

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

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths, Slavko Solar and Hari Tulsidas

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

Geneva, Switzerland, 15:00 CET, 27 January 2022

MINUTES

Attendance:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternates</i> Olga Trofimova (present) and Ekaterina Lovchuk (present) and Marina Kuznetcova (present)		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Cross, Australia	<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"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America (not present) <i>represented by</i> Anna Wendt (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC (not present) <i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	<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"/>
JU Jianhua, China (not present) <i>Alternate</i> YANG Hua (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP <i>Alternate</i> Dhiti Tulyatid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer McCoy, Ernst & Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frank Mugyeyni, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA <i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Satinder Purewal, TAG Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexander Shpilman, TAG Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolina Coll, Chair, EGRM Communications WG (Guest for agenda item 3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slavko Solar, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walker Darke, UNECE Communications Consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liliane Bizimana, UNECE Intern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE Intern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda

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|-----|--|--------------|
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| 12. | Date of next call | |
| 13. | Any Other Business (AOB) | |

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 27 January 2022
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 12 November 2021
3. EGRM Communications Plan
4. Draft Programme for UNFC Training for EIT Raw Materials
5. List of events promoting UNFC in 2022-2023 as at 20 January 2022
6. EGRM-13 Provisional Annotated Agenda
7. List of EGRM-13 parliamentary documents
8. Draft ToR for UN Working Group on Extractive Industries
9. Summary of EGRM Working Group Updates to TAG

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call of 27 January 2022

1. The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 12 November 2021

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 12 November 2021

2. The Draft minutes of the Bureau Call of 12 November 2021 were circulated on 26 January. Comments and/or approval were requested by 8 February.

Item 3. Education and outreach

(a) EGRM Communications Plan (Attachment 3)

3. A presentation on the proposed communication plan for 2022 was provided by Carolina Coll, Chair of the EGRM Communications Working Group and Walker Darke, a new member of UNECE secretariat leading on the communications deliverables of the EU-funded UNFC-UNRMS extrabudgetary project.

4. A discussion ensued with a range of comments and observations. The Communications Working Group needs support from technical experts to provide strategic materials and attend conferences to increase visibility on how effectively UNFC/UNRMS can be used. The organisational structure of EGRM is focussed around working groups whereas it should focus more on the needs of stakeholders. Existing case studies tend to be on classification and measurement only whereas there is a need for case studies on application of UNFC. The non-technical usage of UNFC should be encouraged specifically for end users including decision makers. UNFC is not just a working tool. Results-based case studies are important and should be considered as “model” applications of UNFC. Effective internal communication of flagship initiatives have the potential to highlight the added value of EGRM across the divisions of ECE. Communication materials for different audiences should always be available and comprehensive and include presentations and high-level pitches for non-technical people. The communication plan includes targeted campaigns that facilitate outreach to policymakers and decision makers, and information that both technical experts and non-technical stakeholders can understand.

5. It was noted that UNFC and UNRMS should be adopted by financial authorities, such as banks because there are great shared opportunities. UNFC/UNRMS should not only be used as a reporting tool, but also as a decision-making tool to define how a project can progress UNFC

(b) UNFC Training for EIT Raw Materials (attachment 4)

6. The representative of DG GROW expressed appreciation for the training on UNFC prepared by the secretariat to train experts from EIT Raw Materials. The aim is to train EIT evaluators to classify “real” projects according to UNFC. The training comprises presentations, case studies and classroom type exercises. Due to high interest, future trainings are now planned for the network of practitioners and other interested experts.

(c) Conferences in 2022 (List of Events 2022–2023)

7. The list of meetings promoting UNFC and UNRMS in 2022 was noted. The following events were emphasised:

- UNFC Training for EIT Raw Materials, Online, 2-3 February 2022
- 7th EU-Africa Business Forum 2022, Hybrid - Side Event “The Role of Resource Management Tools in the Raw Materials Value Chain in Africa and Beyond”, Brussels, Belgium and online, 18 February 2022

- UNECE Resource Management Week 2022 incorporating 13th session of the Expert Group on Resource Management, Geneva, Switzerland and online, 24-29 April 2022.

