

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

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths, Slavko Solar and Hari Tulsidas

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)
Geneva, Switzerland, 15:00 CEST, 7 September 2021

MINUTES

Attendance:

	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 (present) and Ekaterina Lovchuk and (present) Marina Kuznetcova (present)		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Cross, Australia	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas (present)		
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JU Jianhua, China (not present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> YANG Hua (present)		
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Dhiti Tulyatid		
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer McCoy, Ernst & Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frank Mugyeyni, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<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



Slavko Solar, UNECE



Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of Bureau and WG Chairs call of 23 June and Bureau call of 19 July (attachments 2 & 3)
3. EGRM vision and mission (attachment 4)
4. EGRM way forward (attachment 5)
5. UNRMS Sub-group update (attachment 6)
6. Technical Advisory Group Update (attachments 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11)
7. EGRM-13 (attachment 12)
8. UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 including Committee on Sustainable Energy 30th Session, 20-24 September 2021
9. Status of ICE-SRMs
10. UNFC-AMREC and PARC update
11. EGRM focal point for SPE OGRC
12. UNFC Europe
13. Education and outreach (attachment 13)
14. Date of next call
15. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 7 September 2021
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 23 June 2021
3. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 19 July 2021
4. EGRM Vision and Mission rev version
6. UNRMS Sub-group ToR draft of 2 September 2021
7. UNFC Supplemental Specifications for Petroleum
8. UNFC Supplemental Specifications for Minerals
9. TAG final review of UNFC Minerals Supplementary Specifications
10. CV of Hendrik Falck (proposed Co-Chair of Minerals WG)
11. CV of Aaron Johnson (proposed Co-Chair of Minerals WG)
12. EGRM-13 list of parliamentary documents v1
13. Update on EU Project (2020-2024)
14. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 1 September 2021
15. AOB

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 7 September 2021

1. The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of Bureau and WG Chairs call of 23 June and Bureau call of 19 July

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 23 June 2021 and 19 July 2021

2. The draft minutes of the Bureau calls of 23 June and 19 July were approved.

Item 3. EGRM vision and mission

Documentation: EGRM Vision and Mission revised version

3. The revised draft EGRM Vision and Mission Statement were included with the documentation for the call. Karen Hanghoj and Maria Capello revised the EGRM vision statement to make it more forward-looking. Current text is:

Vision (Where we want to go): Universal access to equitable, safe, secure, and environmentally responsible supply of natural resources for sustainable development with a circular economy approach.

Mission (how we get there): Using the convening power of the United Nations, we support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing and facilitating use of a universal information framework for integrated, circular and sustainable resource management.

4. Bureau members were requested to provide feedback by 21 September to Karen and Maria to close this document. Maria offered to provide technical support.

Item 4. EGRM way forward

Documentation: EGRM Way Forward Non-Paper

5. A short note on possible ways to make the EGRM Bureau and Working Group structure function more effectively was circulated with the documentation for the call. The intention was to start discussions on finding an optimal work structure to meet increased expectations regarding the two main resource management fields of EGRM: UNFC and UNRMS. It was noted that an updated ECOSOC Decision on UNFC was recently approved. Both UNFC and UNRMS feature in the UN Secretary-General's policy brief call for action for the extractive industries. Several Member States have expressed commitments to establish ICE-SRMs.

6. UNFC and UNRMS will need to be developed and maintained by independent and committed volunteer experts as per any other UN standard. There is also a need to make the efforts genuinely global, including engagement with the other 4 UN regional commissions and UN organizations. The UN Working Group on Extractive Industries, to be set up by the UN Secretary-General, will be a platform for this collaboration.

7. While the European Commission's funding is acknowledged with appreciation, the sheer scale of the work, capacity-building, coordination and outreach to be done by EGRM and the Secretariat is such that the level of extrabudgetary funding needs to be increased considerably. The UNECE Secretariat needs to be strengthened to deliver on the ambitious goals. The number of official documents for EGRM meetings has also been increasing. It is a significant burden on the TAG and Bureau to review and approve the documents.

