

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

From: Karen Hanghoj, Charlotte Griffiths, Hari Tulsidas and Slavko Solar

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)
Via Teams - 15:00 CET, 12 December 2023
MINUTES

	Present	Apology
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom (Chair)	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glen Burridge, EFG	<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"/>
Andrzej Głuszyński, Poland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC DG GROW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas, EC DG GROW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julie Hollis, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marit Kitaw, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Tunde Arisekola, AMDC	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Songyang WU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Satinder Purewal, TAG Co-Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryam Sanni, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guest

Matthias Hartung, Chair, UNFC Adoption Group

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Meeting of 10 November 2023 (attachments 2 and 3)
3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group (Matthias Hartung)
4. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15
 - (a) List of Parliamentary Documents (attachment 4)
 - (b) Draft EGRM-15 provisional agenda (attachment 5)
 - (c) Draft outline for UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 (attachment 6)
 - (d) Proposals for sessions, speakers and lunchtime events
5. EGRM document review and approval process (attachment 7)
6. Update on Extrabudgetary Project Proposals
7. Petroleum Working Group Chair
8. COP28 Update (attachments 8 and 9)
9. Date of next call
10. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 12 December 2023
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 10 November 2023
3. Slide presentation delivered by Ignatyi Volnov on 10 November 2023
4. EGRM-15 Documents – Updated List
5. Draft provisional agenda for EGRM-15
6. Draft outline for UNECE Resource Management Week 2024
7. EGRM document review and approval process
8. Programme for COP28 side event - Responsible and inclusive management of critical energy transition minerals, 6 December 2023
9. Working Paper on Strengthening critical mineral value chains for the energy transitions

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 12 December 2023

1. The draft agenda was approved. It was noted that Matthias Hartung, Chair of the UNFC Adoption Group, would participate as a guest and speak on agenda item 3 “Update on UNFC Adoption Group”.

Item 2. Minutes of Bureau meeting of 6 September 2023

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau minute of 10 November 2023

Slide presentation delivered by Ignatyi Volnov on 10 November 2023

2. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 10 November 2023 were circulated on 5 December with a request for comments by 19 December 2023.

Item 3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group

3. The Chair invited Matthias Hartung, Chair of the UNFC Adoption Group, to update Bureau members on the work of the Adoption Group.
4. The mandate for the UNFC Adoption Group was given by the Bureau in June 2023 based on discussions at EGRM-14. The purpose of the Adoption Group is to identify barriers/challenges and recommend actions for acceleration of widespread UNFC adoption.
5. The Adoption Group is supported by over 50 experts primarily from EGRM and organized into 5 themes led by different leaders: Resource Governance, Business Management, Capital Allocation, Coordination & Capabilities, and Digital Enablement.

6. The Chair of the Adoption Group noted that much work has already been done on disclosure and reporting using UNFC terms in product volumes and resource volumes. Now, it is necessary to provide support for informed decisions on sustainability.

7. The Group will report out at EGRM-15. The Group's parliamentary document for EGRM-15 is scheduled to be completed by January 2024.

8. The Adoption Group experts are divided into Group Coordinators, Core Group members and Extended Group members who have, independently and in teams, developed the documents.

9. Since the commencement of activities, two on-site workshops have been held. The first workshop was held in Stavanger, Norway hosted by NPD on 7-8 September, with the goal of organizing and framing the work of the Adoption Group. The second workshop was held in London, hosted by Shell, on 7-8 December. The Chair and other members of EGRM were present.

10. Approximately 20 online meetings were held in between the two workshops: monthly progress meetings of the Core Group, theme meetings, editor meetings and engagements with TAG.

11. All relevant material consisting of meeting materials, referenced documents, working documents, have been uploaded to a common google drive free and are accessible to the Extended Group.

12. The 50 members were engaged in drafting the document for EGRM-15 and one of the members also worked with Chat GPT to secure insights from new technology.

