



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Sustainable Energy Expert Group on Resource Classification

**Eighth session**  
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### **Report of the Expert Group on Resource Classification**

#### **Addendum**

#### **Work Plan for the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2018-2019**

##### **Prepared by the Expert Group on Resource Classification**

1. Annex II of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) mandates the Expert Group on Resource Classification to carry out concrete results-oriented activities related to the classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.
2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Expert Group concentrates on the promotion, application, maintenance and further development of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009), now renamed as the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC).
3. The mandate for the Expert Group is approved until December 2019.

#### **I. Concrete activities**

4. The Expert Group proposes to undertake the following activities:

##### **A. UNFC Principles, Specifications and Guidelines for its Application**

**Description:** The Expert Group will ensure testing, review, ongoing maintenance and periodic updating based on the requirements of the UNFC principles, specifications and guidelines for its application to resources. UNFC can serve as a universal management system fully responsive and transformative to the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction commitments of the Paris Agreement

that entered into force in November 2016. In view of the current comprehensive application of UNFC for the classification and management of diverse energy and raw materials and anticipating new challenges in sustainable energy and raw material management, UNFC will be updated and revised in a new version. The Expert Group will explore and develop additional applications for UNFC to other natural resources as required, in particular, to address the challenges of the food-energy-water-land nexus.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Expert Group through its UNFC Revision Task Force will review the UNFC principles, specifications and guidelines for its application and address additions, modifications and updates required for a new version of UNFC. The revised version should take into account the needs of all resources and how it can aid the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Comprehensive guidelines on social and environmental considerations should be incorporated into the revised version of UNFC. The Expert Group will encourage stakeholders to carry out bridging with other systems, in particular to national systems. As a number of international and national systems are now aligned with UNFC through bridging documents, support will be provided for consistent and coherent updates of UNFC, as well as the aligned systems, in a holistic and organic manner. The Expert Group will provide detailed guidelines on Competent Person(s) which are needed for financial reporting and disclosure functions.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Revised version of UNFC incorporating Specifications for its Application.
- (ii) Continued development, update and governance of UNFC, including specifications, bridging documents and guidelines.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Plan and timeline for revised version of UNFC: September 2017.
- (ii) First draft of the revised version of UNFC: April 2018.
- (iii) Final draft of the revised version of UNFC: April 2019.

## **B. Technical Support**

**Description:** The Expert Group will maintain a Technical Advisory Group to provide assistance and advice on how to apply UNFC to various sectors and environments and to assist in mapping or/and bridging to other systems as and when requested, as well as to compile and analyze the results of such initiatives.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- (i) The Technical Advisory Group will perform in accordance with its terms of reference outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/5. The Bureau will review the terms of reference on an ongoing basis and should any modifications be proposed they should be submitted to the Expert Group for consideration.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Report of the work of the Technical Advisory Group submitted annually to the Expert Group. The Technical Advisory Group will report to and keep the Bureau informed on its activities between annual meetings of the Expert Group.
- (ii) Documents and/or white paper on the opportunities for and challenges of using UNFC in various sectors submitted to the Bureau for review and publication on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Annual report of the Technical Advisory Group to the ninth session of the Expert Group, 2018.
- (ii) Annual report of the Technical Advisory Group to the tenth session of the Expert Group, 2019.
- (iii) Documents and/or white paper on the opportunities for and challenges of using UNFC in various sectors: December 2019.

### **C. Strengthening of Guidelines to Accommodate Environmental and Social Considerations in UNFC**

**Description:** The Expert Group through its Environmental and Social Considerations Task Force will propose guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC and the Generic Specifications for its Application.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Environmental and Social Considerations Task Force will work according to the Terms of Reference recommended by the Expert Group at its sixth session (EGRC-6/2015/INF.7). The work will be conducted in cooperation with as wide a range of UNFC stakeholders as possible. The Task Force will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Document with detailed guidance on assessing the environmental and social considerations for the classification of resources according to UNFC and the successor version thereof, in particular, to ensure alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments of the Paris Agreement on climate action. The guidance will be considered for inclusion in the revised version of UNFC.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Document with detailed environmental and social guidance to support the revision of UNFC: April 2018.
- (ii) Documents on technical, policy and legal aspects related to accommodating environmental and social considerations for the classification of resources in various sectors: April 2019.

