

**To: 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, 24 January 2024  
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Songyang WU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<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"/>
Oleg Dzioubinski, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kuba Wesolinski, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Guests**

Dario Liguti, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

Matthias Hartung, Chair, UNFC Adoption Group

Alistair Jones, Chair, G-axis Task Force

### **Draft Agenda**

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 12 December 2023
3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group
4. Update on G-axis Task Force
5. Bureau update
  - (a) Election on 26 April
  - (b) EFG change of representative
6. EGRM Governance
  - (a) EGRM Mandate and ToR
  - (b) Proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC
  - (c) EGRM Document Review and Approval Process
7. ICE-SRM Governance
8. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15
  - (a) EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda
  - (b) Documents
  - (c) Proposals for sessions, speakers, and lunchtime events
9. TAG Update
  - (a) TAG Co-Chair status
  - (b) Petroleum Working Group Chair update
  - (c) Social and Environmental Considerations Chair update
  - (d) Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources and Development of Mineral Resources and Competent Persons
10. Dates and format of EGRM-16
11. Education, outreach, and communications
12. Date of next call
13. Any other business
  - (a) SED Regional Adviser
  - (b) Capacity Building Board (CBB)

### **Documentation:**

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 24 January 2024
2. UNFC Adoption Group Presentation to 12 December Bureau Call
3. Recommendations to the EGRM Bureau to Accelerate Adoption of UNFC
4. Update on G-axis Task Force
5. EGRM Mandate and ToR
6. Draft Proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC
7. EGRM Document Review and Approval Process - Revised Draft
8. ICE-SRM governance
9. EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda
10. EGRM-15 Documents – Final List
11. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Outline
12. TAG Update
13. Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources and Development of Mineral Resources and Competent Persons *developed by ICE-SRM Russia*
14. Executive Summary of review by Competency Working Group on Model Requirements *developed by ICE-SRM Russia*
15. List of events in 2023 and 2024

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

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 24 January 2024

1. The Chair advised that Matthias Hartung, Chair of the UNFC Adoption Group, and Alistair Jones, Chair of the G-axis Task Force, would exceptionally participate as guests and speak on Agenda Item 3 (Update on UNFC Adoption Group) and 4 (Update on G-axis Task Force), respectively.
2. Dario Liguti, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, also joined the call.
3. The Chair welcomed Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser for Sustainable Energy, and Kuba Wesolinski, the new Communications Consultant, to their first EGRM Bureau Call.
4. The draft agenda was approved.

### **Item 2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 12 December 2023**

Documentation: UNFC Adoption Group Presentation to 12 December Bureau Call

5. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 12 December 2023 were circulated on 21 December with a request for review and/or approval by 10 January 2024.
6. No requests for modifications were received.
7. The minutes have now been posted to the UNECE website.

### **Item 3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group**

Documentation: Recommendations to the EGRM Bureau to Accelerate Adoption of UNFC

8. The Chair invited Matthias Hartung to provide an Update on the UNFC Adoption Group.
9. Since the last update to the Bureau in 12 December, the UNFC Adoption Group has compiled a 40-pages long comprehensive report. In recollection of the meetings held within the UNFC Adoption Group, a summary document was provided to the Bureau that contains the recommendations of the comprehensive report. Those recommendations will be directed to EGRM and its Bureau under the conclusions and recommendations section of the comprehensive report, foreseen as an English-only parliamentary document for EGRM-15.
10. The UNFC Adoption Group has recommended eight actions for accelerating the adoption of UNFC. These actions aim to enhance UNFC-based decision support for governments, businesses, and capital allocators. The Adoption Group also recommends establishing alliances with standard-setting organizations, developing strategic use cases, engaging with potential adoption champions, establishing a UNFC Support Organization, updating UNFC Supplementary Specifications, and digitizing UNFC data management and analysis systems. The Adoption Group emphasizes the need for adequate planning, resources, and steering of these activities by EGRM in 2024 and beyond. Adequate funding of these activities is crucial given the urgency of progressing the 2030 Agenda and accelerating the adoption of UNFC and UNRMS.
11. The UNFC Adoption Group underlined the need for dedicated resources beyond voluntary efforts, proposing the involvement of a support group.
12. The Chair and the Secretariat raised concerns about the recommendation to establish a support group, suggesting that existing groups within EGRM and its structure should be utilized. They also questioned the funding model for the proposed work, seeking more details and potential budget considerations included in the final report
13. The UNFC Adoption Group will look into suggesting potential funding options to the recommendations in their final report, for consideration of the Bureau.
14. The final report needs to be sent to the Bureau by 20 March 2024, following which it will be submitted as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15.
15. The Chair thanked Matthias and the UNFC Adoption Group for their hard work.

