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Expert Group on Resource Management

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

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

Expert Group on Resource Management Document Review and Approval Process

Note by the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management

Summary

This document provides a comprehensive Expert Group on Resource Management Document Review and Approval Process to ensure the quality, timeliness, and alignment of documents related to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS). Depending on the type of document, the process can involve multiple stages of review by the Technical Advisory Group, the Bureau of the Expert Group, and the Expert Group itself, followed by public consultations for major documents. This rigorous process aims to maintain the quality of UNFC and UNRMS documentation.

This document is submitted to the Expert Group at its fifteenth session for review and approval.

I. Background

1. Documents related to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) necessitate periodic updating and maintenance. This document provides the Expert Group on Resource Management Document Review and Approval Process. It also includes a summary of the extracts from relevant meetings and discussions of the Expert Group on Resource Management Bureau and subgroups.
2. The current list of UNFC- and UNRMS-related documents as at January 2024 is provided in the Annex.
3. This document is submitted to the Expert Group at its fifteenth session for review and approval.

II. Summary of extracts from relevant meetings and discussions of the Expert Group on Resource Management Bureau and subgroups

A. The Terms of Reference of Technical Advisory Group of the Expert Group on Resource Management, version 10 November 2021¹

Extracts

4. The Technical Advisory Group was created in February 2014, providing technical advice to stakeholders and recommendations on draft technical documents to the Bureau. Work on resources (e.g. Minerals, Petroleum, Nuclear Fuels, Injection, Renewables, Anthropogenic Resources) to develop bridging documents, case studies etc., was undertaken by dedicated Working Groups (WGs) and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group. In addition to its review role, the Technical Advisory Group developed bridging documents, enabled case studies, including responses to stakeholder requests for Minerals and Petroleum.
5. In April 2017, the Expert Group on Resource Classification (now the Expert Group on Resource Management) agreed to form Working Groups for Minerals and Petroleum. The Bureau decided to re-organize the structure of Working Groups, Task Forces and the Technical Advisory Group to work more efficiently. Under this revised structure, the sectoral Working Groups reported via the Technical Advisory Group, i.e. keeping the Technical Advisory Group informed on plans, activities, progress and concerns. The Technical Advisory Group membership comprised the Chairs of the Working Groups, and the Technical Advisory Group Chair coordinated, supported, reviewed and validated the work of each commodity Working Group.

B. Minutes of the Expert Group on Resource Management Bureau call of 27 April 2017

Extract from Item 3. Expert Group on Resource Classification work plan 2018–2019

6. “Paragraph 3. The draft work plan for 2018-2019 was reviewed. Clarification was provided that it is not the task of the Expert Group on Resource Classification Working Groups as such to develop case studies unless required to explain new specifications or bridging documents. However, the case studies developed and submitted by various stakeholder groups can be reviewed by the concerned Working Groups. It was informed that a number of such case studies were being developed by various people on nuclear fuel resources and these are under review.”

¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Rev_TAG-TOR_10112021.pdf

C. UNFC and UNRMS Road Map: A Framework for Updating Documents

Extracts from EGRM-14/2023/INF.3, 18 April 2023

7. The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for updating and maintaining the UNFC documentation and the UNRMS Subgroup for the UNRMS documentation. The road map is based on a comprehensive analysis of the status and future needs of UNFC, UNRMS, and related documents. UNFC and UNRMS updates will be strongly guided by selected UNFC and UNRMS case studies that will be available.

8. The Technical Advisory Group, the Working Groups of the Expert Group on Resource Management, and the UNRMS Sub-group will keep track of the issues raised in the case studies and the experience in the application of UNFC and UNRMS to various resources. Special attention will be given to the emerging social, environmental, and governance requirements. They will identify and address any gaps or challenges in the application of the systems and propose solutions or improvements.

III. Expert Group on Resource Management Review Process

A. Review and Endorsement Process

1. Technical Advisory Group Review:

- Official documents concerning the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), developed by the Expert Group on Resource Management Working Groups, undergo review by the Technical Advisory Group chaired by the Technical Advisory Group Chair/Co-Chairs. Additional experts may assist in the review process as needed. The Technical Advisory Group Chair delivers a recommendation to the Bureau. This process applies to UNFC definitions, generic specifications, sectoral specifications, and UNFC guidelines
- Timing of Reviews: The Technical Advisory Group Chair should be informed well in advance when documents are ready for review. Advance copies can be shared with the Technical Advisory Group Chair for information or initial feedback. The time required for final feedback should be agreed upon and confirmed with the Technical Advisory Group Chair. Review time will be contingent on the document's length and complexity, typically not exceeding three months under normal circumstances.

