

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, 13 March 2024
MINUTES

	Present	Apology
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom (EGRM 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David MacDonald, EGRM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly, IAEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Calista Bommer, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests

Dario Liguti, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division.

Matthias Hartung, Chair of UNFC Adoption Group.

Alistair Jones, Chair of G axis Task Force.

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 24 January 2024
3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group
4. Update on G axis Task Force
5. Bureau update
 - (a) Election on 26 April
6. EGRM Governance
 - (a) EGRM Mandate and ToR
 - (b) Update proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC
7. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15
 - (a) UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview
 - (b) Programme for workshops/seminars 22-23 April
 - (c) Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations
 - (d) Lunchtime lectures
8. TAG Update
 - (a) Petroleum Working Group Chair
9. ICE-SRMs
 - (a) Governance
 - (b) Update on establishment of a network
 - (c) ICE-SRM Russia Annual Report 2023
 - (d) Updates from ICE-SRMs
10. Education, outreach, and communications
11. Date of next call
12. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 13 March 2024
2.
 - a. UNFC Adoption Group - Recommendations and Proposed Implementation
 - b. UNFC Adoption Group Note to Bureau
3. G axis Task Force report and recommendations on the use of the G axis
4. Draft revised EGRM Mandate and ToR
5. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview
6. Programme for Seminar on UNFC and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act 360: navigating excellence, collaboration, and innovation 22-am 23 April
7. Draft Programme for UNRMS short course pm 23 April
8. Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations
9. TAG Update
10. Revised ICE-SRM criteria for recognition and ToR
11. ICE-SRM Russia Annual Report 2023
12. List of events in 2023 and 2024

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 13 March 2024

1. The Chair advised that Matthias Hartung, Chair, UNFC Adoption Group, and Alistair Jones, Chair, G axis Task Force, would exceptionally participate as guests and speak under Agenda Item 3 (Update on UNFC Adoption Group) and 4 (Update on G-axis Task Force), respectively.
2. Dario Liguti, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, also joined the call.
3. The draft agenda was approved.

Item 2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 24 January 2024

4. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 24 January 2024 were circulated on 12 February with a request for review and/or approval by close of business 29 February 2024.
5. No requests for modifications were received.
6. The minutes have now been posted to the UNECE website.

Item 3. Update on UNFC Adoption Group

Documentation: UNFC Adoption Group - Recommendations and Proposed Implementation
UNFC Adoption Group Note to Bureau

7. The Chair invited Matthias Hartung to provide an Update on the work of the UNFC Adoption Group, specifically on the recommendations and proposed implementation (section 8 and 9 of the entire report), as well as the Note from the Group to the Bureau. It was mentioned that the Note is not part of the report, but provides further considerations to the Bureau on the future of the UNFC Adoption Group after it has delivered its recommendation.

8. The UNFC Adoption Group has recommended eight actions for accelerating the adoption of UNFC, for the Bureau to consider and approve for implementation by EGRM at its 15th session in April 2024. The recommended actions are aimed to enhance UNFC-based decisions to support governments, businesses, and capital allocators. These recommendations are abridged as the following:

1. **Promotion of UNFC:** Communicate the benefits of UNFC for monitoring and informed dialogue on sustainability decisions.
2. **Metrics Addition:** Integrate additional physical, economic, environmental, and social metrics into UNFC.
3. **Alliances Establishment:** Form strategic partnerships with standard-setting organizations and sign MoUs to support sustainable resource management.
4. **Strategic Use Cases Development:** Support compelling cases demonstrating UNFC's benefits in public-private partnerships.
5. **Engagement with Adoption Champions:** Collaborate with governments, industries, and NGOs to promote UNFC adoption.
6. **UNFC Support Organization Creation:** Establish an organization to govern UNFC use and support capacity building.
7. **UNFC Supplementary Specifications Update:** Align resource specifications with the latest UNFC version.
8. **Digitalization:** Develop open-source data management systems for UNFC application in sustainable development.

