

To: Members of TAG
From: Alistair Jones, TAG Chair

Technical Advisory Group Meeting 22 January 2020 MINUTES

Attendees: Alistair Jones (Chair), Frank Denelle, Johann Gotsis, Charlotte Griffiths, Sigurd Heiberg, Hari Tulsidas,

Apologies: Karin Ask, David Elliott, Julian Hilton, Ulrich Kral, Marco Petitta, Satinder Purewal

Approval of draft agenda

Document: Draft agenda

1. The draft agenda was approved.

Minutes of previous TAG meeting

Document: Draft minutes TAG Call 4th Dec 2019

2. The draft minutes of the 4th Dec 2019 meeting were approved, with one minor change so as to anonymise the comments in paragraph 10.

Matters arising

3. All actions from the previous meeting were completed and closed:

Action 1: Alistair will summarise the status of documents for EGRM-11 and circulate to TAG.

Completed

Action 2: Alistair will draft the TAG annual report and circulate to TAG, if possible before the next TAG call.

Completed (and see below)

Action 3: TAG members are urged to send feedback on the draft UNFC Update to Alistair by 8th Dec. Completed (and see below)

UNFC Update 2019

4. The final version of the UNFC Update (UNFC_ES61_Update_2019) has been issued and is available on the UNECE website. TAG and WG members were thanked for their valuable input into the update. All comments and suggestions were considered, and it is expected that the document will be suitable for the breadth of EGRM work. Particular than Charlotte was particularly acknowledged for her work in finalising the document for publication and maintaining quality and collaboration.

5. UNFC 2019 will be translated into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. There is an opportunity for Experts to review the translation. A volunteer has offered to review the Russian version, but volunteers are sought for other languages.

Action 1: TAG is asked to seek volunteers to review the translations of UNFC 2019 into Arabic, French and Spanish. Please respond to Charlotte by 14th Feb.

Updates on involvement with EGRM

6. Several changes of involvement with TAG and Working Groups groups were highlighted:
 - Dave Elliott has decided, after very many years involvement, to step back from any formal involvement or committee roles, including chairing SEWG, immediately after

the upcoming EGRM meeting. He will remain as an ordinary member of the EGRM and still be available for occasional ad hoc queries.

- For personal reasons, Frank Denelle has resigned from chairing REN WG. His replacement as chair is under discussion. As time permits, Frank will be happy to comment and input to the ongoing work.
- For personal reasons, Marco has to step back from Chairing Groundwater WG, but will still remain a member of the WG. Marco's replacement is under discussion.

TAG members expressed their appreciation for the significant contributions David, Frank and Marco have each made to the work of EGRM and to TAG.

- King Lee, Director Harmony Programme, World Nuclear Association, will be taking over as chair of the Nuclear Fuels WG, probably from end April. Julian has generously led the WG on a temporary basis for some time. He will continue to be a member of TAG as chair of SDG WG. The Bureau supports this in order to facilitate communication on SDG work, and Julian has kindly agreed.

7. Some Bureau issues were also noted

- David MacDonald is unable to attend EGRM-11. Igor Shpurov, as First Vice Chair, will lead the meeting with chairing of sessions shared amongst different individuals.
- Bradley Van Gosen, USA representative from USGS, is retiring from the Bureau.
- Kjell Reider Knudsen, Norway representative from NPD, is retiring from the Bureau. NPD are deciding whether or not to appoint a new representative

Status of documents and reviews for EGRM-11

8. A summary of documents, expected delivery dates and submission dates was shared and reviewed.

Action 2: TAG members will review the latest list of EGRM-11 documents and send corrections to Charlotte by Mon 27th Jan

9. Some WG documents are now planned as Room Documents rather than Parliamentary Documents. This gives greater flexibility for preparation format, review requirements and submission deadlines. The timing of Room Documents is provisional, but it will be no earlier than 31/3/20. It has been agreed that the Minerals and Petroleum draft specifications and guidelines documents, as well as the paper on the application of UNFC to Groundwater will be room documents.

10. TAG

11. Reviewers are required for several documents during the next 6 weeks. Dates for completion of review are shown in brackets:

- "Principles of Resource Classification" (31/1/20)
- "The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources Applied to Commercial Assessments – Update" (21/2/20)
- Guidance for social and environmental considerations for UNFC (20/3/20 provisional)
- Draft specifications and guidelines for application of UNFC to Mineral Resources (20/3/20 provisional)
- Application of UNFC to Groundwater: Issues & challenges (20/3/20 provisional)

12. TAG will also be invited to offer comments, rather than formal reviews on:

- Development of detailed specifications, guidelines and best practices on effective use of UNFC and UNRMS for sustainable development (by 20/3/20 provisional)
- UNRMS Concept Note (by 20/3/20 provisional)

Action 3: TAG members will consider reviewing the document “Principles of resource classification” (enclosed) and if they or a WG member is willing, volunteer to Alistair by Mon 27th Jan, to complete review by Fri 31st Jan.

Action 4: TAG members are asked to volunteer, or to seek volunteers, for reviews of documents due by 20th March. Please respond to Alistair by 28th Feb.

Provisional agenda for EGRM-11

13. The provisional agenda of EGRM-11 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Action 4: TAG members will review EGRM-11 Provisional Agenda and propose in outline, how they will use the session for their WG, to Charlotte by Fri 31st Jan

TAG annual report

14. A draft of the TAG Annual Report had been circulated for comment.

Action 5: Alistair will send a next draft of the TAG Annual Report to TAG members by 28th Feb.

15. It was agreed that the final presentation will be issued as a room document and, for simplicity, there would be no associated text document as there is little added value in this.

16. It was agreed that the report would include a summary of the UNFC Update. It may also be appropriate to present ideas on the substantive update.

Discussion on priorities for EGRM work

17. Discussion was initiated on priorities for EGRM work. Some questions were posed in order to promote discussion: What is our vision of how EGRM could contribute to sustainable development? How far have we got to achieving that? What are the hurdles? What are the opportunities? What are the priorities?

18. A range of views was expressed both during the call and subsequently. It is noted that TAG has not yet agreed a consolidated view. The following points simply represent individual opinions

- Define what UNECE must do and what others cannot
- EGRM has focussed on standards and this is something to continue
- Consider closer linkage with the UN’s System of Environmental Accounting (SEEA) as a route to contributing to SDGs
- A tool for designing industrial statistics (where/what/how) for different resources would be valuable and would align with EU goals
- Go beyond classification and product quantities, to ‘break open the boxes’ i.e. enable UNFC to be used to quantify other project measures
- Work together with UN Environment programme (UNEP) to be actively involved in resource governance
- Africa Union is considering a new, integrated commodity strategy embracing, mineral, energy and agricultural resources. A large budget has already been allocated to AMREC

- UNFC enables Resource accounting (present situation). UNRMS addresses their management.
- Some things that could enable use of UNFC: case studies to demonstrate applications, working to ensure robustness, ease of use via software
- Software is a second step. The first step is to align interfaces and identify what must be reported.
- There is increasing recognition of the importance of government/business partnerships. Governments shape the conditions (e.g. fiscal system, access to land, infrastructure) while business work within these conditions to devise and implement developments.
- There is the potential for adoption of UNFC by IASB and this would be a significant step forward.

Next meeting

19. Alistair will send out a poll for the next call. Potential dates are during the week of 2nd March.
20. TAG will have a face-to-face meeting in Geneva during the week of EGRM-11.