

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

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Harikrishnan Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) 9 February 2021 MINUTES
---

Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation <i>Alternates Olga Trofimova and Ekaterina Lovchuk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol, IEA <i>Alternate tbc</i>	<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>Alternate Gerardo Herrera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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, China <i>Alternate YANG Hua</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
TBC, 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 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"/>

The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, joined the meeting for items 5, 6 and 7.

## Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Remembering Paul Msoma
3. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 16 December 2020 (attachment 2)
4. Bureau issues
5. EGRM-12
  - Documents
  - EGRM-12 Provisional Agenda (attachment 3)
  - EGRM Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023 (attachment 4)
  - Draft UNFC Petroleum specifications
  - Draft UNFC Minerals specifications
  - Draft UNFC Groundwater specifications
  - UNFC Nuclear Projects specifications
  - Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy – Concept Note
  - UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments – Draft Introductory Guidance
  - Room documents
6. EGRM Vision
7. UN High-level Roundtable on Extractive Industries for UNECE Region
8. UK Wilton Park virtual dialogue on Critical minerals trade and regulation
9. Technical Advisory Group Update
10. Competent Assessment and Reporting
11. ICE-SRMs and Extrabudgetary Projects
12. IFRS Foundation and global sustainability reporting
13. CRIRISCO Template – UNFC Bridging Document Update
14. Project Proposal "Socially Active and Favoured Environmental and Economic design for Mines Including Net-zero Emphasis: SAFEE-MINE" under UKRI/NERC call on Sustainable Mineral Resources in the Philippines
15. Education and outreach (attachment 5)
16. Date of next call
17. Any other business

## Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 9 February 2021
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 16 December 2020
3. EGRM-12 Provisional Agenda
4. EGRM Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023
5. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 4 February 2021

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

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 16 December 2020

2. The agenda was approved.

### **Item 2. Remembering Paul Msoma**

3. The Chair advised that Paul Msoma had very sadly passed away on 18 January in Nairobi due to complications following COVID-19. Paul was a driving force behind the development of the 'UNFC for Africa' initiative and led the work on UNFC-AMREC. He was the interim head of the newly reestablished African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) hosted by the Republic of Guinea as a Specialized Agency of the African Union. Thanks to Paul's foresight and drive, UNFC-AMREC is one of the five work streams of AMDC. He

promoted UNFC-AMREC as a powerful tool to implement the African Mining Vision and usher in a new commodity strategy for Africa to integrate its minerals, energy, and agricultural sectors. The thoughts of the Bureau are with Paul's family and friends at this tragic time. The Chair advised that a fitting remembrance for Paul would be held at the EGRM-12 meeting in April.

4. In a moving intervention, Tunde shared that Paul was in the process of reestablishing AMDC in the Republic of Guinea, with UNFC-AMREC as one of the five pillars of its workstream. Paul was only 44 years old. Africa and EGRM have lost a champion. Paul's passion, humanity, vision, experience and expertise will be greatly missed by all. AUC will appoint a replacement at AMDC for Paul in a couple of weeks.

**Item 3. Draft minutes of call on 16 December 2020**

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 16 December 2020

5. The draft minutes were approved.

**Item 4. Bureau Issues**

6. The Bureau was reminded that Bureau elections will be held at EGRM-12 in April. A note was circulated to UNECE member States on 19 January advising of the upcoming elections and seeking nominations to the EGRM Bureau. This has generated interest from the UK Government. All but Ms. Branka Knežević, Mr. Viktor Babashev, and Mr. Jianhua JU will need to be reelected. The Chair requested Bureau members to advise the secretariat if they wish to stand for reelection.

7. The Chair advised that he would be willing and interested to carry on for another year as Chair due to his changed situation. There was strong support from many Bureau members for Dave continuing as Chair. The Chair's role has become increasingly time-consuming given all the different EGRM work streams, the number of events on UNFC and the Chair's position as a member of the Committee on Sustainable Energy Bureau. The Bureau agreed that it would be sensible for the Bureau to put together a strategy or succession plan for the Bureau to be shared and discussed with EGRM.

