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**Economic Commission for Europe**  
Committee on Sustainable Energy  
**Expert Group on Resource Management**  
**Fourteenth session**  
Geneva, 25-28 April 2023  
Item 13 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations**

## **DRAFT** Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the fourteenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management<sup>1</sup>

### **Agenda item 2: Opening remarks: Assuring sustainability in resource management**

1. The Expert Group noted the growing importance of UNFC and UNRMS in addressing the current challenges in the sustainable development of energy and mineral resources in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Expert Group decided to strengthen the continuous development of (i) UNFC; (ii) UNRMS, and (iii) accelerate the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond.

### **Agenda item 3: Seminar: Deploying the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources in Europe and beyond to assure information for sustainable resource management**

2. The Expert Group noted the increasing deployment of UNFC in Europe and other regions to support sustainable resource management. The Expert Group further noted the inclusion of UNFC in the Critical Raw Materials Act proposed by the European Commission on 16 March 2023. The Expert Group agreed to explore opportunities for further regional and global implementation of UNFC. The Expert Group noted with appreciation ongoing Horizon Europe projects such as Geological Service for Europe (GSEU) and the Future Availability of Secondary Raw Materials (FutuRaM) which focus inter alia on implementation of UNFC.

3. The Expert Group noted best practices for implementing UNFC and UNRMS across different regions and sectors, including the African Minerals and Energy Classification and Management System (AMREC) based on UNFC and UNRMS, and agreed to continue to provide technical support for their implementation and development of case studies and best practices in different regions.

### **Agenda item 4: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management**

4. The Expert Group noted the decision of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to create an ECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems and agreed to support its implementation with a specific focus on critical raw materials and classification and management of hydrogen resources.

5. The Expert Group noted the proposed draft decision of the Commission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), inviting the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide and requested to be updated on any progress.

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<sup>1</sup> These draft conclusions and recommendations were developed by the Bureau of the Expert Group, in cooperation with the Chairs of the Working Groups, and are not intended to prejudice discussions at the fourteenth session, but rather to provide a draft text that will be updated as the meeting progresses.

6. The Expert Group noted the importance of critical raw materials for clean energy technologies and the need to overcome the challenges in their development in Central Asia. The Group recommended focused support for the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS, which could help improve the governance, regulation, diversification and value addition of these resources and foster sub-regional cooperation and integration to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of Central Asia in this sector.

7. The Expert Group is a vital platform for advancing UNFC and UNRMS, which are essential tools for achieving sustainable and integrated development of resources. The Expert Group facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices on how to apply these frameworks to various resource sectors, such as minerals, energy and water. The Expert Group noted that the activities require higher levels of regular and extrabudgetary funding and support from its stakeholders to continue its work and to expand its scope and impact.

8. The Expert Group emphasized that just transition, which aims to ensure social and economic well-being for workers and communities affected by the shift to a low-carbon economy, is essential for sustainable resource management. The Group recommended that just transition should be a key consideration in the further development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group should cooperate with the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and consider organizing a joint discussion at the fifteenth session of the Expert Group in April 2024.

**Agenda item 5: Activities of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development – Towards a new model for global collaboration on critical raw materials**

9. Noting the recommendations presented in the UN Secretary-General's 2021 policy brief on "Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development" and the work plan of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, the Expert Group decided to take the lead in delivering on (i) Partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders; and (ii) developing a toolkit for the sustainable management of critical raw materials. The Expert Group further noted that it will support other activities of the Working Group, including support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) on critical raw materials management and other activities such as scaling-up and replication of good practices and policy advice and technical assistance to stakeholders.

**Agenda item 6: The United Nations Resource Management System: Sustainable Resource Management Transformation Pathway to 2030**

10. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the UNRMS Sub-group and the publication of UNRMS: Principles and Requirements (ECE/ENERGY/144 and ECE Energy Series 74) and the proposed draft decision to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), inviting the application of UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide. The Expert Group agreed to continue development of UNRMS and promote its implementation by Member States, industry, investors and other stakeholders.

11. Noting the roadmap for UNRMS development and implementation, the Expert Group requested the UNRMS Sub-group to develop complementary documentation for operational aspects of UNRMS, such as a clean energy index, service orientation, resource supply system, blockchain and machine learning/artificial intelligence model for resource management, and a critical raw materials dashboard.

