

Resource Management Young Member Group Activities in 2023

This document provides a summary report of the activities of the Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) of the UNECE's Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) in 2023.

1. Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG):

Scope of RMYMG:

The Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) was initiated to address the challenges faced by the resource industry in meeting global energy and resource demand while adhering to sustainability goals such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the reluctance of the younger generation to pursue careers in sectors like mining and fossil fuels due to environmental concerns, RMYMG focuses on engaging youth in sustainable resource management. It provides an educational platform and facilitates participation in resource management related discussions. RMYMG aims to bridge the gap between youth and the energy and resource sector – [Youth in Resource Management](#).

RMYMG was officially launched during the UNECE Resource Management Week 2023 and EGRM's 14th annual meeting in April 2023, with a first-of-its-kind high-level youth panel session held during a global resource management conference – [RMYMG at UNECE Resource Management Week 2023](#).

Purpose of RMYMG:

The primary objective of RMYMG is to integrate the perspectives and skills of young professionals and students into the activities of EGRM, particularly in the development, promotion, and application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS). Involving youth in discussions and capacity-building initiatives aims to nurture future energy and resource experts while promoting sustainable resource management practices aligned with the 2030 Agenda – [RMYMG Terms of Reference](#).

Overview of Activities in 2023:

- 1. Member Allocation to EGRM Working Groups (WG):** RMYMG members actively participate in various EGRM Working Groups, including G axis Task Force, Policy Adoption WG, Commercial Applications WG, SDGs WG, Communications WG, Women in Resource Management WG, and Renewables WG, ensuring youth representation and input in such discussions.

2. **Ad-Hoc Task Group on Guidebook on Critical Minerals:** RMYMG initiated the development of a “Guidebook on Critical Minerals” to raise awareness and centralize expertise along the critical minerals value chain, emphasizing intergenerational equity and collective action. The drafting process is underway, with publication scheduled for EGRM-15.

Guidebook description: Accelerating the energy transition worldwide towards clean and low-carbon technologies implies ever-growing demand for critical minerals on which our economy, communities, and livelihoods depend. However, to date, the issue of sustainable resource management of critical minerals for the energy transition has not received a level of attention that is on par with that of other issues related to the transition itself. It is oftentimes marginal or absent at large multilateral climate forums, such as the UN Climate Conferences or SDG7-focused meetings. To help solve this issue, the RMYMG has initiated a Guidebook which will raise public awareness, centralize expertise and existing resources along the critical minerals value chain, highlight the indisputable case for intergenerational equity, and strengthen the case for collective action.

3. **Collaboration with Academic Institutions:** RMYMG has engaged in discussions with academic institutes such as Imperial College London and Yale University regarding the establishment of a Resource Management Youth Group or a linked student chapter to involve more young people in interdisciplinary practices in order to bridge the gap between science and policy-making, as well as to enhance local coverage and visibility and involve more young members in sustainable resource management.
4. **Participation in Conferences and Workshops:** RMYMG members have actively participated in conferences such as GeoBerlin2024 and the Vienna Climate & Energy Forum, advocating for responsible resource management and promoting the application of UNFC and UNRMS. Additionally, RMYMG has collaborated with CEEW India and EIT RawMaterials Alumni Network to organize workshops at IRTC 2024, focusing on intergenerational collaboration in addressing challenges related to critical raw materials – [Workshop Concept Note](#).
5. **Representation at COP28:** RMYMG had a significant presence at COP28 in Dubai, UAE, advocating for intergenerational equity and responsible resource management through various platforms and pavilions.

RMYMG representation at COP28 includes:

- **Peru Pavilion:** Promoting the Guidebook on Critical Minerals and Intergenerational Justice – [Link to recorded event](#)
- **German Pavilion:** RMYMG promotion and UNFC & financial sustainability – [Link to recorded event](#)

- **Global Alliance of Universities on Climate Pavilion:** Guidebook for Intergenerational Action, Responsible Resource Management for a Just Transition, RMYMG with an academic focus.
 - **Children and Youth Pavilion:** RMYMG, Relevance of Critical Minerals for the Green Transition & Guidebook for Intergenerational Action – [Link to recorded event](#).
 - **UN Regional Economic Commissions Side Event** "Responsible and inclusive management of critical energy transition minerals": RMYMG and emphasis on intergenerational equity in the world of critical minerals, promotion of the Guidebook for Intergenerational Action, Responsible and inclusive management of critical energy transition minerals – [Link to recorded event](#).
 - **UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY18):** Empowering Youth in Resource Management: Bridging the Gap for a Sustainable Future.
6. **Consultation and Collaboration:** RMYMG has collaborated with UNECLAC and EGRM's SDG WG to engage in consultations regarding topics relevant to young people, including ESG investments, sustainability accounting, and innovative technologies. The drafting process of a White Paper with the SDG WG on demand-side topics is currently underway.
7. **Engagement with UNEP:** RMYMG members actively participated in consultations organized by the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP, advocating for the inclusion of UNFC and UNRMS principles in Draft Resolution 15 "[Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally, and globally](#)" and Draft Resolution 16 "[Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management](#)", both related to minerals management and circular economy transition. RMYMG representatives also participated in UNEA-6 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The UNECE Sustainable Energy Division recognizes the invaluable contribution of RMYMG in fostering meaningful youth participation and promoting sustainable resource management practices aligned with the goals of the United Nations.

Engagement and collaboration with the UN Brussels Youth Task Force:

A member of RMYMG Co-chairs the UN Brussels Youth Task Force alongside UNEP, commencing in March 2023. This collaborative effort serves as a significant platform for amplifying youth voices and initiatives within the UN system.

Overview of Activities:

1. **Linking RMYMG and UN BRX Youth TF:** Linking RMYMG with the UN Brussels Youth Task Force in order to facilitate synergistic collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two entities.

2. **EU Year of Youth Participation:** Actively participated in EU call for evidence EU Year of Youth, submitting comments on behalf of RMYMG to ensure youth perspectives on energy and resources sectors are duly considered in relevant policy initiatives.
3. **CinéONU / EWAG Preparations:** Involved in preparations and coordination efforts for CinéONU and the European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG), leveraging these platforms to raise awareness on critical issues affecting youth – [Event Details](#).
4. **FAO / LOB Coordination:** Collaborated with FAO LOB for the World Food Forum Satellite Event “Empowering youth as agents of behavioral change for transformed Agri-food Systems”, highlighting the role of youth in promoting sustainable food systems and addressing food security challenges.
5. **UNBT HoA Retreat:** Participation in the UNBT HoA Retreat involved providing updates on the Task Force activities and outlining future plans to enhance youth engagement efforts.
6. **European Parliament Elections 2024:** Undertook communications activities targeting first-time voters for the European Parliament Elections 2024, aiming to empower youth participation in democratic processes.
7. **Engagement with Belgian Presidency:** Introductory and work coordination meetings with the Belgian Presidency, aligning efforts with their priorities and objectives, in addition to engagement with the Belgian Presidency on Council conclusions regarding European and international policy agendas on children, youth, and children's rights, advocating for inclusive and youth-centric policies.
8. **Collaboration with UNYO and UNSDG:** Collaboration with UNYO and UNSDG has focused on the development of the Youth2030 Scorecard, which was presented at the Expert Seminar on European and International Policy Agendas, ensuring youth priorities are integrated into policy discussions.

Engagement in the UN Brussels Youth Task Force reflects the commitment to fostering meaningful youth participation and advancing youth-related agendas within the UN system and beyond.