### **D. Application of UNFC to meet relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments of the Paris Agreement**

**Description:** The Expert Group, through its Sustainable Development Goals Working Group, will develop documents that will support the effective use of UNFC to help attain the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The work will be conducted in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders and international organizations.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Expert Group, will work to produce documents and other supporting materials such as case studies and white papers that will assist in the use of UNFC as an effective tool to aid the attainment of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the reduction of GHGs arising from the development and production of energy and raw materials. The work will be conducted in cooperation with as wide a range of UNFC stakeholders as possible.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Documents, including detailed guidance and case studies, on the effective use of UNFC to implement sustainable energy, raw material and related services that can support the attainment of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and reduce GHGs.
- (ii) Documents, including case studies to demonstrate the effectiveness of UNFC for the attainment of specific goals in energy and material flows.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Presentation of guidance to support revision of UNFC: April 2018 to ongoing.
- (ii) Presentation of one or more case studies: April 2018 to ongoing.
- (iii) Development of promotional material: April 2018 to ongoing.

**E. Application of UNFC to Petroleum Projects**

**Description:** The Expert Group, through its Petroleum Working Group, will develop and update documentation that allows application of UNFC to petroleum projects.

**Work to be undertaken:** Aid in the preparation of mapping and bridging documents and detailed guidelines for application. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Mapping and bridging documents to international and national systems.
- (ii) Guidelines for application to petroleum projects as appropriate.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Final bridging document between the Chinese Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves 2004 (CCPR-2004) and UNFC: April 2018.
- (ii) Draft mapping and bridging document between the Canadian Oil and Gas Evaluation Handbook (COGEH) and UNFC: following publication of the final draft of COGEH.

**F. Application of UNFC to Minerals Projects**

**Description:** The Expert Group, through its Minerals Working Group, will develop additional documentation that supports the use of UNFC to classify various solid mineral projects.

**Work to be undertaken:** Aid in the preparation of mapping and bridging documents and detailed guidelines for application of UNFC to minerals. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Guidelines for application on solid mineral projects as appropriate.
- (ii) Bridging documents as may be requested.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Final bridging document between the China Mineral Reserves and Resources Classification System (CMRRCS) and UNFC: April 2018.
- (ii) Draft mapping and bridging of the revised solid minerals classification system of the Russian Federation and UNFC: April 2019.

## G. Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy Projects

**Description:** The Group of Experts, through its Renewable Energy Classification Working Group, will continue to develop documentation that will allow UNFC to be applied to renewable energy resources. The work will be conducted in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders and international organizations.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- (i) Update generic specifications for renewable energy as may be required.
- (ii) Finalize and publish specifications for the application of UNFC to bioenergy.
- (iii) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC to solar energy.
- (iv) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC to hydropower.
- (v) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC to wind energy.
- (vi) Develop guidelines and case studies for the application of UNFC to renewable energy.

The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Documentation that allows UNFC to be applied to renewable energy resources, including updated generic specifications, specifications for bioenergy, solar, hydropower and wind energy and guidelines required for applications. All documentation to be subject to review by the Expert Group and public consultation.
- (ii) A series of case studies on the application of UNFC to geothermal energy, bioenergy, solar energy, hydropower and wind energy.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Final bioenergy specifications – April 2018.
- (ii) Updated generic specifications for renewable energy: April 2018 to ongoing.
- (iii) Draft specifications for the application of UNFC to solar energy: April 2018.
- (iv) Draft specifications for the application of UNFC to wind energy: April 2019.
- (v) Draft specifications for the application of UNFC to hydropower: April 2019.
- (vi) Guidelines and case studies for the application of UNFC to renewable energy: April 2018 to ongoing.