12. Recognizing the importance of case studies in demonstrating the effectiveness of UNRMS in sustainable resource management, the Expert Group requested the UNRMS Sub-group to support the development of case studies and best practices.

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**Agenda item 7: Development and Implementation Road Map for the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources: The next five years**

13. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Technical Advisory Group to coordinate and support the activities of the sectoral Working Groups of the Expert Group. The Expert Group approved the roadmap for UNFC-related activities for the next five years in the application of UNFC and UNRMS for the sustainable management of various resources, including mineral, petroleum, renewable energy, nuclear fuel, anthropogenic, groundwater, injection projects, and hydrogen. The Expert Group requested that all the specifications be updated to UNFC (2019) by the Working Groups, reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group and, in the event of substantive changes, approved by the Bureau for submission to the Expert Group. The Expert Group requested the Technical Advisory Group to continue reviewing documents developed by the Working Groups and submit recommendations to the Bureau between annual sessions.

(a) Minerals

14. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the contribution of the Minerals Working Group to the development and deployment of UNFC in Europe, including development of the UNFC Guidance Europe document. The efforts to improve this document will help to ensure the quality of information needed for sustainable resource management. The work to develop guidance presentations, best practices and case studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS, as well as the support given to other UN-wide initiatives, was also noted with appreciation.

(b) Petroleum

15. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Petroleum Working Group. The Expert Group approved the revised Bridging Document between the Petroleum Resources Management System and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2023/4) and requested the secretariat to post it on the website. The Expert Group approved the revised Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2023/5) and requested the secretariat to post it on the website. The Expert Group requested the Working Group to support the development of case studies and best practices on applying UNFC and UNRMS to petroleum resources.

(c) Renewable energy resources

16. The Expert Group appreciated the work of the Renewable Energy Working Group and requested the development of case studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS in cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.

(d) Nuclear fuel resources

17. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group and requested exploring ways to promote the application of UNFC and UNRMS to nuclear fuel resources, including potential collaboration with relevant stakeholders and organizations and sharing best practices and case studies. The Expert Group recommended continuing the collaboration with the ECE Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems to enhance the work on the interplay of technologies and energy resiliency activities. The Expert Group further recommended conducting further research and analysis on the challenges and opportunities of sustainable management of nuclear fuel resources and how UNFC and UNRMS can help address these challenges.

(e) Injection projects

18. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Injection Projects Working Group and requested the finalization of the updated Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects for Geological Storage. The Expert Group recommended developing case studies and exploring new ways to apply UNFC and UNRMS to injection projects, including but not limited to carbon capture and storage, enhanced oil recovery, and waste disposal. The Expert Group requested

the Injection Projects Working Group to collaborate with other relevant Working Groups and organizations to share knowledge and best practices for applying UNFC and UNRMS to injection projects.

(f) Anthropogenic resources

19. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Anthropogenic Resources Working Group and noted the importance of applying UNFC and UNRMS to anthropogenic resources to support the progress towards a more circular economy. The Expert Group recommended developing best practices and case studies using UNFC and UNRMS for anthropogenic resources.

(g) Groundwater resources

20. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Groundwater Resources Working Group and recommended the finalization of the Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater Resources. The Expert Group encouraged the Working Group to continue developing case studies for applying UNFC and UNRMS to groundwater resources. The Expert Group proposed (i) exploring opportunities for collaboration with relevant organizations, including to strengthen links with the hydrogeological community on the benefit of developing and using UNFC and UNRMS for groundwater resources via a dedicated Network under the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), including the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC); and (ii) to enhance the application of UNFC and UNRMS to groundwater resources and to provide technical support to countries in implementing UNFC and UNRMS in managing their groundwater resources.

(h) Social and Environmental Considerations

21. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group and requested continued development of case studies that demonstrate the application of UNFC and UNRMS for environmental, social, and governance considerations. The Expert Group recommended that the Working Group consider the development of guidelines or best practices for integrating environmental, social, and governance considerations into the application of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group recommended that the Working Group explore opportunities for collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as civil society organizations and local communities, to further enhance the social and environmental considerations in resource management.