9. In addition to the proposed recommendations, the UNFC Adoption Group's proposed implementation focuses on collaborative efforts of UN Member States, international industries, NGOs, and capital allocators in attaining the SDGs through the adoption of UNFC. The recommendations highlight the necessity for enduring capabilities and adequate resources to support the transition to global standards. The proposal also suggests resource allocation, staffing needs, and potential funding schemes.

10. The final document is due for submission to the Bureau by 20 March 2024, and subsequently as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

11. The Note to the Bureau prepared by the UNFC Adoption Group restates that the delivery of the final report to EGRM-15 marks the completion of the Group's mandate, as per its current ToR

(approved by the Bureau in June 2023). The note also invites the Bureau to revise the UNFC Adoption Group ToR, in order to allow a continued support to EGRM in (i) detailing the implementation plan of the eight recommendations, and (ii) assisting the Secretariat in executing it. It was noted in the Group's meeting on 8 March, that members of the UNFC Adoption Group have expressed their willingness to continue to support EGRM beyond April 2024. However, the Group acknowledged the limited capacity amidst the scale of the proposed work in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Funding options were explored, suggesting a preference for UN-led funding, yet openness to alternative sourcing such as a consortium of donors, public and private, each contributing in-kind through staff time.

12. The Note to the Bureau requests as well a consideration to leverage the EGRM Working Groups (WGs) and to consolidate those WGs that the Group considers to have overlapping functions.

13. An immediate reaction from the Bureau to the recommendations of the UNFC Adoption Group, revolved around the proposed restructuring of EGRM. Following this, attention was drawn to the Bureau's previous discussion against significant structural changes, questioning the need for a new name if the essence of EGRM remains intact.

14. Additionally, Bureau members expressed concerns on the recommendations, in particular on the metrics additions and the budgeting procedures.

15. Based on the discussions, the Chair requested the UNFC Adoption Group to further revise the proposed sections 8 and 9, particularly the term "UN-Hub" and also remove references to the Group in the implementation plan since a decision has yet to be taken on extending the Group's mandate beyond EGRM-15. The Bureau was invited to submit written comments by 20 March.

16. The Chair also flagged that more time and consideration are required regarding the decision on the continuation of the UNFC Adoption Group post EGRM-15. The importance of diverse perspectives, particularly from TAG, was emphasized in critically assessing the document and outlining areas of expertise relevant to various working groups.

17. The Chair thanked Matthias Hartung and the UNFC Adoption Group for their hard work.

Item 4. Update on G axis Task Force

Documentation: G axis Task Force report and recommendations on the use of the G axis

18. The Chair invited Alistair Jones to provide an update on the G axis Task force report and its status. The G axis Task Force plans to publish the report and recommendations on the use of the G axis as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15, if approved by the Bureau.

19. The G axis Task Force has been examining how the G axis is understood and implemented for various resources. The Task Force has identified two primary ways (deterministic and probabilistic approach) in which the G-axis is utilized and has noted the implications of these differences in interpretation. After deliberation, the Task Force determined five options for the Expert Group but dismissed three as unsuitable. The report also includes recommendations to the Expert Group, mainly on recognizing the different uses of the G axis for different purposes, documenting guidance and naming conventions for the identified uses ("confidence in estimate" for one use, and "position in uncertainty range" for the other), consideration for the Working Groups to add resource-specific guidance on the method of quantities estimation and assigning appropriate G axis categories, and addressing related issues such as understanding the differences between direct and indirect evidence, updating the guidance note definition of a project to UNFC(2019), providing guidance and definition of aggregation, and lastly, a brief online summary which lists all relevant UNFC documents for different types of users.

20. Since the last Bureau meeting, the G axis Task Force had sent to TAG their report for feedback and approval. The Task Force has then received TAG comments and updated the report accordingly. TAG has positively responded to the latest version and recommended the Bureau to issue the report as an English-only parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

21. No comments nor objections were raised during the call regarding the approval of the G axis report to be submitted as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

22. The Chair noted that in the event Bureau members need more time to review the report, comments and feedback are invited until 19 March. The Bureau agreed that the G axis Task Force report can be submitted as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

23. The Chair and the Bureau Members thanked Alistair and the G axis Task Force for their work.

Item 5. Bureau update

(a) Elections on 26 April

24. 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 changes to the Bureau will be considered. No new nominations have been received to date aside from the nomination of EFG President, David Govoni, who is proposed to replace Glen Burridge.