13. The report is currently being finalized. Six barriers and recommendations have been identified.

14. The first recommendation relates to the purpose of UNFC. A communications and promotion strategy with user specific content needs to be developed to reach out beyond the borders of member states and the EGRM. Different user groups have been identified, most of which are unsure about why UNFC should be utilized. The Adoption Group recommends focussing on end users and promoting the fact that end users are interested in sustainability, informed dialogue, informed debate and making informed decisions that last. EGRM is advised to mandate, through the Working Groups, the formulation of a strategy along those lines.

15. The second recommendation pertains to the metrics UNFC is concerned with. UNFC focuses on one metric: the resource volume of products. This is important and essential but not sufficient. To assess economic, social, and environmental viability for the end user, additional metrics are needed. For economics NPV (Net Present Value) at the Private, Public and Physical level is needed. The environmental metric can be determined by decommissioning and restoration costs encompassing factors such as: greenhouse gas emissions, water & land use, and biodiversity impact; all are critical elements for a project to be viable.

16. Project viability goes beyond compliance with jurisdictional requirements and should also consider acceptance by stakeholders, which is crucial for successful project implementation. To achieve this, the recommendation proposes extending UNFC to include these additional metrics and developing bridging guidelines to existing standards. This approach aims to reinforce UNFC's unique value proposition as an umbrella framework for existing standards rather than creating new and potentially competing ones.

17. The third recommendation is for EGRM to build alliances with standards organizations which will be critical for mutual support.

18. The fourth recommendation is the development of strategic use cases. Stakeholders will not be persuaded to use UNFC unless they see that it has already been used for decision support. It is necessary to develop some compelling cases showing tangible benefits in facilitating informed dialogue, testing key metrics, leading to constructive public-private partnerships in Sustainable Resource Management. This will convert the strategy from UNFC push to UNFC pull. The Adoption Group proposes three projects that could serve as use cases:

- The new EU CRMs Act.
- The partnership between the African Union and European Union on CRMs.
- The positioning of geothermal energy in the Central American States.

EGRM will be recommended to actively engage with and support ongoing adoption use cases promising to demonstrate value-add.

19. The fifth recommendation is the proposal to create a UNFC support organization to govern UNFC for consistent use, ensuring the use of common language and enabling capacity-building and user support. This support includes trainings, templates, helplines and providing a platform for collaboration

between experts and practitioners. This is a feature of all globally successful standards such as those developed by ISO and IFRS. The form and shape this organization would take is to be determined. It could be a coalition of the willing, a network of International Centres of Excellence on SRM, an agency, or a consortium of adopters. What is important is that it has well-defined accountability, clear mandate from the UN and EGRM and has adequate resources to do its job. However, parts of the training needed could be provided by GSEU, universities, ICE-SRMs and others.

20. The sixth recommendation requires a long-term perspective. The Chair of the UNFC Adoption Group emphasized the need for a focused engagement with lead adopters which could include various entities:

- **Norwegian Government:** “Positioning” on deep-sea mining activities and comparing them to critical resource materials.
- **EU Member States:** Implementing the EU CRMs Act with strategic funding.
- **Financial Institutions (e.g., BlackRock):** Adopting UNFC for sustainable investment assessments.
- **Regulators (e.g., SEC):** Encouraging the use of UNFC for ESG assessments by foreign investors.
- **Energy Companies (e.g., BP, Shell):** Transparently assessing the impact of decarbonization using UNFC.
- **NGOs and Activist Groups:** Using UNFC for informed assessments of resource projects.

21. To proactively engage with those bodies and organizations, EGRM could proactively engage, promote, and support use cases with these key organizations. EGRM could also facilitate a dialogue between lead adopters with common interests.

22. Adequately planning, resourcing and funding the recommended activities would need to be a priority.

23. The plan of the Adoption Group moving forward is to:

- Submit its report and recommendations as a parliamentary document to EGRM-15.
- Focus on supporting promising cases between January and April.
- Contribute to communications in relevant conferences.
- Prepare presentation of the report for EGRM-15.

