

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Expert Group on Resource Management
Tenth session
Geneva, 29 April – 3 May 2019
Item 18 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

DRAFT Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the tenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management^{1, 2}

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

1. The Expert Group noted the changes to the Bureau elected at the ninth session. The following members have stepped down: Mr. Hubert Schwarz (Poland), Mr. Radoslav Vukas, (Serbia), Ms. Adrienne Hanly (IAEA) and Mr. Adichat Surinkum (CCOP).

2. The following members were elected as Vice-Chairs for a period of one year until the close of the eleventh session: XXXXX

Agenda Item 5: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management

3. The Expert Group noted the ongoing strategic review of the ECE sustainable energy sub-programme and tasked the Bureau to contribute to this process and inform the Expert Group of its outcomes.

Agenda item 6: Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management

4. Recognizing its expanding mandate, the Expert Group noted the urgency of mobilizing resources at scale to support both its work and that of the ECE secretariat. The Expert Group requested the Bureau in cooperation with the secretariat to raise extrabudgetary resources as an immediate priority.

5. Noting that its mandate expires in December 2019, the Expert Group recommended that its mandate be renewed for a further five years to 31 December 2024.

6. The Expert Group noted that ECOSOC Decision 2004/233 needs updating to reflect the new name for the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the broadening of its areas of application. The Expert Group requested the Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, to start the process of updating the Decision to disseminate UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) at the global level.

Agenda item 7: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNFC and UNRMS

7. The Expert Group requested the Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group to further develop the principles, methodologies and case studies for realization of the Sustainable Development Goals that can aid development of UNRMS and submit this documentation to the eleventh session.

Agenda item 8: Pathways to Sustainable Energy

¹ It is proposed that the draft conclusions and recommendations be reviewed by the Expert Group on screen after each agenda item and updated as needed.

² These draft conclusions and recommendations were developed by the Bureau of the Expert Group and are not intended in any way to prejudice the discussions at the tenth session, but rather to provide a draft text that will be updated as the meeting progresses.

8. The Expert Group recognized that the project “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” represents a unique opportunity for the Expert Group to contribute to a dialogue on a sustainable energy system of the future and the role of resource management therein. The Expert Group determined to provide key insights and messages for the planned policy and technology dialogues with the aim to provide recommendations on the role of sustainable resource management and the importance of accommodating social and environmental considerations, so that they can be presented at the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 25-27 September 2019. This will involve participation in the open-ended consultation process on policy recommendations on 16 May 2019 in Geneva.

9. With those aims in mind, the Expert Group requested that its Bureau and key experts remain fully engaged in the Pathways to Sustainable Energy project and contribute to it.

Agenda item 9: Development, maintenance and application of UNFC and UNRMS

10. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Technical Advisory Group to coordinate the activities of all sectoral Working Groups and recommended that it continue to provide technical support for the integrated development of UNFC and UNRMS principles, specifications, guidelines and case studies for all resources to aid policy formulation, national resource management, company business process innovation and financial reporting.

(a) Revision of UNFC

OPTION A:

11. The Expert Group recommended that the draft updated UNFC (EGRM-10/INF.X) as presented to the tenth session be updated to include the feedback provided during the session and then issued for public comment as per the document approval procedure agreed at the fifth session of the Expert Group (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/2, para 97). The updated UNFC should then be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement and subsequent publication as part of the ECE Energy Series.

OPTION B

11. The Expert Group reviewed the draft updated UNFC (EGRM-10/INF.2) as presented to the tenth session and agreed that more substantial changes are needed to the classification system, including a number of the proposals presented by the Technical Advisory Group at the session. The Expert Group requested the Bureau in cooperation with the Technical Advisory Group to prepare a revised UNFC (as opposed to an updated UNFC). The draft revised UNFC should be circulated to the Expert Group electronically prior to the eleventh session, if ready.

OPTION C

11. The Expert Group recommended that no changes are made to UNFC now and agreed that a more fundamental revision and adjustment of UNFC is needed and requested the Bureau in cooperation with the Technical Advisory Group to present a proposal on this to the eleventh session.

