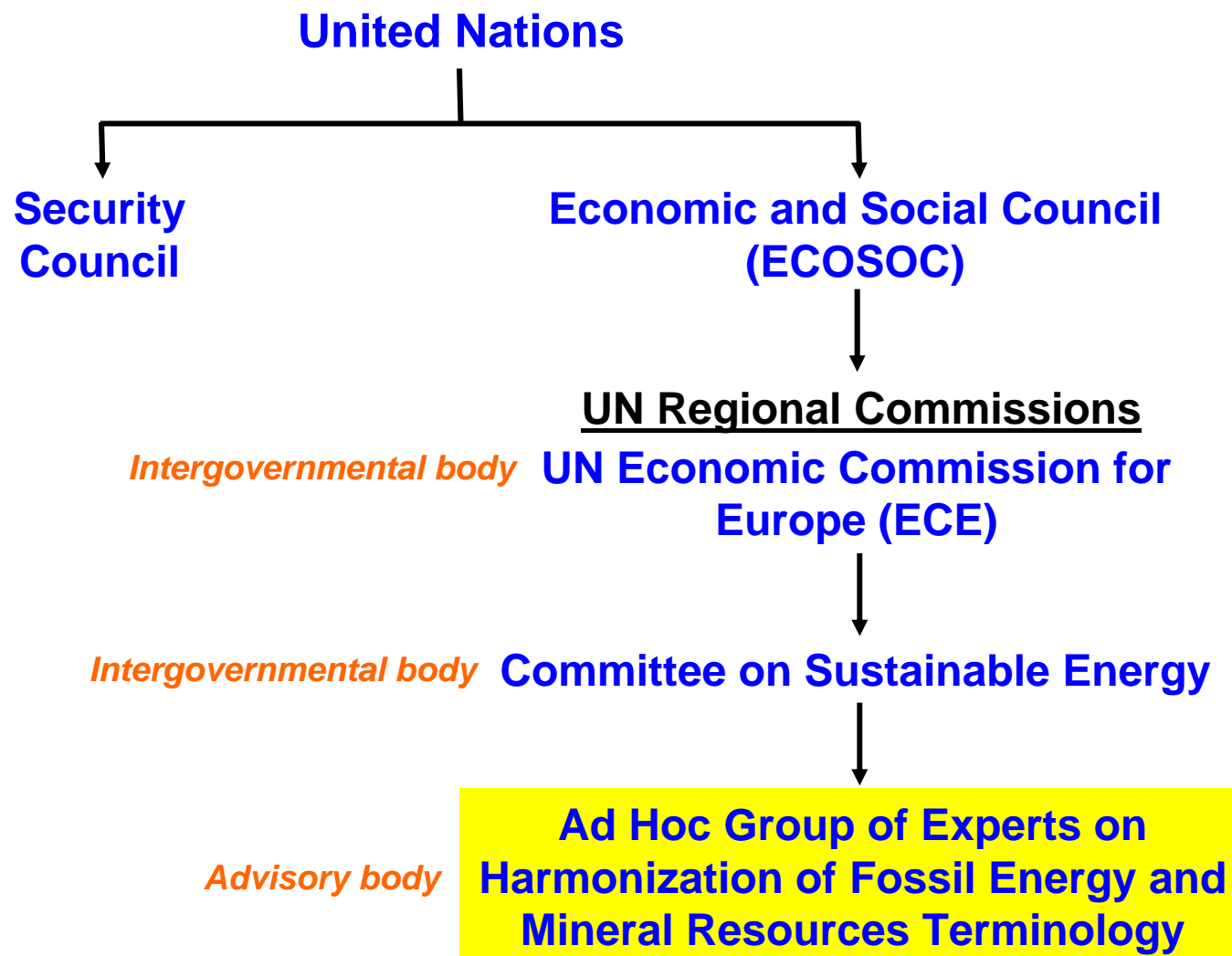


Options for Governance of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC)

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AHGE on Harmonization of Fossil Energy & Mineral
Resources Terminology**

Where do we fit in the UN System?



Background

- **Current two-year mandate of Ad Hoc Group of Experts expires end-2009**
- **At sixth session, Ad Hoc Group of Experts agreed it should continue to consider possible options, including that its current mandate be renewed for a further two years**
- **Ad Hoc Group of Experts' programme of work for 2009-2010 requests the Bureau to consider the options for governance of the UNFC**
- **Document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2009 (note by secretariat) prepared for this meeting**

Background

- Long-term governance first discussed at third session, Oct 2006
- Situation evolved since then, secretariat note prepared in light of previous discussions on issue, up to date research and to address key concerns highlighted by Ad Hoc Group of Experts:
 - UNFC an initiative where standards must remain reliable and credible over the long-term so as to allow stakeholders to develop and/or communicate resource inventories that are consistent between them and over time.
- Any future governance structure should preferably address, amongst other issues, need for:
 - visibility, operational flexibility & inclusiveness of all stakeholders
 - should convey impression of longevity & long-term commitment
 - should ensure no special interests are favoured
- Note does not address extrabudgetary funding

What do we mean by Governance?