24. The Adoption Group Chair presented the UNFC Adoption Group’s requests from EGRM:

- Clarity on the EGRM document review process.
- An appropriate timeslot to present the proposed recommendations at EGRM-15.
- Requesting EGRM and TAG, as previously requested on 27 November, to get the UNFC Category definitions updated and coherent with UNFC (2019).
- With the delivery of the report in early 2024, the UNFC Adoption Group would have fulfilled its mandate and consequently, a renewed mandate would be required for the group to continue.

25. The Chair thanked the Adoption Group Chair for the presentation and invited members of the Bureau to pose questions.

26. Tunde Arisekola, member of the Adoption Group and representative of AMDC, further highlighted the EU-AU Partnership, noting its importance in contributing to deployment of UNFC.

27. The Secretariat provided an update on the Working Groups, notably the Commercial Applications Working Group’s contribution to the SASB standards. Rather than adopting UNFC for petroleum and minerals reporting, the ISSB used PRMS and the CRIRSCO Template but the possibility of using UNFC in future is still on the table.

28. The Secretariat noted the ministerial declaration by the Ministers of Energy in Asia calling for widespread adoption of UNRMS. The International Standards Organization (ISO) has recently approved development of a sustainable raw materials standard. ISO Program Committee 348 is tasked to develop this standard and they will start working from 2024. The Committee is chaired by an EGRM member who was formerly Chair of the Minerals Working Group and discussions are ongoing on whether a link to UNRMS can be made in the standard.

29. The Chair commented on the fifth recommendation cautioning against the creation of too many groups with separate tasks since there are already groups with the mandate of promoting and supporting the role of UNFC.
30. The Chair commented on the use of the word ‘positioning’ in the sixth recommendation while referring to deep sea minerals which could be interpreted as EGRM promoting specific projects. The Chair called for care in language use as EGRM has to remain impartial and its mandate is to promote UNFC and sustainable resource management not specific projects.
31. The Secretariat confirmed the Chair’s comments noting that the wording which goes into the final report is very important. Noting the recommendation for resources to be provided, the Secretariat suggested a funding proposal might be useful as an annex to the report.
32. The Secretariat congratulated DG GROW on the positive vote in the European Parliament regarding the EU Critical Raw Materials Act.
33. The Chair congratulated DG GROW, thanked the UNFC Adoption Group members for their contributions. She highlighted the importance of UNFC and UNRMS in Africa which is a huge leap and will have a great impact particularly in the extractive industries.
34. The Adoption Group Chair noted the suggestions from the Chair and the Secretariat asking if the recommended actions involving the group drafting a financial proposal was a renewal of the mandate of the Adoption Group.
35. The Chair called on the TAG Co-Chair to provide comments on the updates from the Adoption Group.
36. The TAG Co-Chair highlighted several challenges in the discussion surrounding the adoption of UNFC. One significant issue identified was the broad question of why governments might be hesitant to embrace UNFC. The TAG Co-chair suggested that the solution to this problem could lie in specific aspects, particularly the involvement of financial structures like banks in the use of UNFC.
37. Emphasizing the importance of financial institutions in this context, the TAG Co-chair pointed out that when banks refrain from utilizing UNFC, it could influence companies, particularly those in the petroleum sector. The reasoning behind this reluctance is that companies may perceive no need for the results if their financial institutions are not inclined to use UNFC. This concern extends beyond companies to encompass governmental bodies and legal entities, creating a complex interplay in the decision-making process and impacting the overall adoption of UNFC.
38. Expressing a widely shared stance, the TAG Co-chair stressed the paramount importance of financial estimation. The TAG Co-chair questioned the introduction of new metrics to UNFC as proposed by the Adoption Group Chair urging caution, emphasizing the need for a thorough understanding of the metrics proposed for UNFC and potential implications for any changes.
39. The TAG Co-chair raised a question about the comparison of metrics existing in other classifications, such as PRMS or the CRIRSCO Template, with those absent in UNFC. Recognizing the wealth of experience in classification, the TAG Co-chair highlighted the importance of carefully considering the implications of introducing or altering metrics within the UNFC framework.
40. The Chair concluded the discussion by proposing that the UNFC Adoption Group continue engaging with TAG, either during the drafting process or in another meeting. The Chair encouraged the Adoption Group Chair to consider the TAG Co-Chair's input as well.
41. The Chair encouraged Bureau members to send any additional comments to the secretariat or directly to the UNFC Adoption Group Chair.
42. The Adoption Group Chair responded to the points raised, reassuring the Bureau that their input was already on the list for consideration. An extended mandate for the Group from EGRM would be welcomed.
43. The Chair thanked the UNFC Adoption Group for its hard work.

