

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

**From:** David MacDonald, Jim Ross and Charlotte Griffiths

**Conference Calls with the Bureau of the  
Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC)  
9am and 3pm 24 July 2013 (BST)  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Present on 9am Call:**

1. David MacDonald (Chair)
2. Michael Lynch-Bell (Chair Ex-officio)
3. Yanis Miezitis *representing* Leesa Carson (Geoscience Australia)
4. Hari Tulsidas (IAEA)
5. Charlotte Griffiths (UNECE)

**Present on 3pm Call:**

1. Jim Ross (Chair)
2. Dan Diluzio *representing* Rawdon Seager (SPE)
3. Roger Dixon (CRIRSCO)
4. David Elliott (financial reporting sector)
5. Tim Smith (SPEE)
6. Brad van Gosen (USGS)
7. Charlotte Griffiths (UNECE)

**Observer:**

1. Paul Bankes (CRIRSCO)

**Apologies:**

1. Karin Ask (petroleum sector)
2. Fatih Birol (IEA)
3. Leesa Carson (Geoscience Australia)
4. Mucella Ersoy (Turkish Coal Enterprises)
5. Kjell Reidar Knudsen (Norwegian Petroleum Directorate)
6. Yuri Podturkin (Russian Working Group)
7. Rawdon Seager (SPE)
8. Adichat Surinkum (CCOP)

**Draft Agenda**

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of Bureau Calls of 28 May 2013
3. Status of Approval of Specifications
4. TAG Nominations
5. Proposal to Deliver on Financial Reporting Item of EGRC Work Programme
6. Communication of Possible Future Developments and Publications Related to PRMS and the CRIRSCO Template (and the Reporting Codes and Standards Based on it), as well as Information Related to Other Widely used Systems such as the SEC Regulations
7. Representative on Project Advisory Board of DG Enterprise Project Statistical Information on Raw Materials Deposits
8. Education and Outreach

9. Dates of EGRC Fifth Session
10. Any Other Business
11. Timing of Next Meeting

1. As the EGRC Chair was unexpectedly unavailable for the afternoon call, it was agreed that Jim Ross would Chair this call.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

**Item 2: Draft Minutes of Bureau Calls of 28 May 2013**

3. The draft minutes as circulated on 3 June were approved without amendment.

**Item 3: Status of Approval of Specifications**

4. The original proposal as discussed by the Bureau on its last call had been to submit the specifications as approved by the EGRC at the fourth session (text of 6 May 2013 as posted to the UNECE website) to the Committee on Sustainable Energy via written procedure and then to the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2013 (assuming the Committee approved the specifications). On 15 May an email was sent by the secretariat to UNECE member States for onward transmission to members of the Committee on Sustainable Energy requesting approval of the specifications as agreed by the EGRC at its fourth session. Any objections were requested to be submitted in writing by 12 June. In the absence of any objections it would be taken that the specifications had been approved by the Committee and they would then be submitted to the Executive Committee at its 11 July meeting. There was then debate amongst a number of member States, largely the EU27, related to the validity of the silence procedure. The EU27 was, however in agreement for the specifications to be submitted directly to the Executive Committee on an exceptional basis and documentation was prepared accordingly to enable this to happen. On 11 June, the Russian Federation indicated it would be ready to endorse the specifications, but through the appropriate procedure existing in the UNECE, i.e. at the upcoming session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November and only afterwards at the Executive Committee. The Russian Federation also expressed concern that the way of endorsing the Specifications, proposed by the secretariat, could become a precedent in the UNECE practices and procedures that would lead to undermining the role of the Committees in the decision-making process.

5. The EXCOM informally discussed the specifications at its 11 July meeting and decided that the specifications should be submitted to the Energy Committee meeting in November for formal endorsement, but in the interim it was agreed that the EGRC could proceed straightaway with dissemination. However, publishing of the specifications as an official UNECE publication is only possible with a formal a decision from the Energy Committee. The specifications have subsequently been prepared as an official document for the Energy Committee meeting in November and submitted for translation. Bureau members are encouraged to garner support for the specifications from Energy Committee members at the November meeting.

6. It was recalled that as part review of the reform of the UNECE of 2005, the EGRC has been requested to electronically disseminate the UNFC to all major stakeholders by August 2013 and to finalize the generic specifications by December 2013 to make UNFC operational. It was noted that the UNFC has been circulated in hard copy to all major stakeholders, as well as electronically, on a number of occasions since December 2009. The electronic link to the specifications as approved by the EGRC at its fourth session has also been provided to all major stakeholders.

7. The version of the specifications as approved by the EGRC at its fourth session has been translated into Spanish by Oscar Roldan of the National Hydrocarbons Commission of Mexico. This document is now available on the UNECE website as an “unofficial translation”. The Bureau noted its appreciation of Mr. Roldan’s effort and support and requested that this be conveyed to him.

