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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Expert Group on Resource Management

Twelfth session

Geneva, 26-30 April 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 26 April 2021¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Workshop on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System: the role of resource management in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management.
6. United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resources Management System guidelines and best practices for delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Development of the United Nations Resource Management System.
8. Development, maintenance and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources:
 - (a) Minerals;
 - (b) Petroleum;
 - (c) Renewable energy resources;

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register at least two weeks prior to the session either online (<https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/12th-session-expert-group-resource-management>) or by e-mail (reserves.energy@un.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the entrance located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, to obtain a badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 75976 or 74140).

- (d) Nuclear fuel resources;
 - (e) Injection projects;
 - (f) Anthropogenic resources;
 - (g) Groundwater resources;
 - (h) Social and environmental considerations;
 - (i) Commercial aspects and financial reporting;
 - (j) Other potential applications.
9. Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in different geographical contexts.
 10. International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and extrabudgetary projects for implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System.
 11. Communications, promotion and outreach.
 12. Cooperation with other organizations and entities.
 13. Work plan for 2020-2021 and draft work plan for 2022-2023.
 14. Other business.
 15. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
 16. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Documents for the session will be published on the website² as they become available. A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

In view of the continuing restrictions to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this session will be conducted in a hybrid mode with the possibility of online and physical participation.

2. Election of officers

The Expert Group at its ninth session held in April 2018 elected a Bureau to serve until the end of the eleventh session in 2020. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Expert Group at its eleventh session extended the term of the Bureau to the end of the twelfth session in 2021 and elected three new members. The Expert Group will elect a new Bureau to serve until the end of the fourteenth session in 2023.

3. Opening remarks

Opening remarks will be delivered, including on the status of the development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources³ (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) and how UNFC and UNRMS

² <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/events/12th-session-expert-group-resource-management>

³ Where the term “resources” is used, this refers to natural and anthropogenic resources either to be produced, stored or managed.

can help governments, industry, investors, and international organizations respond to modern challenges in the sustainable development of energy and mineral resources, including socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Other issues that will be raised, include: the significant interest of ECE member States in the socio-environmental-economic contract to operate based on just transition and a long-term vision aimed at having a positive impact on nature; the requirement of a comprehensive framework for traceability, transparency, and sustainability in supply chains; development of a sustainable finance taxonomy to promote a circular economy; and the requirement for a unifying sustainable resource management system.

4. Workshop on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System: the role of resource management in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

A workshop on UNFC and UNRMS will be held in a series of short sessions to explore the application of UNFC and UNRMS to facilitate the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and to address resource management challenges and opportunities in the raw materials and energy sectors related to green transitions and progress towards a circular economy.

5. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its twenty-ninth session, 25-27 November 2020, as well as decisions taken by the Committee and the Executive Committee of ECE (EXCOM) related to the work of the Expert Group. The decisions include the endorsement of the UNFC Update 2019 and a recommendation to EXCOM to consider submitting the draft revised United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision on UNFC to the sixty-ninth session of ECE. The Committee also requested accelerated development of UNRMS and mandated the secretariat to seek extrabudgetary funding to support the creation of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM), including notably for coordination, capacity-building and technical support.

6. United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resources Management System guidelines and best practices for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

The attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable development of natural resources. A transformative system for sustainable management of natural and anthropogenic resources that promotes circularity, enhances efficiency, eliminates waste, and strengthens interconnections transparently with all areas of society and the economy is required. The discussion will address the role of the United Nations in setting international rules and standards and of governments in providing the resource management framework conditions that allow industry to deploy its best capabilities in ways that the capital market can finance.

The outcome of the United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General led High Level Roundtable on “Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development in the UNECE region” held virtually on 20 January 2021 will be discussed. The roundtable deliberated on the need for (i) a comprehensive socio-environmental-economic contract to operate; (ii) sustainable finance taxonomy; (iii) a sustainable resource management system; (iv) supply chain traceability; and, (v) strategic environmental assessment. The discussions at the twelfth session could also feed into and enhance synergies with the objective of the UN Secretary-General led Global Roundtable with Heads of State and Government on Extractive Industries and the policy brief

on extractive industries to be created by the Secretary-General. This initiative will also seek to result in a set of concrete and actionable measures to transform the sector into an engine for sustainable and inclusive development, which could contribute to the global uptake of UNFC and UNRMS.