Item 4. EGRM way forward

8. Noting the previous discussions on the proposed EGRM Reorganization, there was consensus that to achieve an effective reorganization a common understanding is needed on the scope of the activities of EGRM, as well as how EGRM interacts with its stakeholders and the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management being established. There was a detailed discussion with members sharing their views on the way forward for EGRM. EGRM experts should be part of that conversation together with the Bureau to define what is achievable and to ensure the delivery of the right solution. The discussion highlighted the need to make sure there is a common understanding on the boundaries of EGRM work.

9. Proposals on reorganization of EGRM will be presented at the thirteenth session in April to reflect purpose and boundaries from a broad range of stakeholders and working groups. The reorganization will cover the broader leadership of EGRM and its working groups. A one- or two-hour discussion is planned.

Item 5. EGRM-13

(a) Bureau elections

10. The majority of the Bureau have been elected through April 2023, except three Vice-Chairs: Ms. Branka Knežević (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Viktor Babashev (Kazakhstan), and Mr. JU Jianhua (the People's Republic of China) who were elected in 2020 and need to be re-elected if they wish to continue to be in the Bureau.

(b) Draft annotated provisional agenda Attachment 6

11. The draft annotated provisional agenda was approved for submission.

(c) EGRM-13 parliamentary documents Attachment 7

12. The Chair provided an overview the proposed EGRM-13 parliamentary documents. The updated China minerals and petroleum bridging documents are included. If there are no substantive changes they will not be issued for public consultation.

13. The representative of the Russian Federation observed that his comments (as per those provided by the Russian Federation representative in the Competency WG) had not yet been addressed in the latest draft of the “Guidance note on competency requirements for estimation and classification of resources”. Extensive discussion ensued. It was emphasized that the Note is a guidance document only. It is resource neutral and may be applied regardless of the resource or combination of resources being assessed. Additional guidance may be needed to accommodate resource sector specific requirements, as well as regional and/or national requirements. Resource sector specific requirements could be addressed through development of separate guidance notes or as annexes to the Note. The International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs) would be well placed to develop additional guidance that meets regional and/or national requirements. A proposal to undertake a project exploring cooperation between professional societies and associations to develop common competency guidelines can be presented at EGRM-13.

14. A Bureau member observed that for Africa, AMREC has developed a reporting code “PARC” (Pan African Reporting Code). The judicial bodies of all African countries have been harmonized in such a way that every country in Africa has a role to play. Other comments highlighted the need to unite different professional societies in different countries on different classification systems and have flexibility rather than imposing rules.

(d) Week overview planning (selected events):

15. The UNECE Resource Management Week 2022 starts on Monday 25 April. It is being organized as a hybrid event with in person participation possible and online via Zoom. The week overview was discussed including individual workshops and other sessions as well as potential keynote speakers to invite.

16. A number of workshops on UNFC and UNRMS will be held on 25 and 26 April 2022 to explore:

(a) Development of international standards for hydrogen classification and management, including labelling according to its origin and CO2 footprint, and technical issues related to sustainable hydrogen production in the ECE region and its role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential. This event will be organized in cooperation with the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, on Gas and on Renewable Energy.

(b) The application of UNFC to coal bed methane (CBM) and is there a place for CBM and coal mine methane (CMM) in a circular economy? This event will be organized jointly with the Group of Experts on CMM and Just Transition.

(c) The application of UNFC and UNRMS to facilitate attainment of the 2030 Agenda in Europe. The event will also address the challenges and opportunities in implementing UNFC for raw materials needed for green transitions and circular economy.

17. There is significant interest from a range of stakeholders to cooperate and contribute during the Week:

- UK has expressed interest to work with UNECE on a follow-up event on critical raw materials. Currently exploring to organize this including with ESM Foundation/IRTC.
- UNECE established a Team of Specialists on ESG Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in a Circular Economy. The focus is on priority sectors such as garment and footwear, mining, transport, agri-food, fishery, and waste management. The key activities are on development and promotion of relevant policies, standards and tools (e.g. guidelines and capacity-building materials) and sharing of existing good practices by providing a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform. The Secretary of the Team would like to present on the work on mining and how it can contribute to the development of a comprehensive framework on traceability for extractive industries (Point 17 of the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development).
- The Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) has reached out to see if the Group and its Industrial EE Task Force could contribute during EGRM-13. SRM, circularity, decarbonization efforts, and industrial EE (most notably from the users’ perspective; and also taking into account digitalization and its relevance to all of the above) have much in common. This would be a useful opportunity for GEEE and EGRM to address in a collaborative way and break the silos on the complexity of issues that both Groups are addressing and possibly bring new perspectives for cooperation.