#### **Item 4: TAG Nominations**

8. The Chair advised that NPD has nominated Per Blystad to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) representing the petroleum and government sector stakeholders. A proposal has also been received for a financial reporting sector representative, but confirmation from the nominee is still needed. Michael Lynch-Bell offered himself as a reserve.

9. During the call, Roger Dixon advised he will be the nominated CRIRSCO representative on TAG and that this will be confirmed or otherwise at the CRIRSCO AGM in November. SPE will consider and respond regarding its representative. The IAEA representative indicated he will seek approval internally to be the IAEA representative on the TAG. The SPEE representative indicated that John Ritter is unlikely to accept a role on the TAG, but he had discussed the issue with John Etherington who is interested provided that his involvement is limited to communication by email and telephone unless all costs are covered. Geoscience Australia will explore providing a representative to cover the mining side from the Government perspective. The Russian Federation will be approached to provide a representative. The need for industry, UNFC stakeholder and geographic balance on the TAG membership was emphasized.

10. The Chair underlined that with the specifications finalized and a number of countries expressing interest to apply the UNFC, the TAG will be critical going forward. Time and funding remain key challenges in establishing the TAG. It was noted that as the level of time and commitment needed from members is still uncertain, members should be free to withdraw should the level of commitment needed become too onerous. It was also agreed that the core TAG membership should be able to call on other EGRC members for assistance as and when needed and dependent on the specific issue on which expertise/help is needed.

11. Any additional nominations or specific recommendations regarding the establishment of the TAG should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat by 14 August. An e-mail will be circulated to the Bureau requesting this.

#### **Item 5: Proposal to Deliver on Financial Reporting Item of EGRC Work Programme**

12. In order to deliver on this work item, David Elliott has put forward a proposal to the Chair to establish a small informal financial task force that he would be willing to run and which would report to the Bureau and the EGRC. The Bureau observed that the financial

sector has been noted as one of the four UNFC stakeholder groups. It was agreed that David Elliott's proposal will be circulated to the Bureau with a request for comments and questions by 14 August. Following receipt of this feedback the Chair will prepare a formal proposal.

13. The IAEA representative advised that he and a representative from CRIRSCO had discussed the need for the CRIRSCO Template and the UNFC to move to a complementary mode of functioning. The possibility of a reference to the UNFC in relation to Government reporting being included in a future update of the Template was raised

**Item 6: Communication of Possible Future Developments and Publications Related to PRMS and the CRIRSCO Template (and the Reporting Codes and Standards Based on it), as well as Information Related to Other Widely used Systems such as the SEC Regulations**

14. With the PRMS and CRIRSCO Template bridging documents now agreed, it will be critical for the UNFC going forward that any updates to either system are coordinated and for the Bureau and the EGRC to be kept informed. In the past, the issue of the EGRC having an observer role on both the SPE Oil and Gas Reserves Committee (OGRC) and CRIRSCO has been discussed but never implemented. The CRIRSCO representative advised that its annual meeting (a portion of which is open to the public) would be the appropriate venue for a Bureau member to attend as part of the on-going need for cross-communication. The CRIRSCO representative undertook to ensure the Bureau receives adequate notice of the date of this annual meeting. The SPE representative greeted positively the proposal for the EGRC to have observer status on the OGRC. He indicated that he will raise the issue within the OGRC and work to ensure that a reliable means of ensuring cross-communication is provided.

15. The SPEE has recently been contacted and requested to serve as a vehicle for the communication of SEC guidance regarding reserves disclosures in the US. Others have also similarly been contacted. The SEC guidance will take the form of Compliance and Disclosure Interpretations (C&DIs). SPEE has subsequently developed a protocol to disseminate SEC guidance to its membership and through them to the broader evaluation community. SPEE issued its first such communication on 25 June 2013. It was agreed that the UNECE secretariat would be the focal point for information on SEC C&DIs and that any updates would then be circulated to the EGRC. Clarification was needed on whether the SEC would communicate directly with the secretariat or via the SPEE. There was also discussion regarding the possibility for UNECE to provide these updates on its website in the form of a "clearing house". The secretariat will explore the viability of this.

**Item 7: Representative on Project Advisory Board of DG Enterprise Project on Statistical Information on Raw Material Deposits (Minventory)**

16. An overview of this DG Enterprise-commissioned project was provided noting that it aims to assess the possibility of implementing a pan-European statistical database on raw materials deposits. The project, which is collaboration between ten European geological bodies, seeks to create a directory of mineral reserves and resources across Europe and a roadmap to a harmonized data repository. It was noted that the project appears to be supportive of the UNFC and the managers keen to work with the EGRC.

17. The EGRC has been asked to nominate a representative to the project Steering Group. The Commission is keen to ensure broad participation on this Group, not least to ensure that the experience of the various other overlapping geological and resource initiatives is included, but also to check that the resulting roadmap has validity within the community of interest. The primary functions of the Steering Group are: (i) to be a consultation body that represents a broad range of interests and at a higher level than the consortium and workshops; (ii) to include international representatives to bring in other perspectives; (iii) to be kept informed of progress and asked to comment on interim reports and findings and their implications; and (iv) to carry out a peer review of the final outputs in parallel with the Commission's review.

