

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

From: Dave MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Harikrishnan Tulsidas

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

14 September 2020

MINUTES

Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternates</i> Olga Trofimova and Ekaterina Lovchuk		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan (observer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol (alternate tbc), IEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Gerardo Herrera		
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"/>
YANG Hua for JU Jianhua, China (observer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<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 Bureau call of 23 July 2020 (attachment 2)
3. Bureau Update (attachment 3)
4. Rescheduled EGRM-11 meeting (attachments 4, 5, 6 and 7)
5. Informal EGRM Webinars
 - (a) Application of UNFC to Mineral and Anthropogenic Resources: Sustainable management of raw material resources
 - (b) Sustainable and integrated natural resource management: Values, principles and requirements
6. Technical Advisory Group update
7. EGRM-12
8. 29th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 November
9. Education and outreach (attachment 6)
10. Date of next call
11. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 14 September 2020
2. Draft minutes of 23 July 2020
3. EGRM Bureau Contact List as at 1 September 2020
4. Overview of UNECE Energy Week, 22-25 September 2020
5. Joint GERE and EGRM UNFC and RE Session, 23 September 2020
6. Nuclear Fuel Resources Session, 24 September 2020
7. Draft EGRM-11 Conclusions and Recommendations
8. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020 as at 8 September 2020

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 14 September 2020

1. The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 23 July 2020

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 23 July 2020

2. The revised draft minutes were circulated with the documentation for this call. The revised text responds to the comments received from Roger Dixon and Alistair Jones to the first draft. The draft minutes were approved.

Item 3. Bureau Update

Documentation: EGRM Bureau Contact List as at 1 September 2020

3. The updated Bureau contact list was circulated as part of the documentation for the call. Members were requested to convey to the secretariat any changes needed.
4. The Chair noted that, as discussed and agreed in previous calls, the term of the current Bureau is proposed to be extended to the end of EGRM-12 due to the extraordinary COVID-19 situation. Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan and Mr. Jianhua Ju, China, are currently observers and are being nominated for election to the Bureau. This will be announced following the adoption of the agenda on 22 September. Then the elections agenda item will be held on 25 September.

5. The Chair noted the following changes to the Bureau:
 - Kjell Reidar Knudsen retired from NPD at the end of August and has stepped down from the Bureau. Norway is currently considering whether to nominate a replacement to the Bureau.
 - Nominations from USA (following Brad Van Gosen stepping down) and IAEA are still awaited. IAEA indicated further delays due to staff shortages. However, efforts will continue to find replacements for the vacant positions.
 - A nomination from Serbia is also awaited.

6. The Chair extended sincere thanks and appreciation to Kjell Reidar and Brad Van Gosen for their contribution to the work of the Bureau and their unwavering support of EGRM and UNFC.

7. The Chair noted that the following requests for comments were sent to the Bureau since the last call:
 - (i) “Pathways to Sustainable Energy – Policy recommendations from EGRM” document: The Bureau was sent a draft text of this document on 11 August with a request for comments by 25 August. A revised text was prepared based on feedback received from a number of Bureau members. It has now been submitted as an official document for the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) meeting in November: ECE/ENERGY/2020/10. It will be posted to the CSE meeting page and the EGRM-11 meeting page.
 - (ii) UNECE Natural Resources Nexus Report Summary: A copy of the summary of the UNECE Natural Resources Nexus Report was sent to the Bureau on 3 September. The Bureau was invited to review the document and provide any comments by cob 30 September.
 - (iii) Draft Paper on Methane: A document on methane drafted by Ray Pilcher, Chair of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane was sent to the Bureau on 29 August. The document aims to raise awareness about methane management, highlight the importance of methane emissions, and promote an International Decade of Methane. It is essentially a call for action, and the intent is for the document to be simple, straightforward, and relatively short. The feedback received was that members found it an interesting and relevant document. The opportunity for the EGRM to engage with the Group of Experts on CMM on CMM and CBM nexus/cross-cutting work was noted.

