau call of 11 April 2018 and Meeting 26 April

2. The draft minutes of the call on 11 April and meeting on 26 April were approved without changes.

Item 3. UNECE Resource Management Week 2018 debrief

Documentation: Report of EGRC 9th Session

3. The Chair informed the following highlights of the UNECE Resource Management Week;
 - Over 350 Over 350 experts from 80 countries participated
 - Expert Group is seen as moving more towards actually implementing UNFC for sustainable resource management
 - A number of well attended parallel workshops and meetings we held:
 - Anthropogenic Resources Workshop
 - UNFC-AMREC Workshop
 - IAEA Consultancy Meeting
 - Symposium on the "Availability of raw materials from secondary sources: A key aspect of circular economy
 - UNFC Workshop: “UNFC for Sustainable Development”
 - Social and environmental guidelines approved and paper on alignment to SDGs discussed
 - Anthropogenic Resources specifications approved. The document will be endorsed by the Committee in September
 - Progress with solar energy specifications and actual implementation for geothermal (IRENA-IGU projects) and bio-energy (BP case study)
 - Mineral and Petroleum WGs working towards specifications and guidelines
 - Finalised a report on the redesign of the resource progression pathway for nuclear fuel
 - Progress in the implementation of UNFC in the European Union and Africa, as well as Russian Federation, China and Mexico-focused approaches.
 - The issue of gender, diversity and inclusiveness discussed
 - Recommended that an integrated resource management system be developed
 - EGRC’s name proposed to be changed to Expert Group on Resource Management
4. Chair expressed satisfaction on the significant progress of EGRC’s activities and thanked everyone who has contributed to the activities.

Item 4. New Bureau Membership (2018–2020)

Documentation: EGRC Bureau List; EGRC Bureau Contact Details

6. The Chair informed that a new Bureau has been elected for 2018–2020 and congratulated the new members. He thanked the outgoing members: Karin Ask, David Elliott, Michael Lynch-Bell, Ulrich Kral, Jim Ross, Dominique Salacz, Daniel Trotman, and Narendra Verma. He informed that all of them would continue to be active in EGRC through the various WGs.

Item 5. Technical Advisory Group update

Documentation: Minutes of TAG Meeting on 13 March; 24 April 2018

7. The Chair informed that TAG had a call on 4 July. The updates are:

8. Minerals: WG will be further developing the specifications for minerals

9. Petroleum: Specifications and guidelines are being developed. A study on UNFC alignment with other systems in progress. A pilot test for applying UNFC to petroleum resources started in Mexico.

10. Renewable energy: Solar specifications development is progressing. Mexico had a query on assisting with improving financing from commercial banks for RE projects. UNECE will respond. Commercial WG will also discuss the issue.
Anthropogenic: Final specifications to be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for approval.

11. Commercial: Working Group planning to develop two draft reports on (i) How commercial considerations may affect the classification of projects and (ii) How the UNFC may be applied to facilitate capital allocation, including through lending, project finance, divestment, mergers and acquisition, fundraising and in reports to project and corporate owners.

Item 6. UNFC Update/revision

12. The Chair informed that the UNFC update would be initiated. The general direction of the update will be the recent EGRC discussion on aligning to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, which is increasingly becoming the focus of governments and companies. If an activity is not with the boundaries of the 2030 Agenda discourse, it will be more and more marginalized. Recent experience with Mexico shows that having social and environmental focus is more important than anything else for petroleum projects. The intent of the update is not to make fundamental changes to UNFC principles but to respond to the broadening scope of sectors covered by UNFC and to the input from the Task Forces on the G axis and Social and Environmental aspects.

13. The Chair informed that “UNFC for Africa”, “UNFC for Europe” and other initiatives are progressing fast. UNFC is also part of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework. Bridging Documents are finalized for Russia and China. Hence, the approach will not disrupt these initiatives but pave a way forward with minimum changes.

14. The renewable energy community has some issues with the 3-dimensional view of UNFC. The 2-D table provided in the present UNFC-2009 is not very helpful. Instead, the 2-D matrix with E and F criteria may provide a better practical representation of UNFC, especially for its use as a resource progression tool.

15. The Chair informed that additional changes if required could be implemented through the generic and sectoral specifications.

16. The Chair requested that all WGs, sub-groups and task forces may provide requirements they think should be included in the initial update draft. Initial draft for revisions will be prepared by a small group of 3 or 4. It will be then reviewed by all WGs and the TAG.

Item 7. UNFC for Europe and Africa Initiatives Updates

17. The Chair informed that good progress is being made for the “UNFC for Europe” and “UNFC for Africa” Initiatives.

18. Milan Gohol informed that the “UNFC for Europe” initiative had been kick-started. A guidance document for application of UNFC for Europe will be developed. The preliminary structure of the document has been prepared. The guidance will also potentially include secondary raw-materials. The GeoERA project, Minintel4EU, has a work package which will also look into this task. DG-GROW has circulated a questionnaire to the Member States to provide information according to UNFC for four raw materials required for the battery initiative (Li, Zn, Co and graphite). A UNFC workshop on November 16 will be organized during the Raw material Week (12–16 November) in Brussels.

