



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 February 2024

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Expert Group on Resource Management

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 22-26 April 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 22 April 2024.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks: Reshaping Resource Management – Embracing Challenges, Prospects, and Innovative Solutions.
3. Seminar and Workshops: The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System: A catalyst for transforming raw materials management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (22-23 April 2024).
4. Energizing sustainability: Committee on Sustainable Energy's priorities and resource management matters.
5. Minerals for the energy transition: United Nations Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development.
6. Responsible resource management: Development and deployment of the United Nations Resource Management System.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to register online. Please register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1007096/>. Should you experience difficulties to register online, please send a message to reserves.energy@un.org. Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny entrance to the Palais des Nations. Please see [UN Geneva Guidance on accessing the Palais des Nations](#) (including security information, maps, and information on transportation). Registration is open every working day at the Pass and Identification Unit at the Pregny Gate from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m..

7. Decision support: Development and deployment of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources:
 - (a) Accelerated adoption of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources:
 - (i) Accelerating decision support - Breaking adoption barriers;
 - (ii) Commercial aspects and financial reporting;
 - (iii) Competency in resource management;
 - (iv) Social and environmental considerations;
 - (v) Understanding the G axis;
 - (vi) Women and the protection of human rights in resource management;
 - (vii) Youth.
 - (b) Applications:
 - (i) Minerals;
 - (ii) Petroleum;
 - (iii) Renewable energy resources;
 - (iv) Nuclear fuel resources;
 - (v) Injection projects;
 - (vi) Anthropogenic resources;
 - (vii) Groundwater resources;
 - (viii) Hydrogen and other potential applications.
8. Building capacity: International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management.
9. Enhancing expertise, adoption and implementation: Mandate, governance and work plans for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 and the evaluation of activities.
10. Empowering Sustainability: Global Initiatives for United Nations Resource Systems:
 - (a) Case studies;
 - (b) Regular and extrabudgetary projects.
11. Amplifying the message: Communications, promotion and outreach.
12. Election of officers.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
15. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is adoption of the agenda.

Documents for the session will be published on the ECE website¹ as they become available. A detailed timetable will be posted on the website closer to the meeting.

¹ <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/unece-resource-management-week-2024>

2. Opening remarks: Reshaping Resource Management – Embracing Challenges, Prospects, and Innovative Solutions

The opening remarks will set the tone for the session and emphasize the importance of sustainability in resource management. An overview of the current status and future prospects for the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), tools for transforming raw materials management and enhancing sustainability, will be provided. The Expert Group will discuss how UNFC and UNRMS can assist governments, industry, investors and international organizations to address the modern challenges in the sustainable development of energy and mineral resources, such as mitigating the impacts of climate change. UNFC and UNRMS provide a comprehensive and standardized approach to managing resources, helping to ensure that they are used sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations.

3. Seminar and Workshops: The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System: A catalyst for transforming raw materials management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond (22-23 April 2024)

The seminar and workshops will explore how UNFC and UNRMS can be catalysts for transforming raw materials management in the ECE region and beyond. The speakers will share their experiences and insights on applying UNFC and UNRMS to various resources, such as minerals, petroleum, renewable energy, groundwater, and hydrogen, as well as injection projects and anthropogenic resources. They will also discuss the opportunities and challenges of using UNFC and UNRMS for different purposes, such as resource assessment, policy development, investment decision-making, environmental and social impact analysis, and sustainability reporting. The seminar and workshops will be organized in collaboration with the European Commission and two Horizon Europe projects that support the implementation of UNFC, namely the Geological Service for Europe (GSEU) and the Future Availability of Secondary Raw Materials (FutuRaM). The participants will be able to learn from best practices, exchange information, and network with experts and stakeholders from different sectors and regions. The Expert Group will be invited to take note of the growing adoption and interest in UNFC and UNRMS in various countries and regions and to propose future work to facilitate and coordinate the regional and global implementation of UNFC and UNRMS and ensure the required oversight.

