

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

From: Dave MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Hari Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) 23 July 2020 MINUTES
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Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternates</i> Olga Trofimova and Ekaterina Lovchuk		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol (alternate tbc), 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"/>
Gerardo Herrera for Milan Grohol, EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TBC, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slavko Solar, EuroGeoSurveys for Zoltán Horváth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YANG Hua for JU Jianhua, China	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, (alternate Dhiti Tulyatid), CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Msoma, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bradley Van Gosen, USA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of draft agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 22 June 2020 (attachment 2)
3. Rescheduled EGRM-11 meeting
4. Informal EGRM Webinars
 - a) Petroleum
 - b) Raw and secondary materials
 - c) UNRMS
 - d) Social and Environmental/Commercial aspects
5. Renewable Working Group Chair
6. ICE-SRM – Revised ToR (attachments 3 & 4)
7. UNEP International Resources Panel
8. UNRMS publication 2020
9. Pathways to Sustainable Energy Policy Paper from EGRM
10. Technical Advisory Group update
 - a) Draft Petroleum Specifications
 - b) Draft Mineral Specifications
 - c) Draft Nuclear WG report
 - d) UNFC Resource Specifications – TF review and WG updates
 - e) Review Group
 - f) Chair of Social & Environmental WG
11. 29th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 November
12. Education and outreach (attachment 4)
13. Date of next call
14. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 23 July 2020
2. Draft minutes of 22 June 2020
3. ICE-SRM – Revised ToR clean
4. ICE-SRM – Revised ToR track changes
5. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020 *as at 16 July 2020*

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 23 July 2020

1. The Chair proposed the inclusion of Bureau Issues under Item 14 Any other Business. With this addition, the agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 22 June 2020

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 22 June 2020

2. It was noted that Dhiti Tulyatid participated on the call of 22 June. With this correction, the draft minutes were approved.

Item 3. Rescheduling of EGRM-11

3. The Chair informed that as discussed in previous calls, it is not possible to have a full EGRM session this year. UNECE procedures do not allow for an official meeting to be held online, especially when interpretation services are unavailable. Conference rooms are also not available at the Palais for a full five-day meeting between now and the end of the year.

Moreover, travel restrictions are still in place. Under these uncertainties, it is difficult to plan anything substantial.

4. A condensed official hybrid "virtual–physical" EGRM meeting is now planned to take place in Geneva during 22-25 September comprising two 2-hour sessions, which will allow EGRM to take some business-critical decisions. Part of the meeting will be held jointly with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) and will include a joint session on the application of UNFC to renewable energy on 22 September, but the date is to be confirmed.

5. The Nuclear Working Group (WG) has proposed a 90-minute session during the morning of 24 September to provide an update on its activities. The reason for this is that is because its work is linked to the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Project which will organize a workshop during the afternoon of 24 September. One of the two Project donors is the World Nuclear Association.

6. During the EGRM "admin" session, the intent is to discuss "business-critical" issues such as how to deal with the Bureau elections (i.e. to roll over the existing Bureau until till April 2021 and to consider electing the 2 new nominees from Kazakhstan and China); the proposed update of the UNFC ECOSOC Decision - EGRM could be invited to agree on the text and recommend or otherwise that it be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy 29th Session. To the extent possible, all documents including the draft meeting report will be issued in English, French and Russian. Igor Shpurov and Viktor Babashev kindly offered to assist with unofficial translations into Russian.

The planned dates are:

- AM CET Tuesday 22 September for EGRM – Group of Experts on Renewable Energy session on renewable energy
- AM CET Thursday 24 September for Nuclear WG session followed by EGRM admin.

7. EGRM members will be able to participate in person or virtually. Travel restrictions still exist, and it may not be feasible for all to participate physically in the meeting.

8. EGRM is also organizing 2 or 3 informal virtual sessions during July to September on substantive topics from the EGRM Work Plan. This will be discussed under Item 4.