## H. Application of UNFC to Injection Projects

**Description:** The Expert Group, through its Injection Projects Working Group, will develop additional documentation to support the use of the Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects for the Purpose of Geological Storage (for example, storage of carbon dioxide, natural gas storage or other fluid waste disposal projects).

**Work to be undertaken:** Provide detailed guidelines and case studies for application. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Guidelines for the application of UNFC to injection projects as appropriate.
- (ii) Considerations for application of UNFC to carbon capture and storage projects.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Guidelines and case studies on injection projects: April 2018 to ongoing.
- (ii) Document or white paper on the application of UNFC to carbon capture and storage projects: April 2019.

**I. Application of UNFC to Nuclear Fuel Resources Projects**

**Description:** Classification of nuclear fuel resources is currently undertaken according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 'Red Book' classification system. The 'Red Book' is now aligned with UNFC through a Bridging Document (ECE/ENERGY/2014/6). Guidelines and case studies to apply UNFC to the classification of identified and predicted resources of uranium and thorium have been developed.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group will produce a document on the application of UNFC for commissioning and implementing uranium projects. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Draft document on the application of UNFC for commissioning and implementing uranium projects.
- (ii) Review submitted case studies on the application of UNFC to uranium and thorium projects.
- (iii) Guidelines for application on nuclear fuel projects as appropriate.
- (iv) Bridging documents as may be requested.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Case studies reviewed: January 2018 to ongoing.
- (ii) Draft document on the application of UNFC for commissioning and implementing uranium projects: April 2018.

**J. Application of UNFC to Anthropogenic Resources Projects**

**Description:** The Expert Group, through its Anthropogenic Resources Working Group, will develop documentation that will allow UNFC to classify the recovery of secondary resources and the management of anthropogenic resources. Anthropogenic resources, which are primarily mining residues, commodity processing residues and other wastes, have assumed importance in the current scenarios related to the Sustainable Development Goals in which the strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle residues is being emphasized. Many valuable and critical elements, such as rare and rare earth elements and base metals, could be recovered profitably from such anthropogenic resources. However, there is currently no international standard on how these 'secondary resources' could be classified, managed and reported.

**Work to be undertaken:** Provide specifications, detailed guidelines and case studies for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Specifications and guidelines for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources projects.
- (ii) Case studies for application to anthropogenic resources projects.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Draft specifications for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources: April 2018.
- (ii) Final specifications for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources: April 2019.
- (iii) Guidelines and case studies: April 2018 to ongoing.

**K. Application of UNFC to management of other resources and cross-cutting activities**

**Description:** Upon request, the Expert Group will explore and develop other applications of UNFC, provided such work does not compromise the Expert Group's ability to fulfil its other obligations. The Expert Group will develop documentation that will allow UNFC to classify and manage other resources (for example, groundwater, coal mine methane, energy from wastes). A number of these activities will be undertaken as cross-cutting activities and will require extrabudgetary funding and/or in-kind contributions.

**Work to be undertaken:** Provide background notes, draft specifications and preliminary case studies for application of UNFC to other resources.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Concept notes and preliminary specifications for application of UNFC to other resources.
- (ii) Case studies for application of UNFC to resources.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Concept notes on suggested applications and preliminary specifications for application of UNFC to other resources: April 2018 (subject to identification of extrabudgetary resources and/or in-kind contributions).
- (ii) Case studies for application of UNFC to resources: April 2019 (subject to identification of extrabudgetary resources and/or in-kind contributions).

**L. Support to Financial Reporting**

**Description:** UNFC has been designed to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of all applications pertaining to financial reporting standards, particularly those promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

**Work to be undertaken:** The Bureau of the Expert Group will monitor relevant developments in financial reporting globally that might have an impact on reserves and resources.

**Deliverables:** Annual status report submitted to the Expert Group on any changes or developments in the financial reporting sector globally with implications or potential implications for UNFC and the work of the Expert Group.

**Timeline:** Status report on financial reporting issues of relevance to reserves and resources and the work of the Expert Group submitted to the Expert Group annually: April 2018 and April 2019.