4. Energizing sustainability: Committee on Sustainable Energy's priorities and resource management matters

The secretariat will present an update on the recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirty-second session (Geneva, 20-22 September 2023), as well as decisions taken by the Committee related to the work of the Expert Group. These will include the Platform on Resilient Energy Systems; the endorsement by the Commission of the draft decision to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) inviting the application of the UNRMS Principles and Requirements worldwide; and the progress on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to hydrogen projects and production technologies. The outcomes of the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) will also be presented as well as implications for the work of the Expert Group. The secretariat will also inform the Expert Group about the preparations for the thirty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (Geneva, 19-21 September 2024), and the opportunities for the Expert Group to contribute to the Committee's agenda and priorities.

5. Minerals for the energy transition: United Nations Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

This session will be led by the UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, established in 2022 to coordinate and integrate the extractive industries' work across the UN and beyond. The Working Group is a knowledge and information hub to share good practices, provide policy advice and technical assistance, and scale up and replicate successful initiatives. The Working Group is co-led by the UN Regional Economic Commissions, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Expert Group is a key stakeholder in the Working Group, since it develops and promotes UNFC and UNRMS as tools for sustainable resource management and development. The Expert Group will discuss the main opportunities and challenges in the extractive industries, especially in relation to the supply of critical raw materials (CRMs), within a transparency and traceability framework for the energy transition and the circular economy. The Expert Group will also discuss the current initiatives such as the Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETMs) Toolkit, the Knowledge Hub and the Framework for Just Transition. The Expert Group will review and discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations on how to contribute effectively to the activities of the Working Group.

6. Responsible resource management: Development and deployment of the United Nations Resource Management System

The United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) is a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management of resources that aims to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key components of UNRMS, such as the principles, requirements, indicators, and tools, will be explained and illustrated. The need for complementary documents and modules for operational aspects and how they can be developed and applied will also be discussed. The application of blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be presented. The session will discuss the concept of a trial Critical Minerals Markets Information System project, which aims to use a variety of methods to improve critical minerals market information. The project seeks to enhance transparency, liquidity, and stability of the global market for critical minerals while respecting commercial sensitivities. It also aims to promote a collaborative approach to data standards, mapping, traceability, and pooling, to stabilize the markets and achieve supply chain resilience goals in a cost-efficient way.

The Expert Group will discuss the deployment of UNRMS, including the development of case studies and pilot projects. A case study on the application of UNRMS to CRMs in the United Kingdom will be presented (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/6). The work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on traceability and audit sharing will also be presented. The Expert Group will discuss the proposed liaison with the International Standards Organization (ISO) on the new standard ISO Project Committee (PC) 348 for Sustainable Raw Materials. UNRMS development and a global implementation roadmap will also be presented. The Expert Group will review and discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

7. Decision support: Development and deployment of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

UNFC is a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management of resources, which aims to support the attainment of the SDGs. The Technical Advisory Group will report on its activities, challenges and opportunities, and the implementation roadmap for UNFC for the next five years. The discussion will also address the challenges that need to be overcome to implement UNFC and the strategies to overcome them. The Expert Group will be updated on the progress made since its fourteenth session on the development, maintenance and application of UNFC for the sustainable management of resources. The Expert Group develops and maintains UNFC through rigorous testing, review, and periodic updating.

Applications and expansion of UNFC for the sustainable management of mineral, petroleum, renewable energy, nuclear fuel, anthropogenic and groundwater resources, as well as injection projects and hydrogen will be presented and reviewed.

(a) Accelerated adoption of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

(i) Accelerating decision support: Breaking adoption barriers

The UNFC Adoption Group will present a report on its work to identify and address the challenges and obstacles that hinder the implementation and use of UNFC and UNRMS (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/10). Breaking adoption barriers can help to increase the awareness, acceptance, and uptake of UNFC among various users and stakeholders, such as governments, industry, investors, and international organizations. The Expert Group will discuss the common adoption barriers and the strategies and actions that could be taken to overcome them. The Expert Group will be invited to consider extending the mandate of the UNFC Adoption Group.