8. The Chair observed that EGRM now have a vast number of working groups for the Bureau to oversee and guide. The TAG is doing an excellent job to coordinate and work with them. However, as work progresses to update specifications, plan whether or not for a substantive update of UNFC, develop UNRMS, establish and oversee the ICE-SRMs, a good interface is needed with the Bureau and each of the WGs. This is a lot for TAG and Alistair to handle. It was proposed that each Bureau member be assigned a WG to liaise with. Alistair noted the significant workload involved in reviewing documents and the challenges to secure independent reviewers. A number of members proposed which WGs they would be willing to liaise with.

9. Roberto Sarudiansky advised that he will step down from the Bureau at the end of EGRM-12. He proposed an OLAMI nominee to represent the Central and Latin America region on the Bureau. A representative from Colombia or Mexico was also proposed.

## **Item 5. EGRM-12**

Documentation: EGRM-12 Draft Provisional Agenda (Attachment 3)  
EGRM Draft Work Plan for 2022-2023 (Attachment 4)

10. The Chair provided a brief overview of the preparations for EGRM-12.
11. EGRM-12 provisional agenda: An outline of the draft provisional agenda was discussed in the previous Bureau call on 16 December 2020. A draft of the annotated agenda was circulated to the Bureau and Chairs of all WGs on 29 January 2021 with a request for feedback by 3 February 2021. The final version of the provisional agenda circulated on 8 February includes the Bureau's suggestions and feedback and all WGs. A slightly modified version of the agenda was submitted on 9 February as a parliamentary document for EGRM-12.
12. Draft EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023: The draft work plan was discussed in the Bureau call of 16 December. A revised document was circulated to the Bureau and the Chairs of all WGs on 29 January for feedback by 4 February. The feedback and suggestions received have been included to the extent possible in the version circulated to the Bureau on 8 February. Additional comments received will also be accommodated where possible.
13. Mandate and ToR of EGRM: Changes to the mandate and ToR for EGRM are not possible for now. The Work Plan for 2022-2023 is very ambitious. The representative from Portugal commented that there is a need to move forward with greater speed in implementing UNFC and UNRMS, especially in demonstrating their effectiveness through case studies. The TAG Chair commented that EGRM should assess whether the Work Plan reflects the vision and strategy of EGRM, and what needs to be achieved and when. Work plan deliverables should be linked to the vision and strategy. The Chair commented that, following discussion at EGRM-12, the draft work plan will be revised as necessary and then submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for review and approval at its 30th Session, 22-24 September. This means there is still time to propose revisions for consideration at EGRM-12.
14. The Bureau was sent a request on 29 January to approve the TAG recommendation that the draft UNFC Minerals specifications, the draft UNFC Groundwater specifications and the draft UNFC Nuclear Projects specifications be issued as parliamentary documents for translation. No objections were raised by Bureau members. The draft UNFC Petroleum specifications will also be submitted – the Bureau previously approved the TAG recommendation for this. It was noted that there is now some internal work to be done to harmonize the four documents.
15. The outstanding document that was planned to be translated is the Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy – Concept Note. The TAG is just completing its review and will recommend a number of significant changes, so it is now likely to be submitted in English only. There are other parliamentary documents, but these will be issued in English only.

## **Item 6. EGRM Vision**

16. The Chair advised that, as discussed and agreed upon in the Bureau Call of 12 November 2020, EGRM could add more value to the attainment of the SDGs by providing guidance and advice on how to thoroughly evaluate resource-based projects, looking not just

at quantities but also at the environmental and social footprint. Noting that the development of UNRMS as the multi-resource toolkit for integrated and sustainable development of all resources has started, it was proposed that this is the right moment for EGRM to formalize a vision statement.

17. UNFC and UNRMS could bring about a new approach to resource classification and management with sustainability and integration at their core. This means the systems should support:

- governments in attaining SDGs
- companies in ensuring their business models are also aligned to attaining SDGs
- financial institutions and investors identify sustainable options and ESG-focussed portfolios for investments.