19. The Chair informed that the “UNFC for Africa” initiative is progressing well. AU AMREC Working Group is being initiated. The first meeting and workshop will be held from 22-27 July in Aveiro, Portugal on the sidelines of the 27th Colloquium of African Geology. The UNFC-AMREC draft document will be further revised. A workshop is also planned for November.

Item 8. Draft ToR for Expert Group on Resource Management

Documentation: Draft ToR for EGRM

20. The Chair informed that the 9th session of the EGRC had decided for the name change to Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) to reflect the activities of the expert group better. Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Expert Group also has to be updated to refer to the need to move towards transforming UNFC into a resource management system (system - a set of principles, specifications, guidelines and best practices.), Hence a reference is made in the ToR to the UN Resource Management System (UNRMS).

21. The Chair requested the Bureau to provide their comments by 31 July.

Item 9. Representative of EGRC Bureau in UNECE Pathways to Sustainable Energy Project

22. The Chair informed that the Committee on Sustainable Energy had asked EGRC to

nominate a member from the Bureau for the Pathways project. Gioia Falcone had kindly volunteered to represent EGRC. Bureau approved to nominate Gioia Falcone.

Item 10. 27th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, 26-27 September

23. The Chair informed that a Sustainable Resource Management session would be included on the afternoon of 26 September. A panel will discuss the implications of strengthening UNFC as a resource management tool and change of name to EGRM. Approval of Anthropogenic Specifications and the Chinese BDs are also part of the agenda.

Item 11. Energy Ministerial & 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Kiev, Ukraine, 12–15 November

24. The Chair informed that during the 9th Forum a session on Critical Raw Materials will be organized, where UNFC will be discussed. A one day workshop focused on UNFC application targeted at Serbia, Bosnia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will be organized. A session on critical raw materials and one on nuclear energy and fuels will be organized with the support of IAEA and the World Nuclear Association.

Item 6. Promotion and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2017–2018 as at 7 July 2018

25. Hari Tulsidas provided an update regarding the UNECE-GKZ International Scientific-Practical Conference on Harmonization of Approaches in the Assessment of Mineral Reserves and Resources UNFC Workshop, Moscow, Russian Federation, 30–31 May 2018. About 250 experts from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Europe participated. The workshop focused on how UNFC can help drive smart investments into mineral and energy projects. Rising importance of financing of mineral projects in non-traditional ways and improving human competencies to take on the new challenges. UNFC that can be a medium for State institutions, businesses and investors to communicate seamlessly on sustainable production. Use of UNFC in multi-lateral banks like New Development Bank (BRICS Bank) will be pursued. The workshop also discussed the challenges in the availability of Competent Persons in Central Asian countries

26. The Chair provided an update on Workshop on the application of UNFC to Petroleum Resources, Mexico, 18-21 June. About 150 experts from Mexico and other countries participated. Some 75 petroleum companies from 21 countries are active in Mexico. Mexico has initiated a pilot to test the use of UNFC to manage the social and environmental aspects of petroleum projects. After the pilot test, UNFC could be widely used in Mexico. The country has issues with water bodies; there are forested lands, rich archaeological sites, and urban and rural habitations in the areas where petroleum resources will be developed. Mexico will use UNFC as the basis for the definition of an effective platform for decision making in Mexico.

Item 7. Date of next Bureau Call

19. The next Bureau call will be held during the week of 20 or 27 August. The regular availability call will be issued.

Item 8. Any other business

27. The following other items were discussed:

(i) Hussien Allaboun said that it would be good to have an initiative “UNFC for Middle East and North Africa”, where the need is seen in many countries. Many countries in the region are resource rich with either petroleum or minerals, but a need for the comprehensive and integrated development of all resources including renewable energy is seen.

(ii) Hussien Allaboun said that the document of “Redesign of the uranium resource pathway” is now almost completed. This document recommends placing uranium resources within the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement discussions. However, in many high-level UN meetings on sustainable energy, the role of nuclear energy/uranium is hardly discussed. He suggested that this should be discussed. The Chair suggested that this issue could be discussed in detail in the next Bureau call.

(iii) Micheal Neumann on behalf of the Competent Person Task Force informed the progress being made on Competent Person Guidelines. Various initiatives in Europe (Euro Geologist) and Africa (proposed Afro Geologist) was mentioned.

(iv) Roberto Sarudiansky informed that the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development is holding its Annual General Meeting in Geneva 15–19 October 2018. He said suggested of UNFC could be made in this meeting.