(ii) Commercial aspects and financial reporting

The Commercial Applications Working Group will provide an update on commercial aspects and financial reporting. An update on financial reporting related to the work of the Expert Group, including activities of financial regulators and other actors, will be provided. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(iii) Competency in resource management

The Expert Group will be briefed on the activities of the Competency Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(iv) Social and environmental considerations

The Expert Group will be briefed on the activities of the Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group. Case studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS for Environmental, Social and/or Governance will be presented. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(v) Understanding the G axis

The G-axis Task Force will present a report its work clarifying the use of the G-axis criteria in various resource sectors (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/11). The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

(vi) Women and the protection of human rights in resource management

The Women in Resource Management Working Group will update on the work related to women, gender, diversity and inclusion. The challenges to the protection of human rights in resource management, including the rights of the indigenous populations, will be discussed. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(vii) Youth

The Expert Group will be briefed on the status of the Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) and the impact of its activities. The development of a Handbook on Critical Raw Materials Value Chains and intergeneration aspects will be presented. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

(b) Applications**(i) Minerals**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to mineral resources and the activities of the Minerals Working Group. The update of the Bridging Document between the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) Template and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/5) will be presented. A case study on the application of UNFC to lithium, caesium and tantalum resources in Manitoba, Canada, will also be presented (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/12). The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(ii) Petroleum

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to petroleum resources and the activities of the Petroleum Working Group. A proposal for a joint UNFC and Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS) financial reporting concept and its possible application through a number of case studies will be presented. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(iii) Renewable energy resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy resources and the activities of the Renewable Energy Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss avenues for enhanced cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to support the application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy and be invited to make recommendations.

(iv) Nuclear fuel resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to nuclear fuel resources and the activities of the Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(v) Injection projects

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to injection projects and the activities of the Injection Projects Working Group. An update of the Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects for the Purpose of Geological Storage will be presented (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/9). The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations.

(vi) Anthropogenic resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to anthropogenic resources and the activities of the Anthropogenic Resources Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss the case studies under development and be invited to make recommendations.

(vii) Groundwater resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the anticipated application of UNFC and UNRMS to groundwater resources and the activities of the Groundwater Resources Working Group. Work to develop the draft Supplemental Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater Resources will be presented, including a summary of the feedback received during the Public Consultation that closed on 15 January 2024 and the proposed plan to address and incorporate the comments received (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/7). The Expert Group will discuss the draft Supplemental Specifications and the proposed approach to revising them to incorporate the feedback received during the Public Consultation, including dialogues with those who provided feedback and the hydrogeological community at large to obtain a broad support base. The Expert Group will be invited to make recommendations. Development of case studies under development will also be presented.

(viii) Hydrogen and other potential applications

The Expert Group will be briefed on the opportunities to develop documentation to apply UNFC and UNRMS to hydrogen projects. The Expert Group will discuss cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Gas and the ECE Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems to develop UNFC- and UNRMS-based international hydrogen classification and management standards.

The Expert Group will be invited to discuss other potential applications of UNFC and UNRMS.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

8. Building capacity: International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management

International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs) are being established for the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS. The Centres are conceived to provide policy support, technical advice and consultation, research and development, education, training, dissemination, and other critical activities for managers and stakeholders involved in sustainable resource management. At its twenty-eighth session (25-27 September 2019), the Committee on Sustainable Energy noted the proposal to develop a Centre on Sustainable Resource Management (CSRMs) to coordinate the network of ICE-SRMs. It mandated the secretariat to seek extrabudgetary funding to support activities in this area. The Expert Group will be briefed on existing ICE-SRMs and the various initiatives to establish other ICE-SRMs. The Expert Group will discuss the criteria for recognition of ICE-SRMs and their Terms of Reference (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/4), as well as governance-related issues. The development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between ECE and the ICE-SRMs that meet the criteria for recognition as an ICE-SRM will also be discussed. The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

9. Enhancing expertise, adoption and implementation: Mandate, governance and work plans for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 and the evaluation of activities

The Expert Group will review the status of the implementation of its work plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/3), which outlines the main activities and expected outputs of the Expert Group for the biennium. The Expert Group will also discuss its work plan for 2024-2025 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2023/3), endorsed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-second session and the ECE Executive Committee at its 131st meeting. The Expert Group will also discuss its mandate, governance and working methods, which are essential for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities. A comprehensive review and approval process to ensure the quality, timeliness, and alignment of documents related to UNFC and UNRMS (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/3) will be presented to the Expert Group for discussion. The mandate of the Expert Group expires at the end of 2024 – the Expert Group will be invited to consider if it wishes to request an extension of its five-year mandate and propose any changes to its Terms of Reference (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2024/8). The Expert Group will also be invited to consider if being a subsidiary advisory body under the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy is the optimal vehicle to deliver the needed impact on UNFC and UNRMS in the ECE region and beyond. Other potential options will be presented and discussed.

