

**To: Members of the Bureau of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management**

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Hari Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) 29 July 2019 MINUTES
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Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol (alternate Glenn Sondak), IEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol (alternate Rodrigo Chanes), EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TBC, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ju Jianhua (alternate Yang Hua), China	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, (alternate Dhiti Tulyatid), CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Msoma, AUC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Olga Trofimova for Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bradley Van Gosen, USA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Draft Agenda for EGRM Bureau Call on 29 July

1. Approval of draft agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of call on 11 June 2019 (attachment 2)
3. Extrabudgetary funding and International Centres of Excellence
4. UNFC revamp
5. UNRMS – Short note on user requirements
6. Technical Advisory Group update
7. Education and outreach (attachment 3)
8. Date of next meeting or call
9. Any other business

#### Documentation:

1. Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 29 July 2019
2. Draft minutes of 11 June 2019
3. List of events promoting UNFC in 2018–2019 as at 22 July 2019

### **Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda**

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 29 July 2019

1. The agenda was approved without any changes.

### **Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 11 June 2019**

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 11 June 2019

2. The representative of CRIRSCO proposed that the word “Working Groups” in the last sentence in para 7 be changed to “sectoral groups”. He also suggested adding a line to explain the Nexus approach in para 23. The minutes were approved with these changes.

### **Item 3. Extrabudgetary funding and International Centres of Excellence**

3. The Chair advised that the further development of UNFC/UNRMS and supporting its implementation in countries would depend mainly on extrabudgetary support. He noted that the UN Secretary-General announced on 5 June 2019 that the UN as a whole is facing a severe budgetary crisis that “is undermining the organization’s mandates and reform efforts”. This situation has been years in the making due to a number of Member States not paying their financial obligations on time and in full. The Secretary-General noted that “at the end of 2018, we have really reached the bottom”, and “the level of arrears stood at \$492 million at the end of May”. Because of this situation, the UN has put an indefinite freeze on hiring, travel and other expenses.

4. The Chair noted that for a variety of reasons UNECE is profoundly affected and has run out of operating cash earlier than other organizations. UNECE has a very low vacancy rate (i.e. UNECE is more efficient at filling vacant posts compared to other UN organizations), and the UN Office in Geneva receives funding to look after conference and other services for UNECE whereas other UN organizations receive this funding directly.

5. The Chair further noted that along with budget issues, UNECE is working to improve its overall budget position, which has already been under stress for a long time, facing regular cuts in its annual budgets. UNECE has made attracting extrabudgetary funding a top priority. This is in line with other UN organizations like UNDP, which has 20% regular budget and 80% extrabudgetary funding.

6. The Chair noted that UNECE has initiated a strategic review of its programme to prioritize activities that are in demand with member States and thus attract funding. Programmes which are used and implemented in member States will receive a higher priority and thus will receive a significant share of the limited regular budget resources. It will be expected that such programmes will also be able to attract extrabudgetary funding.

7. The Chair noted that since its development in 1997, UNFC had been officially implemented in a handful of countries. Only one country, Ukraine has updated to UNFC-2009. In recent years, bridging documents to Russian and Chinese systems increased UNFC's footprint. It is encouraging that the European Commission is using UNFC as a harmonizing tool and has a "UNFC for Europe" initiative. UNFC is used for assessing battery raw materials and will be used for the EU raw materials criticality study. The use of UNFC will get a significant upswing with the adoption of AMREC in Africa. This means 55 countries will start to use UNFC for national resource management and public reporting. This initiative should be supported. Other countries, such as Mexico, have shown interest in adopting UNFC.

8. The Chair suggested that EGRM's main thrust from now on should be to support the implementation and use of UNFC in as many countries as possible. There should be a target for country adoption, and EGRM should focus on ensuring that progress against this target is made every year.

9. In the ensuing discussions, it was proposed that EGRM prioritize its activities, and new and additional activities such as development of UNRMS should be based on availability of extrabudgetary funding. It was also noted that UNECE has restrictions in receiving funding from specific sources as well.

10. The Chair suggested that EGRM should consolidate its efforts under the International Centres of Excellence in Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) that are to be established in interested countries and see that significant extrabudgetary funds are attracted for the activity. Currently, Russia, China, Mexico and the African Union have indicated interest in ICE-SRMs. Rodrigo Channes informed that EC is looking into options for providing funds.

11. The Chair informed that an ICE-Task Force needs to be set up, and volunteers are being sought. Yang Hua informed that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China is supportive of the idea, and she is interested in joining and chairing this Task Force. A ToR will be drafted as soon as possible.

#### **Item 4. UNFC revamp and update**

12. The Chair advised that a "work in progress" document proposing "revamp" changes to UNFC was circulated in June. Feedback has been received from WGs, and these are being considered in the next revision, which will be circulated shortly. The TAG will establish a small group which will provide final comments on the update.

