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

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

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) Via Teams - 15:00 CET, 14 March 2023			
MINUTES	<b>D</b>	A 1	
David MacDonald ECDM Chair	Present	Apology	
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	$\boxtimes$		
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	$\boxtimes$	$\square$	
<i>Alternates</i> Olga Trofimova (present) and Ekaterina Lovchuk not present) and Marina Kuznetcova (not present)	$\boxtimes$		
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan		$\boxtimes$	
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	_	$\boxtimes$	
Andrew Cross, Australia Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO			
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO Mücella Ersov, Turkey		$\boxtimes$	
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey		$\square$	
Gioia Falcone, IGA			
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan		$\boxtimes$	
Sarah Forbes, United States of America		$\boxtimes$	
Milan Grohol, EC		$\boxtimes$	
Alternate Robert Tomas Karen Hanghoi, United Kingdom		-	
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveya	$\boxtimes$		
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys			
Erika Ingvald, Sweden		$\boxtimes$	
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina		$\boxtimes$	
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	$\boxtimes$		
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	$\boxtimes$		
Alternate Songyang WU		$\boxtimes$	
Luis Lopez, OLAMI		$\boxtimes$	
Rafal Misztal, Poland		$\boxtimes$	
Marit Kitaw, AUC		$\boxtimes$	
Alternate Tunde Arisekola	$\boxtimes$		
Henri Paillere, IAEA		$\boxtimes$	
Alternate Adrienne Hanly	_		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	$\boxtimes$		
Ulises Neri, Mexico	$\boxtimes$		
Glen Burridge, EFG		$\boxtimes$	
Bernard Seiller, SPE	$\boxtimes$		
Satinder Purewal, TAG Co-Chair	$\boxtimes$		
Alexander Shpilman, TAG Co-Chair	$\boxtimes$		
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	$\boxtimes$		
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	$\boxtimes$		
Slavko Solar, UNECE	$\boxtimes$		
Walker Darke, UNECE	$\boxtimes$		
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	$\boxtimes$		
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# Draft Agenda

- 1. Approval of Draft Agenda
- 2. Minutes of Bureau call of 2 February 2022
- **3**. EGRM-14
  - (a) Bureau elections
    - (b) Update on EGRM-14 documents
    - (c) Draft overview for UNECE Resource Management Week 2023
    - (d) Draft outline for UNFC Implementation Seminar 25 April-am 26 April
    - (e) Proposals for keynote speakers and lunchtime lectures
    - (f) Draft Conclusions & Recommendations for EGRM-14
- 4. UNRMS update
- 5. TAG Update
- 6. Update on Projects
  - (a) Implementation of EC-funded project on UNFC and UNRMS
  - (b) Proposed UNDA project on critical raw materials
- 7. EGRM-15 Update
- 8. Update on Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development
- 9. Education, outreach, and communications
- 10. Date of next call
- 11. Any other business

# **Documentation:**

- 1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 14 March 2023
- 2. Minutes of Bureau call of 2 February 2022
- 3. Draft EGRM Work Plan for 2024-2025
- 4. Draft overview for UNECE Resource Management Week 2023
- 5. Draft outline for UNFC Implementation Seminar 25 April-am 26 April.
- 6. Draft C&Rs for EGRM-14
- 7. List of events in 2023 and 2024

# Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 14 March 2023

1. The agenda was approved.

# Item 2. Minutes of Bureau call of 2 February 2022

Documentation: Minutes of Bureau call of 2 February 2022

- 2. The Draft minutes of the Bureau call of 2 February 2023 were circulated on 7 February 2023 for comment. No comments were received.
- 3. The minutes have been posted to the UNECE website.

# Item 3. EGRM-14

# (a) Bureau Elections

- 4. A number of nominations have been received. There is interest by one country in nominating a representative for the Chair role. The USA has nominated David MacDonald for the position of Vice-Chair. The European Commission has nominated Milan Grohol for the position of Vice-Chair.
- 5. The Chair advised that if he is elected as Vice-Chair, he would offer his support to the incoming Chair and ensure a comprehensive handover.
- 6. Many current Vice-Chairs have indicated they wish to remain on the Bureau and are seeking internal approvals.