18. Possible nominees to the Minventory Project Steering Group were discussed, as well as the need to find a nominee who could fully represent the UNFC's interests. It was noted that PERC is already represented on the Group. Members were asked to provide their input on nominees by 14 August.

## **Item 8. Education and Outreach**

### **(i) General Update**

19. The Chair provided a general update referring to the List of Events in 2013-14 at which a presentation on the UNFC had been or it is anticipated will be made that was circulated with the agenda for the call. He noted that a presentation on the UNFC is currently being delivered on average every other week.

20. The IAEA representative provided a short overview of the Interregional Workshop on "UNFC Applications in Uranium and Thorium Resources: Focus on Comprehensive Extraction" held in Santiago, Chile, 9-12 July, noting that the presentations and discussions on the use of the UNFC were very positive. Some 65 experts from more than 35 countries participated in the workshop, which was organized jointly by the IAEA, UNECE, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Ibero-American Programme for Science, Technology and Development (CYTED). The event also received good press coverage. Argentina, Malawi, Philippines, Tanzania and Thailand delivered case studies and indicated their interest in applying the UNFC. A number of requests were received from Governments for training and capacity building on the UNFC at the national level. The workshop was organized with IAEA funding from its Technical Cooperation Programme under a project that will end in 2013. The IAEA is working to obtain extrabudgetary funding to run a similar project that would support capacity building on the UNFC for an additional one or two years.

21. The Chair drew attention to the following upcoming workshops and/or proposals:

#### **(a) UNFC National Workshop, New Delhi, India, 29-30 October**

22. Both SPE and CRIRSCO have agreed to send a representative to this event, which will be supported and sponsored by the Government of India. IAEA will also be represented. It is hoped that a representative from Geoscience Australia will attend, as well as an expert on geothermal resources. It was noted that the Indian Government is very keen to focus on detailed mapping of UNFC-1997 to UNFC-2009 at this event. This is because its National Mineral Inventory for more than 70 minerals is maintained according to UNFC-1997. A key goal of the workshop will be to explain that the relationship needs to be governed by the UNFC-2009 specifications, including the CRIRSCO Template, and not any mapping document. The 1997 and 2009 versions of the UNFC are not "aligned", since a number of

changes were made in order to align UNFC-2009 with the CRIRSCO Template. Hence it will not be possible to develop the Bridging Document the Indian Government is seeking. It was noted that the workshop participants will need to read the category definitions in UNFC-2009 and the specifications document, especially the Bridging Document with the Template.

(b) National and International Classifications of Subsoil Resources, State and Prospects for Usage. Adaptation to UNFC-2009, Kiev, Ukraine, 26-29 November

23. The State Commission of Ukraine on Mineral Resource is organizing this workshop in cooperation with UNECE, 26-29 November. The Bureau confirmed its support for this event, particularly in view of Ukraine's long-term support of and commitment to the UNFC. Bureau members however raised a concern over the timing of the event noting that it clashes with the peak period for reporting in the petroleum sector. The SPE representative indicated that he was very interested to attend but the current timing was problematic. Other members could only participate if funding is offered. The IAEA representative undertook to inform the uranium experts in Ukraine of the event. It was agreed that the Bureau should explore how well it could support the meeting based on the current timing and, in the event it is not possible to offer adequate coverage (including SPE), the possibility of postponing the event to the first quarter of 2014 should be raised.

(i) Coordinated Presentations

24. In view that the bridging documents with the CRIRSCO Template and the PRMS are now agreed, the Bureau discussed the merits of having a set of standard slides relating to the UNFC and its application to minerals and petroleum to ensure delivery of a consistent and coordinated message. It was agreed that preparing "off-the-shelf" presentations was a good idea and that the Communications Sub-Committee should be given the task of preparing these for review and approval by the Bureau. The need for differing lengths of presentations and with varying degrees of technical information dependent on the audience was highlighted. There was a suggestion that the range of presentations required should be agreed first: e.g. (i) short overview of UNFC, (ii) more detailed presentation on the UNFC, (iii) application to petroleum, and (iv) application to solid minerals.

**Item 9: Dates of EGRC Fifth Session**

25. The dates for the EGRC fifth session were confirmed as 29 April to 2 May 2014. A UNFC Workshop to be held on 29 April and the official EGRC meeting will start on 29 April.

**Item 10: Any Other Business**

(a) Funding for Travel

26. The issue of funding for travel in relation to the TAG, workshops, presentations etc was raised a number of times during the discussions. A member put forward the possibility of establishing a small task force to re-look at this issue and agreed to prepare a proposal that he would circulate to the Bureau.

**Item 11: Timing of Next Meeting**

27. The next Bureau call will be held during the first two weeks of September. The usual availability notice will be circulated.

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