Item 4. Informal EGRM Webinars

9. A number of EGRM online informal events or webinars are planned:

- Application of UNFC to Petroleum Total Resource Management: Status and outlook. 29 July 2020 (Wednesday) 14.00 to 15.30 CEST (Geneva time).
- Application of UNFC to minerals and anthropogenic resources: Sustainable management of raw material resources. 26 August 2020 (Wednesday) 14.00 to 15.30 CEST (Geneva time).
- Integrated resource management: Values, principles and requirements; September (date tbc), 14.00 to 15.30 CEST (Geneva time). This could be combined with the themes of Social and Environmental and Commercial aspects in the application of UNFC for sustainable management of resources.

10. The topics selected are largely based on EGRM activities for which documentation was prepared for EGRM-11 or on which there is progress to report to EGRM.

11. For the Petroleum webinar, 29 July, the speakers and topics are:

- Professor Satinder Purewal, Imperial College London and Chair, Petroleum Working Group – Moderator
- Ms. Barbara Pribyl, Santos Limited, Australia – UNFC Petroleum Specifications and Guidelines
- Mr. Eduardo Simon Burgos, National Hydrocarbons Commission (CNH), Mexico - Digital tool for petroleum project evaluation using UNFC
- Ms. Yang Hua, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China - Case Study on Bridging from National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum Resources/Reserves to UNFC
- Mr. Mohammad Al-Ghanemi, Kuwait Oil Company - A case study on the application of UNFC, Kuwait

12. Some 200 people have registered for this webinar. The Chair observed that these virtual sessions or webinars are not considered official EGRM meetings. They are for sharing of knowledge and updates on progress in major initiatives, however any conclusions and recommendations arising from those sessions could be fed into the hybrid EGRM meeting in September and could become an official part of the EGRM-11 meeting.

13. Viktor advised that Kazakhstan will decide soon on bridging to UNFC. He noted that he plans to participate in the Petroleum webinar.

14. Teresa proposed that it would be interesting to organise a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on energy, hydrogen, and water issues. She noted that discussion on a hydrogen strategy for Portugal is progressing. She also advised that LNEG, Portugal, will be using UNFC to evaluate the natural capital of Portugal – LNEG now has a small unit that includes a focus on UNFC when time allows. Hari informed about the ongoing UNECE work on MSMEs, critical raw materials etc. related to COVID-19. He advised that webinars on these topics would be organized over the coming months.

Item 5. Renewable Working Group Chair

15. The Chair advised that Jeremy Webb had been nominated as the Chair of the Renewable Energy WG. A message was sent to the Bureau on 5 July regarding the nomination, and no objections were received during the 10-day feedback period. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Frank Denelle again for his significant contribution during his time as Chair of the Renewable Energy WG.

16. Jeremy Webb has 20 years of experience in the areas of natural resources, climate change and international development. Jeremy led the development of Statistics New Zealand's energy, mineral and greenhouse gas emissions accounts which included the world's first asset valuation of renewable energy resources at the national level. While at Statistics New Zealand (2001-2005), Jeremy also began looking into the possibility of classifying New Zealand's renewable energy resources using the Modified McKelvey Box and UNFC framework. Subsequently, Jeremy spent five years with the United Nations Statistics Division

working on environmental-economic accounts and environment statistics, before moving to Addis Ababa for five years where he helped establish both the African Climate Policy Centre and the geology and mineral information systems workstream of the African Minerals Development Centre. Most recently Jeremy has been completing his doctoral studies at University College London "exploring preconditions for effective global responses to climate change" while also leading the Solar Energy Subgroup and serving as a member of the Renewable Energy Working Group.

Item 6. ICE-SRM Revised Terms of Reference

Documentation: ICE-SRM Designation Criteria and ToR Revised track changes version and Clean Version

17. The Chair advised that a draft generic revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ICE-SRMs was circulated which includes some minor modifications to reflect the discussions related to competent persons and certification during the last Bureau call. Milan Grohol subsequently requested that footnote 1 in the ToR be amended and that the following text be deleted "or by all exchanges within a single jurisdiction such as the European Union":

"Footnote 1: The term "Competent Person" is widely used in association with regulations addressing public corporate resource reporting in the extractive industries. These regulations are established or adopted by individual stock exchanges. Consequently, the requirement for, and definition of, a Competent Person varies between industries and jurisdictions. Equivalent comparable terms include Qualified Person, Qualified Reserve Estimator and Qualified Reserve Auditor."

