

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) Via Teams - 15:00 CEST, 21 April 2022 MINUTES
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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), Ekaterina Lovchuk (present) and Marina Kuznetcova		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Cross, Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas		
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ingvald, Sweden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JU Jianhua, China (not present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> YANG Hua (present)		
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Dhiti Tulyatid		
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer McCoy, Ernst & Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly (present from 4pm CEST)		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Satinder Purewal, TAG Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexander Shpilman, TAG Co-Chair	<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"/>
Lisa Amend, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liliane Bizimana, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walker Darke, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of Bureau calls of 27 January 2022 and 31 March 2022 (attachments 2 and 3)
3. Postponed EGRM-13
 - (a) Bureau elections/nominations
 - (b) EGRM-13 parliamentary documents
4. EGRM way forward
5. UNRMS Subgroup update
 - (a) UNRMS document
 - (b) UNRMS module development
6. Technical Advisory Group Update
7. EU-funded UNFC-UNRMS XB Project Activities
 - (a) UNFC Training for EU Member States
 - (b) Draft UNFC for Europe Guidance
 - (c) HorizonEurope projects featuring UNFC
8. UNFC and UNRMS proposal for G20
9. EGRM documents for 31st Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy
10. Education and outreach
 - (a) EU Africa Business Forum
 - (b) XXVII Ordinary General Assembly of the Association of Ibero-American Geology and Mining Services
 - (b) Conferences in 2022 (attachment 4)
11. Regular Budget, UNDA and RPTC support for implementation of UNFC and UNRMS
 - (a) CRMs in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 - (b) Integrated Energy & Water in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 - (c) Geothermal energy, Albania
 - (d) Coal Mine Closure, South-Eastern Europe
 - (e) Food-Water-Energy Nexus management, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and Africa.
12. UN Working Group on Extractive Industries Update
13. Date of next call
14. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 21 April 2022
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 27 January 2022
3. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 31 March 2022
4. List of events promoting UNFC in 2022-2023 *as at 12 April 2022*

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 21 April 2022

1. The agenda was approved.

2. There was agreement to add “discussion of application of UNFC decision trees” under Item 5 and the Expert Groups joint work on Energy Security and Energy System Resilience under Item 14 AOB.

Item 2. Draft minutes of Bureau calls of 27 January 2022 and 31 March 2022

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 27 January 2022 and Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 31 March 2022

3. The draft minutes of the Bureau calls of 27 January 2022 and 31 March 2022 were circulated on 11 April. Both sets of minutes were approved and will be posted.

Item 3. Postponed EGRM-13

4. In view of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the repercussions on the work of EGRM, the decision was made to postpone EGRM-13, which was to be held 25-29 April. It was agreed and underlined that technical cooperation and dialogue with the Russian Federation should continue.

5. There was support for the proposal to proceed with the public consultations on the documents “UNFC for Europe Guidance” and “Draft UNRMS Principles and Requirements”. Cooperation by EGRM experts with the other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and input to the work of the Committee was proposed to continue in a process guided by the Secretariat. All other areas of work will continue if the Working Group (WG) and WG Chair believe it is working effectively. If not, the WG will be put on hold until the WG Chair(s) feel they are in a position to continue their activities in a constructive and collegial manner.

6. UNECE aims to organize thematic meetings in 2023 as opposed to individual meetings of the groups of experts (silo approach). The idea is to adopt a thematic approach, focussing on the topic rather than on the group. The UNECE Resource Management Week 2023 in April next year might therefore take place in a different format with an emphasis on cross-cutting activities with the other groups of experts operating under the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