7. All nominations need to be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

# (b) Update on EGRM-14 documents

Documentation: Draft EGRM Work Plan for 2024-2025

- 8. The draft EGRM work plan for 2024-2025 was circulated to the Bureau and all Working Group Chairs on 6 March with a request for comments by 29 March.
- 9. As discussed at the last Bureau call, the proposed schedule for presenting the draft Work Plan to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for approval is as follows:
  - By 29 March: Bureau and Working Groups will provide feedback.
  - By 6 April: A revised draft will be prepared.
  - By 11 April: The Work Plan will be formatted and submitted to EGRM-14 as an Englishonly parliamentary document.
  - From 25-28 April: The draft Work Plan will be discussed at EGRM-14
  - By 30 May: A revised draft, incorporating comments from EGRM-14, will be prepared.
  - By 15 June: The Work Plan will be submitted to the 32nd Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (to be held from 13-15 September) as a translated parliamentary document for review and approval.
- 10. Some members of the Bureau provided comments. Others enquired about the flexibility of the deadlines.
- 11. A number of other documents in development:
  - Case Study: Application of UNFC to Titanium (English only)
  - Case Study: CRMs and Resources as a Service (English only)
  - Case Studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS for Environmental, Social and/or Governance (English only)
- 12. The case study on titanium is awaiting final approval from the Minerals Working Group. Subsequently, the TAG will submit a recommendation to the Bureau.

# (c) Draft overview for UNECE Resource Management Week 2023

Documentation: Draft overview for UNECE Resource Management Week 2023

- 13. EGRM-14 will take place in Geneva, 25-28 April 2023. Online participation will now be available. Therefore, the meeting will be hybrid as part of the UNECE Resource Management Week 2023.
- 14. Presentations and inputs provided by virtual participants will be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per 3-hour session due to limitations set by the interpreters. Therefore, virtual presentations can be accommodated only on an exceptional basis.
- 15. The following is the broad structure of the week:
  - 25 April, Tuesday 10:00 13:00: Adoption of the agenda, Opening, Welcome by Executive Secretary and the Seminar: Deploying UNFC in Europe and beyond.
  - 25 April, Tuesday 15:00 18:00: Seminar continues: Deploying the UNFC in Europe and beyond.
  - 26 April, Wednesday 10:00 13:00: Seminar continues: Deploying UNFC in Europe and beyond.
  - 26 April, Wednesday 15:00 18:00: Session 1
    - i. Empowering Sustainable Resource Management: Updates, Transformations, and Potentials
    - ii. Energizing Sustainability: Priorities for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Expert Group on Resource Management
    - iii. Transforming Resource Management: The UN Resource Management System and the Sustainable Development Goals
    - iv. Unlocking the Resource Potential: Central Asia's Sustainable Future
  - 27 April, Thursday 10:00 13:00 Session 2

- i. Empowering Sustainable Resource Management: Collaboration and Inclusivity for Critical Raw Materials and Women Advancement
- ii. Collaboration for Critical Raw Materials: Activities of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries
- iii. Empowering Women in Resource Management: Advancing Sustainability and Inclusivity
- 27 April, Thursday 15:00 18:00 Session 3
  - i. Mapping Our Resources: Development and Implementation of UNFC and UNRMS
  - ii. TAG Update and Roadmap
  - iii. WG updates
- 28 April, Friday 10:00 13:00 Session 4
  - i. Empowering Sustainable Development: Centres of Excellence, Youth, and Outreach in Resource Management
  - ii. Centres of Excellence: Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Development
  - iii. Empowering the Next Generation of Sustainable Resource Managers: The Role of Youth in Resource Management
  - iv. Reaching Out: Communications, Promotion, and Outreach for Resource Management
- 28 April, Friday 15:00 18:00 Session 5 Strengthening Expertise: Work Plans and Future Directions for the Expert Group on Resource Management
  - i. Work Plan for 2022-2023 and draft WP for 2024-2025
  - ii. Election of officers
  - iii. Other business
  - iv. Conclusions and recommendations
  - v. Report
- 16. The Chair advised he will participate in EGRM-14 remotely and requested the support of Vice-Chairs planning to participate in-person to Chair sessions. A number of members of the Bureau confirmed their willingness to assist in Chairing various sessions. They also emphasised the importance of focusing on education and outreach on the tools EGRM has developed, namely UNFC and UNRMS.

# (d) Draft outline for UNFC Implementation Seminar 25 April- 26 April am

Documentation: Draft outline for UNFC Implementation Seminar 25 April-am 26 April

- 17. The one-and-a-half-day Seminar entitled "Deploying UNFC in Europe and beyond to assure information for sustainable resource management" will start on Tuesday morning (25 April 2023) with welcome speeches, followed by an introduction to UNFC, specifications for mineral and anthropogenic resources, and the Guidance for Europe document.
- 18. The afternoon of the first day will be focused on primary raw materials: UNFC practice with CRMs orientation on deposit, regional, national level and UN mineral inventories followed by discussion. The morning of the second day (26 April 2023) is focused on secondary raw materials, future directions for UNFC and activities.
- 19. There will be a 20-minute break in each 3-hour session. The programme for the moment remains light to allow time for discussion. The Seminar is organized by UNECE, DG GROW and the "Geological Service for Europe" and "Futuram" projects.
- 20. The Secretariat thanked the European Commission for its support and strategic guidance.