18. The Chair noted that Bernard Seiller had also questioned via email prior to the call whether the ICEs should only deliver presentations in their region. In response, it was noted that the thinking behind not wanting to put a restriction on where each ICE can present was the desire for the Centres around the world to be interactive and cross-fertilize and to act as a network. The experiences and lessons learned in one region of what works and what doesn't work in applying UNFC can be of value to a Centre in another region.

19. Roger Dixon requested clarity on the interaction of ICEs through a central hub. The Chair advised that the ICEs would report to the Expert Group annually and also share experience and knowledge with other ICEs. Extrabudgetary funding is required to support the work of ICEs.

20. The Chair observed that the ICEs could offer consultancy services. Regarding Competent Person and certification, the ICEs can apply EGRM guidance for their particular region. Viktor suggested that having internal expertise in assessment and audit of resources is vital for countries like Kazakhstan and UNFC should support these activities. Michael Neumann observed that having certified professionals helps in providing quality UNFC information. Teresa proposed that it would be useful to have criteria to define the ICEs but it was not clarified how such criteria might differ from those already developed related to designation of an ICE. Roger requested clarity on the definition of "certified" and after much discussion the Chair said that this would need further discussion and that it was never the intention of EGRM to define competency and or certify professionals.

21. Ekaterina Lovchuk clarified that Moscow State University (MSU) will support the planned ICE-SRM in Russia and will provide training to experts on UNFC. The discussions

with MSU are ongoing. Young Joo Lee advised that CCOP Member States are interested in UNFC and in establishing an ICE-SRM for CCOP member countries. CCOP is seeking funding from different entities, including ASEAN, to establish such an ICE in the region. CCOP is also collaborating with the Ministry of Natural Resources in China on implementation of UNFC.

22. Based on the discussions, the Chair noted that certain elements of the ToR and Criteria for Designation of an ICE-SRM would require further examination and he undertook to review the documents.

Item 7. UNEP International Resources Panel

23. On 14 July, Roger Dixon brought to the Bureau's attention a document published by the International Resource Panel (IRP) of the UN Environment Programme entitled "Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century – gearing extractive industries towards sustainable development".

24. The Chair observed that we have been aware of IRP's work for some years thanks to this first being raised by Milan Grohol during a Bureau call in 2018. Peder Jensen, who was then with the IRP Secretariat, delivered a presentation on the IRP's Global Resource Outlook 2019 at EGRM-10 in 2019. The secretariat has been in contact with Peder Jensen's successor and a joint session with IRP was being planned at EGRM-11 in April.

25. Although the IRP report in question was published recently, it is understood that it is in fact an older report, prepared perhaps in 2017-2018. A draft was available before the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in March 2019. UNFC is mentioned, along with CRIRSCO, with the caveat that UNFC does not have competent person requirements. The UNFC Nordic Guidelines and UNFC for Africa are also mentioned. EGRM is referred to as EGRC in the report which indicates it is a dated document.

26. In June 2018, the secretariat and Chair of the Bureau undertook an analysis and comparison of the work undertaken by EGRM and IRP to see if and where there were overlaps and duplication and the conclusion then was that our work was complementary and opportunities to work together should be explored. However, it could be that the scope of IRP's work has changed and the secretariat will look into that. A number of EGRM experts have expressed concern that IRP's activities now seem to be overlapping with EGRM's and are moving into the area of resource governance.

27. The Chair noted that IRP is a scientific panel that provides independent scientific assessment related to the use of natural resources to support policies that will encourage sustainable consumption and production, especially from the viewpoint of global environmental impact. IRP provides quantitative data on global production and consumption of metal stocks, biofuels, priority products and materials. IRP data and reports are intended to be policy-relevant and support policy framing, policy and programme planning, and enable evaluation and monitoring of policy effectiveness. IRP's assessments are led by a strong requirement for rigorous scientific assessments that underpinned research into other environmental disciplines, such as climate change, biodiversity and ozone. The other requirement was for global scientific assessment of how raw materials are sourced, processed, manufactured into products, traded and consumed in locations around the world.