8. The zero draft concept note proposes the following changes:

- Implementation of UNFC as a reporting framework for comparing resources and development of UMRMS as an overarching concept.
- Focused activities of countries at the core with all interested stakeholders (government, industry, academia, research, consultancy ...) working together.

- Flexible structure with a significantly reduced number of Working Groups (or preferably Stakeholder groups) supported by a Multi-Stakeholder Team (or “scrum”) approach that would be called up on an ad hoc basis to address issues as they arise, networks, Centres of Excellence, etc.
9. The Chair delivered a presentation with some proposed modest. In the ensuing discussions, a range of comments were shared including:
- Is the funding for the activities and vision of EGRM realistic?
 - EGRM being nested in UNECE makes global participation challenging. Should a new “home in the UN be considered?
 - The work needs to be organized as projects and sub-groups to support the activities. A lot of work should be taken up as extrabudgetary projects.
 - Having a limited number of “permanent” stakeholder or working groups has advantages and provides stability.
 - There is increasing interest from companies, governments, ministries, social and environmental activities to apply UNFC and UNRMS.
 - Look at the model of IRP and EIP to see what might be copied. The EIP has 200 experts organized into 5 groups, which are flexible and balanced.
 - Closer collaboration between the TAG and ICE-SRMs is needed.
 - Establishing a TAG on a regional basis, such as TAG Europe, TAG Eurasia.
 - The “voluntary support from experts” model may not work anymore. The timing might be right to expand EGRM activities as industry and financial stakeholders are keen to change. The WGs have a defined scope so keeping them could be beneficial.
 - Should not lose the momentum and visibility gained recently. Delivering on the SDGs is the critical focus of the WGs. Member State support needs visibility, and IEA, IRENA, IPCC etc need to be including in the discussions to bring in international dimensions. Case studies are essential, and they are vital for communicating the benefits of UNFC and UNRMS. WGs and task forces support the activities so any new approach would need to ensure this continues. International cooperation is essential.
 - Lines of communication for the WGs should come from the TAG and not the Bureau. Cross communication could raise challenges and the risk of losing participation of many experts. TAG can call on additional experts whenever possible. Cross communication between WGs should be encouraged.
 - A simple yet comprehensive structure is needed. Outreach, integration (cross-cutting activities) are essential.
10. The Chair clarified that UNECE has a broader mandate on many aspects, not just resource management. Some of the broader UNECE activities could support the EGRM’s work. Establishment of “communities of practice” could be a model to support our activities.
11. The Secretariat should collect inputs from Bureau members and the TAG. Bureau members are requested to provide their ideas/comments to the note to the Secretariat by cob 27 September.

Item 5. UNRMS Sub-group update

Documentation: UNRMS Sub-group ToR draft of 2 September 2021

12. The Chair of the UNRMS Sub-group provided an update on the UNRMS sub-group activities. The UNRMS sub-group ToR, which was circulated, provides the vision and

mission. The first UNRMS workshop was held on 5 August 2021. Several members of the Bureau, TAG and WGs, participated in the discussions. The workshop provided

- an overview of UNFCS principles
- requirements
- suggested case studies.

13. A brief overview of the Workshop on 5 August was provided. Opening comments were delivered by the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division. Presentations were provided by Teresa, Hari, Sigurd, Julian, and Satinder. Proposed proof-of-concept studies included:

- African Union/AMREC, Bob Felix Ocitti, Anna Nguno, AMREC WG
- UK, Frances Wall, UNRMS Sub-group
- USA, Green Steel project, James Kennedy, John Kutsch, ThREE Consulting
- China, Yang Hua, UNRMS Sub-group
- México, Ulises Neri, México
- CRM Subgroup for case studies, Alessandra Hool, ESM Foundation
- Blockchain, Nathan Williams, MineSpider
- Grant Wach – CCS

14. The UNRMS Sub-group is planning to launch teams on specific essential topics, including the analysis to the survey, dissemination and communication

- Compilation of case studies
- Quality of data
- Critical raw materials.

