

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

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

Hybrid Meeting of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)  
Geneva, and Via Teams – 18.30 CEST, 27 April 2023  
MINUTES

	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 (not present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Cross, Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas (not present)		
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Julie Hollis (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Songyang WU (not present)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marit Kitaw, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Tunde Arisekola	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly (not present)		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glen Burrridge, EFG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Walker Darke, UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margherita Garonzi, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Guests:**

Mr. Igor Kaniukov, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation in Geneva  
Mr. Matthias Hartung, Member, EGRM Commercial Applications Working Group  
Mr. Sigurd Heiberg, Chair, EGRM Commercial Applications Working Group

### **Draft Agenda**

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. EGRM-14
  - (a) Bureau Elections
  - (b) Draft Conclusions & Recommendations for EGRM-14
  - (c) Draft EGRM-14 Meeting Report
3. Proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group
4. Any other business

### **Documentation:**

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Meeting on 27 April 2023
2. UNECE EGRM Bureau 2023 Nominations *as at 26 April 2023*
3. Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the fourteenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management
4. Draft EGRM-14 Meeting Report
5. Supporting documents for Proposed UNFC Adoption Standards Group
  - Framework for data repositories to assess resource projects & portfolios using UNFC as the global standard (v.4)
  - Proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group (15 April 2023)

### **Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda**

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Meeting on 27 April 2023

1. The draft agenda was approved. It was noted that Matthias Hartung and Sigurd Heiberg had been invited specifically for Agenda Item 3 “Proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group”.

### **Item 2. EGRM-14**

#### **(a) Bureau Elections**

2. The secretariat read out the list of nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair *as at 26 April 2023*. All nominations were noted and all non-member State nominations were approved for submission to EGRM under the Election of Officers agenda item to be taken on 28 April.

3. The Chair advised that if elected as Vice-Chair, he would offer his full support to the incoming Chair and ensure a comprehensive handover.

4. Discussion proceeded over the role of Vice-Chairs. The only point raised was the need to study the precedents regarding the role of the Vice-Chairs.

5. The TAG Co-Chair proposed that as there are two nominations for Chair, Bureau Co-Chairs should be considered. He advised that he would propose this at the start of the Chair elections on 28 April.

6. The Chair advised that, to his knowledge, there are no precedents on having Co-Chairs of groups of experts and that this may not be suitable for the functioning of the Bureau. Other members raised if there would be Co-Chairs what then is the role of the Vice-Chairs. The Russian Federation supported the proposal for Co-Chairs and indicated it would support this if proposed at EGRM-14 on 28 April.

7. The two nominated candidates for the position of Chair, Ms. Karen Hanghoj and Mr. Igor Shpurov, advised that if they are not elected, they would like to be added to the slate of nominees for Vice-Chair.

**(b) Draft Conclusions and Recommendations**

Documentation: Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from EGRM-14

8. There was no discussion on the Draft Conclusions and Recommendations and for now, there were no contentious issues to be resolved.

**(c) Draft Meeting report**

Documentation: Draft EGRM-14 Meeting Report

9. There was no discussion on the Draft EGRM-14 Meeting Report as there were no contentious issues to be resolved.

**Item 3. Proposal to Establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group**

10. Matthias Hartung and Sigurd Heiberg presented the proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group. They discussed the significant achievements reached by EGRM on UNFC and underlined how its adoption is spreading within geological surveys, authorities, and academia, leading to general momentum outside EGRM. UNFC is seen as a reporting tool but not necessarily as a decision-making tool. They noted the importance of connecting with the green transition, the digital transition, and concerning the utilisation of data. The urgency in supporting legislation and industry standards was restated, with climate change and critical resource management being core to these issues.

11. The proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group (ASG) would need to address the challenges to adoption challenges with urgency. This would build on the work undertaken on standards, guidelines, bridging documents, etc. The Group would leverage the expertise of EGRM to ensure sure that the adoption standards are developed with the needed expertise.