Item 3. Rescheduling of EGRM-11

Documentation:

- Overview of UNECE Energy Week, 22-25 September 2020 (attachment 4)
- Joint GERE and EGRM UNFC & RE Session, 23 September 2020 (attachment 5)
- Nuclear Fuel Resources Session, 24 September 2020 (attachment 6)
- Draft EGRM-11 Conclusions and Recommendations (attachment 7)

8. The Chair informed that, as discussed in previous calls, a condensed hybrid "virtual–physical" EGRM meeting will be held in Geneva, 22-25 September, comprising two 2-hour sessions and two short sessions which will allow EGRM to take some business-critical decisions. During 22-25 September, five groups of experts will meet: EGRM and groups of experts on CMM, on Energy Efficiency, on Renewable Energy and on Gas.

9. The following informal or room documents for EGRM-11 are now posted on the UNECE website:

- INF.1: Draft C&Rs in English, French and Russian
- INF.2: Draft revised ECOSOC Decision on UNFC in English, French and Russian (as approved by the Bureau)
- INF.3: Draft ICE-SRM Criteria for Designation and ToR (as approved by the Bureau)
- INF.4: Draft Guidance for Social and Environmental Considerations for UNFC (this document was sent to the Bureau for comment on 11 August together with the TAG recommendation that it be issued as a room document for EGRM-11. No objections were received by the deadline of 25 August)
- INF.5: Draft Report "Application of UNFC and UNRMS: The Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways" (this was sent to the Bureau on 11 September for information)
- The TAG Annual Report will be posted as a room document shortly.

10. The Chair informed the outline for EGRM-11. In the morning session on 22 September, the EGRM-11 agenda will be adopted. Several key issues will be highlighted, e.g. Bureau nominations and what will be put forward for decision on 25 September to allow experts time to submit any written comments. There will be simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian for this session.

11. A 2-hour English-only session during the morning of 23 September will be held jointly with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) and will include a joint session on the application of UNFC to renewable energy.

12. The Nuclear Fuel Resources WG has a 2-hour English-only session during the morning of 24 September to provide an update on its activities. The reason for this is because its work is linked to the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Project which will organise a workshop during the afternoon of 24 September. One of the two Project donors is the World Nuclear Association.

13. During the morning session on 25 September there will be a 45-minute EGRM session with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian that will focus on issues needing a "decision" from the Bureau (essentially and "administration issues" session). The intent is to discuss "business-critical" issues such as how to deal with the Bureau elections, i.e. the proposal to roll over the existing Bureau until April 2021 and to consider electing the two new nominees from Kazakhstan and China. The proposed update of the UNFC ECOSOC Decision will also be raised - the EGRM will be invited to agree on the text and recommend or otherwise that it be submitted to the 29th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November. The EGRM will also be asked for comments on and/or to agree to the ICE-SRM Criteria for Designation and ToR document.

14. The final draft of the C&Rs incorporating feedback from Bureau members and Working Group Chairs was circulated to UNECE member States on Friday 11 September 2020 and posted to the EGRM-11 meeting page in English, French and Russian. Sincere thanks were extended to Igor Shpurov and Olga Trofimova for the Russian translation.

15. The Chair noted that EGRM members are being encouraged to participate virtually in EGRM-11 due to the increasing number of COVID cases in Geneva and the additional safety restrictions that have been put in place at the Palais des Nations. Participation in person is

possible for a limited number of participants. Representatives of a number of the Permanent Missions are anticipated to participate in person.

16. EGRM organised three informal virtual sessions (or webinars) in July – September on substantive topics from the EGRM Work Plan. This was discussed under Item 4. The draft EGRM-11 meeting report will be prepared based on the draft C&Rs and will also mention the webinars that were held.

17. A number of Bureau members observed that other meetings such as the Clear Energy Ministerial, UNEP- IRP meetings etc. are overlapping during the UNEC Energy Week. The Chair noted that many meetings are now being organised at relatively short notice due to the COVID-19 situation so overlapping events is unfortunately unavoidable.