The twelfth session will take into consideration the outcomes of the United Kingdom Government-led Wilton Park virtual meeting on Critical minerals trade and regulation, 1-4 February 2021. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to contribute to the Group of Seven (G7) process on economic resiliency. A global framework for sustainable resource management based on UNRMS and movement towards “Resource as a Service” to replace the current commodity model were discussed in the meeting.

The role of UNFC and UNRMS in continuing to improve systemic efficiency in natural and anthropogenic resource management, storage and production, including in environmental performance as well as progress towards a circular economy will be discussed. The progress and work of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Delivery Working Group will be presented. The concept note “Redefining resource management as a public good: The United Nations Resource Management System as a transition vehicle to a circular economy” will be discussed (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/15), as will the work of the Commercial Applications Working Group to address critical innovation in the public-private partnership previously mentioned.

The Expert Group will discuss its vision and strategy for application of UNFC and UNRMS for furthering sustainable development (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/7).

An update on the nexus activity conducted at ECE level on the “Sustainable use of natural resources” to design and implement integrated policies in support of the 2030 Agenda will be presented and discussed.

The elements and tests required for a competent assessment will be discussed. The Competent Person Working Group will provide an update on its work, including on the establishment of a Network on Professional Development for UNFC practice as requested by the Expert Group at its tenth session.

The Expert Group will be briefed on the current status related to the participation of and opportunities for women in resource management, as well as leadership roles, in pursuing the objectives of SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and SDG 8 “Promote decent work and economic growth” with specific reference to target 8.3. The work of the Women in Resource Management Working Group will be presented and the report on Advancing Women in Resource Management: 2020 Update (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/14) will be discussed.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided, including how gender issues and the empowerment of women could be better addressed in the work on UNFC and UNRMS.

7. Development of the United Nations Resource Management System

The Expert Group on Resource Management decided in 2017 to extend UNFC to a United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), with full recognition that resource management, in general, is the responsibility of countries. UNRMS will be a voluntary global standard for integrated and sustainable resource management, within the framework of public, public-private and civil society partnerships. UNRMS will provide the fundamental principles of good governance, which can be applied by various stakeholders at different levels – national, regional or project level. The publication UNRMS: An overview of concepts, objectives and requirements (ECE/ENERGY/134 and ECE Energy Series 68) was issued in 2020. The UNRMS Subgroup will present an update on the UNRMS structure and guidelines (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/10).

The Expert Group will review and discuss the information provided and be invited to make recommendations on future activities and how to accelerate development of UNRMS as per the request of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session.

8. Development, maintenance and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the status of and progress made in the development, maintenance and application of UNFC for sustainable management of resources since the eleventh session, including any recommendations from the Bureau of the Expert Group. The Expert Group is tasked to develop and maintain UNFC through rigorous testing, review, and periodic updating.

The Expert Group will be briefed on the activities of the Technical Advisory Group.

The Expert Group will be briefed on updates needed to existing bridging documents and any potential new bridging documents under consideration.

Current applications of UNFC to the sustainable management of mineral, petroleum, renewable energy, nuclear fuel and anthropogenic resources, as well as groundwater and injection projects, will be discussed and reviewed. Social and environmental aspects, commercial aspects and data reporting will also be addressed. The Expert Group will also discuss the work on women and diversity in resource management.

(a) Minerals

The Expert Group will be briefed on the progress and any challenges in applying UNFC to mineral resources and the activities of the Minerals Working Group. An update on the development of the Draft UNFC supplemental specifications for mineral projects (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/5) will be provided. An update on the development of case studies for the application of UNFC to minerals will be provided.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided.

(b) Petroleum

The Expert Group will be briefed on the progress and any challenges in applying UNFC to petroleum resources and the activities of the Petroleum Working Group. An update on the status of development of the Draft UNFC supplemental specifications for petroleum projects (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/4) will be presented. The Working Group will provide an update on development of guidelines for the application of UNFC for coal seam gas. An update on the development of case studies for application of UNFC to petroleum will be provided.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided.

(c) Renewable energy resources

The Renewable Energy Working Group will present its progress to develop a globally applicable classification system for renewable energy resources based on UNFC.

The Expert Group will discuss the concept note Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/13).

Progress to develop case studies to apply UNFC to geothermal energy, solar energy, wind energy, bioenergy and hydro and marine energy since the eleventh session will be provided.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and recommend next steps.

