



**Welcome Statement  
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**Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy  
and Mineral Resources Terminology, 6<sup>th</sup> Session  
Salle XI, Wednesday 25 March 2009**

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

On behalf of our new Executive Secretary Mr. Jan Kubiš, I am pleased to welcome you to the Sixth Session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology. For your information, Mr. Kubiš took over as UNECE's Executive Secretary in February this year. Mr. Kubiš has outstanding qualifications and numerous accomplishments in his own country and internationally, in the area of diplomacy, foreign security policy, as well as international economic relations. Mr. Kubiš has served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia since 2006, as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from 2007 to 2008, and as Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), from 1999 to 2005.

Turning to your session, I will keep my remarks brief since I am aware that you have a very busy agenda over the next three days. What is evident is that much work has again been undertaken by the Group since your last session in April 2008.

It is my understanding that a number of key issues will be taken up during the course of your meeting. Foremost, are the Report of the UNFC Revision Task Force and the proposed revised UNFC-2009.

The UNFC Revision Task Force was established last April for the purpose of developing and proposing a revised UNFC and it has clearly carried out its work in a timely and rigorous manner.

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 Report and the revised UNFC-2009 myself. Both are very comprehensive pieces of work and I wish to express my great appreciation for the significant efforts undertaken. The UNFC Revision Task Force, under its Chairmanship of Sigurd Heiberg, is to be sincerely congratulated. Thanks also need to be extended to the many members of the Group of Experts and the public who have additionally contributed to the successful completion of the revised UNFC-2009. My understanding is that you will consider the Task Force Report later today as well as the revised text of the UNFC-2009 that is being recommended to you by the Task Force.

This revision of the UNFC can be clearly seen as a concerted effort to implement ECOSCO Resolution 2004/233, whereby ECOSOC invited the Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and regional commissions to consider taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of the Framework Classification. The revised UNFC-2009 is a much more user-friendly piece of work that now also benefits from the efforts undertaken by the Mapping Task Force and its recommendations. The UNFC-2009 is a very strong formulation that is intuitive to use, it is straight forward and useful.

I am also pleased to see from your agenda that you are continuing to seek to focus on the principal needs that the UNFC aims to meet. These are:

1. The need to produce international mineral and energy studies in support of long sighted and robust policies and strategies.
2. The needs of Governments in implementing their policies through their resource management.
3. The needs of industry in managing their business processes to serve their host countries, shareholders and stakeholders.
4. The needs of the financial community in allocating capital efficiently so as to reduce the capital costs to a minimum.

In mentioning this financial reporting need, I am aware that Mr. Glenn Brady is waiting in Melbourne, Australia, to brief you by videoconference on the International Accounting Standards Board “Extractive Activities Research Project” so I will look to close my remarks here.

I encourage you to continue the excellent progress you have made thus far. This Group of Experts is 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 cooperative and collaborative process within the framework of the United Nations. Looking around the room it would be to hard identify another forum that could convene such a wide array of stakeholders under one roof - this is the added value of the United Nations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I look forward to learning about the results of your meeting and to seeing your programme of work for 2009/2010. Thank you for your attention and I wish you success in your deliberations over the course of the next three days.

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