7. There was support for the proposal to reschedule the EGRM-13 meeting to a date later in 2022. A date for a 1, 1.5 or 2-day EGRM-13 meeting will be sought as soon as possible but this will be subject to meeting room and interpretation availability at the Palais des Nations. It will only most likely be possible to secure a room for a one-day meeting at the Palais des Nations at non-peak meeting times, for example in August or December. If the meeting cannot be held before December 2022, the timing would be too close to the next scheduled meeting in April 2023, so a decision will be needed whether a meeting in December would be valuable or not. The reconvened EGRM-13 session would have to be organized as a hybrid event, i.e., with both in-person and online participation possible. The option for in-person participation is currently needed for the meeting to be considered an official meeting. A shortened EGRM-13 session could focus on those items for which a recommendation or decision is needed by EGRM, including the Bureau election. Other “not for decision/recommendation” topics and updates on the progress of the Working Groups could be discussed during online-only events.

(a) Bureau elections/nominations

8. The following three Member State-supported nominations have been received re-election as Vice-Chairs:

- Ms. Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan
- Mr. JU Jianhua, China.

9. The nominations were noted and supported with appreciation.

(b) EGRM-13 parliamentary documents

10. The majority of the EGRM-13 parliamentary documents have been submitted and posted to the EGRM-13 meeting page.

11. A few parliamentary documents are still in progress, such as the five UNFC case studies and the updated Geothermal Specifications. The Updated Geothermal Specifications have been reviewed by the Renewable Energy Working Group and the Technical Advisory Group. The comments received are currently being reviewed by the UNFC Ad Hoc Committee of the International Geothermal Association (IGA) established to prepare the Update. The Ad Hoc Group is Chaired by Gioia Falcone.

12. Due to the position taken by their organizations and/or their only personal views, a number of members of the UNFC IGA Ad Hoc Committee would need to suspend engagement if there is any involvement or feedback requested by Russian and/or Belarusian representatives. In view of that, discussions are ongoing whether issuing the Updated Geothermal Specifications for review by the Bureau and EGRM is possible.

Item 4. EGRM way forward

13. In spite of the difficult situation with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and all the repercussions, it was reinforced that EGRM needs to continue its work to achieve the longer-term goals of the 2030 Agenda and attainment of the SDGs.

14. The work of EGRM is moving to focus on outreach and the application/implementation of UNFC rather than further development. Need to analyse whether EGRM is structured appropriately for meeting those goals of application and whether it is meeting the needs of its stakeholder. A conversation is needed to understand who are the stakeholders that need to be addressed now for EGRM to reach that goal.

15. The issues of EGRM are two-fold. Firstly, the tactical day-to-day operations regarding how to work with one another effectively. Secondly, the more strategic goals concerning how to organise the work in the most effective way, to ensure EGRM is approaching the right issues and has the right focus, and how to balance the work to best achieve the goals. These two issues should be focused on over the coming months for the Bureau to be able to make recommendations that can be presented to EGRM next year.

16. Regarding future engagement with EGRM and any proposals or suggestions until the next EGRM meeting, the following points were discussed:

- Open and transparent engagement with EGRM, for example, through the sharing of meetings minutes.
- Providing EGRM with more regular updates, not necessarily as a formal newsletter but something along those lines to provide an overview of ongoing activities and to ask for feedback from EGRM. However, should not be in the form of a survey because the EGRM membership is not statistically representative of UNFC-UNRMS stakeholder group.
- Engaging with EGRM membership at an early stage before any decisions are taken.

17. The responses from the UNRMS survey should be leveraged to support any reorganization of the working groups and the Bureau. The results from that survey could help to understand who the stakeholders are and where there might be underrepresentation, and where the focus might optimally be for any reorganization. The was 50% industry and 50% government participation in the survey.

18. For any EGRM reorganization, it is essential that everybody is on the same page and has the same understanding, for example through the creation of common Rules of Procedure. Must have a common understanding of the audience, who the stakeholders are, and who is missing. For this, need to restart with the mailing list to see who wants to be involved and undertake a wider outreach campaign with the stakeholders that should be represented.