13. The Chair noted that the African Union's AMREC system has decided to embed UNFC within the system. This a common practice in several other systems. There are Africa-specific aspects that are addressed in AMREC. The draft AMREC document needs to be approved in

October, so any UNFC update needs to be completed relatively quickly to keep both the systems aligned.

14. Concerns were raised on keeping AMREC consistent with the updated UNFC. The Chair advised that every effort will be taken to ensure that the definitions in AMREC are aligned to the updated UNFC.

#### **Item 5. UNRMS – Short note on user requirements**

15. The Chair noted that a short statement outlining (i) who will use UNRMS, (ii) what information users need, (iii) and for what purpose UNRMS would be used needs to be circulated to EGRM.

16. The Chair informed that in the last Bureau call, Milan Grohol indicated he might be willing to lead the small drafting group but could only do so in September due to work commitments. It was also agreed on that call that meeting the 1 September date included in the EGRM-10 meeting report was not realistic. It is better to have a quality document with the engagement of all key stakeholders than meet an internal deadline. The TAG suggested providing volunteers to draft the note. The Chair noted that the SDGs Delivery WG had been leading the work on the UNRMS concept note development so far and should also be involved in the drafting of the statement to be circulated to EGRM. All other WGs and TFs will need to be consulted for inputs. Inputs from the UNFC for Europe and AMREC initiatives and their point of view should be considered.

17. The Chair informed that it should be kept in mind that EGRM's and UNECE's prime objective is to support countries and the industry to deliver on SDGs. UNRMS should be a tool to achieve this objective. The scope of the note will be limited to the 3 points mentioned above. Hence the draft could be completed relatively quickly.

#### **Item 6. International Centres of Excellence**

18. The Chair informed that the establishment of a Task Force on International Centres of Excellence (ICE) was agreed at EGRM-10. The chair and members of this TF will need to be identified. ICEs are currently proposed in Mexico, Russian Federation, China, Norway and Africa (a division under AMDC and possibly one under Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on seabed minerals) and possibly CCOP might want to establish one in Bangkok for its member States. The Bureau was requested to propose members for the Task Force (see para 11).

#### **Item 7. Technical Advisory Group update**

19. The TAG Chair provided the following updates:

20. Minerals: Development of specifications for minerals is progressing.

21. Petroleum: The petroleum specifications and guidelines are progressing. Membership has been extended including a representative from Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

22. Nuclear Fuel Resources: The Working Group has started work on a new report entitled "The Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways".

23. Renewable energy: Draft solar and wind specifications were submitted for public comments. Wind specifications public comment closed on 21 July. Solar specifications public comment will close on 30 August.
24. Anthropogenic resources: Papers accepted for publication and looking into case studies.
25. Commercial: Work on “UNFC Applied to Commercial Assessments” continues to progress.
26. Groundwater: membership of the group has expanded thanks to Marco Petitta’s outreach. The first electronic meeting was due to be held end-June but was postponed and now will be held in September.
27. UNFC Update: Comments from WGs are being compiled. The TAG has proposed that a small group of 3 or 4 representative of the WGs assist in reviewing and finalizing the UNFC update.
28. Work plans: TAG has compiled a summary of work plans from the WGs which the Chair proposed should be shared with the Bureau to keep members informed.
29. UNRMS: TAG proposes Frank Denelle, Sigurd Heiberg, Julian Hilton and Alistair Jones assist in preparing a short document outlining UNRMS. It also suggests that the TAG is asked to provide feedback on an initial draft.
30. Funding: TAG strongly supports the need for funding and also suggests that to make the funding case compelling, EGRM should identify what activities cannot be pursued unless funding is available.

#### **Item 8. Education and outreach**

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2018–2019 as at 21 July 2019

31. The Chair advised that the list of events was circulated with the documentation for the call. Upcoming meetings and workshops include, where UNFC could be prominently featured include:
  - Final Continental Adaptation Meeting of AMREC, 9-13 September Windhoek, Namibia
  - Tyumen Oil and Gas Forum featuring a workshop on “Promotion of UNFC and UNRMS for expansion of investment potential of Central Asian and BRICS countries”, Tyumen, Russian Federation, 17-19 September
  - UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2019: Accelerating and Deepening the Transition to Sustainable Energy Systems & 28th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 September, Palais des Nations, Geneva
  - 10th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand, 7-8 October
  - World Resource Forum 2019, Geneva, 23-24 October. A workshop on “Towards integrated sustainable resource management” will be organized jointly by ESM Foundation, EIT Raw Materials and UNECE.
  - 55th CCOP Annual Session and UNFC Workshop, Chiangmai, Thailand, 5–6 November 2019
  - European Commission Raw Materials Week 2019 featuring UNFC Workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 18–22 November

32. The Chair requested the Bureau to provide details of any meeting/workshop that is missing from the list.

**Item 9. Date of next Bureau Call**

33. The next Bureau call will be held during the weeks of 2 or 9 September.

**Item 10. Any other business**

34. No other business was discussed.

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