25. The terms of Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Victor Babashev, Kazakhstan, as Vice-Chairs will end at the close of the fifteenth session. Confirmation of their candidacy for re-election is still pending from both Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kazakhstan.

Item 6. EGRM Governance

(a) EGRM Mandate and ToR

Documentation: Draft revised EGRM Mandate and ToR

26. Revisions to the draft EGRM Mandate and ToR were made based on Bureau feedback and as part of the document editing and formatting process. The document is now ready for submission as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

27. EGRM's current mandate ends on 31 December 2024. The proposal to extend the mandate until 31 December 2029 would allow EGRM to continue its vital work in developing and promoting a global sustainable natural resource management system aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. The draft revised ToR encapsulates a comprehensive set of tasks that are instrumental in achieving the EGRM objectives. These include developing and deploying UNFC and UNRMS and building capacity. The ToR emphasizes the importance of disseminating and implementing the UNFC and UNRMS across various regions, promoting gender empowerment, fostering diversity and inclusion, human rights and engaging youth in resource management. It also focuses on the need to secure extrabudgetary resources to support these activities and assist UNECE member States in resource management.

29. The revised mandate and ToR will be presented for discussion and potential approval during EGRM-15.

30. The Chair noted that unless there are any corrections to address, the document will be submitted for translation on 14 March.

31. No comments were received during the call.

(b) Update proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC

32. The inconsistency of EGRM, with its regional constituency, supporting further development and dissemination of UNFC and UNRMS both of which are mandated for global application, was noted.

33. Following the last Bureau call, the Secretariat held several discussions internally and with the Regional Commissions Office in New York. The feedback indicated that any proposal for EGRM to be a body under ECOSOC or similar structural change needed more research and consultations. The draft document for discussion "Proposed reconfiguration of the Expert Group on Resource Management as the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Resource Management", discussed at the last Bureau call, is no longer being proposed for inclusion as an annex to the EGRM Mandate and ToR parliamentary document for EGRM-15.

34. The issues and challenges faced by EGRM in further developing and disseminating UNFC and UNRMS, which are both mandated for global application, will be discussed at EGRM-15.

35. Meanwhile, it is necessary to explore alternative avenues to enhance global participation and ensure that EGRM's reach, and impact are truly worldwide. Identifying and evaluating various options to achieve this goal, are needed. EGRM already has strategic partnerships with key international organizations and industry stakeholders, which could be strengthened to increase EGRM's global relevance. Creating a network that supports and recognizes UNFC and UNRMS and seeking endorsements from influential global entities can lend credibility and encourage widespread adoption of the standards.

36. The Chair invited Bureau members to contribute their insights and suggestions towards this endeavor. This approach will allow EGRM to strengthen the governance framework while aligning with existing international stakeholders' diverse needs and perspectives.
37. No comments were raised on this item during the call.

Item 7. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15

(a) Resource Management Week 2024 Overview

Documentation: UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview

38. The latest Week overview was submitted as part of the documentation for the call. The provisional annotated agenda has been submitted and is available on the meeting web page.
39. The program for the week will be developed based on the topics that were deliberated and agreed upon during the last Bureau call.
40. The event will open on Monday, 22 April, setting the stage for a seminar on implementing UNFC across Europe and beyond. This will be complemented by a series of workshops and a short UNRMS course designed to deepen our understanding and practical application of these frameworks.
41. The 15th Session of EGRM will officially open on Wednesday, 24 April. The UNECE Executive Secretary will deliver the opening statement by video. One or two additional keynote addresses are also being considered for other days.
42. It is planned to engage, throughout the week, in substantive discussions on the Committee on Sustainable Energy's priorities and resource management matters. This includes an in-depth look at the development, applications, and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS, supported by case studies that illustrate their real-world impact.
43. The meeting will delve into the work of the UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development. Themes such as capacity-building for sustainable resource management, global initiatives, and strategies for communications and outreach will be explored.
44. Several proposed presentations have already been received from a wide range of experts and organizations, which promise a rich exchange of ideas and expertise. It should be a comprehensive and engaging Week for all participants.