# (e) Proposals for keynote speakers and lunchtime lectures

21. During EGRM-14, there will be two informative lunchtime lectures, most likely on Tuesday and Thursday from 13:45 – 14:45 hrs CET. Speakers are to be decided.

- 22. Proposals include Simon Michaux from the Geological Survey of Finland, who could speak on critical raw materials, and a speaker from the Hydrogen Council, who could provide valuable insights into the future of the rapidly growing hydrogen sector.
- 23. Members of the Bureau proposed Rob Perrons, Australia; Guillaume Petron, Journalist; speakers from recent events at Queens University Belfast on Critical Raw Materials; experts from the International Energy Agency; and the President of the European Energy Research Alliance.
- 24. The International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation has accepted UNECE's invitation to speak on ISSB at EGRM-14.
- 25. Members of the Bureau encouraged diversity in the sessions.

# (f) Draft Conclusions & Recommendations for EGRM-14

Documentation: Draft C&Rs for EGRM-14

- 26. The draft Conclusions and recommendations were circulated as part of the documentation for the call.
- 27. The draft Conclusions and Recommendations need to be finalized by 10 April to be sent to UNECE member States 10 days prior to the meeting. Therefore, feedback from Bureau members needs to be received by 28 March.
- 28. It was agreed that the draft Conclusions and Recommendations should also be circulated to the Working Group Chairs.

# Item 4. UNRMS Update

- 29. Critical minerals are essential for producing many green technologies. Several policy briefs on critical raw materials will be developed, including for G-20, the UN High-level Political Forum on SDGs, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), etc. The UNRMS Sub-group will also collaborate on this topic with the World Economic Forum and World Resources Forum.
- 30. The UNRMS roadmap for 2023-2024 is under development it will provide a clear vision for the future, with a significant focus on CRMs and hydrogen. The plan includes developing case studies, a CRMs dashboard, and collaborating with the UNECE Hydrogen Task Force on the development of the UNFC- and UNRMS-based hydrogen framework. The roadmap also includes organizing webinars and workshops, developing a brochure, and publishing technical publications to promote and educate stakeholders on UNRMS. The roadmap will be presented at EGRM-14,
- 31. The implementation of a hydrogen taxonomy and guarantee of origin will be based on the availability of extrabudgetary funding. The UNRMS Sub-group will actively support the development specifications, a taxonomy, and a guarantee of origin for hydrogen and aims to collaborate with the UNECE Hydrogen Task Force. The hydrogen concept note and related activities will be presented at EGRM-14,
- 32. The UNRMS Sub-group will support the work in Central Asia and Africa through a range of capacity-building initiatives and collaborations with local stakeholders. The sub-group will explore opportunities to promote UNFC and UNRMS in these regions, including CRMs and hydrogen resource management. Several case studies related to resource management are currently under progress in various regions, including the UK and Africa. Many of these case studies are newly initiated and will showcase different aspects of sustainable resource management. Some of these case studies will be presented and discussed at EGRM-14, allowing experts to share knowledge and insights on best practices for resource management.
- 33. Members of the Bureau also discussed the future possibility of blockchain to support the traceability of projects.
- 34. The Bureau thanked the UNRMS Sub-Group for its hard work.

# Item 5. Technical Advisory Group Update

35. The roadmap for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), including details on the periodic updating of UNFC and UNRMS, is currently under development and will be presented at EGRM-14. A 2-3

page summary document is also being prepared. Bureau members were invited to join the ad hoc group developing the roadmap.

