



**United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe**

**Welcome Statement
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**Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy
and Mineral Resources Terminology, 5th Session
Salle XI, Tuesday 15 April 2008**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all.

On behalf of Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, I am honoured to welcome you to the Palais des Nations for the Fifth Session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy & Mineral Resources Terminology.

I am Frederic Romig and I am the new Director of the Sustainable Energy Division. Upon the retirement of Mr. George Kowalski at the end of last year, I was appointed to the position of Director effective 1 March. It gives me great pleasure to address you in this capacity.

I will keep my remarks brief since I am aware that you have a very busy agenda over the next two days. In particular, as you were required to condense your originally planned three-day event into two days.

It is my understanding that a number of key issues will be taken up during the course of your meeting. First and foremost is the report from the Task Force charged with mapping the United Nations Framework Classification against the SPE, CRIRSCO and Russian systems. Your secretary has briefed me on both the substance and extent of the work completed and I have also taken the time to look through the Mapping Report myself. It is a very impressive and comprehensive piece of work and I wish to express my great appreciation for the significant efforts undertaken. The Mapping Task Force, under its Co-Chairmanship of Ms. Mucella Ersoy and Mr. Per Blystad, is to be sincerely congratulated. Thanks also need to be extended to the many members of the Group of Experts and others who have additionally contributed to the successful completion of the Report. My understanding is that you will consider this provisional report of the Mapping Task Force later today and that, subject to agreed amendments, it may be adopted.

The Mapping Report offers a tangible first step in the efforts to harmonize the UNFC with the classifications of CRIRSCO, the SPE and the Russian Federation and, indeed, others. Although the UNFC can be adopted directly or adapted as has been done in a number of countries, there is growing consensus that it can also have value as an overarching system to which others systems can map against. Such use has the potential to offer great value in the marketplace by meeting the needs for a common global terminology, while also continuing to recognize the widely-used reserve and resource reporting standards developed for specific needs.

In reviewing your Programme of Work for 2008 as agreed at your meeting held in October last year, I note that you and here I quote from the Report of your last meeting “Agreed to build on the success of the mapping exercise by authorizing the Bureau to conduct due process in seeking input on the mapping of the UNFC to other codes, and to act on the views received on revising the 2004 UNFC”.

I am aware that the Bureau has already started working on potential revision of the UNFC and has also enlisted the input of four experts to assist with this task.

I would like to offer my encouragement for this process and in this regard would like to propose that a revised UNFC be submitted by early September to the Extended Bureau of the Committee of Sustainable Energy for its consideration. For your clarification, the Committee on Sustainable Energy is the intergovernmental body within UNECE to which this Group of Experts reports. However, I put forward this proposal on the condition that there is broad acceptance of ECOSOC Resolution 2004/233 by the Members of this Group of Experts – and also the international community – that the UNFC as it may be revised be the preferred international classification for fossil energy and mineral resources.

It is clear that a due process would need to be followed for this to occur. Having given this some considerable thought, I would therefore like to further suggest that the Bureau prepare any proposed amendments to the existing UNFC i.e. the UNFC of 2004 and make any revised text available on the UNECE website by mid-June with a clear invitation for comments from all parties and interested stakeholders. A period of some 10 weeks should be allowed for these comments to be received. I would also advise that any recommendations submitted to the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy should be published on the same website.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy is next due to convene at its seventeenth session which will be held from 19-21 November this year. I would hope to see the issue of a revised UNFC on its agenda.

I would now like to inform you of an important change that occurred in the secretariat last year and which directly relates to activities of this Group of Experts.

Following the “mobility” reform of the United Nations, there has been a significant reassignment of duties within the secretariat, including the Sustainable Energy Division. As a result, Mr. Clark Talkington who was your Secretary has now been given responsibility for our programme of work on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels; this is in addition to his work on coal mine methane.

Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, whom most of you already know, has again been given responsibility for this Group of Experts – she was more recently the Secretary of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. It is appreciated that such reassignment of duties has the potential to be disruptive; however I assure you that you have the full support of the secretariat for this programme of work.

In closing, I encourage you to continue the excellent progress you have made thus far. You are bringing true value-added to the regional and global economies through the increased efficiencies of a common terminology for fossil energy and mineral resources. At the same time you are demonstrating the benefits that can be gained through a collegial and

collaborative process within the framework of the United Nations. I look forward to learning about the results of your meeting and to seeing your programme of work for 2008/2009.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you for your attention and wish you success in your deliberations over the course of the next two days.