(b) Programme for workshops/seminars 22-23 April

Documentation:

- Programme for Seminar on UNFC and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act 360: navigating excellence, collaboration, and innovation 22-23 April am
- Draft Programme for UNRMS short course 23 April pm

45. The UNFC Seminar is scheduled on the first day and second morning, 22 April and 23 April am. The seminar is organized in collaboration with DG GROW, and two Horizon EU Projects: The Geological Service for Europe (GSEU) and FutuRaM, with a primary focus on implementing UNFC within the EU Member States in support of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act. The first session in the morning of 22 April will offer a comprehensive overview of UNFC implementation and progress in Europe, with emphasis placed on the coordination activities. This session will also explore the interconnection of UNFC and the EU CRMs Act and updates on the ICE-SRM EU. The afternoon session will delve into developments on UNFC within the EU, featuring presentations on UNFC case studies on mining wastes, end-of-life wastes, and aluminum scrap recovery. This session will also address the use of UNFC in classifying investment projects within the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) and give the stage to different EU Horizon Projects with UNFC activities. This session will then be followed with presentations on various Bridging methods from National Systems to UNFC in different EU Member States, in addition to the recently updated CRIRSCO Template-UNFC Bridging Document. The third session, scheduled for the morning of 23 April, will feature a forum for UNFC Minerals and Anthropogenic Resources Practitioners. This session will consist of four panel discussions focusing on topics such as the adoption of UNFC, challenges in classifying primary and secondary raw materials, and ensuring consistency and quality assurance in classification. Each panel will include

introductions from panelists followed by discussions and audience interventions on the challenges and opportunities.

46. The UNRMS short course will be held on Tuesday 23 April (15:00-18:00 CEST). The short course is intended to be an introduction to UNRMS. The major topics are:

- **Introduction to UNRMS:** covering the system's overview and its importance in sustainable development.
- **UNRMS Framework:** discussing the principles, structure, and case studies demonstrating UNRMS's impact on the SDGs.
- **UNRMS in Action - Case Studies:** presenting case studies from UK, Mexico, and Zambia, focusing on circular economy and integrated resource management.
- **Advanced Technologies for a Circular Economy:** exploring the application of AI, blockchain, and other disruptive technologies.
- **Critical Raw Materials and UNRMS:** on the significance of CRMs and the UNRMS approach to managing them.
- **Impact Assessment:** on assessing environmental, social, and economic impacts using UNRMS methodologies.

47. The course aims to equip professionals with strategic knowledge to drive sustainability and innovation in resource management

(c) **Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations**

Documentation: Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations

48. The first draft of the Conclusions and Recommendations for EGRM-15 was included as part of the documentation for the call. As per UN procedures, the draft will be shared with UNECE member States at least 10 days before the meeting and then uploaded to the website. The C&Rs are not intended to prejudice discussions at the fifteenth session but rather to provide a draft text that will be updated as the meeting progresses.

49. Whilst the draft C&Rs will continue to be developed/revised, key recommendations currently include:

- Requesting an extension of its mandate for five years beyond 2024 to continue its critical work on UNFC and UNRMS
- The Terms of Reference document for ICE-SRMs and its role in ensuring that ICE-SRMs operate within a clear and structured framework.
- Approval of documents, the CRIRSCO Template-UNFC Bridging Document and the Updated UNFC Specifications for Injection Projects
- Develop additional guidelines to assist stakeholders in implementing ESG frameworks effectively.
- Continued collaboration with financial regulators to ensure that the frameworks of UNFC and UNRMS are effectively integrated into financial reporting practices.
- Potential extension of the UNFC Adoption Group's mandate to further its work on breaking adoption barriers.
- Continued refinement of G-axis criteria to ensure the G axis' adaptability and relevance to different resources.
- Continuing efforts to address challenges related to gender diversity and inclusion in resource management.
- Further collaboration to align competencies with resource management functions and continued development of competency frameworks to support sustainable resource management.
- Further promotion of the Resource Management Young Member Group's activities to foster intergenerational collaboration.
- The continued collection and analysis of case studies to guide and encourage broader adoption of UNFC and UNRMS.