### **Item 4. Update on G-axis Task Force**

Documentation: Update on G-axis Task Force

16. The Chair invited Alistair Jones to provide an Update on the G-axis Task force.

17. The G-axis Task Force was initially created because it has become clear that the G axis is being used in different ways by different groups, allowing for confusion. Hence, it was agreed at EGRM-14 that this Task Force will summarize the differences in how the G axis is being applied, to understand the consequences of these differences, and identify some options for EGRM. The G-axis Task Force has been frequently meeting, and they managed to review published UNFC Case Studies and Bridging Documents, which revealed essentially two different uses. The Task Force has agreed on explanations and descriptions of the two uses: (i) the G-axis is used for confidence in estimate usages or levels of certainty, where G1, G2, and G3 mean respectively High, Medium, and Low levels of certainty, typically adopted in minerals, nuclear, and anthropogenic usage (ii) called as position and uncertainty range, where G1+G2 and G1+G2+G3 are positions in the range of uncertainty and equivalently G2 and G3 are the differences between them. The Task Force has identified these two primary differences in which the G Axis is utilized and has noted the implications of these differences in interpretation.

18. After deliberation, the Task Force determined five options for the Expert Group, but dismissed three of them as unsuitable. The Task Force is currently discussing the remaining two best options. A report is being drafted by the Task Force, which will soon be sent to TAG for feedback.

19. The G-axis Task Force requested comments from the Bureau regarding the issue of not being able to reach a consensus recommendation. It was noted by the Secretariat that when consensus is not reached, a footnote indicating the matter should be placed in the final document, which will be later noted in the meeting for a wider discussion.

20. Members of the Bureau leaned towards supporting more the former approach and keeping the axes as they currently stand, rather than dividing the G axis and reforming UNFC and all the related documents. The motive behind this motion is positioned on the premise that UNFC as known, and in particular the G axis, have already come a long way in terms of uptake, supporting documents and grounds covered, therefore rendering the rethinking of G axis and its further division a cumbersome activity.

21. However, it was suggested to keep and compile these potential modifications and revisions for future references, when an update is needed.

22. The Chair and the Bureau Members thanked Alistair and the G axis Task Force for their work and look forward to their final report.

## **Item 5. Bureau update**

### **(a) Elections on 26 April**

23. Elections to the Bureau will be held on Friday 26 April 2024 during the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 and EGRM-15. Any new nominations and modification to the Bureau will be considered. No new nominations have been received to date. The term of two Bureau members, Victor Babashev and Branka Knežević, expires at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> session.

### **(b) EFG change of representative**

24. Glen Burridge has advised that EFG will change its representative from himself to David Govoni, the current EFG President. David has registered to participate in EGRM-15.

25. The nomination of David Govoni is subject to review and approval by EGRM at the 15<sup>th</sup> session.

## **Item 6. EGRM Governance**

### **(a) EGRM Mandate and ToR**

Documentation: EGRM Mandate and ToR

26. The current 5-year mandate for EGRM (2019–2024) expires on 31 December 2024. EGRM needs to review its current mandate and recommend or otherwise to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that it be extended for a further period of 5 years up to 2029. This is also an opportunity for EGRM to review its Terms of Reference and see if the ToR is still fit for purpose or needs modification.

