

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Expert Group on Resource Classification

Fourth session

Geneva, 23-26 April 2013

Item 17 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Expert Group on Resource Classification Fourth Session

Draft for discussion

(a) Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009

1. The Expert Group on Resource Classification endorsed the Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009 as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/3. This document contains the generic specifications for UNFC-2009, together with the solid minerals and petroleum-specific specifications. The Expert Group recommended that the Specifications for Application of UNFC-2009 be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of ECE for endorsement. The Expert Group requested that the final text be issued as a publication in all languages of the United Nations as soon as practicable in order to facilitate further implementation of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 2004/233. The Expert Group further requested that the Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009 be published together with the text of UNFC-2009 in view of the fact that the Specifications render the UNFC-2009 operational and therefore should preferably be disseminated as one “package”. The publication containing UNFC-2009 and the specifications for its application should be circulated to all major stakeholders/end-users of UNFC-2009 by December 2013, but ideally by August 2013.

2. The Expert Group recommended that the Specifications Task Force continue until such time as the Technical Advisory Group is established and endorsed the revised Terms of Reference for the Specifications Task Force (informal room document EGRC-4/2013/INF.4).

(b) Technical Advisory Group

3. The Expert Group on Resource Classification endorsed the draft Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Group as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/5 and recommended that they be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement. The Expert Group recommended that the Technical Advisory Group be established as soon as practicable, but preferably by December 2013. The Expert Group tasked the Bureau to identify the membership of the Technical Advisory Group and circulate to the Expert Group for endorsement under a written procedure allowing a minimum of fifteen working days for feedback.

(c) Rules of Procedure for the Expert Group on Resource Classification

4. The Expert Group endorsed the draft Rules of Procedure for the Expert Group (informal room document EGRC-4/2013/INF.2) and recommended that they be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement. The Expert Group noted that the draft Rules of Procedure took into account the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for UNECE Bodies approved by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-fifth session to the extent possible and only deviated in instances where the functioning of the Expert Group would no longer be viable in view that the Expert Group is not an inter-governmental decision-making body and that the further development and long-term governance of UNFC-2009 will require the full and equal engagement of all UNFC-2009 stakeholders.

(d) Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Resource Classification

5. The Expert Group endorsed the revised Terms of Reference for the Expert Group (informal room document EGRC-4/2013/INF.3) noting that the revised text takes into account the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 ECE Reform. The Expert Group recommended that the revised Terms of Reference be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement.

6. The Expert Group noted that its five-year mandate expires in December 2014 and endorsed the need for the renewal of this term. UNFC-2009 stakeholders or end-users need the assurance of continuity and long-term governance offered by a five-year mandate. Resource classification is a lasting, dynamic issue, as demonstrated by the periodic modifications and updates experienced by commodity-specific resource classification schemes. In particular, the development of new technologies means that any resource classification system cannot remain static. There is a need for on-going maintenance, technical advice, guidance and periodic updates in order to ensure that UNFC-2009 remains relevant, useful, and operates efficiently. All stakeholders using the classification system need the assurance that technical advice and improvements to UNFC-2009 will be provided as necessary to adapt and refine its capabilities.

(e) Programme of Work for 2013-2014

7. The Expert Group endorsed its programme of work for 2013-2014 and recommended that it be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement. The Expert Group noted that the Programme of Work for 2013-2014 is fully in-line with the Operationalizing Document for the UNECE Subprogramme on Energy prepared following the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 ECE Reform.

(f) Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources

8. The Expert Group concluded that UNFC-2009 can be applied to renewable energy resources subject to the development of appropriate bridging documents. The Expert Group requested the Bureau to prepare an outline document detailing how the task will be

accomplished with an accompanying timeline for each of the deliverables. The Expert Group recommended that a Task Force on Renewables be established, together with a number of renewable technology-specific sub-Task Forces. The Task Forces will be established by and report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between Expert Group sessions.

(g) Application of UNFC-2009 to Nuclear Fuel Resources

9. The Expert Group recommended that a Task Force led by the International Atomic Energy Agency be established to finalize the bridging document between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Uranium Classification and UNFC-2009. The Task Force will be established by and report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between Expert Group sessions. The term of the Task Force is for a period of one year or until the bridging document is finalized if that occurs sooner. The Expert Group requested that a revised bridging document be presented to the Expert Group fifth session for endorsement or if finalized sooner that it be circulated to the Expert Group for endorsement by written procedure.

(h) Application of UNFC-2009 to Injection Projects

10. The Expert Group recommended that the Task Force on UNFC and Recipient Reservoirs (established according to the Programme of Work for the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2009-2010) explore the documentation that would be required for the UNFC-2009 to be used to classify injection projects, in particular for the storage of carbon dioxide, and requested that the Task Force prepare a proposal and timeline for this by December 2013.
