

UNECE Resource Management Week 2019

UNFC Central Asia Workshop

Salle XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

30 April 2019

UNECE is implementing the project “Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement an internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources”, sponsored by the Russian Federation. The project’s goal is to bring coherence, consistency and resilience in management of mineral and energy resources in the Central Asian countries; it aims for cooperation between beneficiary countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – on development of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) linked to the existing national classification systems.

In the framework of implementation of the project, the sub-regional workshop was organized and held at the sidelines of UNECE Resource Management Week 2019 (in Russian language only), with the objective to validate the assessment reports developed by the national consultants. The workshop assembled total 18 experts – from the project’s beneficiary countries, as well as from the Russian Federation and the United Nations secretariat.¹

At the workshop, UNECE representatives informed the participants of the objectives and activities of the project, outlined the accomplished work, and also briefed them on the concordant United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-east Europe and Central Asia” being implemented by the Sustainable Energy Division.

The main findings from the assessment reports that touched upon the role energy and minerals production in national economies (as well as its social and environmental aspects), relevant government policies and programmes, national classification and management frameworks for energy and mineral reserves/resources, etc., were presented by the respective national consultants:

- Mr. Daniyar Chensizbaev, Junior Research Scientist, Industrial and Geothermal Waters Laboratory, Akhmedsafin Institute of Hydrogeology and Environmental Geoscience, Kazakhstan;
- Mr. Arkady Rogalsky, Geologist, LLC “Kirgizjer Neftegas”, Kyrgyzstan;
- Mr. Rahmonbek Bakhtdavlatov, First Deputy Head, State Geology Department, Tajikistan;
- Mr. Azimjon Kholikov, Head, Main Geological Department, State Committee on Geology and Mineral Resources, Uzbekistan.

Conclusions on the status of energy and mineral resource management in the countries, developed as part of the assessment reports, came up for a substantive and engaging discussion on the modalities for adoption of UNFC to the countries’ regulatory framework. Interventions were made by Mr. Malis Absametov (Director, Institute of Hydrogeology and Geoecology, Kazakhstan), Mr. Farhat Abytov (Head, Subsoil Expertise Department, Committee of Geology and Subsoil Use, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development, Kazakhstan), Mr. Georgiy Freiman (General Director, GeoMineProject LLP, Kazakhstan), Mr. Dmitrii Plaksin (National Consultant for Kyrgyzstan under UNDA project), Mrs. Zinaida Shabolotova (Chief Specialist, Department of Informational Resources, State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use, Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Egor Lebedev (Chief Specialist, Department of Metals, State Commission on Mineral Reserves, Russian Federation). Along with highlighting country-level particularities, by general consent the speakers underscored a need for harmonized approach to classification of resources in the region, which presumes establishment of: independent competent persons institution (plus capacity building activities), and; single national agency (as opposed to several departments, yet without prejudice to close interdepartmental cooperation) to facilitate such harmonization.

Laying the groundwork for further steps of the project implementation, attention was given to identifying specific energy and mineral projects (in petroleum, coal, uranium and renewable energy), which could be examined in case studies on application of UNFC in the national contexts. With the objective to explore challenges, opportunities and benefits of using UNFC for resources classification and management, their findings will serve as a basis for assessing applicability of UNFC in various energy and mineral projects in countries and will inform discussions at a concluding workshop to be held at the subsequent phase of the project.

The participants demonstrated keen interest in their further engagement in activities under the project.

¹ The request for participation of Turkmenistan in this project (Ref.: 2018/OES/479/SED as of 19 December 2018) received no response.