28. IRP global assessments and quantitative data currently available include decoupling of resource use and environmental impact from economic growth; global materials flow; metal stocks and flows in society; priority products and metals; metal recycling rates; environmental risks of anthropogenic metals; assessing biofuels; global land and resource use; resource efficiency; green and low-carbon technologies; measuring water use; cities and urban resource flows. The Global Material Flows Database is one of the key products of IRP. This global database of historical material flow accounts, covering 1970-2017 in 150 countries and includes details of material extraction, trade, material footprints and material intensity.

29. The Chair informed that the secretariat will continue to liaise with UNEP and IRP to ensure that any overlap of work undertaken by EGRM is not duplicated by IRP. UNFC and UNRMS can take guidance from the quantitative assessments of IRP, and in turn, IRP's assessments can also benefit from the standards and guidelines developed by EGRM, especially for deriving harmonised coherent resource inventory data.

Item 8. UNRMS publication 2020

30. The Chair advised that as per the UNECE Publications Plan for 2020, a publication on UNRMS is forecast. This forecast was developed a number of years ago. Since UNRMS is not yet ready, it is proposed to prepare a publication that sets out the background of UNRMS, with the proposed title "United Nations Resource Management System: An overview of concepts, objectives and requirements."

31. This publication will be a compilation of all the work done to date on UNRMS – it will summarise the four concept notes developed as EGRM parliamentary documents since 2018:

- 2020 - UNRMS Concept note: Objectives, requirements, outline and way forward (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2029/4)
- 2020 - Use of UNFC & UNRMS for sustainable development: Global values, regional circumstances, priorities and needs for resource management in the age of big data & AI (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2020/7)
- 2019 - United Nations Resource Management System: Concept and design (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/10)
- 2018 - UNFC supporting the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals Transforming our world's natural resources: A step change for UNFC? (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/7)

32. This publication is expected to provide some ideas on what sustainable resource management and UNRMS should be, without really defining UNRMS. The UNRMS Subgroup and TAG will be invited to review and comment on the draft text prior to publication. The text needs to be finalized by October.

Item 9. Pathways to Sustainable Energy Policy Paper from EGRM

33. The project "[Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the UNECE Region](#)" was completed in 2019. The final report of the project "Pathways to Sustainable Energy: Accelerating Energy Transition in the UNECE Region" (ECE Energy Series 67 and ECE/ENERGY/131), is available on the UNECE website in English and Russian: <https://www.unece.org/energy/pathwaystose.html>.

34. The Committee on Sustainable Energy has asked for policy recommendations resulting from the project for adoption at its 29th session (November 2020). EGRM has already contributed many good points in the discussions during the project. These points could be developed as a concise draft paper by the TAG and circulated to the Bureau for additions/modifications. This document has to be finalized before mid-September. The draft document will be circulated to the Bureau for comment as soon as possible.

Item 10. Technical Advisory Group update

35. Alistair Jones, TAG Chair, provided an update on TAG activities:

Petroleum WG: The Petroleum WG had a meeting on 28 May. The draft Petroleum Specifications have been finalized and are now with the TAG for final review. Once this is completed, the document may be made available for public comments and comment by SPE OGRC. As advised earlier, the Petroleum WG is organizing a webinar on 29 July. Following recent updates of both UNFC and SPE PRMS, the Petroleum WG and SPE OGRC will start to address the update of the UNFC-PRMS Bridging document.

Minerals WG: Draft specifications are under finalization and WG review.

Nuclear WG: Remains active and has finalized the report on "Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways". This report is currently being reviewed by the TAG.

Social and Environmental Considerations WG: Dave Elliot will be stepping down as the Chair of the WG from September. Discussions are ongoing within the WG to identify a new Chair.

UNFC Resource Specifications – Task Force Review and WG Updates

The TAG has proposed that:

- the UNFC resource specifications should be updated (by Working Groups) following the UNFC 2019 Update,
- we should take the opportunity of this update to review the existing and draft UNFC Resource Specifications to identify any inconsistencies and to make recommendations on how to achieve consistency with the UNFC 2019 Update and between individual resource Specifications.