15. The CRIRSCO representative questioned whether the sub-group should have its own vision and mission. The Chair clarified that every WG should have its vision and mission statements if possible. Bureau members were asked to provide any comments on the ToR by cob 21 September.

Item 6. Technical Advisory Group Update

Documentation: UNFC Supplemental Specifications for Petroleum; UNFC Supplemental Specifications for Minerals; TAG final review of UNFC Minerals Supplementary Specifications; CV of Hendrik Falck (proposed Co-Chair of Minerals WG); CV of Aaron Johnson (proposed Co-Chair of Minerals WG)

16. The call for nominations for a new TAG Chair/Co-chairs has been circulated nominations, and expressions of interest are being received. Because of the workload of the TAG, consideration could be given to appointing 2 or 3 Co-Chairs.

17. Johann Gotsis, the Chair of Minerals WG, has expressed his wish to step down. Johann will continue as an active member of MWG. Johann was thanked for the hard work and time he has dedicated to this role, especially in finalizing the UNFC minerals specification document, which is a significant achievement. Hendrik Falck and Aaron Johnson, two active MWG members from its inception, have volunteered to take over as Co-chairs of MWG. Hendrik is from the Northwest Territories Geological Survey, Canada. Aaron is the Executive Director of the American Institute of Professional Geologists. Both bring valuable expertise on resource management to EGRM. The respective bios were circulated with the

documentation of the call. The Bureau approved Hendrick and Aaron as Co-Chairs of the Minerals WG.

18. The proposed changes to the UNFC Petroleum specifications were discussed in the call of 23 June. PWG has finalized the document in line with the feedback from the Bureau. The final text that will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 30th session (22-24 September) for review and endorsement was circulated with the documentation for the call.

19. The UNFC Mineral specifications have been finalized, taking into account the public comments received and the TAG review. The final text that will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 30th session for review and endorsement was circulated with the documentation for the call.

20. The Chair noted the issues with the MWG on QA/QC. The EFG representative advised that the MWG will revert to TAG with acceptable text regarding competency. A Bureau member noted that regulatory requirements will need a system to avoid the risk of fraud/mistakes since multiple people are involved.

21. A parliamentary document, "Overview of Benefits and Challenges for Governments applying UNFC to Renewable Energy Projects and Resources", was prepared jointly by the RE WG and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) for the GERE meeting on 6-7 October. The RE WG is organizing a panel on the application of UNFC to renewables during the GERE meeting. Progress has been made by the International Geothermal Association (IGA) UNFC Ad Hoc Committee to update the geothermal specifications. The goal is to finalize the main text in the autumn. The Ad Hoc Committee is looking at some practical (notional) examples and decision trees. Kyle Richford, Gioia's PhD student, has made good progress on the case study document for Wind Specifications. The case study now needs to be reviewed from a technical standpoint.

22. The Nuclear WG is active in contributing to the work of the Carbon Neutrality project, especially on modelling resource use in the full life-cycle assessment. The Groundwater WG is progressing with the testing and finalization of the draft UNFC groundwater specifications. The Commercial Applications WG contributed to the UNRMS workshop on 5 August. The Women in Resource Management WG contributed to the EGRM Vision statement and UNRMS development, especially on issues around circular economy. Work is continuing on the Common Glossary, which is being led by Sigurd Heiberg.

23. TAG has reviewed the China Minerals and Petroleum Bridging Documents and provided comments. MNR is currently looking at the suggestions.

Item 7. EGRM-13

Documentation: EGRM-13 list of parliamentary documents v1

24. The Chair advised that the following 14 documents are proposed, with many case studies. Case studies are encouraged as this shows the uptake of UNFC and UNRMS globally.

1. Agenda
2. Report

3. UNRMS document
4. UNRMS guidelines concept on productivity (GTK Finland TBC)
5. UNFC petroleum social and environmental guidelines (initial draft to be finalized)
6. UNFC Petroleum CBM guidelines (under preparation)
7. UNFC Commercial Guidance
8. UNFC/UNRMS SDG concept note
9. Case study (Sweden)
10. Case study (UK)
11. Case study (China)
12. Case study (Mexico)
13. Case study (Africa)
14. UNDA Integrated Energy and Water Project Case studies (under preparation Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)

25. The Chair observed that even though the goal is to keep the number of parliamentary documents manageable, the increase in activities of EGRM necessitates a fair amount of documents. A timeline for development, review and approval of the documents will need to be prepared. The list will also be shared with the Chairs of the Working Groups for comment.