27. EGRM has been mandated to develop, promote, and support the implementation of a global system that can be used as a tool for the sustainable management of natural resources to support the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. The proposed draft revised/updated Terms of Reference for EGRM were created to help the Group achieve its objectives. The ToR entails a range of tasks including:

- Developing and deploying UNRMS based on UNFC
- Providing training materials and a toolkit for UNFC and UNRMS
- Creating principles, specifications, bridging documents, guidelines, and protocols that support the development of a project from conceptual studies to closure
- Elaborating guidelines to recognize and strengthen the capabilities of qualified experts
- Supporting the dissemination, application, adoption, and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in different regions and countries
- Promoting activities related to empowering women
- Addressing diversity and inclusion in the resource management sectors, engaging in intergenerational issues with a focus on youth
- Attracting and channeling extrabudgetary resources to support the aforementioned activities and regional, national, and industrial-level applications, and providing support to ECE member States in developing other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

29. The proposal is for the revised EGRM mandate and ToR to be presented as a parliamentary document for further discussion and potential approval during EGRM-15.

30. The Secretariat suggested to circulate the document for a further round of written comments from the Bureau Members. The written feedback from Bureau members was requested by 7 February 2024.

31. One key recommendation from the Bureau that needs to emerge from EGRM-15, is to request the renewal of the mandate to 2029.

#### **(b) Proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC**

Documentation: Draft Proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC

32. EGRM is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy established in 2009. It is responsible for developing and maintaining the UNFC and UNRMS. ECOSOC, one of the highest decision-making bodies of the UN, has recognized the important role of EGRM in promoting sustainable resource management and adopted a Resolution in 2023 to encourage worldwide application of UNRMS.

33. EGRM faces a number of challenges and limitations. These include:

- EGRM is an advisory body and not a formal intergovernmental body. As a result, it lacks the authority to make decisions or recommendations that are binding or endorsed by the United Nations.
- EGRM largely comprises experts from the ECE region and does not reflect the diversity and representation of all UN Member States and regions i.e., there is a discrepancy between its largely regional constituency and the globally-applicable tools it is tasked with disseminating and further developing. Consideration should be given to the best approach to reconciling this.
- EGRM has limited visibility and impact at the global level and does not receive adequate recognition, support, and resources from the UN system.

34. In view of these challenges and limitations, EGRM could consider starting the process to try to reconfigure itself into a Committee of Experts on Sustainable Resource Management (CESRM), or another Committee name to be agreed upon, under ECOSOC. Such a Committee would have a higher status as a formal intergovernmental body under the auspices of ECOSOC. Such a Committee would also have a broader mandate and would be more representative of all UN Member States and regions. It was underlined that this is just a proposal for discussion.

35. The proposed reconfiguration of EGRM would entail the following changes:

- The name EGRM would be changed to the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Resource Management or another name to be agreed upon.
- The mandate and terms of reference of the Committee would be revised and updated to include the following functions:

- To develop and maintain UNFC and UNRMS, as well as to provide guidance and advice on their application and implementation in countries worldwide.
- To monitor and review the progress and challenges in achieving sustainable resource management, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and to make recommendations to ECOSOC and other relevant bodies on policy actions and measures to address them.
- To foster cooperation and coordination among Member States of the United Nations, international organizations, regional commissions, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders on sustainable resource management.
- To promote awareness and capacity-building on sustainable resource management.
- To report annually to ECOSOC on its activities and outcomes.
- The composition and structure of the Committee would be modified to ensure the representation of all UN Member States and regions. The modality and frequency of the meetings of the Committee would be adjusted to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of its work.
- A substructure under the Committee i.e. of Working Groups (or similar) would be developed.

36. The proposed reconfiguration of EGRM would have a number of benefits, including:

- The Committee would have a higher status and authority and hence be more visible to governments and other stakeholders.
- The Committee would be more representative of all UN Member States and regions and would be better able to address the needs of different countries and regions.
- The Committee would have a broader mandate and would be able to take on a wider range of activities to promote sustainable resource management.

37. There are a number of challenges to the proposed reconfiguration of EGRM, including financial and administrative implications, an increased requirement for resources, staff and meeting servicing requirements (since all 193 UN Member States would be involved), the revision of rules and procedures, and the establishment of reporting and accountability mechanisms.

