

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Expert Group on Resource Classification
Work Plan for 2016–2017¹

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/7) mandates the Expert Group on Resource Classification (the Expert Group) to carry out concrete results-oriented activities related to the classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.
2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Expert Group will concentrate on the promotion, application, maintenance and further development of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009).
3. The mandate for the Expert Group is approved until December 2019.

I. Concrete activities

4. The Group of Experts proposes to undertake the following activities:

(a) UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application

Description: The Expert Group will ensure testing, review, ongoing maintenance and periodic updating of UNFC-2009 and the generic specifications for its application. The Expert Group should be open to the exploration and development of other applications of UNFC-2009.

Work to be undertaken: The Expert Group will review UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application and start collating any additions, modifications and updates that may be identified. The Bureau of the Expert Group, in cooperation with the Technical Advisory Group, will work on this issue between annual sessions. The work will be conducted in close cooperation with all UNFC-2009 stakeholders, in particular, CRIRSCO and SPE in order to ensure that the three-way alignment between UNFC-2009, the CRIRSCO Template and PRMS is maintained. Case studies will be sought to demonstrate that UNFC-2009 meets the needs of the four principal applications for which it has been designed (international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management; and financial analyses and capital allocation). The Expert Group will encourage stakeholders to carry out cross-mapping with other systems. Ideally, this would include government to government mapping, mapping to commercial systems, and testing of the bridging documents to the CRIRSCO Template, PRMS and the NEA/IAEA Uranium Classification (“Red Book”). Upon request, the Expert Group will explore and develop other applications of UNFC-2009, provided such work does not compromise the Expert Group’s ability to fulfil its other obligations.

¹ This is the Work Plan for 2016–2017 as recommended by the Expert Group on Resource Classification at its Sixth Session.

Deliverables:

- (i) Collated list of issues for a future update of UNFC-2009 incorporating Specifications for its Application and an overview of possible additions and/or modifications for consideration by the Expert Group;
- (ii) Case studies demonstrating how a UNFC-2009 inventory is built, and how it may be used for: international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management; and, financial analyses and capital allocation;
- (iii) Updated mapping of UNFC-2009 to the petroleum classification of the Russian Federation of 2013 and a draft bridging document for review;
- (iv) Assistance provided to the relevant Chinese authorities in the development of mapping and bridging documents between UNFC-2009 and the Chinese Mineral Reserves and Resources Classification System (CMRRCS) and the Chinese Petroleum Reserves and Resources Classification System.

Timeline:

- (i) Outline of possible modifications to UNFC-2009: April 2016;
- (ii) Series of case studies subject to resource availability: April 2016 to ongoing;
- (iii) Mapping of UNFC-2009 to the petroleum classification system of the Russian Federation of 2013 and a draft bridging document: April 2016, revised draft April 2017.
- (iv) Update of the status of relevant mapping and bridging documents, including to the Chinese petroleum and mineral classification systems: April 2016, revised drafts April 2017.

(b) Governance of UNFC-2009

Description: The Expert Group, including through its Bureau and Technical Advisory Group, will provide assistance and advice on how to interpret, apply and/or map, or bridge, to UNFC-2009 as and when requested, as well as to compile and analyze the results of such initiatives.

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) The Technical Advisory Group will perform in accordance with its terms of reference outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/5. The Bureau will review the terms of reference on an ongoing basis and should any modifications be proposed they would be submitted to the Expert Group for consideration.
- (ii) The Bureau will review and prepare a guidance note on the application and use of the G-axis name, category definitions and supporting explanations in the light of its expanded use by the renewables sector.
- (iii) The Bureau will review and prepare a guidance note on the need for and responsibilities of a Competent Person or Persons with regard to UNFC-2009.
- (iv) The Bureau will review and prepare a guidance note on the definition of a project in relation to UNFC-2009.

Deliverables:

- (i) Report of the work of the Bureau submitted annually to the Expert Group.
- (ii) White papers and/or guidance related to the application and use of the G axis, Competent Person, and the definition of project all in the context of UNFC-2009 submitted to the Expert Group for review and publication on the ECE website.

Timeline:

- (i) Annual report of the Technical Advisory Group to the Expert Group Seventh Session: April 2016;
- (ii) Annual report of the Technical Advisory Group to the Expert Group Eighth Session: April 2017;
- (iii) White papers and guidance related to the application and use of the G axis, Competent Person, and the definition of project, all in the context of UNFC-2009: March 2016.

(c) Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources

Description: The Expert Group through its ad hoc Task Force on Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources will develop documentation that will allow UNFC-2009 to be applied to renewable energy resources. The work will be conducted in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders and international organizations and will respect the Memorandum of Understanding between ECE and the International Geothermal Association.

Work to be undertaken:

- (i) Update the draft generic specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewables;
- (ii) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to bioenergy;
- (iii) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to geothermal;
- (iv) Develop specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to hydro, solar and wind;
- (v) Develop guidelines and case studies for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewables.

Deliverables:

- (i) Documentation that allows UNFC-2009 to be applied to renewable energy resources, including generic specifications, commodity-specific specifications and guidelines. All documentation to be subject to review by the Expert Group and submitted for public comment;
- (ii) A series of case studies on application of UNFC-2009 to bioenergy, geothermal, hydro, solar and wind.

Timeline:

- (i) Presentation of revised generic specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewables to the Expert Group (revisions to the generic specifications will become apparent as the work on the commodity-specific specifications progresses): April 2016 and April 2017;
- (ii) Presentation of the draft specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to geothermal to the Expert Group: April 2016, final draft text April 2017;

(iii) Presentation of the draft specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to bioenergy: April 2017, final draft text April 2018;

(iv) Presentation of the draft specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to hydro, solar and wind: April 2018 subject to resource availability;

(v) Guidelines and case studies for the application of UNFC-2009 to renewables: as from April 2016 to ongoing.