- UNECE has offered that the Secretary-General's Working Group on Extractive Industries be launched during the Week.

18. Interested Bureau members available to assist to chair sessions during the Week should inform the secretariat.

Item 6. UNRMS Subgroup update

19. An update was provided by the Chair of the UNRMS Subgroup. The Second Workshop on 26 November highlighted:

- COP 26 outcomes and the impact on sustainable resource management.
- Presentation on a clean energy index together with the green taxonomy in Europe.
- A presentation on UNFC-based resource management.
- Discussion on resource supply systems and Resources as a service and a blockchain-supported tool.
- UNRMS and the value addition principle
- Discussion on how to use already existing tools to support resource management systems, mainly using resources as a service.
- UNRMS toolkit in China.

20. The third UNRMS workshop is being planned for March 2022.

21. The Bureau noted its appreciation of the workshop and the work of the UNRMS Subgroup.

Item 7. Technical Advisory Group Update Attachment 9

22. A summary of the EGRM Working Group updates was circulated on 26 January. The Co-Chairs of the Technical Advisory Group provided a brief update on the TAG meeting of 21 January 2022 and ongoing activities:

- TAG co-Chairs: Satinder Purewal, Alex Shpilman and Ulrich Kral were approved by the Bureau as Co-chairs at the meeting on 12 November 2021. However, Ulrich Kral awaits approval from his management before he can accept this role. Until then, Satinder and Alex will be the Co-chairs.
- TAG Meeting: The first meeting of 2022 and the first with new Co-chairs was held on Friday 21 January 2022
- A revised TAG ToR is under discussion/preparation and will be shared once ready.
- Work plan for 2022-23 was discussed.
- TAG roadmap for 5-7 years is envisaged to include update of specifications and guidelines in an orderly, timely and structured fashion. A 5-7 year cycle is envisaged.
- A summary of each Working Group was provided by the Chair of the Working Group to all Chairs to ensure everyone was up to speed prior to the call. These have been collated and were provided as Attachment 9. These are easy to read as each summary is one page or less.
- TAG Review Process: It is recommended that going forwards TAG will only review specifications. Guidelines and case studies should have any review/due diligence carried out by the WG as therein lies the expertise.

23. The TAG Co-Chairs and members were thanked for their efforts and hard work.

Item 8. Committee on Sustainable Energy Bureau Call, 20 January 2022

24. A number of takeaways from the Committee on Sustainable Energy Bureau call were shared by the Chair: expert groups should have elevator type pitches and material available on concrete activities and tools such as UNFC; the Russian Federation representative offered to help disseminate any communication material shared or webinars with her network of stakeholders across Russia; a discussion on the green taxonomy that Europe is proposing for nuclear and gas is needed; the Committee Bureau requested the Group of Experts on Gas and EGRM to cooperate together on hydrogen with the Chairs of the 2 Groups leading on the work.

25. It was noted that a new EGRM Working Group that cuts across the existing WGs might be needed to focus on hydrogen. Three WGs are currently looking at the topic.

Item 9. UN Working Group on Extractive Industries Attachment 8

26. The creation of this Working Group on Extractive Industries is a result of the global Extractives industries initiative of the UN Secretary-General to ensure that the outcomes of the regional and global round tables held and the recommendations highlighted in his Policy Brief are translated into concrete policy outcomes at both the regional and national level. The Co-leads of the WG are the Regional Commissions on a rotating basis (UNECE is in the lead in 2022), UNDP and UNEP. The first meeting of the WG Co-leads was held on 26 January. The launch of the WG will be on 27 April during the UNECE resource Management Week. The draft ToR for the Working Group was circulated as part of the documentation for the call. EGRM is mentioned as one of the entities that will be invited to join the WG.