- In context of UNFC, can be defined as method or system by which UNFC is managed over long-term
- Since UNFC will remain within United Nations system, any non-intergovernmental structure that manages UNFC, including an ad hoc group of experts, will not have decision-making powers. These powers will lie with intergovernmental parent body to which UNFC non-intergovernmental structure reports – for Ad Hoc Group of Experts this is Committee on Sustainable Energy
- Based on previous discussions, Governance will *potentially* need to encompass a number or all of following tasks:
 - (i) Monitor and update UNFC, as appropriate and necessary, to ensure that it remains relevant, credible, and applicable
 - (ii) Develop/adopt/update specifications and guidelines to meet stakeholder needs and to do so in collaboration with professionals

What do we mean by Governance *cont.*

- **Governance will need to encompass a number or all of the following tasks *continued*:**
 - (iii) **Establish formal long-term agreements with professional societies/bodies, such as CRIRSCO and SPE, and ensure agreements appropriately monitored and good communications maintained**
 - (iv) **Provide expert and technical advice and assistance to preparers and users of UNFC, and assistance on the mapping of other systems to the UNFC**
 - (v) **Develop and administer an effective education and outreach programme to promote application of UNFC on a voluntary basis**
 - (vi) **Encourage mapping of other classification systems to UNFC and review (and approve, if appropriate) any mapping of other systems to UNFC**

Option to Remain as Ad Hoc Group of Experts or variant thereof (Option IIA from Note)

- Option to remain as Ad Hoc Group of Experts within ECE (status quo) – a renewed mandate every two years (one year mandate also possible)
- Advantages: would allow continuation of work without disruption. Offers required flexibility and inclusiveness, and has already demonstrated its efficiency
- However, UNFC long-term initiative (potential long-term collaboration agreements with professional bodies might be considered), hence its needs not formally met by the ad hoc structure
- Short-term nature of an ad hoc group of experts does not lend itself to effective management of a system where standards must remain reliable and credible over the long term
- Intent and name of an ad hoc group of experts does not communicate that this is assured

Variant of Existing Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Option IIB from Note)

- **Option to create a group of experts within ECE with a five year mandate (provided for in ECE/EX/2)**
- **Words “ad hoc” could be dropped and name changed to “Group of Experts on ...”, “Advisory Group on ...”, Team of Specialists on ...”**
- **A group of experts with a five year mandate would operate in exactly same way as existing Ad Hoc Group of Experts i.e. with the same degree of flexibility and stakeholder inclusiveness and lack of decision-making powers.**
- **Advantage: five year mandate and removal of Ad Hoc better convey long term needs of UNFC**

Option to Create a New Body (Option III from Note)

- **To ensure global governance, UNFC should really function under a global body with a global mandate**
- **Secretariat could explore feasibility of finding or establishing an intergovernmental body with a global membership and mandate that reports directly to ECOSOC**
- **If this is possible, that intergovernmental body could decide to have a “global forum or centre” reporting to it (in same way as Ad Hoc Group of Experts currently reports to Committee on Sustainable Energy, its parent decision-making body)**
- **Could also explore option to create a “UNFC” body elsewhere in UN system e.g. UNIDO**
- **These options would require further detailed research by ECE**

Next Steps

- **In short term**, remaining as an ad hoc group of experts but proposing that words “ad hoc” be dropped and a five year mandate be granted would address a number of current key concerns. However, this option would mean continuing to report to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and therefore being subject to ECE’s decision-making process and Rules of Procedure
- Option to create a new body is a **long-term** one. Either current Ad Hoc Group of Experts with a **two year mandate** or a group of experts with a five year mandate would operate in the interim
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts needs to discuss options, and agree upon and recommend preferred option
- Depending on option recommended name of body and Terms of Reference (of March 2009 as per Annex to Report of Sixth Session) will need to be revised

Next Steps

- **On 19 November, Chairman of Ad Hoc Group of Experts presents Group's recommendation to Committee on Sustainable Energy at its Eighteenth Session in Geneva**
- **Committee on Sustainable Energy makes a decision and presents its preferred option to ECE Executive Committee consisting of all 56 member states**
- **ECE Executive Committee endorses decision (or otherwise), normally before end-2009**