

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Expert Group on Resource Classification

Fourth session

Geneva, 23-26 April 2013

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Specifications for UNFC-2009

Terms of Reference for the Specifications Task Force¹

Revised draft text for discussion

I. Introduction

1. As set out in Annex II of the explanatory report on the development of specifications for UNFC-2009 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/4), the mandate of the Specifications Task Force was to develop generic specifications for UNFC-2009, incorporating commodity-specific specifications as provided by CRIRSCO and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). The Task Force has successfully developed a final draft of the specifications together with associated Bridging Documents and, having achieved full consensus of its members and of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Classification, will present the results of its work to the Expert Group at its fourth session in Geneva, 23-26 April 2013. When these have been endorsed by the Expert Group, the Specifications Task Force will have completed its mandate.

2. The Bureau of the Expert Group is currently developing terms of reference for a Technical Advisory Group with the hope that such a group can be established in the very near future. However, until a Technical Advisory Group has been formed and is fully operational, the Bureau is concerned about the provision of technical advice to UNFC stakeholders regarding the application of UNFC-2009 and related matters. The Bureau has therefore decided to request that the Specifications Task Force remain in place, purely as an interim measure, until such time that a Technical Advisory Group has been established under its own terms of reference. At that time, the Specifications Task Force shall cease to exist.

3. Revised terms of reference for the Specifications Task Force are required due to the change in mandate. These revised terms of reference take effect on 27 April 2013 and shall continue in force until a Technical Advisory Group has been established, or until the fifth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification, whichever occurs first. In the event that the Technical Advisory Group has not been established prior to, or at, the fifth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification, the Bureau shall

¹ Previously referred to as the Specifications Task Force Phase Two

review the need for a continuation of the Specifications Task Force and will also re-consider its mandate and terms of reference.

4. Current members of the Specifications Task Force who wish to “step down” following the fourth session of the Expert Group shall be free to do so. In such cases, the Bureau may, if it wishes, appoint replacements from the Expert Group membership.

II. Mandate and Terms of Reference

5. The mandate for the Specifications Task Force is to serve the Bureau and the Expert Group on Resource Classification by providing technical advice to UNFC stakeholders as and when requested by the Bureau. Stakeholder requests must be directed to the Bureau and not to the Task Force. The Task Force will not be a decision-making body and it shall provide its advice on a consensus basis where possible and, where consensus is not achieved, it shall refer the matter to the Bureau together with the alternative views of the Task Force.

6. Issues that may be referred by the Bureau to the Specifications Task Force include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- (a) Guidance on the correct interpretation of UNFC-2009 and its specifications;
- (b) Assistance with, and evaluation of, mapping exercises between UNFC-2009 and other classification systems;
- (c) Review of proposed Bridging Documents leading to a recommendation to the Bureau on whether or not they are considered to be suitable for adoption, together with appropriate documentation to support the recommendation;
- (d) Where feasible, support of training workshops and presentations related to UNFC-2009.

7. The Task Force was originally established for the specific purpose of developing specifications for UNFC-2009 and therefore it shall not be expected to provide the level of timely support that may be considered appropriate for a Technical Advisory Group. Further, lack of availability due to work pressures or of funding may seriously impede the operation of the Task Force. The Task Force shall operate on the basis of reasonable efforts, taking into account funding limitations and other commitments which must take priority over voluntary services.