(b) Concept and design of UNRMS

12. Recognizing the key role of sustainable resource management in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Expert Group recommended the accelerated development of UNRMS as a tool for an integrated systems approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Expert Group requested the Bureau in close cooperation with the Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Group to develop the overarching principles of UNRMS and associated system structure and specifications to support sustainable resource management and present the draft documentation to the eleventh session.

(c) Minerals

13. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Minerals Working Group and the progress made in the development of a comprehensive minerals management system that includes specifications and guidelines for UNFC and UNRMS. The Expert Group requested that the draft document be presented to the eleventh session.

(d) Petroleum

14. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Petroleum Working Group and the progress made in the development of specifications and guidelines for the application of UNFC and UNRMS to petroleum projects and requested that the draft document be presented to the eleventh session.

15. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the pilot project for the application of UNFC for identifying and classifying social and environmental aspects to petroleum project advancement in Mexico and the case study prepared by the Petroleum Working Group under the leadership of the National Hydrocarbons Commission of Mexico in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and the Safety, Energy and Environment Agency (ECEC/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/5) and requested that the pilot project and case study be posted to the ECE website.

(e) Renewable energy resources

16. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Renewable Energy Working Group and reviewed the final draft specifications for the application of UNFC to solar energy (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/9) and the final draft specifications for the application of UNFC to wind energy (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/9).

17. The Expert Group approved the specifications for application of UNFC to solar energy and, subject to the document approval procedure agreed at the fifth session of the Expert Group (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/2, para 97) being followed, recommended their endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

18. The Expert Group approved the specifications for application of UNFC to wind energy and, subject to the document approval procedure agreed at the fifth session of the Expert Group (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/2, para 97) being followed, recommended their endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

19. The Expert Group requested the Working Group to continue its work to develop draft specifications for hydropower and marine energy.

20. The Expert Group noted the increasing application of UNFC to the geothermal and bioenergy sectors. The Expert Group noted the various workshops and training courses organized by the Geothermal Sub-group under the leadership of the International Geothermal Association, IRENA and the World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. The Expert Group requested the Working Group to support development of case studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy resources and submit them to the eleventh session.

(f) Nuclear fuel resources

21. Following review of the Concept Note on “The Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/6), the Expert Group requested the Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group to prepare the full report in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and submit it to the eleventh session.

22. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the various workshops organized on application of UNFC to nuclear fuel resources under the leadership of the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the World Nuclear Association and the OECD-Nuclear Energy Agency. The Expert Group requested the Working Group to further update and/or develop specifications, guideline and case studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS to nuclear fuel resources and submit the documentation to the eleventh session.

(g) Injection projects

23. The Expert Group recommended that case studies should be prepared by the Injection Projects Working Group to test application of UNFC and UNRMS to the injection projects specifications.

(h) Anthropogenic resources

24. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Anthropogenic Resources Working Group and requested the Working Group to support the development of case studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS to anthropogenic resources.

(i) Commercial aspects and financial reporting

25. The Expert Group reviewed the draft document “UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments” (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/7) and requested the Commercial Working Group to finalize the document and issue it for public comment.

26. Noting that an International Financial Reporting Standard for Extractives is on the active agenda of the International Accounting Standards Board, the Expert Group requested the Bureau, in cooperation with the Commercial Working Group, to ensure IASB is fully informed on the status of development and application of UNFC worldwide.

(i) Competent Person and evaluator qualifications

27. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Competent Person Task Force and the progress made on updating the Guidance Notes on Competent Person Requirements and Evaluator Qualifications and requested that the revised documentation aligned to UNFC and UNRMS principles be presented to the eleventh session.

(k) Other potential applications

28. The Expert Group noted the establishment of the Groundwater Working Group and requested that it start work on development of specifications for the application of UNFC and UNRMS to groundwater and provide an update to the eleventh session.