Item 5. UNRMS Subgroup update

(a) UNRMS document

19. A presentation of the updates of the UNRMS Subgroup was provided by the secretariat:

- An updated draft UNRMS document (principles and requirements) has been submitted to EGRM-13 and is available on the website as an English-only document. This draft document was prepared based on comments received from two online workshops held last year, which had the participation of all WG members. Comments received from the Bureau have been incorporated to the extent possible. In this base document, the overarching principles and requirements have been considered.
- It is proposed that the document be issued for public comments. All EGRM-13 members and a broader stakeholder group can be invited to comment. The UNRMS Sub-group is planning an online workshop in May-June to gather additional comments.
- The UNRMS subgroup is also planning to receive additional comments from continuing the online workshops with participation from the whole EGRM during the summer.
- UNRMS case studies are being carried out in the UK, China, Namibia, Mexico, etc. These case studies are providing inputs to streamline the document.
- The proposal is for the UNRMS document to be finalized after the summer based on feedback received from all these efforts and then to publish it on the website.

(b) UNRMS module development

20. UNRMS module development provides some overarching principles and some requirements. Need to develop modules under UNRMS which could be used by the users of UNRMS. As discussed in the past, UNFC gives consistent information, and UNRMS is how this information could be used to carry the projects forward in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. During the workshops, a number of ideas were raised by experts who are active in looking at how UNRMS could be applied. These have to be included as an annex in the current document.

21. The UNRMS document will have a number of modules. Five of the concepts are presented in the document issued for EGRM-13. The first two will be addressed as a priority. Concept notes for these two topics will be produced as documents for the 31st session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 21-23 September 2023 (CSE-31). The five concepts are:

- (i) Critical raw materials (CRMs) dashboard. UNRMS should also prioritize CRMs. A small subgroup is being set up to start the development of the CRMs module. EC DG GROW, UK Government, G7, and G20 have all indicated support for this activity.
- (ii) Resources as a service. The process toward circular economy is a priority area for UNECE for the next two years, and energy and resources as a service are key factors in that. This module will be a key deliverable for that effort. The circular economy is one of the six areas of focus of the UN Secretary-General's Working Group on Extractive Industries.
- (iii) Clean energy index
- (iv) Resource supply system
- (v) Blockchain based transparency and traceability module.

22. Additional modules will be incorporated as required, but this is dependent on identifying more volunteers to help develop them.

23. The Committee on Sustainable Energy, at its 30th Session last September, also recommended to EGRM to work on CRMs and Resources as a Service. Small teams will be established to work on the draft documentation for the two modules. The documents prepared will be submitted to CSE-31 (this is further discussed under Item 9 – Proposals for Committee documents). The titles of the two documents are:

- Sustainable management of critical raw materials required for the low-carbon energy transition
- Resources as a Service: A catalyst to accelerate the energy transition, safeguarding climate action targets within the circular economy.

24. Need alignment on UNRMS, its intent, and its purpose. Need to address the question of whether it is just a concept or whether it is a library of options that a potential user could leverage. The definition and purpose of UNRMS should be discussed during the informal EGRM brainstorming meeting planned for 27-28 April. As the UNRMS survey showed, the key stakeholders are both industry and governments. A number of workshops are planned to further develop UNRMS in a phased step-by-step approach: first to develop the overall concept and then go into detail about what the hands-on UNRMS tools are to support the core concept.

Item 6. Technical Advisory Group Update

25. The Co-Chair of the TAG, Satinder Purewal, provided an update on TAG activities:

- (i) UNFC development roadmap is being developed: Proposal that every 5-7 years the principles, specifications, and guidelines for UNFC are updated in an orderly, timely, and structured fashion. The roadmap will allow synchronised revision of UNFC principles and specifications, planning of the activities of the WGs, and enable users to adopt UNFC in a timely fashion. The draft roadmap will be presented to the Bureau shortly.
- (ii) Implementation of UNFC: TAG will support the implementation of UNFC and develop guidelines to help the use of UNFC in various contexts. Templates, checklists, and decision tree models will be included in the guidelines. Decision trees for geothermal have been included in the Geothermal Specifications that are currently being updated. A decision tree was also included in a UNFC case study undertaken by the British Geological Survey as part of the ORAMA Project. This case study was presented at the two recent UNFC trainings. The decision tree approach was appreciated and found useful by the training participants.
- (iii) Funding: TAG will work with the secretariat to attract extrabudgetary funding to support the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS globally