50. These recommendations aim to enhance the frameworks for sustainable resource management and support the broader objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

51. The Chair requested Bureau members to review the document by 21 March.
52. The draft C&Rs will also be sent to the Working Group Chairs for comment.

(d) Lunch time Lectures

53. The Chair highlighted that two lunch time lectures are confirmed for the week. The lectures will be held on 23 and 25 April, from 13:45 to 14:30 CEST. The first lecture on Tuesday 23 April will be delivered by Peter Hopkinson from Exeter University, on “Circular Data”, and the second one on Thursday 25 April, by Sarah Gordon, CEO, Satarla, on “The beauty of interconnected natural resource ecosystems” with a focus on ESG issues.
54. Promotional posters for both lectures are being prepared.

Item 8. TAG Update

Documentation: TAG Update

(a) Petroleum Working Group Chair

55. As previously agreed by the Bureau, Victor Babashev is the Interim Chair of the Petroleum Working Group until EGRM-15 in April 2024. Bill Zempolich from Chevron was due to take over as Chair in April. However, he advised that his current workload will not allow him to take on the role of Chair in 2024 and do justice to it. He hopes to be able to engage in 2025.
56. The Chair informed the Bureau members that the proposal for Victor Babashev to continue as Chair of the Petroleum Working Group post-EGRM-15 was accepted by Victor. The Bureau thanked Victor for his willingness to undertake this endeavor.

TAG Update

57. The TAG Co-Chair provided an update.
58. The TAG held a call on 17 January 2024.
59. The TAG Co-Chair highlighted the ongoing work around the groundwater resources specifications. The draft groundwater specifications were posted for public consultation from 15 November 2023 to 15 January 2024, to which many comments were received. The Groundwater Working Group is developing a Roadmap to respond to the comments in a transparent and inclusive way with all interested stakeholders. A dialogue with the various stakeholders is scheduled on Monday 18 March 2024 (invite link to be sent to the Bureau after this call). The process of developing a revised set of specifications could take a year.
60. It was added that the supplementary specifications document for injection projects has been finalized and revised by TAG. The latest version and a TAG recommendation were sent to the Bureau for approval.
61. The TAG is also planning to finalize the list of members from each Working Group by EGRM-15. In addition, a TAG report of activities for presentation at EGRM-15 is under development.
62. 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: The Women in Resource Management Working Group held a call on 1 March 2024 to discuss organizing a webinar on water, developing a new UNFC, a UNRMS guideline document on gender, and enhancing collaboration with UN Women and seeking partnerships with other organizations.
 - SDGs Delivery Working Group: The SDGs Delivery team is using AI and blockchain to reduce permitting time and manage the supply chain for materials. They contributed to the UN/CEFACT project and the International Fertilizer Association Global Sustainability Conference in Amsterdam. The Resource Management Young Member Group also collaborated on an intergenerational concept paper.
 - Minerals Working Group: The CRIRSCO Template-UNFC Bridging Document and its accompanying Guidance Document has been submitted as a parliamentary document for EGRM-15. The CRIRSCO President will attend part of EGRM-15. The Minerals Working Group is working on a UNFC case study on lithium from Manitoba, Canada.