29. The Expert Group recommended that, subject to volunteers and extrabudgetary funds being identified, sub-groups be established to explore applicability of UNFC and UNRMS to other resources such as coal mine methane and energy from wastes and that any findings be reported to the eleventh session.

Agenda item 10: Social and environmental considerations in UNFC and UNRMS

30. The Expert Group recommended that detailed UNFC and UNRMS specifications, guidelines and best practices for social and environmental assessments to ensure alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals may be developed and draft documentation may be submitted to the eleventh session.

Agenda item 11: Application of the UNFC in different geographical contexts

31. The Expert Group noted the progress made by the “UNFC and UNRMS for Europe” initiative to harmonize classification and management of raw materials at EU level under the European Commission’s Raw Materials Initiative and the encouraging results of the EU Battery Initiative. The Expert Group noted the increasing use of UNFC by a number of Horizon 2020 projects and the UNFC-focussed workshop organized

as part of the EU Raw Materials Week 2018. The Expert Group requested that the draft guidance document for application of UNFC and UNRMS in the European context be submitted to the eleventh session.

32. The Expert Group noted the progress made by the “UNFC and UNRMS for Africa” initiative to develop the UNFC African Mineral and Energy Resource Classification and Management System (UNFC-AMREC) aligned to the Africa Mining Vision under the leadership of the African Union Commission’s AMREC Working Group. The Expert Group noted the workshops and meetings organized under this initiative and requested the draft UNFC-AMREC documentation be submitted to the eleventh session.

Agenda item 12: International Centres of Excellence and extrabudgetary projects for implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and development of the United Nations Resource Management System

33. The Expert Group noted the interest in establishing national and/or regional centres of excellence on sustainable resource management worldwide based on UNFC and UNRMS, with the technical support of ECE, and requested the Bureau and Working Groups to support and engage in the initiatives and provide an update during the eleventh session. The Expert Group agreed that any such centres that are established should report to the Expert Group annually to ensure a harmonized and coordinated approach in their operation, and for sharing of experiences, notwithstanding that the work and focus of each centre would be tailored to national and regional requirements. The Expert Group requested the Bureau to develop guidelines for operation and oversight for the centres. This should also be coordinated with the operating procedures for other ECE International Centres of Excellence.

34. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the ongoing extrabudgetary projects that support the application of UNFC, in particular: (a) Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources (funded by the Russian Federation); (b) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (funded by the United Nations Development Account); and requested members of the Expert Group to continue to support and engage in the projects.

Agenda item 13: Women and diversity in resource management.

35. The Expert Group noted the powerful and positive benefits of diversity and inclusion in resource management and recommended the Bureau to monitor developments in improving the participation of women in resource management. The Expert Group requested the Bureau and Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group to consider including inputs from similar activities to the development of UNRMS and to update the eleventh session accordingly.

Agenda item 14: Education and outreach.

36. The Expert Group recommended that an educational and training session on UNFC and UNRMS be organized on the first day of the eleventh session.

37. The Expert Group noted the work of the Communications Working Group and approved its revised promotion, education and outreach strategy as presented at the session.

Agenda item 15: Cooperation with other organizations and entities

38. The Expert Group noted the increased cooperation with various organizations and requested an update be provided to the eleventh session.

Agenda item 16: Work plan for 2018-2019 and draft work plan for 2020-2021

39. Following a detailed review, the Expert Group noted that it has made significant progress in the implementation of its work plan for 2018–2019.

40. The Expert Group recommended that the draft Work Plan for 2020–2021 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/4) be submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement and to the Executive Committee for subsequent approval.

Agenda item 17: Other business

41. Following discussion and careful review and in the light of the expanded scope of application of UNFC and the development of UNRMS, the Expert Group agreed that its eleventh session needs to be held over four days, including an educational and training session on UNFC and UNRMS, but with an option to reduce the total number of days commensurate with the required agenda items.

Agenda item 18: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

42. The report of the meeting was adopted subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