26. Working Group updates:

- (i) **Minerals Working Group:** The WG is being reactivated. Supported the UNFC trainings for EIT Raw Materials in February and EU Member States in April. Reviewed three case studies on minerals and one for anthropogenic resources, which are being submitted to EGRM-13. The WG will look into finalising the CRIRSCO Template Bridging Document. It will also develop best practices and case studies for applying UNFC and UNRMS to mineral resources.
- (ii) **Petroleum Working Group:** The WG held a call on 13 April. CBM guidelines for UNFC have been submitted to EGRM-13. The UNFC-2019/PRMS-2018 Bridging Document update is ongoing. Environmental and Social guidelines for petroleum specifications are being completed. A case study is in progress in Azerbaijan. The WG is exploring possibilities for other case studies. The WG members have been involved in the UNECE Hydrogen Task Force work.
- (iii) **Renewable Energy Working Group:** Updated Geothermal Specifications developed by the Ad Hoc IGA Geothermal Group have been reviewed by the WG and TAG, and the comments provided are currently being reviewed and incorporated. A national aggregation case study on wind in the UK was submitted to EGRM-13.
- (iv) **Injection Projects Working Group:** The WG is working on an update of the UNFC specifications document for injection projects. It is also evaluating and documenting bridging to other storage classifications, e.g., the SPE CO₂ Storage Resources Management System (SRMS). The WG is evaluating case studies on the application of UNFC for injection projects and considering the extension of the specifications to underground storage of hydrogen.
- (v) **Anthropogenic Resources Working Group:** The WG is working on revising the specifications document for anthropogenic resources. It reviewed a case study on the application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources (mine tailings facility in Germany). A number of other case studies are under development.
- (vi) **UNFC Groundwater Working Group:** Five case studies for applying the new groundwater specifications are in progress. The next WG call is planned for 26 April.
- (vii) **UNFC Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group:** Governance guidelines related to environmental and social factors in resource classification and management

have been submitted to EGRM-13. Planning case studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS specifications and guidelines for governance.

(viii) **Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group:** The WG developed and submitted the concept note “UNFC and UNRMS: A Systems approach to enabling resource as a service paradigm through blockchain technologies” to EGRM-13. The WG continues to work with the concepts proposed and contributes to the UNRMS module “Resources as a Service: A catalyst to accelerate the energy transition, safeguarding climate action targets within the circular economy.”

27. A planned TAG call in March was cancelled, however the aim is to reschedule that call in the first half of May

28. In the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the TAG supports continuing the technical work.

29. A discussion ensued with a range of comments and observations regarding the question of whether to build decision trees for the application of UNFC. A number of case studies apply this approach. The application of decision trees includes both advantages and challenges/risks.

- The advantages are that, if it is well developed, it can be applied in the majority of cases. If applied correctly, decision trees are a very useful tool for quick decision-making
- The risk is that they need to be applied very carefully. Must recognize that there will always be exceptions so the decision trees must be developed cautiously. Their development needs to be carefully overseen so they become as standardized and as useful as possible.
- Decision trees require thorough training to teach how they are applied correctly and that they are well understood. They require an oversight mechanism and cross-checking to ensure that they are applied in the right way.
- The development of decision trees could differentiate EGRM and make UNFC a more valuable tool for application. They would help with consistency in application of UNFC which in turn would also help with outreach.
- Need to have a standardized and central approach to the decision trees. They should be included in UNFC documentation.