Item 4. Informal EGRM Webinars

18. The Chair provided details of the three EGRM online informal workshops/webinars held to date.

(i) Webinar on Application of UNFC to Petroleum Total Resource Management: Status and Outlook, 29 July 2020.

19. The details of this webinar were discussed during the previous Bureau call.

(ii) Webinar on Application of UNFC to minerals and anthropogenic resources: Sustainable management of raw material resources, 26 August 2020.

20. This webinar highlighted the work of the Minerals and Anthropogenic Resources Working Groups. The speakers were:

- Moderator - Aaron Johnson, Executive Director, American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)
- UNFC mineral specifications and guidelines for minerals – Michael Neumann, Former Vice President, European Federation of Geologists
- UNFC anthropogenic resource specifications – Ulrich Kral, Technische Universitat Wien
- Activities of EuroGeoSurveys on mineral resource data harmonisation - Zoltan Horvath, Mining and Geological Survey of Hungary
- Case study – Minerals - Finland, Sweden and Norway – Erika Ingvald, Geological Survey of Sweden
- Case Study - Anthropogenic resources – Soraya Heuss-Aßbichler, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

21. Some 300 experts from 80 countries registered, and participation was high. A lot of the questions were related to the issues of Competent Persons, whether UNFC is used by any stock exchanges and how projects are defined. It was noted that similar questions were raised in other meetings held the same week, including the GeoUtrecht Conference and the UNEP mineral resource governance online consultations. Zoltan Horvath observed that it was a good webinar and served to promote application of UNFC.

22. Following discussion on the issue of Competent Person and how best to deal with it in the context of UNFC, the Chair recommended that this issue would need to be resolved over the coming six months.

(iii) Webinar on Sustainable and integrated natural resource management: Values, principles and requirements, 10 September

23. This webinar highlighted the work of the Sustainable Development Goals Delivery WG, the Social and Environmental WG, the Commercial Applications WG and the UNRMS Group. The Speakers were:

- Opening remarks and moderation– Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
- European Union New Green Deal and Raw Material Vision – Milan Grohol, DG GROW, European Commission
- AI and Resource Management – Robert K. Perrons, Queensland University of Technology, Australia (10 min)
- UNRMS: Global values, regional circumstances, priorities and needs – Julian Hilton, Chair, EGRM Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group
- UNFC Guidelines for social and environmental considerations – Dave Elliott, Former Chair, EGRM Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group
- UNFC applied to Commercial assessments – Sigurd Heiberg, Chair, EGRM Commercial Applications Working Group

24. Over 400 experts from 85 countries registered for the event. On the day there was good participation with a lively discussion in the Chat room. Concerns were expressed on the exponential increase in resource use and how the planet can cope with this.

25. The presentations from all three webinars are posted to the UNFC website under Meetings and Events. The Chair thanked the Bureau and EGRM members who have contributed. These events are serving to raise the visibility of the EGRM's work and are generating a lot of interest. The questions posed are also useful to see what concerns experts and newcomers to the work have. The questions are being compiled with a view to potentially sharing them on the UNFC website and/or with the Bureau and WG Chairs.

26. The Chair noted that there seems to be interest in continuing with the webinars annually to complement the EGRM annual meeting. He also advised that these virtual sessions are not official EGRM meetings since they are held in English only. Also, some EGRM experts don't have access to a stable internet connection. The webinars are for sharing of knowledge and updates on the progress of major initiatives; however, any conclusions and recommendations arising from the sessions held could potentially be fed into the annual EGRM meetings. A number of members observed that the webinars offer a valuable new perspective that does not emerge at EGRM annual sessions.

27. Upcoming webinars were noted. The Women in Resource Management WG is planning a series of webinars. The first two will focus on mining. BHP Mining and SRK have become very active and are leading the work.

- 15 October 2020: Women in Mining: Cases and best practices from UK, Australia and South Africa
- 26 November 2020: What is new in mining?

- 18 December 2020 Women leadership in Oil and gas: An updated outlook.