38. Overall, the proposed reconfiguration of EGRM would be a positive development that would enhance the effectiveness and impact of the UN's work on sustainable resource management. The Committee would have a higher status, be more representative, and have a broader mandate. This would allow the Committee to take on a wider range of activities to promote sustainable resource management globally in line with the ECOSOC Decisions on UNFC and UNRMS.

39. The Bureau was asked to reflect on this proposal and the right approach to this chicken and egg situation. Should EGRM as the lowest body be proposing this reconfiguration to higher bodies or should EGRM endeavor to facilitate a recommendation for such a reconfiguration from a body higher than EGRM, for instance the Committee on Sustainable Energy on the grounds that EGRM is developing and implementing tools that are bigger and beyond its governance structure.

40. Many Bureau members voiced support for this initiative stressing the needed increased visibility and the potential global impact that this proposal brings and which are needed for implementation of UNFC and UNRMS. The Chair also highlighted that EGRM as it stands is already a global group and perhaps it is time to take it to higher levels.

41. The Chair requested comments by 7 February on the draft proposal, and in particular on the approach to take i.e., a parliamentary document for EGRM to consider at EGRM-15 or no parliamentary document but a facilitated discussion at EGRM-15 and conclusions and recommendations for the Committee on Sustainable Energy to consider at its meeting in September. The parliamentary document would take the form of an Annex to the EGRM Mandate and ToR document.

### **(c) EGRM Document Review and Approval Process**

Documentation: EGRM Document Review and Approval Process – Revised Draft

42. It was noted that the circulated note on the EGRM review and approval process incorporates the comments received from Bureau members and Working Groups Chairs.

43. No further comments were added during the Bureau call.

44. The revised document of the EGRM Review and Approval Process was approved by the Bureau to be submitted as a parliamentary document for further discussion and potential approval during EGRM-15.

#### **Item 7. ICE-SRM Governance**

Documentation: ICE-SRM governance

45. A draft updated document “ICE-SRM Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference for ICE-SRMs” was circulated as part of the documentation for the call. This updated version builds on the original document, previously approved by EGRM at its 11<sup>th</sup> session, in September 2020.

46. The document needs to be revised based on the requirements of the ICE-SRMs being established, the need for adequate oversight and governance of the ICE-SRMs, and the advice of the UNECE Executive Office and the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

47. The updated document outlines the criteria for ICE-SRM recognition, its mission, terms of reference, and reporting requirements. ICE-SRMs are institutions that promote the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS. They provide capacity-building, contribute to further development and maintenance of UNFC and UNRMS, advocate for their adoption, and engage in outreach.

48. A number of suggestions for improvement had been received from Bureau members. The Secretariat compiled the suggestions and comments into one document. The Chair recommended working on this version of the document, in order to visualize and stay up-to-date with all the recent comments and suggestions.

49. The Chair asked the Bureau members to provide their written comments on the document by 8 February.

50. The final document will be submitted as a parliamentary document for further discussion and potential approval during EGRM-15.

51. The Secretariat added that the document looks at clarifying the governance of the network of the ICE-SRM. In light of the increasing number of these Centres, the aim is to generate a common, general framework MoU for all the Centres that would regulate the bilateral relationship between the Centres and the UN, as a set of guidelines on how this relationship should evolve to ensure consistency and a harmonized approach with all the Centres. The planned approach is for each ICE-SRM to sign the framework MoU with the UN and add an appendix which will spell out the specifications of each Centre e.g., each Centre will have a different work plan, ownerships, governance structure, juridical implications, etc. The UNECE Executive Committee will be informed on the framework MoU and the appendices. Regarding reporting, if the Centres do sign the aforementioned MoU, they will be required to report annually to the Expert Group. The format of the reporting is yet to be defined.

52. It was also noted that to date, any established Centre is an independent entity, with no link to the UN, other than promoting and disseminating UNFC and UNRMS.

#### **Item 8. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15**

##### **(a) EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda**

Documentation: EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda

53. A number of comments were received from Bureau members and Working Group Chairs on the draft EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda. The revised document incorporates this feedback.