Item 10. UNECE's 5-point action agenda on sustainable resource management

27. An overview of UNECE's 5-point action agenda on sustainable resource management was provided. UNECE has developed a 5-point action agenda on sustainable resource management:

- (i) Social Contract: a comprehensive Socio-Environmental-Economic Contract to Operate is needed that integrates quality of life, just transition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental stewardship.
- (ii) Sustainable Investment Framework: Investors should move towards ESG focused funding based on a common sustainable finance taxonomy.
- (iii) Sustainable Resource Management System: Industry should align with a shared Principles-based, Integrated, Sustainable Resource Management Framework as per the UNFC and UNRMS under development.
- (iv) Supply Chain Traceability: Stakeholders can develop a comprehensive framework for traceability, transparency, and sustainability in supply chains.
- (v) Strategic environmental assessment: should be an essential component of ESG governance.

28. The Sustainable Energy Division is now working closely with the Trade and Economic Cooperation Division and the Environment Division on implementation.

29. It was noted that the Commercial WG should be engaged in the work on a Sustainable Investment Framework.

Item 11. Update on extrabudgetary projects

30. An update was provided on extrabudgetary projects:

(a) European Commission-funded project supporting UNECE member States to develop and implement UNFC and UNRMS:

31. This four year project was approved by the UNECE Executive Committee and started in May 2020. The project focuses on raw materials in EU countries but also includes working with African experts through AU and preparing a UNFC-UNRMS side event at the EU Africa Forum (17-18 February). A network of practitioners on application of UNFC to minerals in Europe has been established.

(b) Strengthening capacities of selected UNECE member States in sustainable and harmonious management of natural resources

32. This project was approved by EXCOM in December 2021. It is a five-year project from 2022-2026 that relates to the establishment of the first International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management in Moscow. The donor is the Autonomous Non-Commercial Organization (ANCO) ICE-SRM (approx. USD 2.736 million) that has been created for this purpose. ANCO ICE-SRM which is based at Lomonosov Moscow State University has been subject to UNECE's due diligence process.

33. ANCO ICE-SRM is being "promoted" and supported by:

- EurAsian Union of Experts in Subsoil & Subsurface Management (EUES)
- Lomonosov Moscow State University
- Russian Federation Federal Agency for Sub-soil use (Rosnedra)
- Russian Federal State Commission on Reserves (FBO GKZ)
- Russian Federal Geological Fund.

34. Through this XB project, UNECE will support ANCO-ICE-SRM on a set of activities related to the application of UNFC and UNRMS thus helping to make it an international centre of excellence in this field. The focus will be on CIS countries.

35. The Network of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs): The establishment of a network of ICE-SRMs has been discussed for a number of years now, including at meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its Bureau and EGRM and this Bureau. At the Committee meeting in September 2021, the Committee "Noted with appreciation the growing interest from Member States, including in Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom, China, and Mexico, to establish International Centres of Excellence on SRM in the ECE region and beyond, and requested the secretariat to work to facilitate their institution". These ICE-SRMs will support the regional implementation of UNFC and UNRMS, in collaboration with the other UN Regional Commissions. The intent is to establish a Centre or secretariat at UNECE to coordinate the network. This proposal was discussed by the Committee at its meeting in September 2019.

(iii) Project proposal "Supporting sustainable and integrated natural resource management in selected UNECE member States"

36. This Russian Federation-funded project proposal for USD 240,00 was originally submitted for consideration by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting on 26 January. The proposal is closely related to the project “Strengthening capacities of selected UNECE member States in sustainable and harmonious management of natural resources” approved by EXCOM in December 2021. A few days prior to this call, the proposal was withdrawn from the 26 January EXCOM meeting to facilitate its further consultation with member States.

Item 12. Date of next call

37. The weeks of 28 February or 7 March were proposed. The regular availability message will be issued.

Item 13. Any other Business

38. Hari Tulsidas will be on a temporary contract break from 4 February 2022.

39. The IFRS Foundation is proceeding with the development of an International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). High-profile experts are being sought to join the Board on a full time basis. CEOs and CFOs of companies with expertise in a broad variety of subjects and classification issues covered by the Bureau would be of relevance and importance. All interested and qualified were encouraged to contact the secretariat to discuss further.