Item 10. Technical Advisory Group update

28. Alistair Jones, TAG Chair, provided an update on TAG activities:

Petroleum Working Group: Draft Petroleum Specifications are being finalised by PWG and will then be shared with TAG for final review and recommendation to the Bureau. Once this is completed, the document can be made available for comment by the SPE Oil and Gas Reserves Committee (OGRC) and then for public comment. As noted under Item 9, the Petroleum WG organised a webinar on 29 July. Alex Shpilman, who is a member of both the PWG and SPE OGRC, has recently been nominated as the liaison between OGRC and PWG – this was an issue raised in the webinar. Following recent updates of both UNFC and SPE PRMS, PWG and SPE OGRC are starting to address the update of the UNFC-PRMS Bridging Document. SPE OGRC has selected Barry Hanson to be its official representative for this work.

Minerals Working Group: Draft specifications are under finalisation and WG review. They will then be shared with the TAG for review. The WG also contributed to the webinar on 26 August.

Renewable Working Group: The WG will be organising a session at EGRM-11 on 23 September together with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The Chair noted the presentations to be delivered and encouraged members to participate. Three hydro case-studies have been prepared by a student (Ryan Holmes) working with Gioia Falcone, Chair of the Hydro-Marine Subgroup. A representative from Krygyzstan has joined the WG – he is keen to undertake case studies.

Nuclear Fuel Resources WG: Remains active and has finalised the report on "Application of UNFC and UNRMS: Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development - Entry Pathways". This report has been reviewed by the TAG and will be made available for public comment soon. The WG is organising a session during EGRM-11 on 24 September.

Injection Projects WG: As the Bureau was advised on 3 September, UNECE was recently invited to comment on the SPE's Storage Resources Management System Guidelines. Karin Ask, Chair of the EGRM Injection Projects Working Group, coordinated the review for EGRM and organised for two members of her WG to comment – Karin helped to write the SRMS Guidelines, so it was not appropriate for her to comment on them. A detailed set of comments was submitted by UNECE on 10 September.

Chair of Social & Environmental WG: The Bureau was advised on 6 August that Dave Elliott was stepping down as Chair of the SECWG and that Jim Jenkins and Claudio Virues had been nominated as Co-Chairs. There were no objections received from the Bureau, and both were confirmed as the co-chairs of the SEC WG on 1 September. Both are settling into their new roles.

Groundwater WG: The WG is continuing its work and will have a call on 17 September.

UNFC Resource Specifications – Task Force review and WG updates: The UNFC resource specifications should be updated (by Working Groups) following the UNFC 2019

update. This opportunity can be utilised to review the existing and draft UNFC Resource Specifications to identify any inconsistencies and to make recommendations on how to achieve consistency with the UNFC Update 2019 and between individual resource Specifications.

To undertake the second task, the TAG proposed forming a Task Force (TF) to review and make recommendations, and this was supported by the Bureau at its last call. The Task Force is now established and held its first meeting on 4 September. A strong TF team has been assembled. There are 11 members, representing most of the Working Groups and sectors. Work has begun on reviewing the current UNFC resource specifications, and the TF intends to make recommendations on updating these for consistency. It will also consider which concepts and terms should be defined in a common glossary or in resource-specific texts and glossaries. There has also been discussion within the TAG of the need for a common glossary. This is viewed as challenging but important for the effectiveness of UNFC and UNRMS.

29. The Chair thanked the TAG and all the WGs for their ongoing efforts and work and in particular during the COVID-19 period, which has been particularly challenging and continues to be. The Chair thanked Alistair Jones for taking the initiative to set up the Review TF and for generating such good interest from all the WGs.

Item 11. EGRM-12

30. The dates for EGRM-12 are 26-30 April 2021. The meeting will be held as part of the UNECE Resource Management Week 2021. Due to the Strategic Heritage Plan at the UN in Geneva and repercussions from COVID continuing, there is a need to plan on only having two 2-hour sessions per day and perhaps having to organise a week of meetings that could be held 100% virtually.