54. The agenda expands on the topics discussed and agreed upon during the last Bureau call. The provisional agenda covers a range of topics concerning resource management. The meeting will open on Monday 22 April. The first two days will include a Seminar on implementing UNFC in Europe and beyond, as well as workshops and a proposed short course on UNRMS. The 15th Session of EGRM will “officially” open on Wednesday 24 April, with an opening statement from the UNECE Executive Secretary (tbc) with the theme: Reshaping Resource Management: Embracing Challenges, Prospects, and Innovative Solutions. One or two keynote addresses could be included in this session and also on other days.

55. The Chair invited proposals for keynote topics and speakers.

56. Priorities and resource management matters of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be discussed. This includes discussions on UNFC and UNRMS development, applications (case studies) and implementation. The meeting will also cover the UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development. Other items on the agenda include building capacity for sustainable resource management, global initiatives for United Nations resource systems, and communications and outreach strategies.

57. No further revisions to the EGRM-15 provisional annotated agenda were proposed during the call. The document will therefore be submitted for translation.

## **(b) Documents**

Documentation: EGRM-15 Documents – Final List

58. The final list of parliamentary documents was circulated as part of the documentation for the call. The list includes the following documents:

### **For translation**

- Provisional Agenda
- Report
- EGRM Documents Review and Approval Process
- Revised criteria for International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and Terms of Reference
- Updated UNFC-CRIRSCO Template Bridging Document
- UNRMS Case Study: Application of UNRMS to critical raw materials with the regional Government in Cornwall, UK
- Revised EGRM Terms of Reference and Mandate (with proposed Annex: Proposed reconfiguration of EGRM as the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Resource Management)

### **English-only**

- Supplemental Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater including a summary of comments received during the public consultation and the proposed approach to addressing them
- Updated Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Injection Projects
- Classifying the production of lithium, caesium and tantalum from the Tanco mine, Manitoba, Canada, according to UNFC – A Case Study
- UNFC Adoption Group Update
- G-axis Task Force Update
- Application of UNFC and UNRMS for commercial applications, valuation and data reporting (tbc)
- Case Studies for application of UNFC and UNRMS for Environmental, Social and/or Governance (tbc)

59. The Chair noted that a TAG recommendation for “Updated UNFC-CRIRSCO Template Bridging Document” was sent to the Bureau with a deadline for feedback by 25 January.

60. The Chair also added that the UNRMS Case Study from Cornwall may be delayed.

61. Regarding the Groundwater Specifications, a large number of comments were received during the Public Consultation and the nature of the comments received, the draft Specifications will no longer be issued as a translated document. A discussion document will be issued in English-only.

62. The Chair also mentioned that the last two English-only documents will likely not be issued.

## **(c) Proposals for sessions, speakers, and lunchtime events**

Documentation: UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Outline



63. The Chair initiated this item by asking the Bureau members for proposals for the sessions, speakers, including keynote speakers, as well as ideas for lunchtime time speakers.
64. The lunchtime lectures organized at EGRM-14 were well attended and well received so this will be repeated. Two English-only lunch-time lectures on “Circular Data,” and “Transforming Sustainable Resource Management Knowledge and Innovation” are proposed. Ideas on other topics and potential speakers are welcome. There was interest in securing at least one female speaker.
65. The Commercial Applications WG in collaboration with other WGs has proposed a session/workshop on technologies to support the circular economy. A UNRMS short course is also envisaged.
66. The Chair requested all Bureau members to attend the Week if their schedule allows. A hybrid Bureau meeting is planned on Thursday 25 April, after the close of the EGRM meeting.
67. A meeting announcement has been circulated to the EGRM mailing list. The registration page is open and the meeting page on the UNECE website will continue to be updated over the coming weeks.
68. The Chair asked the Bureau members to circulate information on the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 to their networks including on social media in order to maximize participation and raise the visibility of EGRM work.