12. The Group would also provide an analysis on the gaps to the adoption of UNFC: Communication to decision makers to prepare them for the use of UNFC as a decision-making tool; Barriers to adoption: (a) on standards more needs to be done; (b) legislation to mandate UNFC adoption; (c) address other challenges; alliances are needed to bridge existing standards in global/national resource management, for example reach out to the ISSB. It was discussed that there needs to be a solution provided and then a proposal developed for consideration by EGRM to fill in the gaps to adoption with urgency and as a priority.

13. The discussions laid out the possibility to start with the ToR for the Group in May, together with invitations to potential members and the establishment of a functioning Group of 10-12 people. The Group, once established, would start consultations and deliver an analysis and focused solutions in 2023. Bureau members discussed these issues further, highlighting the need to use past work to ensure that good decision-making is based on the best information. The Chair supported the proposals and invited the Bureau members to show their support or otherwise for them through a display of hands. The show of hands demonstrated Bureau support in favour of the proposals.

14. The representative of Kazakhstan discussed the merits of establishing a UNFC Adoption Standards Group and shared his concerns and doubts. He raised concerns with the proposal for the development of standards to be adopted by all countries within EGRM. He and others raised doubts on data repositories, given that each state has its own standards. Another doubt raised was the risk of lobbying on behalf of private companies and the need for the proposed Group to go through TAG approval first.

15. The Chair underlined how engaging with experts from industry in the work of EGRM is something that has always been done and that, to his knowledge, there has never been any violation of

UN rules and protocols, and no strategic alliances have been developed with companies. The Chair further mentioned how the standards developed by UNECE are available for adoption by all interested parties. He also addressed concerns raised around enforcing data standards on countries and assured that that would never be proposed. The Chair clarified that the proposal presented needs to be modified to take all the points raised into consideration, including to consider modifying the name of the Group to remove Standards. The Chair requested that the language of the proposal be clarified prior to presentation to EGRM-14 to prevent possible misunderstandings. This was supported by other Bureau members.

16. The Co-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) noted that he believes the procedure has not been followed and that the proposal by the Commercial Applications Working Group, to establish a UNFC Adoptions Standard Group, should have first been discussed and approved by the Technical Advisory Group before being presented to the Expert Group. He advised that a meeting of the TAG was held earlier that week at which the issue was raised. There was consensus amongst the TAG members present at the meeting that procedure had not been followed with the proposal and that it should have first been discussed by TAG before coming to the Bureau. A number of Bureau members raised that any proposal can be presented directly to the Bureau and then the Bureau can recommend or not whether a proposal is submitted to the Expert Group for consideration.

17. A number of Bureau members asked where the new UNFC Adoption Standards Group should best lie within the organisational structure, i.e., under the Bureau or the Technical Advisory Group.

18. The representative of Kazakhstan proposed to create a financial reporting working group for UNFC and UNRMS in order to achieve financial reporting in parallel with standards for the countries that have already adopted UNFC and UNRMS. The Chair welcomed the suggestion and expressed that the UNFC Adoption Standards Group would be the ideal place to discuss this but added that elaborating specifics for a financial reporting group was beyond the scope of what the Bureau could be ready to propose to the Expert Group on 28 April.

19. Following discussion, there was consensus in the Bureau to move forward with the proposal to establish a UNFC Adoption Standards Group and submit it to the Expert Group on Resource Management on 28 April for consideration. Given the cross-cutting nature of the Group, there was also consensus for the UNFC Adoptions Standards Group to report to the Bureau with the option to move the Group elsewhere if needed and/or requested by EGRM. The Chair requested the Bureau members to first allow the Expert Group to lead the debate on the UNFC Adoption Standards Group proposal and the appropriate organisational structure for it.

#### **Item 11. Any Other Business**

20. The Chair thanked the members for their hard work and support.

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