- Competency Working Group: The Competency Working Group is reviewing a document on "Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources, and Development of Mineral Resources and to Competent Persons" to ensure compliance with international standards. The WG supported a UNFC webinar and has proposed a session at EGRM-15.
- Petroleum Working Group: The Working Group held a meeting on 28 February 2024. The WG plans to collaborate with SPE to create a financial reporting template for UNFC-PRMS. Additionally, the WG will develop new case studies for UNFC.
- Commercial Applications Working Group: The Working Group will start activities in March related to templates for financial reporting using UNFC. The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has expressed an ambition to engage with UNECE in the first half of 2024. The WG will consider how to engage should this happen.
- Groundwater Resources Working Group: The Groundwater Resources Working Group is updating the supplemental specifications for groundwater resources. The WG received public comments during the consultation process from November 2023 to January 2024. All comments will be considered in a transparent and inclusive manner before working to finalize the specifications. The WG will hold several dialogues with the global water community and prepare a roadmap for updating the document and finalizing it for EGRM-16.
- 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: The Bureau approved Carrie McClelland as the new Chair. The WG will be activated to be more proactive in seeing social and environmental considerations are included in all UNFC documents.
- Injection Projects Working Group: TAG has reviewed the update to the supplementary specifications document. Based on the comments received, the document is being finalized for Bureau approval and submission to EGRM-15.
- Renewables Working Group:
 - Geothermal Energy: A Joint IGA-UNECE UNFC and UNRMS webinar, including geothermal applications, is scheduled to be held on 12 April 2024.
 - Solar: The Solar subgroup's primary task is to update the Solar specifications to align them with the current version of UNFC.
- Communications Working Group: The Communications Working Group plans to promote technology's impact on the circular economy through EGRM sessions and increase the visibility of the UNFC website. The WG will organize polls, create videos for the website, and develop a communications plan for conferences. The CWG is committed to achieving its goals in 2024.
- Resource Management Young Member Group: Currently, an ad hoc task group is working on a Guidebook on Critical Minerals which is in the editing period and will be published at EGRM-15. The WG organized a workshop at the International Roundtable on Materials Criticality (IRTC) 2024 titled "Critical Youth in the Raw Materials Environment. Driving Innovation: Insights from the Next Generation in Academia, Industry, Society, and Governance". A report on the workshop will be published in the EFG Journal. The RMYMG will organize a UNFC for Beginners webinar on 15 March 2024.

Item 9. ICE-SRMs

(a) Governance

Documentation: Revised ICE-SRM criteria for recognition and ToR

63. EGRM initially approved the ICE-SRM criteria for recognition and ToR at its 11th Session (September 2020).

64. A revised text is proposed based on the needs of the established ICE-SRMs and to ensure proper oversight and governance. Suggestions for improving the document were received from Bureau members and have been incorporated. The UNECE Executive Office and the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) have also provided feedback.

65. The updated document defines the criteria for ICE-SRM recognition, outlines its mission, terms of reference, and reporting requirements. The ICE-SRMs are responsible for promoting the global

deployment of UNFC and UNRMS, providing capacity-building, contributing to further development and maintenance of UNFC and UNRMS, advocating for their adoption, and engaging in outreach.

66. Additional comments were received from ICE-SRM Russia. The document with the comments from ICE-SRM Russia was shared during the call.

67. The Secretariat clarified the document's approach and the activities of the ICE-SRMs. It was noted that the document primarily addresses the activities of ICE-SRM in relation to UNECE, particularly concerning UNFC and UNRMS. The independence of ICE-SRMs from the UN was highlighted, with recognition that the ICE-SRMs operate under their own regulations and national laws. The document was framed as governing the relationship between ICE-SRMs and UNECE within the context of their activities related to UNFC and UNRMS.

68. The Secretariat highlighted that the document is intended to be a general and principles-based text and hence regional issues are not included. The comments raised by the ICE-SRM Russia were addressed and discussed. The first comment related to the geographical area of reference underscored in the document. The responsibility for proposing a geographical area of reference for ICE-SRMs was clarified, indicating that it is the ICE-SRMs themselves who propose their geographical scope. ICE-SRMs must demonstrate the feasibility and appropriateness of their proposed geographical reference area, including necessary agreements and recognition from local stakeholders. UNECE has no or limited role in defining the geographical scope of ICE-SRMs.