### **Item 9. TAG Update**

#### **Documentation: TAG Update**

#### **(a) TAG Co-Chair status**

69. The TAG Co-Chair Satinder Purewal stepped down as Co-Chair on 17 December due to personal reasons. Satinder Co-Chaired the TAG for the last 3 years, and had Chaired the Petroleum Working Group for 4 years before that.
70. The Chair thanked Satinder for his hard work.
71. Alex Shpilman is now the sole Co-Chair of TAG.
72. The Chair asked the Bureau if they consider nominating an additional TAG Co-Chair or wait until the review of the TAG Terms of Reference is completed. No comments were raised during the call.

#### **(b) Petroleum Working Group Chair update**

73. As agreed by the Bureau, Victor Babashev is the Interim Chair of the Petroleum Working Group until EGRM-15 in April 2024.
74. Bill Zempolich from Chevron is then due to take over as Chair, with the caveat that this is still subject to the confirmation of Chevron.

#### **(c) Social and Environmental Considerations Chair update**

75. Claudio Virues has stepped down as Chair of Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group, due to personal reasons.
76. Carrie McClelland, Colorado School of Mines, has expressed interest in Chairing the Working Group. Should the Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group members support this a message seeking the approval of the Chair and the Bureau will be sent.

#### **(d) Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources and Development of Mineral Resources and Competent Persons**

**Documentation:** Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources and Development of Mineral Resources and Competent Persons developed by ICE-SRM Russia  
Executive Summary of review by Competency Working Group on Model Requirements developed by ICE-SRM Russia

77. ICE-SRM Russia has developed a document “Model requirement for experts in estimating reserves, resources, and development of mineral resources and competent persons”. Six countries support the model requirements' development: the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

78. The document outlines the requirements for individuals who carry out the assessment and verification of non-renewable resources. These individuals, known as Mineral Reserves Experts and Competent Persons, must have a university degree, ten years of experience in subsoil use for mineral reserves experts and fifteen years for competent persons, and must be members of a professional non-profit organization. They must also regularly complete professional development courses, adhere to high ethical standards, and always maintain knowledge and skills. Finally, it outlines the professional conduct of Mineral Reserves Experts and Competent Persons, emphasizing the importance of fairness, impartiality, and adherence to professional standards.

79. ICE-SRM Russia requested the Competency Working Group to review the document.

80. The review found that the document is ambiguous in definitions, does not align with the Competency Guidance issued by EGRM, has stringent experience requirements, is not clearly defined geographically, and raises concerns about feasibility and consistency with UNFC/UNRMS principles. The review recommends adjustments to the document to address these concerns and ensure its effectiveness and alignment with UNFC/UNRMS principles.

81. A call between the ICE-SRM Russia and the Competency Working Group has been proposed.

### **TAG Update**

82. The Chair asked the TAG Co-Chair to provide an update.

83. The TAG held a call on 17 January 2024.

84. The EGRM Working Groups are continuing to make progress on their work. A summary of the updates from each Working Group was provided:

- Women in Resource Management Working Group: Organizing a webinar related to water and enhancing collaboration with UN Women and seeking partnerships with other organizations.
- SDGs Delivery Working Group: Collaborating with the Resource Management Young Management Group on an intergenerational concept paper and focusing on reducing permitting time and managing the supply- and value-chain in a circular economy.
- Minerals Working Group: Completing the Bridging Document for CRIRSCO/UNFC and its accompanying Guidance Document, actively participating in the G-Axis task force meetings, and contributing to the developed a draft report on the recommendations.
- Competency Working Group: Reviewing the document titled "Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources, and Development of Mineral Resources and to Competent Persons." and providing active involvement and support to organizing a webinar on the use of UNFC.
- Petroleum Working Group: The Bureau appointed Victor Babashev as the Interim Chair of the Petroleum Working Group.
- Commercial Applications Working Group: Not active since the last report.
- Groundwater Resources Working Group: Released supplemental specifications for groundwater resources for a public consultation process.
- Nuclear Fuels Resources Working Group: Will be contributing to EGRM-15.
- Anthropogenic Resources Working Group: Participated in G-axis Task Force activities.
- Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group: Chair Claudio Virues is stepping down. Carrie McClelland has been identified as a possible replacement.
- Injection Projects Working Group: Completed the supplementary specifications document and is currently under review by TAG.