(d) Accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC-2009

Description: The Expert Group through its Socio-Economic (E-Axis) Sub-Group will develop guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC-2009 and the Generic Specifications for its Application.

Work to be undertaken: The Socio-Economic (E-Axis) Sub-Group will work according to the Terms of Reference recommended by the Expert Group at its sixth session (EGRC-6/2015/INF.7 dated 13 April 2015). The work will be conducted in cooperation with as wide a range of UNFC-2009 stakeholders as possible. The Sub-Group will report to the Bureau of the Expert Group between annual sessions of the Expert Group.

Deliverables: Guidance on assessing the environmental and social considerations for the classification of resources according to UNFC-2009. This is expected to include and provide, but is not limited to: a list and definitions of the E-axis classification factors as identified in UNFC-2009; guidance for the E-axis factors which should revolve around high-level principles; and, a recommendation on the extent to which more detailed guidance is required.

Timeline:

(i) Presentation of draft guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for its Application to the Expert Group: April 2016, final draft text April 2017;

(ii) Presentation of a recommendation on the need, if any, for more detailed guidance: April 2017 to ongoing.

(e) Education and outreach

Description: The Expert Group through its ad hoc Communications Sub-Committee (Terms of Reference for the Communications Sub-Committee contained in Annex I to ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/6) will implement the agreed education and outreach strategy. The Expert Group will develop education programmes on UNFC-2009 using, in particular, the capabilities of industry professional societies and associations.

Work to be undertaken:

(i) Organize national and regional workshops on UNFC-2009;

(ii) Finalize and keep updated the standard presentations on UNFC-2009;

(iii) Implement the education and outreach strategy;

(iv) Develop an application tool for UNFC-2009.

Deliverables: A report of the education and outreach activities to be delivered annually to the Expert Group. Development and maintenance of standard presentations on UNFC-2009. Training and capacity-building events on UNFC-2009 organized globally. An electronic application tool to facilitate use and understanding of UNFC-2009 developed.

Timeline:

- (i) Annual reports of the Communications Sub-Committee presented to the Expert Group: April 2016 and April 2017;
- (ii) Standard presentations on UNFC-2009 posted to the ECE website: March 2016 to ongoing;
- (ii) National and regional workshops: ongoing;
- (iii) Draft UNFC-2009 application tool: April 2017.

(f) Use of UNFC-2009 in classifying injection projects

Description: The Expert Group through its ad hoc Task Force on Application of UNFC-2009 to Injection Projects will develop documentation that will allow UNFC-2009 to classify injection projects (e.g., storage of carbon dioxide, natural gas storage or other fluid waste disposal projects).

Work to be undertaken: Continue work to investigate how, for example, oil and gas companies classify and evaluate the maturity of their gas injection projects today, and propose a draft set of specifications.

Deliverables: Specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage, which are to be issued for public comment. Guidelines for application and case studies are also required.

Timeline:

- (i) Draft specifications for the application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects for the purpose of geological storage: April 2016, final draft specifications: April 2017;
- (ii) Guidelines and case studies: April 2017 to ongoing.

(g) Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources

Description: Classification of nuclear fuel resources is currently undertaken according to the NEA/IAEA “Red Book” uranium classification system. The “Red Book” is now aligned with UNFC-2009 through a Bridging Document (ECE/ENERGY/2014/6). Guidelines and case studies are needed to assist with the application of UNFC-2009 for the classification of identified and predicted resources of uranium and thorium.

Work to be undertaken: The Expert Group through its ad hoc Task Force on Application of UNFC-2009 to Nuclear Fuel Resources will produce a handbook of good practices for uranium and thorium resource management by compiling and evaluating a set of assumptions (including moderating factors such as use efficiency and rates of leakage or loss) as aligned to the UNFC-2009 E, F, and G axes, to the key milestones of typical mining and processing projects, and taking into consideration social and environmental factors, on the basis of which resource estimates are generated and evaluated, especially in the exploration stages.

Deliverables: Handbook of good practices for uranium and thorium resource management and case studies on application of UNFC-2009 to uranium and thorium projects submitted for consideration by the Expert Group.

Timeline:

- (i) Case studies on the application of UNFC-2009 for the classification of identified and predicted resources of uranium and thorium: April 2016 to ongoing;

(ii) Proposed modifications to the UNFC-2009 and “Red Book” Bridging Document: April 2017 to ongoing;

(iii) Handbook of good practices for application of UNFC-2009 for uranium and thorium resource management: April 2018.

(h) Financial reporting

Description: UNFC-2009 has been designed to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of all applications pertaining to financial reporting standards, particularly those promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

Work to be undertaken: The Bureau of the Expert Group will monitor relevant developments in financial reporting globally that might have an impact on reserves and resources.

Deliverables: Annual status report submitted to the Expert Group on any changes or developments in the financial reporting sector globally with implications or potential implications for UNFC-2009.

Timeline: Status report on financial reporting issues of relevance to reserves and resources submitted to the Expert Group annually: April 2016 and April 2017.

(i) Resourcing Strategy

Description: Development, promotion of and capacity building on UNFC-2009 is dependent upon significant voluntary contributions (man-hours, travel, expertise, sponsorship) and it cannot be expected that this can continue in the longer term.

Work to be undertaken: The Bureau of the Expert Group will develop a resourcing strategy together with an estimated funding requirement, identify potential donors and approach them for support.

Deliverables: Report and update to the Expert Group at its Seventh Session: April 2016.

Timeline: Update provided to the Expert Group on the development of a resourcing strategy for promotion and further development of UNFC-2009: April 2016.