(i) Commercial aspects and financial reporting

22. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Commercial Applications Working Group, acknowledged the importance of value analyses, fiscal and contractual conditions, capital allocation, financial reporting, and encouraged the Working Group to continue its efforts. The Expert Group also noted the initiative of the Working Group to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group under the Bureau and agreed to this proposal. The Expert Group requested the Working Group to provide further information on the progress of financial regulators and other actors in applying UNFC and UNRMS in their financial reporting frameworks. The Expert Group recommended exploring ways to further enhance cooperation between financial regulators and the Expert Group in using UNFC and UNRMS in financial reporting.

(j) Hydrogen and other potential applications

23. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Hydrogen Task Force, which is a recently established Sub-group of the Bureau, and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding, recommended broadening the application of UNFC and UNRMS to hydrogen projects, as presented in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2023/6. The Expert Group recommended enhanced cooperation with the Groups of Experts on Gas and on Cleaner Electricity Systems to test application of UNFC and UNRMS to hydrogen resources and, if applicable, develop UNFC- and UNRMS-based international hydrogen classification and management standards.

(k) Women in Resource Management

24. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Women in Resource Management Working Group and recommended actions to ensure gender equity and inclusivity in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group encouraged all stakeholders to prioritize gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women in resource management.

(l) Youth

25. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the revised Terms of Reference of the Resource Management Young Member Group. The Expert Group further noted with appreciation the efforts of the Resource Management Young Member Group and encouraged the recruitment of more members to the Group. The Expert Group recommended strengthening the Resource Management Young Member Group's impact on resource management issues and encouraged collaboration with other Working Groups of the Expert Group. In view of the importance of engaging youth in the work of Expert Group and hearing their views, the Expert Group agreed that the Resource Management Young Member Group should become a Working Group of the Expert Group and present its perspectives to the Expert Group annual sessions.

**Agenda item 8: Work plans for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 and strengthening the Expert Group on Resource Management**

26. The Expert Group noted that it had made good progress in implementing its work plan for 2022-2023 despite the challenging situations.

27. The Expert Group reviewed its work plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2023/3) and requested that the modifications agreed at the meeting be incorporated into a revised text for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-second session (Geneva, 13-15 September 2023).

28. The Expert Group noted that the delivery of a number of activities in the 2024-2025 work plan is dependent on the availability of extrabudgetary resources and deemed securing such resources critical for attainment of the Expert Group's objectives. The Expert Group requested the Bureau, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to identify potential sources of funding.

**Agenda item 9: International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and extrabudgetary projects supporting the implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System**

29. The Expert Group noted the importance of establishing International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs) for the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group recommended that a Centre on Sustainable Resource Management (CSRMs) should coordinate the network of ICE-SRMs and support efforts to seek extrabudgetary funding to support activities in this area.

30. The Expert Group noted the update on the European Commission-funded project to support ECE member States in developing and implementing UNFC and UNRMS and encouraged efforts to secure additional extrabudgetary funding.

**Agenda item 10: Election of officers**

31. The Expert Group elected the following experts to the Bureau: as Chair XXX and as Vice-Chairs with effect from the close of the fourteenth session for two years until the close of the sixteenth session: XXXX. Members elected to the Bureau at the thirteenth session in 2022 will continue until the end of the fifteenth session.

32. The Bureau comprises: XXXX.

33. The Chair of the Bureau is a Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy ex-officio.

34. The Co-Chairs of the Technical Advisory Group are ex-officio members of the Bureau.

**Agenda item 11: Other business**

35. Following discussion and careful review and in light of the expanded scope of application of UNFC and the development of UNRMS, the Expert Group agreed that its fifteenth session needs to be held over five days, including an educational and training session on UNFC and UNRMS, but with an option to reduce the total number of days commensurate with the required agenda items. The fifteenth session is currently scheduled to be held in Geneva, 22-26 April 2023.

36. The Expert Group noted that energy and resource resiliency is a priority for the Committee on Sustainable Energy. This cross-cutting issue requires a holistic and integrated approach. Therefore, future sessions of the Expert Group will integrate more with the other Groups of Experts reporting to the Committee to share best practices, identify common challenges and opportunities, and leverage synergies for sustainable resource management. The objective is to start this approach effective the sixteenth session in 2025.

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**Agenda item 12: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

38. The Expert Group adopted the conclusions and recommendations.

**Agenda item 14: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

39. The meeting report was adopted subject to any necessary editing and formatting.

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