Item 4. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 and EGRM-15

(a) List of Parliamentary Documents

Documentation: EGRM-15 Documents – Updated List

44. A draft updated list of potential parliamentary documents was circulated as part of the documentation for the call:

For translation

- Provisional Agenda
- Report
- Revised EGRM ToR and Mandate
- Revised criteria for International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and Terms of Reference
- Updated UNFC-CRIRSCO Template Bridging Document - Executive Summary
- UNRMS Case Study: Application of UNRMS to critical raw materials with the regional Government in Cornwall, UK
- Supplemental Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater
- UNFC case study (tbc)

English-only

- Updated Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects
- Application of UNFC and UNRMS for commercial applications, valuation and data reporting (tbc)
- UNFC Adoption Group Update and Recommendations
- G-axis Task Force Update and Recommendations
- Case Studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS for Environmental, Social and/or Governance (tbc)
- Case Studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS in Mexico
- Application of the United Nations Resource Management System (tbc)
- UNFC Case Study (tbc)
- UNRMS Case Study (tbc)

45. The Bureau members supported the list.

46. The Secretariat noted that a number of the English-only documents might be issued as informal room documents due to internal pressure to reduce the number of parliamentary documents.

(b) Draft EGRM-15 provisional agenda

Documentation: Draft provisional agenda for EGRM-15

47. The draft annotated provisional agenda for EGRM-15 was circulated on 6 December for review and approval. No comments were received during the meeting. Members were encouraged to send comments to the secretariat by 20 December.

48. The Secretariat noted that the deadline of 20 December could be extended to 10 January if needed. The draft document will also be sent to the WG Chairs for comment.

(c) Draft outline for UNECE Resource Management Week 2024

Documentation: Draft outline for UNECE Resource Management Week 2024

49. The initial draft outline for the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 was circulated on 6 December. The Chair provided an overview of the schedule for the Resource Management Week 2024. The goal is to conclude the meeting mid-afternoon on 26 April if possible since many participants leave during the last session.

(d) Proposals for sessions, speakers and lunchtime events

50. The Chair asked Bureau members for proposals for the EGRM-15 sessions, as well as speakers including keynote speakers and lunchtime lecture speakers. Bureau members were encouraged to send suggestions to the Secretariat. The Chair expressed the idea of diversifying the format of EGRM-15 beyond traditional panels, suggesting the inclusion of posters and other interactive formats to facilitate

more informal discussions alongside formal sessions. The Secretariat will explore if the room logistics at the Palais des Nations will allow for this.

Item 5. EGRM document review and approval process

Documentation: EGRM document review and approval process

51. A draft note on the EGRM review and approval process was circulated as part of the documentation for the call because there had been numerous questions from Working Groups Chairs regarding the document review process, including who approves and the flow of approvals.

52. The Chair clarified that this topic had been discussed a number of times in the Bureau in recent years, often in the context of specific papers, meetings, or events. A note is needed to provide clarity on the overall EGRM document review and approval process for the benefit of all participants.

53. The Chair elaborated on the note that had been circulated, explaining that it captured the general thinking behind the EGRM document review and approval process. The draft note is based on insights from the TAG Terms of Reference, previous Bureau meeting minutes, and the UNFC-UNRMS Roadmap. The aim is to develop a clearer, agreed-upon process for the review and approval of EGRM documents.