30. In summary, developing decision trees is value-adding for UNFC, and members agreed to go forward with the development of decision trees. This should be included as an item on the agenda of future meetings.

Item 7. EU-funded UNFC-UNRMS XB Project Activities

(a) UNFC Training for EU Member States

31. The training “UNFC and its Application: Training for European Union Member States” was held on 5-6 April 2022. The training was open to policy and regulatory parts of ministries of EU Members States, and governmental agencies such as expert organizations, including geological surveys. There 29 participants, including 14 women. A news article was issued by UNECE. All the presentations delivered are posted to the UNFC website. A number of the case studies presented, in particular the one by the British Geological Survey, received positive feedback and significant interest. The material presented serves as a useful template for future trainings.

(b) Draft UNFC for Europe Guidance

32. The public consultation of the Draft Guidance for the Application of UNFC for Minerals and Anthropogenic Resources in Europe was launched on 9 March until cob 6 June 2022. The guidance has been developed to assist regional and national authorities to establish and maintain an inventory of primary and secondary raw materials projects in Europe. The inventory, in this case for mineral and anthropogenic resource projects, will be based on UNFC. The draft Guidance has also been issued as an English-only parliamentary document for EGRM-13.

(c) Horizon Europe projects featuring UNFC

33. Three calls were issued last year in the Horizon Europe EU research programme that included the mandatory application of UNFC. Two winning proposals are already known:

- (i) The “**FUTURAM**” anthropogenic resources proposal. UNECE has been invited to have a seat on the Advisory Board. The Anthropogenic Resources WG will need to be involved in supporting the project.
- (ii) The **5-year Geological Service for Europe (GSEU)** proposal was won by EuroGeoSurveys. The project will involve the development of a European Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management, promoting the deployment of UNFC and UNRMS.
- (iii) The third proposal for which the winning proposal/consortium has yet to be announced is on primary raw materials.

34. Bureau members supported that a training library be developed so that all presentations and video recordings can be in one place.

35. Bureau members were encouraged to comment on the draft UNFC for Europe Guidance since this document could become very valuable within Europe and beyond to see how guidance on certain regional guidance would work.

Item 8. UNFC and UNRMS proposal for G20

36. The G20, with Indonesia in the Presidency in 2022, asked UNECE for potential concrete collaboration projects. G20 under the Indonesian Presidency has made energy transitions one of the priority areas of work. While seeking collaboration with the G20 Member States, partnership with Africa is also a priority.

37. UNECE proposed a project on “International cooperation on developing a global sustainability framework for the assurance of critical raw materials (CRMs) required for energy transitions”. The project will support the application of UNRMS principles and tools for CRM projects, produce a Sustainable CRM Dashboard to inform policymakers and civil society, and provide guidelines for the involvement of MSMEs in the CRMs supply chain.

38. The G20 Secretariat, in bilateral discussions, asked for more details on the project and noted that the concept could be of interest to G20 countries. The proposal will be discussed by the relevant G20 Working Group and, if selected, will be presented for Member State approval. If approved by Member States, the project will be included in the Work Plan of G20. Still waiting for information from G20 Secretariat on that status of the UNECE project proposal.

39. Following discussion, members observed that the UNFC Mexican pilot project for petroleum and the ongoing one on minerals are great motivation for other countries to test and apply UNFC.

Item 9. EGRM documents for 31st Session of Committee on Sustainable Energy

40. The following UNRMS-related documents were supported to be submitted as parliamentary documents for CSE-31:

- (i) “*Sustainable management of critical raw materials required for the low-carbon energy transition*”. This is looking at the management of critical raw materials for energy transitions is crucial for the EU, G7, and G20. This work has the support of the UK. This module is being developed as a priority.
- (ii) “*Resources as a Service: A catalyst to accelerate the energy transition, safeguarding climate action targets within the circular economy*”. Progress towards a more circular economy is a current priority area for UNECE. Energy, Mobility, and Resources as a Service are a number of the topics UNECE is currently focusing on. At its 30th annual session in 2021, the Committee discussed the matter and asked EGRM to progress on Resources as a Service.