Item 8. UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 including Committee on Sustainable Energy 30th Session, 20-24 September 2021

26. The Committee on Sustainable Energy 30th Session will be held in a hybrid format. The week overview was circulated with the documentation of the call. Two panels where EGRM involvement will be required are:

- 22 September at 5pm CEST - Global Framework for Sustainable Resource Management
- 24 September at midday CEST - Energy and Resources as Services

Item 9. Status of ICE-SRMs

27. The Chair advised that establishment of ICE-SRMs in Russia, Mexico, and China is progressing. Slovenia has also expressed potential interest.

Item 10. UNFC-AMREC and PARC update

28. The Chair noted that UNFC-AMREC and PARC have been formally adopted as the continental systems for Africa by the African Union. The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) Business Plan, which will have AMREC as a dedicated workstream, has also been approved by the African Union. The decisions were made formally on 3 September 2021 by the Specialized Technical Committee of the Ministers of Trade, Industry and Minerals. The Ministers unanimously took the above decisions.

Item 11. EGRM focal point for SPE OGRC

29. Alistair Jones has kindly indicated his willingness to continue as the EGRM focal point to SPE OGRC until the October SPE OGRC meeting. Alex Shpilman, currently a member of the SPE-OGRC, was nominated by SPE in September to be the liaison between the two

organizations. The Bureau agreed to the proposal that Alex Shpilman takeover as the EGRM focal point for SPE. Alistair was thanked for his time and efforts during his time as focal point. Alex was thanked for agreeing to take on the role of focal point.

Item 12. UNFC Europe

30. The European Commission-funded project entitled "Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)", a Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and UNECE, started in August 2020 and has another three years to go. Over the past year, the project largely supported the work of the EGRM Secretariat to strengthen its activities.

Item 13. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 1 September 2021

31. The list of meetings promoting UNFC and UNRMS in 2020-2021 was circulated with the documentation for the call. Gioia Falcone delivered a talk on 'UNFC updates for application to geothermal energy resources' at the First EAGE Online Workshop on Geothermal in Latin America on 27 August 2021.

32. Key upcoming events are:

- Tyumen Oil&Gas Forum Roundtable on "Development of UNRMS for expansion of investment potential of Central Asian and BRICS countries: Main goals and principles", 16 September 2021 (9-1pm CEST)
- 30th Annual Session of the Committee of Sustainable Energy, 22-24 September 2021 – this includes a session on Sustainable Resource Management on 22 September at 5pm CEST and on Energy & Resources as a Service on 24 September at midday CEST
- Group of Experts on Renewable Energy Annual Meeting, 6&7 October 2021, including a session on applying UNFC to RE
- EU Raw Materials Week UNFC Workshop, 19 November 2021

Item 14. Date of next call

33. The weeks of 1 or 8 November were proposed for the next Bureau call. The regular availability message will be issued.

Item 15. Any other business

Platform on Sustainable Finance call for Feedback on Social Taxonomy

34. A call for feedback on a Draft report on Social Taxonomy was made recently by the Platform on Sustainable Finance, which was set up by the European Commission to provide advice on the further development of the EU taxonomy framework.

35. The draft report assesses the merits of a social taxonomy in addition to the environmental taxonomy, and explores possible avenues to complement the existing taxonomy. The report also proposes various objectives and sub-objectives for a social taxonomy, as well as possible approaches for defining “substantial contribution” and “do no significant harm” criteria. Finally, it develops two alternative models for articulating the social taxonomy with the environmental taxonomy.

Input was sought from the Chairs of the Commercial Applications WG and the Social and Environmental Considerations WG on the draft report, This feedback was incorporated into a response from UNECE/EGRM that was submitted on 6 September.

36. No other business was discussed.