69. Regarding the evaluation criteria for ICE-SRMs, a transparent evaluation system for ICE-SRMs could possibly be needed. The possibility to establish such evaluation criteria is up to the Expert Group and the Bureau if this is delegated to the Bureau.

70. The non-profit nature of ICE-SRMs was discussed. A distinction was made between the commercial and not-for-profit status of ICE-SRMs, clarifying that while ICE-SRMs operate as not-for-profit organizations, they can generate revenue through commercial activities, but UNFC and UNRMS are not to be exploited commercially due to their nature as public goods. For example, commercial training courses on UNFC and UNRMS cannot be organized. However, training courses on sustainable resource management, including a module on UNFC and UNRMS for example, could be organized on a commercial basis. The copyright rules related to UNFC and UNRMS were raised and discussed.

71. The recognition of qualified experts/competent persons by ICE-SRMs was discussed in the context of their relationship within their geographical area of reference, since ICE-SRMs may be entitled to that by virtue of an agreement with the relevant authorities. Flexibility in the language of the document was noted, allowing for adaptation based on the appropriateness of recognizing qualified experts.

72. Concerns were voiced regarding the addition of terms such as "where appropriate" to certain points, particularly the point on the development of principles for public-private partnerships.

73. Lastly, it was proposed to highlight the importance of the ECOSOC Decision on UNFC and the Resolution on UNRMS and their relevance to the document, emphasizing their role in reinforcing the mandate of ICE-SRMs. Suggestions were made to include references to the ECOSOC Decision and Resolution and coordination with other UN regional commissions in the document and MOU.

74. The Secretariat agreed to incorporate comments related to ECOSOC and respond to the comments received by ICE-SRM Russia in the document.

75. The document will be submitted as a translated parliamentary document by 14 March, for further discussion and potential approval at EGRM-15. If the document is approved by EGRM, it would then be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

(b) Update on establishment of a network

76. The ICE-SRMs are envisioned as platforms dedicated to advancing sustainable resource management in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. These International Centres will operate on a not-for-profit basis and are committed to promoting UNFC and UNRMS within their respective regions. They will provide policy support, technical advice, education, and training, among other activities, to stakeholders.

77. ICE-SRMs have been initiated in Russia and Mexico, and plans are underway for ICE-SRMs in the UK, Kazakhstan, and the EU.

78. When sufficient ICE-SRMs are created, UNECE will establish a global network for collaboration and sharing of experiences. The network aims to ensure application consistency, foster innovation, and

maintain transparency. The proposal is for any ICE-SRM that meets the criteria for recognition to be invited to enter into an MoU with UNECE. This would be a Framework MoU. The intent is to share details of this Framework MoU with UNECE member States at the Executive Committee in July 2024. Before signing the MoU, the ICE-SRM would need to undergo due diligence by UNECE.

79. Extrabudgetary resources will be required to support the global network.

(c) ICE-SRM Russia Annual Report 2023

Documentation: ICE-SRM Russia Annual Report 2023

80. The ICE-SRM Russia Annual Report for 2023 was included as part of the documentation for the call. The highlights provided by ICE-SRM Russia are:

- Actively promoted UNFC and UNRMS throughout 2023.
- Facilitated the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS.
- UNRMS included in the Ministerial Declaration of the Ministers of Energy in the Asia-Pacific
- Numerous meetings and events with partner countries, established cooperative agreements and participated in significant forums such as the Russia-Africa Summit and the Third Asia-Pacific Energy Forum.
- Approval of an updated Bridging Document between the Russian and UNFC classifications
- Drafting of proposals to amend Russian legislation for resource estimation
- Development of a Code of Ethics for experts
- Training experts through educational initiatives, highlighting the importance of integrating international systems into national practices for sustainable resource management.