## M. Capacity-building

**Description:** UNFC applications include diverse energy, raw material and services sectors with projects that could operate in different geographical locations. UNFC Evaluators and other users need to be trained on an ongoing basis and made aware of any changes to the framework and its applications. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Expert Group will develop capacity-building programmes on UNFC using, in particular, the capabilities of industry professional societies and associations.

Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Expert Group and the Bureau will provide technical support for regional and national advisory services and international peer review missions to ECE and other United Nations Member States. Any work requested in a non-ECE member State would need to be undertaken in cooperation with the relevant regional commission. In cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Expert Group will further support the adoption of UNFC as the common management system for all resources in Africa. Capacity-building activities will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding and in-kind contributions.

### Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, organize national and regional workshops on UNFC.
- (ii) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources provide support to projects and organizations working on the application of UNFC, for example, the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)

### Deliverables:

- (i) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, national and regional workshops on UNFC: 2018 and 2019.
- (ii) Report on any capacity-building activities to be delivered annually to the Expert Group.
- (iii) Report on any capacity-building support in Africa undertaken in collaboration with AMDC and ECA to be delivered annually to the Expert Group.

### Timeline:

- (i) National and regional workshops on UNFC: 2018 and 2019.
- (ii) Annual reports on capacity-building activities presented to the Expert Group: April 2018 and April 2019.

## N. Promotion and Outreach

**Description:** The Expert Group through its Communications Working Group, formerly the Communications Sub-Committee (Terms of Reference are contained in Annex I to ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/6), will implement the agreed promotion and outreach strategy. It is noted that the work of the Communications Working Group would be more effective if extrabudgetary resources were available.



**Work to be undertaken:**

- (i) Develop, maintain and update standard presentations on UNFC.
- (ii) Conduct web-based promotional and educational programmes, including webinars.
- (iii) Develop an online application tool for UNFC.
- (iv) Implement the stakeholder engagement and outreach strategy.
- (v) Develop social media engagement strategy.
- (vi) Develop standard curriculum for national and regional workshops.
- (vii) Develop web-based educational programmes.
- (viii) Support curriculum development for educational institutions.

The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Annual report on the education and outreach activities.
- (ii) Updated standard presentations on UNFC.
- (iii) Webinars on UNFC.
- (iv) Online application tool for UNFC.
- (v) Standard curriculum for national and regional workshops.
- (vi) Web-based educational programmes on UNFC.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Annual reports of the Communications Working Group presented to the Expert Group: April 2018 and April 2019.
- (ii) Updated standard presentations on UNFC posted to the ECE website: April 2018 and ongoing.
- (iii) Webinars on UNFC: 2018 and 2019.
- (iv) Online application tool for UNFC: December 2018.
- (v) Standard curriculum for national and regional workshops: April 2018 and ongoing.
- (vi) Web-based educational programmes on UNFC: April 2019.

**O. Extrabudgetary Resource Mobilization**

**Description:** Development, promotion of and capacity building on UNFC is dependent upon significant voluntary contributions (man-hours, travel, expertise, sponsorship) and it cannot be expected to be sustainable in the longer term. Extrabudgetary resources are required to support the Expert Group's work, including capacity-building, advisory services and consultations.

**Work to be undertaken:** The Resourcing Working Group will update the UNFC resourcing plan and the estimated funding requirement to maintain the support needed for the development and maintenance of UNFC. The Working Group will identify potential donors and develop and implement a coordinated plan to approach them for support. As the application of UNFC becomes widely accepted in different energy and raw material sectors,

the need for advisory services, international peer review, expert services and capacity-building for national institutions will also increase. Support to non-ECE member States can only be provided with extrabudgetary funds. The Working Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

**Deliverables:**

- (i) Extrabudgetary resourcing action plan aligned with the resourcing strategy of ECE.
- (ii) Report and update to the Expert Group annually on the status of implementation of the extrabudgetary action plan.

**Timeline:**

- (i) Extrabudgetary action plan for 2018–2019: April 2018.
  - (ii) Update on resource mobilization efforts: April 2018 and April 2019.
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