18. The initial starting point for the vision statement could be:

*Using the convening power of the United Nations (UN), we are the preeminent source of standards for the integrated, circular and sustainable resource management needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

19. EGRM values could be the 4 "i" s:

- Integrity - to find the best solution possible
- Innovation – tools and products EGRM produces must bring added value
- Inclusivity - of our diverse stakeholder community
- Initiative and enthusiasm - respect for people's ideas, beliefs, home-life and time.

20. A small subgroup has been set up to formulate the vision statement. Members who agreed to support this work are noted below. Gioia Falcone is considering whether or not to participate in the subgroup.

- EGRM Chair
- Tunde Arisekola
- Frank Denelle
- Julian Hilton
- Erika Ingvald
- Alistair Jones
- Jennifer McCoy
- Teresa Ponce de Leão
- Igor Shpurov
- Jeremy Webb

21. The Chair noted that the vision statement would provide the basis for collaboration with partners such as IRP, IFRS, and other standards and tools. The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division observed that assuring resources for realizing the 2030 Agenda is a high priority. It would be useful if UNRMS could provide the higher-level principles, which could help deal with investment, environmental assessments, the social contract, and prepare future pathways. A number of Bureau members supported that the financial aspects are important and banks are already moving to ESG-focused investments. The representative of Kazakhstan shared that environmental aspects are also important and implementing UNFC and UNRMS should attract a specific focus. The representative of Nigeria observed that

UNFC-AMREC is being implemented within the context of SDGs, AMV and the African Agenda 2063.

22. The Chair advised that the subgroup will prepare an English-only parliamentary document for presentation and discussion at EGRM-12.

#### **Item 7. UN High-level Roundtable on Extractive Industries for UNECE Region**

23. A high-level roundtable "Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development in the UNECE region" was held virtually on 20 January. This roundtable is part of the roundtables being held in all regions under the guidance of the UN Deputy-Secretary General and the UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda. The UN Secretary-General is organizing a final global roundtable in April. This is referenced in the EGRM-12 agenda.

24. The Director, Sustainable Energy Division, provided further details. The UNECE roundtable benefited from the participation of several high-level speakers, including:

- UN Deputy Secretary-General
- UNECE Executive Secretary
- Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Financing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Dr. Danilo Türk, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia
- Commissioner Mairead McGuinness, European Commission
- Emil Högberg, State Secretary to the Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Sweden
- Petri Peltonen, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Employment, Finland.

25. EGRM representatives participated in the panels on developmental financing, innovation and value-addition, and socio-environmental sustainability.

26. The primary outcome of the roundtable was a suggested UN action plan for securing sustainable resources for the future, including:

- (i) Social Contract: a comprehensive Socio-Environmental-Economic Contract to Operate that integrates quality of life, just transition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental stewardship.
- (ii) Sustainable Finance Principles: ESG-focused funding based on a common sustainable finance taxonomy.
- (iii) Sustainable Resource Management System: A shared principles-based, integrated, Sustainable Resource Management Framework as per UNRMS under development.
- (iv) Supply Chain Traceability: Stakeholders can develop a comprehensive framework for traceability, transparency, and sustainability in supply chains.
- (v) Strategic environmental assessment - An essential component of ESG governance for extractive industries.

27. The Director added that a Global Roundtable on Extractive Industries is being planned in April, which could be a part of EGRM-12. The outcomes of this roundtable could contribute to the High-level UN Summit of Energy in September 2021. The representative of the Russian Federation observed that the 2030 Agenda and the Paris agreement call for developing both traditional and non-traditional energy sources and resources. The

representative of Portugal noted that the event was significant and helped to focus on the need to accelerate EGRM's activities.

#### **Item 8. UK Wilton Park virtual dialogue on Critical minerals trade and regulation**

28. A virtual dialogue on 'Critical minerals trade and regulation' was held 1-4 February in partnership with the UK Cabinet Office and the UK Department of International Trade. Lord Sedwill, the UK Prime Minister's G7 Envoy on Economic Resilience and G7 Economic Resilience Committee Chair, opened and closed the conference. Government officials from the UK and several other countries, including the EU, participated in the 4-day meeting. There was extensive participation from industry and academia. The outcome of the meeting will feed into the G7 process. The Director, Sustainable Energy Division, provided a keynote address, and the EGRM Chair and the secretariat participated in the discussions. Representatives from EC DG GROW also participated.