Item 10. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2022-2023 as at 12 April 2022

(a) EU Africa Business Forum

41. On 18 February 2022, UNECE, in cooperation with colleagues from the AMREC Working Group, AMDC, Geological Society of Africa, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, organized a joint side event, “The Role of Resource Management Tools in the Raw Materials Value Chain in Africa and Beyond”. The event was held during the triennial EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) in the side-lines of the European Union-African Union Summit. The discussions provided good input for the ongoing discussions between EU and African countries on sustainable raw materials value chains and raised the profile of UNFC and UNRMS. A news article on the event was issued by UNECE.

(b) XXVII Ordinary General Assembly of the Association of Ibero-American Geology and Mining Services

42. On 7 April 2022, UNFC was presented at this event during the session on international cooperation and relations with other organisations. The session was well attended by many Geological Surveys (from the US, Canada, Brazil, Europe) and organizations such as UNESCO, UN ECLAC, UNEP, and IEA. A number of these organizations are potential users of UNFC in Latin America. The presentation at the Ibero-General Assembly of the American Geological Mining Services might become a potential entry point for UNFC IN Latin America

(c) 24th World Petroleum Congress

43. The 24th World Petroleum Congress will be held in Calgary 17-21 September 2023. The theme is “Energy Transition: The Path to Net Zero”. The call for papers is now open until 7 July 2022. Currently exploring if Canada-based EGRM experts might be interested to organize a session related to UNFC-UNRMS and/or submit an abstract. If yes, the secretariat will explore with the World Petroleum Council if this is possible. The Communications Working Group would be involved.

44. Following discussion, organizing a session on UNFC-UNRMS at this event was supported. The TAG Co-Chair will reach out to members of the PWG, MWG, Groundwater WG and the Social and Environmental Considerations WG based in Canada.

45. A Bureau member asked if engagement with the IFRS Foundation is still ongoing. It was noted that the Chair and members of the Commercial Applications Working Group are extremely active on financial reporting issues and keep abreast of developments related to the IFRS Foundation, ISSB and SEC. A member of the WG submitted his nomination to be a member of ISSB.

Item 11. Regular Budget, UNDA, and RPTC support for implementation of UNFC and UNRMS

46. UNECE has several regular budget-funded projects which are promoting the use of UNFC and UNRMS in a number of countries. The funding comes from either the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) or the Regular Programme on Technical Cooperation (RPTC).

(a) UNDA Project - CRMs in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia

47. The title of this project which is coming to an end is “Global Initiative towards the post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSMEs sector: Application of UNFC and UNRMS for assuring resiliency and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw materials supply chain solutions has been promoted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. UNFC and UNRMS in coal mine closure and transforming the coal mine regions to repurpose for other mining/resource technology development will be tested in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The project is paying attention to possible CRM potential and value addition through the resources as a service model.

(b) UNDA Project - Integrated Energy & Water in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia

48. This project “Integrated Energy & Water management in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, and Central Asia” is coming to an end. The focus has been on UNFC and UNRMS application for

integrated water and energy management in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Testing has been undertaken in these countries.

(c) RPTC Project - Geothermal energy, Albania

49. A small project will support the application of UNFC for geothermal energy management in Albania. Planned outputs are best practices and a case study on implementing UNFC and UNRMS for geothermal energy management, including recovery of CRMs from brines, in Albania.

(d) RPTC Project - Coal Mine Closure, South-Eastern Europe

50. This project will look at the use of UNFC and UNRMS in coal mine closure and transforming the coal mine regions to repurpose them for other mining/resource technology development. It will be tested in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The project will pay attention to possible CRMs potential and value addition through the resources as a service model.