54. The Chair outlined the suggested review process:

- TAG Review: If required, especially when the body preparing the document is a working group part of the TAG. Working group chairs, being TAG members, should bring documents to the TAG for review.
- Independent Working Group Review: The Chair expressed uncertainty about its details, suggesting a need for clarification from the secretariat.
- UNRMS Document Development and Review and oversight by the Bureau.
- Final Approval at EGRM: The document undergoes final approval during the EGRM session.
- Potential Escalation: Depending on the need or request, the approval process could escalate to the Committee of Sustainable Energy, the Executive Committee, the Economic Commission for Europe, or ECOSOC.
- Public consultations could also be part of the approval process.

55. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

56. The Secretariat clarified the concept of independent working group review citing the example of the update of the CRIRSCO Template-UNFC Bridging Document, for which an ad hoc group comprising members of CRIRSCO and the EGRM Minerals Working Group was established. The TAG Co-chairs felt that these experts had already contributed significantly, and the TAG could add little more. Additionally, when the TAG reviews documents, the TAG can bring in independent experts who are not TAG or Working Group members, ensuring a broader technical review and oversight.

57. The Secretariat further added that an independent Working Group review also applies to documents such as case studies, which may not need to go up to the TAG level. Some documents from external sources might require a working group review, and recommendations can then be provided directly to the Bureau, streamlining the review process for certain types of documents.

58. The Secretariat noted that the Bureau has previously discussed and agreed that peer review of UNFC and UNRMS case studies is not needed unless the case study is on a new area of application. Case studies that have not been peer reviewed should be clearly indicated as such.

59. The Chair observed that this the document review and approval process aligns with revisiting the terms of reference for TAG. There is a plan to discuss the EGRM realignment process that was previously considered about 18 months ago. The Chair emphasized the importance of this discussion and welcomed comments on the topic.

60. Members were requested to provide written feedback to the Secretariat by 10 January 2024.

Item 6. Update on Extrabudgetary Project Proposals

61. It was recalled that the UK had proposed a project for an International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) to implement UNRMS for circular materials and sustainable resource management. The project was resubmitted to the UNECE Executive Committee and approved on 4 December 2023. Supported by the UK Government with a budget of almost USD 500,000, the project will allow a P3-level staff member to be hired by UNECE to support implementation of the project and coordination with EGRM.
62. A communication plan to announce the Project and the ICE-SRM UK is being considered.
63. Additionally, there is a project in the pipeline for an ICE-SRM in Central Asia. The Chair invited the representative of Kazakhstan to provide further insight on the progress of the project.
64. The initiative was presented to the Advisory Board of the President of Kazakhstan, and it has been adopted at that level. Currently, three ministries – the Ministry of Ecology, Ministry of Industry, and Ministry of Energy – have expressed support for the initiative. Two ministries have prepared letters, while the Ministry of Energy has provided its verbal agreement.
65. By the time of EGRM-15, all the necessary documents should be in order. The current focus is on structuring the initiative. The Director of the ICE-SRM Central Asia has been appointed, and the process of establishing the organizational structure is underway. Importantly, the ICE-SRM aims to be a platform not only for Kazakhstan but for the entire Central Asia region, as well as countries such as Azerbaijan.
66. The initiative aims to enable States and companies to report oil and gas reserves not only in tonnes but also in monetary terms, aligning with the SDGs. The goal is to provide comparable indicators for both government and investor perspectives.
67. The Chair commended the swift progress and strong support for the ICE-SRM CA initiative.