2. Expert Group on Resource Management Working Group Review:

- A subgroup within the Working Group conducts reviews of case studies, best practices, and other reports. These findings are presented directly to the Bureau for subsequent presentation to the Expert Group on Resource Management. The Technical Advisory Group review is not mandatory for this process.

3. UNRMS Document Development and Review:

- UNRMS documents will be produced and reviewed under the purview of the UNRMS Subgroup. These documents will be submitted to the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management for review and approval, facilitating their presentation before EGRM.

4. Bureau Oversight:

- The Bureau reviews and grants approval for all UNFC, UNRMS and other documents to be presented to the Expert Group on Resource Management.

5. Expert Group on Resource Management Approval:

- Final approval of documents rests with the Expert Group on Resource Management.

6. Endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (if required):

- Documents may receive endorsement from the Committee on Sustainable Energy if deemed necessary by the Expert Group on Resource Management.

7. Higher Endorsement:

- Core UNFC and UNRMS documents will be submitted for consideration for endorsement to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Europe, and finally the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

B. Public Consultations**8. Timely Public Consultation:**

- Public consultations are mandated for UNFC definitions, generic specifications, sectoral specifications, and UNFC guidelines, and UNRMS official documents. However, minor updates are exempt from public consultations. Case studies, best practices, and other reports do not necessitate public consultations
- Public consultation, spanning a minimum of 60 days, may occur at any stage of the review process:
 - Simultaneously with the Technical Advisory Group review
 - Preceding the Bureau review
 - Following the Bureau review but prior to the approval of the Expert Group on Resource Management
 - Post-meeting of the Expert Group on Resource Management approval.
- If the public consultation precedes the Bureau review and the comments generated during the public consultation are integrated into the final draft, the document that is considered to be a final draft, will be presented to the Expert Group on Resource Management for approval
- Documents can undergo simultaneous or post-Expert Group on Resource Management meeting public review. In such cases, the Expert Group on Resource Management may grant conditional approval, contingent upon no substantial changes to the document. If significant changes are made, the document must return to the Expert Group on Resource Management for final approval. If necessary, a 21-day written approval process by the Expert Group on Resource Management can be organized to ensure timely review and endorsement.

Annex

List of UNFC – UNRMS Official Documents

Principles, Generic Specifications and Supplemental Specifications

<i>Document Title</i>	
1.	United Nations Framework Classification for Resources Update 2019 (ECE ENERGY SERIES No. 61)
2.	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements (2022)
3.	Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Minerals (2021)
4.	Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Petroleum (2021)
5.	Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy Resources (2022)
6.	Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Bioenergy Resources (2017)
7.	Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Solar Energy (2019)
8.	Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Wind Energy (2019)
9.	Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources (2018)
10.	Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects for the Purpose of Geological Storage (2016) (2024 being updated)
11.	Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater Resources (2024 under development)
12.	Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Nuclear Fuel Resources (2021 draft)

Bridging documents

<i>Document Title</i>	
1.	Bridging Document between the CRIRSCO Template and UNFC (2024 update to be issued)
2.	Bridging Document between the Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS) and UNFC (2023)
3.	Bridging Document between the Oil and Fuel Gas Reserves and Resources Classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and UNFC (2023)
4.	Bridging Document between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency/International Atomic Energy Agency Uranium Classification and UNFC (2014)
5.	Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China "Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (GB/T 17766-1999)" and UNFC (2022)
6.	Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves (GB/T 19492-2004) and UNFC (2022)

Guidelines

Document Title

1. Guidance Note to support UNFC Definition of a Project (2016)
 2. Guidelines for Application of UNFC to Uranium and Thorium Resources (2017)
 3. Guidance for Social and Environmental Considerations for UNFC (2021)
 4. Governance Guidelines Related to Environmental and Social Factors in Resource Classification and Management (2022)
 5. Principles of Resource Classification (2021)
 6. Guidance for the Application of UNFC for Mineral and Anthropogenic Resources in Europe (2022)
 7. UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments – Guidance (2022)
 8. UNFC – Guidance for application to Coal Bed Methane (2022)
 9. UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms (2022)
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