

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Expert Group on Resource Classification

##### Fourth session

Geneva, 23-26 April 2013

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

##### Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Resource Classification

## Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Resource Classification

### Revised draft text for discussion

**Background:** The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Energy Reserves and Resources Terminology was created by the decision of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its eleventh session in November 2001 (ECE/ENERGY/47, para.13). In recognition of the on-going need to continue to develop and promote the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC-2009) the name was changed to the Expert Group on Resource Classification by decision of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of November 2009 (ECE/ENERGY/80, para. 21(c)).

**Mandate:** The decision of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, November 2009 (ECE/ENERGY/80, paragraph 21(d)), which requested that the Expert Group continue its work for a period of five years starting in 2010 and report its achievements and plans yearly. The decision of the Economic Commission for Europe of April 2013 (A(65) Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE) related to UNFC-2009 (Annex II, section VI).

The objectives of the Expert Group are to:

- (a) Seek to continue developing the harmonization code of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) with the existing commodity definitions, bearing in mind ECOSOC Decision 2004/233, which encourages Member States of the United Nations, the United Nations regional commissions and international organizations to consider taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of the UNFC. It would be appropriate to ensure that the development of a harmonization code be based upon cooperation with recognized industry professional societies by use of the framework facility provided by UNFC-2009;
- (b) Provide specifications and guidelines for UNFC-2009 through cooperation with the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) for petroleum and the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) for solid minerals, recognizing that it is useful that they be tailored to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of applications pertaining to global energy and mineral studies, government resource management functions, corporate business processes and financial reporting standards;

- (c) Develop proposals with accompanying timelines on how UNFC-2009 could apply to and integrate renewable energy resources;
  - (d) Establish and maintain a Technical Advisory Group to conduct on-going maintenance, technical advice, guidance and periodic updates to UNFC-2009 in order to ensure the system remains relevant, useful, and operates efficiently in light of on-going technological developments;
  - (e) Continue to explore and develop other applications of UNFC-2009, including to nuclear fuel resources and injection projects, in particular for storage of carbon dioxide;
  - (f) Encourage the development of education programmes on UNFC-2009, using in particular the capabilities of industry professional societies;
  - (g) Invite and facilitate development of case studies on a voluntary basis, using the developed specifications and guidelines if any, to fully assess the suitability of applying UNFC-2009 to a comprehensive range of individual deposits of fossil energy and mineral resources. Such case studies would serve to demonstrate the various strengths of UNFC-2009 under diverse applications; and
  - (h) Seek to strengthen interagency cooperation and to cooperate and collaborate with all stakeholders/UNFC-2009 end-users, including other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community/private sector and professional associations in order to realize the above objectives. The international organizations include, but are not limited to, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Energy Forum Secretariat (IEFS), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Secretariat (OPEC), the World Petroleum Council (WPC) and the World Energy Council (WEC). The professional associations include, but are not limited to, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), CRIRSCO, the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE), the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC), the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), SPE and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (SPEE).
-