29. The meeting discussed the growing demand for critical raw materials (CRMs) and issues of concentrated supply. Most of the CRMs are produced as co- or by-products of mining. Even though recycling could satisfy some demand, 80% of the near and medium-term should come from primary mining. The expanding demand for resources makes the patterns of consumption entirely unsustainable. We proposed a global framework for sustainable resource management based on UNRMS, which is under development to be embraced as a global resource efficiency answer. The "Resource as a Service" model was also proposed. It was supported enthusiastically by the government and industry participants as an innovative proposal to move away from the current commodity-based model, which supports linearity and has built-in impediments for resource efficiency. Peter Handley, who provided a keynote address, also requested the meeting to consider UNECE's proposals.

#### **Item 9. Technical Advisory Group update**

30. The Chair of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) provided an update on TAG activities. Four sectoral specifications are under active development. Four sectoral specifications were prepared and submitted for EGRM-12:

- Groundwater WG: Draft specifications were completed and reviewed by TAG.
- Minerals WG: Draft specifications were completed and reviewed by TAG.
- Nuclear Fuel Resources WG: Draft specifications were completed and reviewed by TAG.
- Petroleum WG: Draft specifications were completed and reviewed by TAG last year. The public comment period has recently closed.

31. In addition to these specifications, other TAG work is progressing well:

- Renewables WG. The TAG has reviewed the draft document on the Application of the UNFC to Renewable Energy Concept Note. TAG is recommended changes before submission as a parliamentary document for EGRM-12
- Commercial WG. A document on introductory guidance for commercial assessments was reviewed by TAG.
- Social & Environmental WG. The draft guidance document has been reviewed by TAG.
- UNFC Resource Specifications – TF review and WG updates: The Task Force report and recommendations was shared with the Bureau at the end of Dec and approved.

Implementation of the recommendations is in progress. Work has been initiated on piloting updates of the Anthropogenic and Geothermal Specifications and developing the Common Glossary, of which a draft was presented in the report.

- Draft Provisional Agenda for EGRM-12: TAG and all WGs provided feedback on the draft.
- EGRM Work Plan 2022–2023: TAG and all WGs provided feedback on the draft.

32. The Chair thanked the TAG and all the Working Groups for their ongoing efforts and work.

### **Item 10. Competent Assessment and Reporting**

33. The Competent Person Task Force had a call on 5 February. Some of the issues discussed included:

- The need to be ESG-focused on competency requirements. Rather than focus on a person, focus on what is required for producing a competent assessment.
- Issues that need to be resolved if a government or financial entity (such as IFRS) wants to use UNFC for financial reporting. What kind of competency requirements would this entail?
- Clarifications on Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist and Professional Geoscientist registrations are required in a number of countries. These registrations are required for working in the industry in a particular country/province (and, by extension, could also imply requirements for financial reporting). But these are not, per se, equivalent to a Competent Person which is mostly a self-declared affirmation.
- Merging the two EGRM guidance documents (i) on Evaluator qualifications and (ii) on Competent Person Requirements.

34. It was highlighted that competency is a significant issue for Africa. The African PARC is based on UNFC and has a lot of flexibility and should be appropriate for Africa. It was also raised that a key problem is that the international community does not recognize local engineers. This is one of the reasons that Kazakhstan considers UNFC is an optimal system. This is necessary to build trust with financial institutions, experience and responsibility. The Russian representatives noted the need for competent persons and that this should be a significant area of focus and responsibility of ICE-SRMs.

35. The Chair observed that EGRM provides tools for people to develop their own systems, for example PARC in Africa. A competent assessment may hence be more critical in the future. It is not the role of EGRM or UN to certify individuals, that is rather the role of national or professional bodies. There was discussion on whether an ICE-SRM could certify individuals should it choose to do so noting that the EGRM guidelines offer valuable support.

### **Item 11. ICE-SRMs and Extrabudgetary Projects**

36. An update was provided on progress to set up the ICE-SRM Moscow. Moscow State University (MSU) and the Eurasian Union on Expert on Sub-soil have provided a letter of support to UNECE. The new centre will be established at Moscow State University. The proposal needs to be approved by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). All the necessary documents are being assembled for submission to EXCOM.