(e) UNDA Project (2022-2025) Food-Water-Energy Nexus management, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and Africa.

51. This new UNDA Project (2022-2025) will investigate Food-Water-Energy Nexus management in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The project is led by UNECE with participation from ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, WHO/Europe and UNU. The project will have a component that will focus on CRMs and circular economy issues, primarily resources as a service.

Item 12. UN Working Group on Extractive Industries Update

52. The Secretary-General set up the UN Working Group on Extractive Industries with the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), UNEP, and UNDP as Co-chairs. The Working Group is an outcome of the regional and global roundtables and the Policy Brief on Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development. International adoption of UNFC and UNRMS is one of the 18 Policy Brief recommendations and will be included in the Working Group's work plan and deliverables. The work to establish and launch the Working Group was initiated in the first quarter of 2022. UNECE is Co-chairing the Working Group in 2022 on behalf of the other four Regional Economic Commissions.

53. The name of the Working Group is now being revisited due to the negative connotation of the word "extractives". The modified name "Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development" is likely to be proposed to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

54. The Working Group launch planned during the week of EGRM-13 has regrettably been postponed. The Co-leads are now exploring possibilities for the launch to be attached to another event such as Stockholm +50 or the High-Level Ministerial on Nature. It may, however be too late to organize the launch as part of any upcoming events scheduled in Q2 2022. The alternative option will be to organize an event on the WG later in the year, for example, as part of the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development or a similar international event.

55. A survey has been developed to map current initiatives being undertaken relevant to the WG. The survey will be circulated within the UN system in the first instance. Development of a Work Plan for the WG and Stakeholder outreach is also progressing.

56. The Co-leads of the WG will meet on 10 May to take stock of progress and plan the next steps.

57. EGRM is mentioned in the Terms of Reference as one of the stakeholders that should be invited to join the WG. As a first step, the stakeholder mapping survey will be sent out to the UN system. EGRM's work, including on UNFC and UNRMS, will be included as well as the outputs of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and on Gas.

58. Being the Co-lead of the Working Group in 2022, has been a real opportunity for UNECE to raise the visibility of UNFC and UNRMS with the other Regional Commissions and with the UN system, including the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UNDP and UNEP.

59. Bureau members were invited to contact Lisa Amend for any initiatives to be flagged. Lisa has been hired as a UNECE consultant for the next three months to help support the work of the WG.

Item 13. Date of next call

60. The weeks of **13 and 20 June** are proposed. The regular availability message will be issued.

Item 14. Any other business

(a) Expert Groups joint work on Energy Security and Energy System Resilience

61. All the expert groups under the Committee on Sustainable Energy have been invited to contribute to a joint paper on energy security and resilience for submission to CSE-31. The current title of the document is “Considerations for Building a Resilient Energy System in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region: More Secure, More Affordable, More Environmentally-Friendly”.

62. To date, the expert groups have provided input as follows:

- On the need for consistent data to be able to make informed decisions on the paths to be followed.
- On the need for sustainable and integrated resource management, including a focus on UNRMS with its emphasis on resources as a service, value-addition, circularity, and innovation.
- A recommendation is that the "Energy and Resources as a Service" model be introduced to decouple energy/resource and sustainable development. The “as a service” model moves away from the current commodity and product-based models to subscription-based models that are outcome-focused. Such a model offers the most significant opportunity to be energy and resource-efficient and progress rapidly towards a more circular economy.
- A recommendation that ECE member States should commit to the availability of consistent and coherent information on all energy resources (hydrocarbons, nuclear and renewables). The use of UNFC will help with effective supply-side management practices that promote security, efficiency, affordability and better environmental performance.

63. A revised draft of the document will be sent to the Bureau following the next Bureau call of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The paper will be submitted as a parliamentary document to CSE-31 indicating that it has been prepared by the Bureaux of the six groups of experts.