- 36. The Working Groups are continuing to diligently advance their work and pursue projects for presentation at the EGRM-14.
- 37. The Petroleum Working Group and Minerals Working Group are supporting development of case studies.
- 38. The Anthropogenic Resources Working Group will have a webinar on 23 March on UNFC for Secondary Raw Materials.
- 39. The Nuclear Resources Working Group is working with the Commercial Applications Working Group to engage with ISSB.
- 40. The Groundwater Working Group is working on updating the draft UNFC Groundwater Specifications.
- 41. The Injection Projects Working Group is updating the Specifications for submission to EGRM in the future.
- 42. The Social and Environmental Consideration Working Group is working on renewable energy case studies.
- 43. The Commercial Applications Working Group is working with IASB on adopting UNFC.
- 44. The Competency Working Group is working on Continuing Professional Development guidance and training procedures to be conducted by the International Centres of Excellence on -Sustainable Resource Management.
- 45. The SDGs Delivery Working Group is developing the Blockchain/AI framework for UNRMS. Supporting Africa in the application of AMREC.
- 46. The Women in Resource Management Working Group is organizing a webinar on 23 March on "Critical Raw Materials in Vulnerable Geographies: Impact on Women" and supporting a presentation related to gender at EGRM-14.
- 47. The Communications Working Group will organize a Youth Panel at EGRM-14.
- 48. The next TAG call is planned for 30 March 2023.
- 49. The Bureau thanked the TAG and the Working Groups for their hard work.
- 50. The summary updates prepared by the Working Group Chairs will be circulated to the Bureau.

#### Item 6. Update on Projects

#### (a) Implementation of European Commission funded project on UNFC and UNRMS

- 51. Since the beginning of February 2023, activities under this project have focused on establishing the structures to facilitate an intense implementation of UNFC in Europe.
- 52. The Review Team of the UNFC Guidance Europe has remained active mainly with briefings on the update on activities related to UNFC implementation in Europe and drafting the background paper on the European situation regarding reserves and resources classification and reporting.
- 53. The Network of Practitioners Europe (NoPE) is now being co-chaired by UNECE and the Geological Service for Europe (GSEU). GSEU is Co-Chairing because NoPE will become part of the future European International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management.
- 54. The Coordination Team regarding UNFC in EU, composed of the European Commission, UNECE and two projects (GSEU and FutuRaM), met several times to coordinate activities. These include a promotional webinar on anthropogenic resources (23 March 2023), the 1.5-day Seminar during EGRM-14, and future planned activities on UNFC in Europe. The latter are closely linked to the Joint Action Plan that will target promotion and implementation of UNFC in EU Member States.
- 55. It was noted that the next step after the development of the UNFC EU Guidance is the development of national guidance. For countries such as Italy that do not have a national reporting code this will be an even more time-consuming process needing a great deal of coordination with relevant stakeholders. The first discussion on how to manage the coordination process has started in Italy.
- 56. The Bureau thanked DG GROW for its ongoing support of the work on UNFC and UNRMS.

## (b) Proposed UNDA project on critical raw materials

- 57. The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) will provide USD 750,000 for a 4-year project (2024-2027) on Enhancing capacities in the sustainable production, use and reuse of the critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions. This project was proposed by the UN Secretary-General's Office as a 'crisis' project.
- 58. It will be implemented by UNECE and UNESCAP (as Co-leads) jointly with UNESCWA, UNECLAC and UNECA and Resident Coordinator offices.
- 59. The objective of the project is "Promoting sustainable and circular low-carbon transitions by enhancing North-South and South-South collaboration in producing, using, and reusing critical raw materials by applying international best practices."
- 60. The project aims to support Member States in applying international best practices aligned with the principles and requirements of UNRMS, to ensure social and environmental viability across the entire value chain of raw materials production. The plan is to use a standard UNRMS template for the case studies.
- 61. This project will support ten countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, to enhance their capacity in sustainable production, use, and reuse of critical raw materials, develop country-specific plans and strategies, measure and report on progress, and foster knowledge-sharing and technology transfer through multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.
- 62. The Secretariat underlined that this is a good project to promote partnerships between the UN Regional Commissions and also to raise the visibility of the benefits and uses of UNFC and UNRMS. There are indications that UN country offices and Regional Coordinators will play larger roles in future projects.

### Item 7. EGRM-15

- 63. Further to the discussion at the last Bureau call, in 2024 it will not be logistically possible to organize a cross-cutting meeting with the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, the Group of Experts on Gas and the Expert Group on Resource Management.
- 64. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the Group of Experts on Gas will now meet in March 2024 as part of the UNECE Methane Week 2024.
- 65. The UNECE Resource Management Week 2024, including the 15<sup>th</sup> session of EGRM, will take place 22-26 April 2024
- 66. The Bureau was appreciative of the early dates and early planning of the Secretariat. It was noted that the first day coincides with Earth Day.