## **Item 12. IFRS Foundation and global sustainability reporting**

37. In the context of its five-yearly strategy review, the IFRS Foundation published a consultation paper on Sustainability Reporting to determine:

- whether there is a need for global sustainability standards;
- whether the IFRS Foundation should play a role; and
- what the scope of that role could be.

38. EGRM under the auspices of the Commercial Assessment WG provided feedback supporting the need for sustainability reporting. The response was submitted by "UNECE" and is posted as entry number 525 "UNECE" on page 11. All responses to the consultation paper are publicly available. The Trustees of the IFRS Foundation met on 1 February 2021 to review responses. They found that the responses indicate a growing and urgent demand to improve the global consistency and comparability in sustainability reporting and strong recognition that urgent steps need to be taken, and broad demand for the IFRS Foundation to play a role in this.

39. The Trustees will next meet on 2-4 March. The intention would be for the Trustees to produce a definitive proposal (including a road map with timeline) by the end of September 2021, and possibly leading to an announcement on the establishment of a sustainability standards board at the meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November 2021. The Trustees have also agreed to undertake a further detailed analysis of feedback on the requirements for success and other conditions to be satisfied before considering whether to establish a new board. The Trustees agreed on forming a Trustee Steering Committee to oversee the next phases of work and added a vital requirement for success—the need for urgency in delivering global standards, most notably on climate.

40. The Chair thanked the Commercial Applications WG for its active engagement on this topic.

## **Item 13. CRIRSCO Template – UNFC Bridging Document Update**

41. Edward Sides of PERC advised the secretariat on 2 February that he and the CRIRSCO representative are reviewing the CRIRSCO bridging document and developing an update for approval by EGRM-12. The document will require TAG review and Bureau approval. This could be introduced as a room document for EGRM-12. If no substantial update of the BD is foreseen, it could be approved after EGRM-12 for uploading on the UNFC website. It was anticipated that if any changes are needed they would not be significant. A draft will be provided to TAG soon for review.

## **Item 14. Project Proposal "Socially Active and Favoured Environmental and Economic design for Mines Including Net-zero Emphasis: SAFEE-MINE" under UKRI/NERC call on Sustainable Mineral Resources in the Philippines**

42. A project proposal on "Socially Active and Favoured Environmental and Economic design for Mines Including Net-zero Emphasis: SAFEE-MINE" was submitted by the representative of IGA. UNECE provided a letter of support for the project and indicated an in-kind contribution to the project should it be approved, including mining best practices and

presenting the project at EGRM-12. CCOP also provided a letter of support and sees linkages between the project and its plans to establish an ICE-SRM.

**Item 15. Education and outreach**

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 4 February 2021

43. The list of meetings promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 was circulated with the call's documentation. Key upcoming events are:

- UNECE Commission 69th Session 19-21 April with its focus on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources
- EGRM-12 26-30 April

44. A number of UNFC webinars are being planned and details will be circulated when available. The representative of IGA shared that a proposal is being prepared for participation during COP26 in Glasgow. UNFC-AMREC will be presented at the Nigerian Geological Mining Conference, 14-19 March. The Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas (CAMMA) will be hosted by Brazil in June. The annual Tyumen Oil and Gas Forum will be held in September. A workshop on the ICE-SRM Moscow is being planned as part of the Forum.

**Item 16. Date of next Bureau Call**

45. The next Bureau call could be held during the weeks of 15 or 22 March to discuss and finalize the preparations for EGRM-12. The usual availability poll will be circulated.

**Item 17. Any other business**

46. In Hungary, the Implementation Government Decree of the Mining Act was updated in December with an enclosure on harmonization of national classification/reporting of minerals with the CRIRSCO concept and UNFC. This will contribute to the full harmonization of mineral datasets with UNFC. The work and support of EGRM, EuroGeoSurveys and the Mining and Geological Survey of Hungary (MBFSZ) all contributed to this outcome. The Chair thanked the representative of EuroGeoSurveys for his active involvement and support..

\*\*\*\*\*