- Renewables Working Group: Geothermal Subgroup: Applied UNFC for geothermal inventory at Waikato Region, New Zealand. Solar Subgroup: Reactivated to update the Solar Specifications to align with current version of UNFC.
- Communications Working Group: Planning activities for 2024 to promote technology's impact on the circular economy through an EGRM-15 session and increase visibility of the UNFC website.
- Resource Management Young Member Group: Continuing to allocate members to other Working Groups and working on a Guidebook on Critical Minerals and collaborating for a workshop at the International Roundtable on Materials Criticality (IRTC) 2024.

#### **Item 10. Dates and format for EGRM-16**

85. A new format of meetings for the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been agreed upon starting in September 2024 to bring efficiencies and to call less on the network of experts to travel to Geneva for meetings. The intent is to organize two Sustainable Energy Weeks per year. These two Weeks will encompass the annual meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the six subsidiary bodies.

86. The proposal for the Sustainable Energy Week in April 2025 is to organize the meetings of EGRM and the Groups of Expert on Gas and on Coal Mine Methane (CMM) and Just Transition the week of 7 April. EGRM would meet on 7-11 April 2025 and the Gas and CMM and Just Transition Groups on 7-8 and 8-9 April respectively. Easter Sunday falls on 20 April so depending on room availability at the Palais des Nations the week of 7 April, the week of 28 April 2025 might also need to be considered.

#### **Item 11. Education, outreach, and communications**

Documentation: List of events 2023 and 2024

87. A list of events at which UNFC and/or UNRMS were presented or promoted or will be presented at upcoming events in 2023 and 2024 was included as part of the documentation for the call.

88. The Chair listed some important upcoming events:

- Geological Society of South Africa Conference Webinar including a focus on UNFC, Online, 20 February 2024.
- IRTC24: Raw materials in a changing world, Torino, Italy, 21-23 February 2024.
- Mining Forum 2024: Berlin, Germany, 6-7 June 2024.

89. The Chair invited Kuba Wesolinski, the new Communications Consultant to introduce himself.

90. Kuba is developing the communications plan for the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 and EGRM-15. One of the proposals includes having an exhibition space where people can promote their work in order to keep the coffee and lunch breaks more interactive.

#### **Item 12. Date of next Call**

91. The Chair proposed to hold the next Bureau call during the week of 4 or 11 March 2024. The focus will continue to be on EGRM-15 preparations.

92. The regular doodle poll will be issued.

#### **Item 13. Any other Business**

##### **(a) SED Regional Adviser**

93. The Chair welcomed the Regional Adviser on Sustainable Energy, Oleg Dzioubinski, who will now join the EGRM Bureau calls. Oleg plans to join the Bureau calls of all the subsidiary bodies under the Committee on Sustainable Energy with the aim to understand better the work of the groups of experts and the potential connection with his activities and support the groups.

94. Oleg works on translating the undertaken activities of the Group of Experts to program countries under the Regular Program on Technical Cooperation (RPTC). This is a selection of 17 countries from the UNECE region, including Kosovo, with 5 non-EU Member States (Albania, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 3 from Eastern-Europe (Belarus, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine), the Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia), 5 countries from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), and Türkiye.

95. Many examples of good cooperation were done in the past e.g., the UNFC capacity-building workshop in Georgia. The work under RPTC has to be on demand, with request for work/support coming from the programme countries.

96. It was noted that there is the possibility to specifically work with these countries on sustainable resource management. Oleg underlined his availability to assist and support these countries by translating the work of EGRM to what might be useful to these countries.

**(b) Capacity Building Board (CBB)**

97. The Secretariat was invited to talk about the CBB.

98. The CBB comprises Chairs from the Minerals, Anthropogenic Resources, and the Commercial Application Working Groups. The aim of the CBB is to assist the implementation of UNFC in support of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, more specifically by advising on the use of UNFC in the implementation phase of the Act and ensuring quality application and compliance.

99. No other business was discussed.

100. The members of the Bureau were thanked for their hard work and support.

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