# Item 8. Update on Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

- 67. The Co-Chairs of the UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development met for their 9th coordination meeting on 1 March, and the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) met on 8 March to debrief.
- 68. The Working Group is currently focusing on critical raw materials (CRMs). The aim is to promote the sustainable management of CRMs and address their extraction and use challenges. To this end, the Working Group is developing a work plan with five major deliverables.
  - An Extractives Hub, which UNDP is leading. This hub will serve as a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best practices on CRM management.
  - Partnerships, which UNECE is leading on behalf of the RECs. The focus is on developing partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society, and communities to promote sustainable CRMs management.
  - CRMs Toolkit, which will be a collection of available tools for CRMs management. This includes the definition of CRMs and is being led by UNECE on behalf of the RECs.

- CRMs Governance Framework for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). This is being led by UNEP and will provide guidance on developing effective governance structures for CRM management in these countries but also beyond.
- Advocacy, also led by UNEP. The aim is to promote the importance of sustainable CRM management and raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in this area. Overall, the Working Group is committed to promoting sustainable development in the extractive industries and ensuring that the benefits of these industries are shared equitably.
- 69. The Secretariat underlined that UNECE is in a strong position to deliver on partnerships thanks to the work of EGRM. UNECE's contribution to the toolkit will ensure that EGRM-developed tools as well as others from international organizations, governments and private alliances, will be included. This work has been requested by the United Nations Secretary-General.

# Item 9. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events in 2023 and 2024

- 70. A list of events at which UNFC and/or UNRMS were presented or promoted or will be presented upcoming events in 2023 was also included in the documentation for the call.
- 71. The Bureau and the Secretariat highlighted the following events:
- 20 21 March 2023: 18th session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, Geneva
- 23 24 March 2023: 10th session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Gas, Geneva. The EGRM Chair will present on hydrogen and the EGRM's plans of how it will contribute to the work of the UNECE Hydrogen Task Force.
- 23 March 2023: Promotional Webinar: "UN Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) for Secondary Raw Materials" 10:00 11:30 hrs (CET)
- 23 March 2023: Webinar organized the Women in Resource Management Working Group on "Critical Raw Materials in Vulnerable Geographies: Impact on Women" Online, 14:00 - 15:00 (CET)
- 29-30 March 2023: Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, Geneva and online
- 3-5 April 2023: Seventieth session of the Commission Virtual Side Events
- 18-19 April 2023: Seventieth session of the Commission Main Session - Digital and Green Transformations for Sustainable Development in the Region of the Economic Commission for Europe
- 25 28 April 2023: <u>UNECE Resource Management Week 2023</u>, Hybrid format: Geneva and online. Bureau members were encouraged to register on the UNECE Sustainable Resource Management <u>website</u>.
- 72. The work to activate the Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) is progressing and has gathered pace in recent weeks. A revised draft Terms of Reference for the Group has been developed and is with the Communications Working Group for review. A session on Youth is also planned at EGRM-14. It is hoped RMYMG will become established as a standalone Working Group.
- 73. Members of the Bureau underlined the importance of ensuring *inclusion* in resource management, with encouragement to participate in the upcoming Women in Resource Management Webinar on 23 March.
- 74. The Bureau was also updated on work on AMREC, including a meeting that was held in Ghana (21-23 February) and an upcoming workshop in Namibia (20-22 March) and case studies under development in Namibia and Uganda. The workshop held in Accra, Ghana, focused on raising awareness and obtaining buy-in from stakeholders on using the UNFC and UNRMS-based AMREC template to classify a group of green or strategic minerals essential for low carbon energy, e-mobility, and digital transitions. The workshop also discussed the African Green Minerals Strategy, the establishment of the African Green Minerals Observatory, and initiated the

process of establishing an African metal policy, all led by the African Development Bank (AfDB). More case studies are being planned. The Windhoek workshop will focus on AMREC–PARC implementation. Collaboration with government agencies, industry associations, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations will be discussed. The AMREC-PARC tool kit to support users will be discussed, expanding on the available basic documentation and case study template to additional tools as required.

75. Members of the Bureau expressed support for an event at COP28. The Secretariat advised that the RECs always submit proposals for official side events at the annual UNFCC Conferences of the Parties.

#### Item 10. Date of Next Call

- 76. A short Bureau call will be organized during the weeks of 10 or 17 April to address any issues that might arise prior to EGRM-14 that need to be addressed by the Bureau.
- 77. A hybrid Bureau meeting will be organized in Geneva at the end of the EGRM-14 session on Thursday 27 April (around 18.15 hrs CEST) to discuss any pressing issues and the draft meeting report for adoption by EGRM on Friday 28 April.

#### Item 11. Any Other Business

78. The Chair thanked members for their hard work and support.