Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Twenty-ninth session
Geneva, 25-27 November 2020

Item 5(d) of the provisional agenda

Action agenda for the Economic Commission for Europe:
United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and sustainable resource management

Draft revised United Nations Economic and Social Council Decision regarding the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

Note by the Expert Group on Resource Management

I. Introduction

1. The Expert Group on Resource Management at its tenth session tasked its Bureau to review the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 2004/233 relating to the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and to propose an updated or new draft Decision regarding the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) for consideration by the Expert Group and subsequent submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.


II. Proposal to update ECOSOC Decision 2004/233

3. The following is the proposed text that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) would be invited to consider:

The Commission:

Recalling its decisions C(52) of E/ECE/1355 Annual Report (20 April 1996 to 24 April 1997), and paragraph 55 of E/ECE/1416 Annual Report (7 March 2003 to 26 February 2004),

Endorses the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) of 2019, contained in document ECE/ENERGY/125 and ECE Energy Series No. 61.

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Recommends that the updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources be disseminated widely, inviting States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of UNFC worldwide;

Decides to propose to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend its application worldwide.

III. Recommendation

4. The Expert Group on Resource Management invites the Committee on Sustainable Energy to consider submitting the draft revised Decision on UNFC to the ECE Executive Committee for possible onward transmission to the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe for consideration.

IV. References

5. The following references provide the historical context:

A. United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities


“The Commission decides to:

1. Endorse the decision of the Working Party on Coal (ENERGY/WP.1/12, para. 33) and that of the Committee on Energy (ECE/ENERGY/30, para. 43) taken at their sixth session held in 1996 to approve the new “United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities”.

2. Request the ECE secretariat to publish, by November 1997, the UN-Framework Classification to facilitate the use of the classification framework by major coal and mineral industries worldwide.

3. Recommend to the Committee on Sustainable Energy to monitor the application of the United Nations Framework Classification commencing 1997.

4. Recommend to the Economic and Social Council to consider appropriate measures for the worldwide application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources.”

B. ECOSOC Decision 1997/226

“At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Economic Commission for Europe decision C(52) of 24 April 1997 and welcoming the endorsement by the Commission of the United Nations International Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities, which was elaborated in close collaboration with States not members of the Commission, decided to invite Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of the Framework Classification.”

C. United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and ECOSOC Decision 2004/233

“The Commission endorsed the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and proposed to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend its application worldwide.”

ECOSOC Decision 2004/233

“At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 16 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1997/226 of 18 July 1997, welcomed the endorsement by the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources and decided to invite the Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of the Framework Classification. The Council noted that that new classification for fossil energy and mineral resources, which now included energy commodities (for example, natural gas, oil and uranium), was an extension of the earlier framework developed for solid fuels and mineral commodities, on which the Council had taken similar action in 1997 upon endorsement and recommendation by the Economic Commission for Europe.”