(d) Updates from ICE-SRMs

81. CCOP is still interested to establish an ICE-SRM for East and South-East Asia. During a recent visit to India, a representative from Swansea University facilitated a discussion to establish an ICE-SRM in India. A team from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, will participate in EGRM-15 and discuss the possibilities and meet with other ICE-SRMs.

82. Updates from the ICE-SRMs that have been established or are being established were provided:

ICE-SRM Russia:

- Bridging to the document "Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Mineral Reserves, Resources and Mineral Development and Competent Persons" (heeding the Competency Working Group expert's suggestions).
- "Model Code of Ethics for Experts in Estimation of Mineral Reserves, Resources and Mineral Development and Competent Persons"
- "Educational Program for Experts in Estimation of Mineral Reserves, Resources and Mineral Development and Competent Persons":
 - UNFC and Bridging Documents
 - Examples of Application of the Bridging Document between the RKZ-2013 and UNFC.
- Competition named scholarships "Russian Classification of Mineral Resources as Part of the International System" for students of Russian universities
 - UNFC and Bridging Document with RKZ-2013
 - Examples of Application of the Bridging Document between the RKZ-2013 and UNFC
 - Experts on Mineral Resources.

The ICE-SRM Russia would like to have discussions with other ICE-SRMs and the Bureau during the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 in Geneva.

ICE-SRM Mexico and Latin America:

A team from UNECE recently visited Mexico to promote the use of UNFC and UNRMS among stakeholders in the energy and extractive industries. The aim of the visit was to encourage dialogue and cooperation between UNECE, ICE-SRM Mexico and Latin America, ECLAC, the United Nations System in Mexico, and other relevant actors to identify needs and opportunities for further support. The mission was successful, resulting in agreements between ICE-SRM and two major financial

development institutions and the acknowledgement of UNFC's adoption by a subnational government's energy plan. The visit also discussed pilot tests of UNFC and UNRMS to a strategic mineral resource in Mexico, and strengthened coordination and communication between UNECE, ICE-SRM Mexico and Latin America, and other stakeholders. The visit received positive feedback and support for the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in Mexico.

ICE-SRM UK:

The ICE-SRM UK is in its early stages and further updates are expected at a meeting in Geneva. It operates as a collaborative platform between four UK universities and the British Geological Survey, focusing on the circular economy of resources such as building materials, wood, construction materials, critical minerals like lithium, and steel. Details on its long-term operation and funding models are being worked on. More information will be shared at EGRM-15.

ICE-SRM Central Asia:

The ICE-SRM Central Asia has been registered in Kazakhstan. Agreements have been reached for the involvement of public organizations as third parties. The ICE-SRM has been announced at administrative level, receiving interest from the President's Administration and relevant Ministries. Protocols and MOUs have been established and will be presented at EGRM-15. The focus now lies on critical raw materials and deep reprocessing. Efforts are underway to engage Kyrgyzstan, with discussions initiated with a representative who serves as an advisor to the Chairman of the Committee of Geology. It is anticipated that by EGRM-15, ICE-SRM Central Asia will have more official representatives.

ICE-SRM EU:

As the EGS representative was not able to join the Bureau call, there was no update.

Item 10. Education, outreach, and communications

Documentation: List of events 2023 and 2024

83. 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.

84. The Chair listed some important upcoming events:

- RMYMG "UNFC for Beginners" Webinar, 15 March 2024
- IGA-UNECE UNFC Geothermal and Other Applications Webinar, 12 April 2024
- UNECE Resource Management Week 2024, 22-26 April 2024.

Item 11. Date of next Call

85. The Chair proposed to hold the next Bureau call during the weeks of 8-15 April 2024. The focus will be on EGRM-15 preparations.

86. The regular doodle poll will be issued.

87. It was noted that holding the usual Bureau call during EGRM-15 will be challenging. Due to budget restrictions at the Palais des Nations, meetings cannot be organized beyond 7pm. The Chair proposed the following time slots:

- 6:15 – 7:00 pm Thursday 25 April in meeting room - in-person only
- 8.30 – 9:30 am Friday 26 April in Geneva and online.

Item 12. Any other Business

88. No other business was discussed.

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