Item 7. Petroleum Working Group Chair

68. As advised to the Bureau, the nomination of Igor Shpurov for the role of Petroleum Working Group (PWG) Chair did not receive consensus among Bureau members.
69. Victor Babashev has been nominated by the TAG Co-chairs with support from the PWG. However, there has previously been Bureau discussions on the roles of Bureau members, especially country representatives, taking on other leadership roles in EGRM. The Chair noted that historically, individuals nominated by countries did not become Chairs of Working Groups to avoid Bureau members “wearing too many hats” and to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.
70. The proposal is for Victor Babashev to act as the Interim Chair of PWG until EGRM-15 in April 2024 to allow for a smooth transition, given that he is a member of PWG. William (Bill) Zempolich from Chevron, subject to Chevron approval, has expressed willingness to take on the role from April.
71. The Chair called for comments from the Bureau members.
72. The Secretariat shared a comment on behalf of the Co-chair of the TAG, who was unable to join the call. The TAG Co-Chair supports Victor Babashev as the Interim Chair but expressed concerns about Bill Zempolich's lack of previous involvement in the PWG and EGRM meetings. The TAG Co-Chair emphasized the importance of Bill spending time as a member, understanding the PWG'S vision and mission, promoting UNFC and UNRMS, and providing his CV. The TAG Co-chair cited the example of the outgoing Chair of the PWG spending three years as a member before becoming Chair.
73. The Secretariat clarified that Bill Zempolich has been participating in EGRM meetings since 2017 and hence is familiar with UNFC and UNRMS. David McDonald has been in extensive contact with Bill, addressing concerns and providing information about the role of the PWG Chair as well as sharing the PWG ToR.
74. David MacDonald emphasized Bill Zempolich's active participation in EGRM meetings over the years. He highlighted Bill's extensive experience, including work in Kazakhstan and Russia, and

endorsed him as a suitable candidate for the role of PWG Chair. Support was expressed for Victor taking on the role of Interim Chair, as were concerns about potential conflicts of interest and the perception of favoring one commodity, including in light of current global issues such as climate change/COP

75. Victor Babashev expressed gratitude for the positive comments. He emphasized that he doesn't foresee conflicts since any work plan he proposes goes through EGRM or TAG, ensuring a balanced approach. He conveyed his commitment to avoiding conflicts or tensions and left the decision to the Bureau.

76. The Chair advised that Victor and Bill's CVs and the proposal will be circulated to the Bureau for comment/approval by cob 20 December.

Item 8. COP28 Update

Documentation: Programme for COP28 side event - Responsible and inclusive management of critical energy transition minerals, 6 December 2023
Working Paper on Strengthening critical mineral value chains for the energy transitions

77. At COP28, a side event focused on responsible management for critical energy transition minerals was held on 6 December. Other events covered topics such as transition finance, climate finance, critical raw materials, and sustainable mineral supplies for the energy transition. The activities aimed to gather feedback on policy measures and investments supporting the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

78. The Secretariat provided a report to Bureau members on COP28.

79. At COP28, events focused on low-carbon transitions and critical raw materials. The UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development organized a side event. The IMF expressed interest in gathering data on critical raw materials. UNECE, together with ESCAP and other Regional Commissions, produced a draft working paper on CRM value chains. The Young Member Resource Management Group is developing a guidebook for intergenerational action on CRMs. The African Development Bank announced a Green Mineral Strategy for Africa.

80. Additionally, Baku, Azerbaijan, was confirmed as the location for COP29. Since Azerbaijan is a member country of UNECE, UNECE participation might potentially be more intensive.

81. UNECE also worked with the Commonwealth Secretariat on a side event and an initiative for developing a toolkit for harnessing marine energy. There is country interest in EGRM's work on geothermal. Dominica requested to learn more about the application of UNFC to geothermal resources.

Item 9. Date of next Call

82. The doodle poll showed that 3pm CET on 24 January 2024 is the preferred date for the Bureau call in January. The focus will be on EGRM-15 preparations.

Item 10. Any other business

83. The AMDC representative provided highlights of the African Mineral Energy Resource Classification (AMREC), an extension of UNFC for Africa. He advised that the Pan African Public Standard for Minerals and Energy Resources (PARC) has been recently completed. PARC focuses on competent reporting, including technical and financial evaluations, environmental and social considerations, and economic benefits to mining communities. PARC will be formally launched during the Mining Indaba in Cape Town, 5-8 February 2024. Comments were invited by Bureau members. It was agreed that the PARC document would be circulated to the Bureau. Congratulations were extended for the progress and efforts made to develop AMREC and PARC. Both are impressive achievements.

84. The Bureau was thanked for its work and support in 2023.