31. The Chair asked the Bureau members whether they are in favour of a series of webinars being held again next year. He also requested the Bureau to help organise and run them since they involve a fair amount of work. Members were in general agreement that webinars are good to popularise the use of UNFC, and are especially good for newcomers. Such webinars could be organised in association with partners such as the European Energy Alliance. Simultaneous interpretation possibilities could be explored with the support of external partners. Viktor Babashev informed that Kazakhstan is discussing bridging the petroleum system to UNFC, but no official decision has been taken.

32. The Chair noted that the secretariat needs to prepare the official documents forecast for EGRM-12 for submission by end-September. These are the parliamentary documents that are translated into French and Russian if they are less than 10,700 words. The proposed list of documents are:

1. Draft agenda
2. Report
3. Report on Commercial Assessments
4. Application of UNFC and UNRMS to furthering sustainable development
5. Redefining resource management as a public good: United Nations Resource Management System as a transition vehicle to the circular economy.
6. Draft UNFC Petroleum specifications and guidelines

7. Draft UNFC Mineral specifications and guidelines
8. Draft UNFC Groundwater specifications/report
9. Draft UNFC Nuclear Fuel Resource specifications
10. Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy
11. Draft UNRMS structure and guidelines
12. Women in resource management report?
13. Hydro case studies [3]
14. Case study [Kuwait]
15. Case study [Wind]
16. Case study

33. The Chair reminded members that all official documents need to have a mandate, i.e. they need to have been included in the EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021. All the WG Chairs will be asked if their WG has a document that needs to be submitted to EGRM-12. Gioia Falcone asked if the hydro and wind case studies that have been developed could be published as an EGRM-12 document or a UNECE publication. The secretariat indicated that either of these options should be possible.

34. Alistair Jones shared his view that it would be valuable to have a discussion on what is required in order to further implementation of UNFC and UNRMS and to promote sustainable development. There should be promotion of some deliberate actions. Our aim should be not only to produce documents. We should have a plan with goals related to implementation and changes in the way resources are managed, and impacts reported. Members supported this view and noted that case studies are essential in this respect, in particular a field case study from a country based on a range of resources and their optimal use to attain sustainable development. Tunde Arisekola advised that he would see whether such a case study might be possible in an African country. It was also observed that UNRMS will be an essential framework that should support the implementation of sustainable resource management.

Item 8. 29th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 November

35. The Chair advised that an annual update on EGRM activities would need to be delivered to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) when it meets 25-27 November. Depending on the outcome of EGRM-11, the Committee will be requested to approve or discuss the following:

- Draft text for the update of the ECOSOC Decision 2004/233
- Recommendations from EGRM on Pathways to Sustainable Energy
- ICE-SRMs plans and status.

36. The Chair advised that he participated in the CSE Bureau call on 7 September. The CSE Bureau Chair and members are very positive about the work of EGRM. One of the CSE Bureau agenda items related to the ECE Commission Session to be held the week of 19 April 2021 (this is the week before EGRM-12) and messages to be sent from CSE to the Commission. The theme of the Commission Session in 2021 is the Circular Economy and Sustainable Use of Resources. One of the proposed messages that the CSE Bureau discussed was on Sustainable Resource Management. The proposal had two key requests for the Commission to the CSE:

- to request the Committee on Sustainable Energy to undertake dissemination, education and research, consultation, and engagement among stakeholders on UNRMS.
- to request the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in collaboration with the other UNECE sectoral committees, to support member States in implementing a nexus approach to sustainable resource management and developing and deploying UNRMS as a tool-kit to future-proof resource management from elevated uncertainties and threats arising from climate change, natural disasters such as floods and forest fires and pandemics like COVID-19.

Item 12. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020 as at 8 September 2020

37. The list of meetings promoting UNFC in 2020 was circulated with the documentation for the call. Due to COVID-19, many of the events planned this year have been cancelled or postponed.

Item 13. Date of next Bureau Call

38. The next Bureau call will be organised during the weeks of 26 October or 2 November. The usual doodle poll will be circulated.

Item 14. Any other business

39. It was noted that Hari Tulsidas has been hired temporarily at UNECE against the UNFC-UNRMS project funded by the European Commission.

49. No other business was discussed.