(d) Nuclear fuel resources

The Expert Group will be briefed on the progress and opportunities to apply UNFC to nuclear fuel resources and the activities of the Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group. An update on the development of the Draft UNFC supplemental specifications for nuclear projects (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/11) will be provided. An update on the development of case studies for the application of UNFC to nuclear projects will be provided.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided.

(e) **Injection projects**

The Expert Group will discuss any progress by the Injection Projects Working Group to use UNFC for classifying injection projects, as well as any case studies under development.

(f) **Anthropogenic resources**

Progress on the activities of the Anthropogenic Resources Working Group, including to update the Specifications for application of UNFC to anthropogenic resources and to develop case studies, will be presented.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided.

(g) **Groundwater resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the work of the Groundwater Working Group that was established in 2019. An update on the development of the Draft UNFC supplemental specifications for groundwater (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/12) will be provided. An update on the development of case studies to apply UNFC to groundwater will be shared.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided.

(h) **Social and environmental considerations**

The Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group will present its work to accommodate social and environmental considerations in UNFC, including finalization of the Guidance for Social and Environmental Considerations for UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/6). The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to offer recommendations.

A range of issues related to social and environmental considerations in the context of natural and anthropogenic resource management will be debated, including the rights of indigenous communities and best practices for successful citizen and community engagement.

(i) **Commercial aspects and financial reporting**

The Commercial Working Group will provide an update on commercial aspects and financial reporting, including the development of UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments – Introductory Guidance (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/8). The Working Group will provide proposals for further required work (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/9).

Potential implications for the Expert Group and its stakeholders on the issues discussed will be reviewed and recommendations made on any future action.

An update on financial reporting related to the work of the Expert Group, including activities of financial regulators and actors will be provided.

(j) **Other potential applications**

The Work Plan for 2020-2021 notes that upon request the Expert Group will explore and develop additional applications of UNFC, provided such work does not compromise the Expert Group's ability to fulfil its other obligations. It is noted that any new potential areas of work for the Expert Group are subject to the identification of extrabudgetary resources.

Should time allow, the Expert Group will discuss other potential applications of UNFC.

9. Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in different geographical contexts

The Expert Group will be briefed on the increasing adoption of and interest in the application of UNFC and UNRMS in various countries and regions, in particular, in the European Union, the Nordic region (Finland, Norway and Sweden), African Union, East and South-east Asia and Central and Latin America.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to propose future work to manage global uptake of UNFC and UNRMS.

10. International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and extrabudgetary projects for implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System

International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) are a collaborative network of organizations that will support the sustainable development of the resources needed for development in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Centres, which will work at both national and regional level, are conceived to provide policy support, technical advice and consultation, education, training, dissemination, and other critical activities for managers and stakeholders involved in the sustainable development of natural and anthropogenic resources. Their mission is to advance the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS to secure, sustainably, the resources needed to support attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

The Expert Group will be briefed on the implementation of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management.

The Expert Group will be briefed on progress in the implementation of extrabudgetary projects that support the application of UNFC, including:

- (a) Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS; and
- (b) Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (funded by the United Nations Development Account).

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

11. Communications, promotion and outreach

The current activities and future work plans of the Communications Working Group will be presented to the Expert Group.

The Expert Group will review and discuss the events and workshops held in 2020 and 2021, as well as upcoming events in 2021 and 2022 to promote and educate on UNFC and UNRMS.

The Young UNFC initiative will be presented and discussed.

12. Cooperation with other organizations and entities

The Expert Group will discuss its current and proposed cooperation with other organizations and entities, including but not limited to, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), African Union Commission (AUC), Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe Project (GeoERA), European Federation of Geologists (EFG), EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Mining Association of Canada, Mining the European Anthroposphere Project (MINEA), GeoScientists Canada, European Investment Bank (EIB), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Global Reporting Initiative, International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the UN Environment Programme International Resource Panel, with the objective to achieve synergies and complementarity of efforts and to avoid overlap and duplication.

13. Work plan for 2020-2021 and draft work plan for 2022-2023

The Expert Group will discuss the status of the implementation of its work plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/11).

The Expert Group will discuss its draft work plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/3) and will be invited to approve a final draft work plan for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirtieth session. In this context, the Expert Group may also wish to discuss its mandate and terms of reference.

14. Other business

The Expert Group may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and the Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

The Expert Group will discuss the dates for its thirteenth session to be held in Geneva in 2022.

15. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Expert Group will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

Where possible the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

16. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Expert Group will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.
