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Reference No.: SED/2014/24

Date: 12 June 2014

## **Cover Letter to Draft Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources**

The Task Force on the Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC) is pleased to present for public comment the draft document “Specifications for the Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) to Renewable Energy Resources”.

The purpose of the document is to enable the application of UNFC-2009, incorporating Specifications for its Application (as set out in ECE Energy Series No. 42), to renewable energy resources.

Renewable energy resources are an increasingly important component of the global energy mix. As the renewables industry becomes fully commercialized, it is important that renewable energy resources be quantified and classified in a common and transparent way both at a project level and for the regional and global energy systems. The classification must be undertaken in a way that allows a comparison with other energy resources using common frameworks. If UNFC-2009 could also be applied to renewables, this would for the first time allow the development of a classification system for renewable and non-renewable energy projects and improve the view of energy sustainability. A general classification system for renewables does not currently exist worldwide. The application of UNFC-2009 to renewable projects could also greatly facilitate the economic evaluation of projects and aid in the raising of finance in appropriate circumstances.

UNFC-2009, which has been developed by the Expert Group on Resource Classification under the auspices of UNECE, is applicable to all extractive activities worldwide. The work undertaken by the Task Force on Application of UNFC to Renewables over the last twelve months has resulted in the draft generic specifications (rules of application) that will allow UNFC-2009 to be applied to renewable energy. It should be noted that the draft document is prepared as the basis for public comment in order to receive input from all stakeholders for further consideration, prior to finalization and publication. Final approval of the generic specifications will require consensus within the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Classification on its form and content, prior to submission to the Expert Group for its endorsement of the final version (Expert Group on Resource Classification Sixth Session, Geneva, 28 April–1 May 2015).

The Task Force is now working on development of renewable commodity-specific specifications e.g. for bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, solar and wind.

The public comment period will run from 12 June until 12 September 2014. Comments may be provided via e-mail, an online form or by mail – full details are available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/energy/sc/reserves.html>.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members of the Renewables Task Force for their efforts in preparing the draft specifications document.

Yours sincerely



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