To undertake the second task, the TAG proposes to set up a Task Force (TF) to review and make recommendations. The TF will also consider developing a common glossary for UNFC during this process. This TF would complete its work by end October. Bureau members supported the formation of the proposed Task Force

Review Group: It was noted that it is proving quite hard to find sufficient reviewers for TAG reviews. The TAG supported the proposal to form a dedicated review group, ideally drawing one member from each Working Group. Forming such a group would assist with the aim of consistency identified in the TAG's Terms of Reference. Bureau members supported the formation of the proposed Review Group

36. The Chair thanked the TAG for its ongoing work during the challenging COVID period.

Item 11. 29th Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 November 2020

37. An annual update on EGRM activities will need to be delivered to the Committee on Sustainable Energy when it meets 25-27 November. The Committee will be requested to approve the following

- Draft text for the update of the ECOSOC Decision 2004/233
- UNFC Petroleum Resource Specifications (if approved by EGRM-11 in September) [NB. It has seen become apparent that the specifications will not be issued for public comment before EGRM-11].

38. The Committee will also be asked to consider the recommendations from EGRM on Pathways to Sustainable Energy as discussed under agenda item 9. Other items such as the creation of ICE-SRMs and the generic ToR and Criteria for Designation as an ICE-SRM etc. should also be highlighted in the session.

Item 12. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020 as at 16 July 2020

39. The list of meetings promoting UNFC in 2020 was circulated with the documentation for the call. Due to COVID-19, many of the events planned this year have been cancelled or postponed. Several meetings have been converted to virtual events or postponed. Bureau members were requested to provide details of virtual or other events that should be included in the list. Brief details were provided on the joint UNECE-EuroGeoSurveys-DG GROW virtual event on UNFC that is planned during the EU Raw Materials Week in November.

Item 13. Date of next Bureau Call

40. The next Bureau call will be organized during the weeks of 7 or 14 September. The usual doodle poll will be circulated.

Item 14. Any other business

(a) Bureau issues

41. Hussein Allaboun has been appointed to the prestigious position of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission of Jordan, with powers of a Minister. The Bureau extended sincere congratulations to Hussein.

(b) Rules of Procedure for Groups of Experts under the Committee on Sustainable Energy

42. The Bureau was previously advised that draft Rules of Procedure (RoP) for all the Groups of Experts operating under the Committee on Sustainable Energy were being developed. These have now been put on hold and continued development of RoPs for the Committee itself will be discussed at today's meeting of the Bureau of the Committee. There are a number of UNECE documents that exist which provide guidance for how EGRM and its Bureau should operate (posted here:

<https://www.unece.org/commission/excom/welcome.html>).

- Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe
- Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE

- Appendix III to the Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (Decision A(65) Decision A(65) which includes text related to the Functions of the Bureaux:

“VI. Functions of the Bureaux

10. The key functions of the Bureaux are:

- (a) To monitor and ensure implementation of the programme of work and of past decisions and recommendations during intersessional periods;
- (b) To ensure effective and transparent preparations of forthcoming sessions and, for that purpose, to collectively outreach and consult with all member States, and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- (c) To ensure effective conduct of business during the sessions in full compliance with their respective Rules of Procedure, taking into account these guidelines, and to facilitate reaching agreement on decisions and recommendations.

11. In addition to these tasks, the Bureaux help the consensus-building process by means of transparent and inclusive consultations on draft outcomes of the subsidiary bodies, including draft decisions, conclusions and recommendations that might be proposed by representatives of member States.

12. The Bureaux do not adopt the conclusions, recommendations, decisions and meeting reports of the subsidiary bodies.

13. In its activities the Bureaux should coordinate with the secretariat on all relevant issues.

VII. Procedures for the adoption of decisions and reports of intergovernmental bodies

14. When taking a decision, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall continue their existing practice of making every effort to reach a consensus.”

- (c) Request from Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy re UNECE Commission Session, April 2020

43. Sigurd Heiberg represented Dave MacDonald, who is a Vice Chair of the Committee, at the Committee Bureau meeting held at the same time as this EGRM Bureau meeting. He conveyed that the Committee Bureau is inviting the EGRM Chair and Bureau members to express priorities for the Committee Bureau to consider when it meets on 8 September and present to the Commission session to be held in April 2021. The Commission Session will be held the week before EGRM-12 and will focus on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources.

44. No other business was discussed.