The Expert Group is a subsidiary body of the intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Energy and a key stakeholder in the UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development. The Expert Group's main responsibilities are developing UNFC and UNRMS and supporting their implementation. The Expert Group will

discuss how its activities could be strengthened and aligned with the Committee's and the Working Group's agendas and priorities.

The Expert Group will be informed about the evaluation of its work and the regular budget activities on sustainable resource management and the extrabudgetary project funded by the European Commission “Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS” (2020-2024). The evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the regular budget activities and the extrabudgetary project, as well as the lessons learned and best practices. The draft evaluation recommendations will be presented to the Expert Group for feedback and discussion. The Expert Group will be invited to recommend improving its mandate, governance and working methods.

10. Empowering Sustainability: Global Initiatives for United Nations Resource Systems

Global initiatives for implementing UNFC and UNRMS to empower sustainable resource management will be presented. Case studies will be discussed, as well as understanding the G axis, breaking adoption barriers, and regular and extrabudgetary projects. Information, examples, and recommendations on how to apply and implement UNFC and UNRMS in different contexts and sectors will be provided.

(a) Case studies

Case studies demonstrate how UNFC and UNRMS are applied in different contexts and sectors to demonstrate their benefits and impacts. Case studies can provide valuable insights and lessons for other users and stakeholders interested in adopting UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group will review and discuss case studies developed and submitted by various countries and organizations.

(b) Regular and extrabudgetary projects

The Expert Group will be informed about the status and progress of the ongoing and planned regular and extrabudgetary projects and the opportunities and challenges for resource mobilization and partnership development. The extrabudgetary projects include “Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS” (Phase I and II) funded by the European Commission; and “Implementing UNRMS for Circular Materials and Sustainable Resource Management in the UNECE Region,” funded by the United Kingdom. Regular budget projects funded under the Regular Programme on Technical Cooperation will be discussed. The progress of the projects funded by the United Nations Development Account, such as “Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa,” and Enhancing capacities in the sustainable production of the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions will be discussed. Regular and extrabudgetary projects can provide technical assistance, capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities for the users and stakeholders of UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group will be informed about the status and progress of the ongoing and planned regular and extrabudgetary projects and the opportunities and challenges for resource mobilization and partnership development.

11. Amplifying the message: Communications, promotion and outreach

The activities of the Communications Working Group will be presented to the Expert Group.

The Expert Group will discuss its current and proposed cooperation with Member States, industries, capital allocators and other organizations and entities, including – but not limited to – African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), African Union Commission (AUC), European Federation of Geologists (EFG), EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), European Investment Bank (EIB), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Geoscientists Canada, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Electrotechnical Commission

(IEC), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Raw Materials Observatory (INTRAW), International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), Mining Association of Canada, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the UNEP International Resource Panel (IRP), to achieve synergies and complementarity of efforts and to avoid overlap and duplication.

The Expert Group will review and discuss activities and upcoming events in 2024 and 2025 to promote and educate on UNFC and UNRMS.

12. Election of officers

At its fourteenth session, 25-28 April 2023, the Expert Group elected a Bureau to serve until the close of the seventeenth session in 2026. The Expert Group will be invited to elect Bureau members whose term ends in 2024 and who stand for re-election and any new nominations to serve until the end of the eighteenth session in 2027.

13. Other business

The Expert Group may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and the Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

The Expert Group will discuss the dates for its sixteenth session in Geneva in 2025 and the new format for meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

14. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Expert Group will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

Where possible, the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

15. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Expert Group will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
