

**IAEA-UNECE-ECLAC-CYTED Workshop on UNFC 2009 Applications in Uranium and Thorium Resources:
Focus on Comprehensive Extraction
Santiago, Chile – 9-12 July 2013**

**Opening Remarks delivered by Charlotte GRIFFITHS
on behalf of UNECE and ECLAC**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of both the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and our sister regional commission, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (or ECLAC), I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to this Workshop on the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources .

UNECE and ECLAC greatly appreciate this opportunity to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with all the partners involved here today:

- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Ibero-American Programme for Science, Technology and Development
- Colegio de Ingenieros de Chile A.G
- Ministry of Mines of Chile
- Nuclear Energy Commission of Chile

At the outset, we would like to thank the Colegio de Ingenieros de Chile – in particular Fernando Sierpe – for being the local organizer and hosting this event. Workshops such as this are not possible without local support.

For those of you not familiar with UNECE and ECLAC allow me to briefly explain. We are two of the five Regional Commissions of the UN. I work for UNECE which is based in Geneva and ECLAC is based here in Santiago. The Commissions are the regional outposts of the UN in their respective regions. They share key objectives aiming to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and subregions.

Turning to UNECE, a key focus of its work involves setting out norms, standards and conventions to facilitate international cooperation within and outside the region. The UNFC, which is a global United Nations initiative, is one of our flagship activities.

This Workshop is organized at a time when the global debate on sustainable development is focusing increasingly on sustainable energy development. Sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy.

The UN General Assembly has declared the decade from 2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, which really underscores the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

In response, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which brings together stakeholders in Government, the private sector and civil society to mobilize action towards three objectives: to provide universal energy access; to double the rate of global energy efficiency improvement; and to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 1.2. billion people – almost the population of India – still do not have access to electricity and 2.8 billion rely on wood or other biomass to cook and heat their homes. Clearly the lack of access to modern energy services is one of the greatest obstacles to achieving sustainable development.

The challenge for sustainable development is though compounded by the need for economic growth combined with the imperative to alleviate poverty. Within the context of sustainable development, climate change issues as well as environmental sustainability need to be addressed. The UNFC importantly addresses environmental and social considerations.

Fossil fuel and mineral resources will remain critical for the development process for the foreseeable future and will often be considered a priority for countries in ensuring that they can generate and maintain the economic growth needed for their development. However, these resources are limited. It is therefore important to be able to assess the supply base and reserves in a manner that is accepted by all and that allows comparability, consistency and compatibility. We are witnessing an increasing need for more accurate data and information to promote enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources for the future ... for the future of this region and others.

Energy is a global industry, and one that needs global standards that are clear and consistently communicated. By harmonizing energy reserves and resources terminology, we can obtain a more reliable and consistent estimate of the global quantities of fossil energy, both in place in the subsoil and recoverable. Importantly, the UNFC aids transparency and improved comparability of assessments of asset or company values, and, as we all know, better data leads to more informed and efficient investment decisions. However, ensuring that there is a method of classification that meets the needs of all users requires understanding and consistency in both application and standard setting. Hence workshops such as this one are key as we progress the development and global roll-out of the UNFC.

Ladies and gentlemen, **the UNFC is unique** ... it is the only tool available worldwide suitable for application to all extractive activities, covering solid mineral and fossil energy resources, including oil, natural gas, coal and uranium and thorium. I would like to thank the IAEA for its considerable efforts to advance the work on applying the UNFC to uranium and thorium resources worldwide.

We are also now working to broaden the application of the UNFC to address renewable energy resources as well as injection projects, including the storage of carbon dioxide and natural gas. This will provide a better view of energy sustainability.

A standardized system of classifying and hence comparing non-renewable and renewable reserves of energy will enable investors to easily compare diverse portfolios of both alternative and conventional forms of energy with a high degree of confidence in the underlying methodology and resulting metrics. By providing a common basis for comparing different energy resources, this will facilitate the most efficient allocation of investment capital to competing energy projects, aiding the development of the rapidly changing global energy complex.

The discussions and presentations over the next four days will demonstrate that the UNFC is a strong code, offering simplicity without sacrificing completeness or flexibility. It paves the way for improved global communications which will aid stability and security of supplies, governed by fewer and more widely understood rules and guidelines. The efficiencies to be gained through the use of this Framework are substantial.

I encourage us all to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the United Nations Framework Classification and to wish us a very successful workshop.

Thank you for your attention.
