

To: Members of the Bureau of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Harikrishnan Tulsidas

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) 17 March 2021 MINUTES

Attendance 3 pm CET call:

	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternates</i> Olga Trofimova, Ekaterina Lovchuk and Marina Kuznetcova		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fatih Birol, IEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate tbc</i>		
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Gerardo Herrera		
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys <i>supported by Slavko Solar, EuroGeoSurveys</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IAEA (TBC)		
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JU Jianhua, China	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> YANG Hua		
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Dhiti Tulyatid		
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AUC (TBC)		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 9 February (attachment 2)
3. Bureau issues
4. EGRM Vision
- 5 UNRMS update
6. EGRM-12 Documents
 - Overview of Week (attachment 3)
 - Draft Conclusions & Recommendations (attachment 4)
7. Technical Advisory Group Update
8. Resource Management Young Member Group update (attachment 6)
9. ECE Commission Session, 19-21 April 2021
10. IFRS Foundation and global sustainability reporting
11. COP26
12. UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021
13. Education and outreach (attachment 5)
14. Date of next call
15. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 17 March 2021
2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 7 February 2021
3. Draft outline for UNECE Resource Management Week 2021
4. Draft Conclusions & Recommendations for EGRM-12 v1
5. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 10 March 2021
6. Resource Management Young Member Group Proposal v2

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 17 March 2020

1. The draft agenda was circulated with the documentation for the call. Attachment 6 "Resource Management Young Member Group Proposal v2", was circulated but does not appear on the draft agenda under the list of documents. The draft agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of call on 7 February 2021

Documentation: Draft minutes of call on 7 February 2021

2. The draft minutes were circulated with the documentation for the call. The numbering of the agenda items at the beginning needed fixing. With that change, the draft minutes were approved.

Item 3. Bureau Issues

3. The Chair reminded that there will be Bureau elections at EGRM-12 in April. As previously advised, all but Ms. Branka Knežević, Mr. Viktor Babashev, and Mr. Jianhua JU will need to be reelected.

4. Nominations received to date:

- Russian Federation: Igor Shpurov

- UK has indicated that it will support a nomination
- Australia: Geoscience Australia has nominated Dr. Andrew Cross to the Bureau. Andrew is a senior commodity specialist in the Minerals, Energy and Groundwater Division
- SPE has nominated Bernard Seiller.

5. The Chair informed that he was willing to continue for another year - many members had expressed their support for this. The CRIRSCO representative had also previously nominated Gioia for the Chair role. Roberto Sarudiansky advised at the last meeting that he would step down at the end of EGRM-12 and is currently exploring options to identify an expert to represent the Latin America region and ideally somebody not already in one of the EGRM working groups. The representative of Portugal advised she will provide a formal communication soon.

6. The Chair requested others wishing to stand for re-election to please advise the secretariat at the earliest.

Item 4. EGRM Vision

7. The EGRM Vision subgroup has started developing a vision statement as discussed during the last call. The vision statement will summarize the aspirations of EGRM, its purpose, and its future direction.

8. The sub-group now comprises

- David MacDonald (Chair)
- Tunde Arisekola
- Frank Denelle
- Julian Hilton
- Erika Ingvald
- Alistair Jones
- Teresa Ponce de Leao
- Jennifer McCoy
- Igor Shpurov
- Jeremy Webb.

9. The Chair summarized the discussion of the sub-group call, which was held on 16 March 2021. The meeting discussed resource classification and management issues as projects and programmes and the relevance of the Nash equilibrium to optimize resource management. EGRM should focus on innovative outputs and provide a framework for interacting with stakeholders. The subgroup has committed to submit an English only parliamentary document for EGRM-12 to allow for a discussion by EGRM. The document, which will be concise, needs to be finalized by early April.

10. The representative of Kazakhstan put forward that EGRM should be clear on how UNFC relates to other systems such as PRMS etc., going forwards. UNFC may require more detailed instructions on the assessment of resources. The Chair noted that UNFC provides more than PRMS. For example, UNFC petroleum specifications will provide additional uses for users. The development of specifications for other resources should continue.

11. The representative of IGA stressed the need to maintain the current products and that the Working Groups should continue to help developing countries. The representative of Portugal observed that moving to a new structure should not impact developing countries, including Africa. Countries like Angola are now investing in renewables, which makes the application of UNFC necessary.

Item 5. UNRMS update

12. The Chair noted that Hari Tulsidas was previously Chair of the UNRMS Subgroup, but now that he is back with the UNECE secretariat, efforts are underway to identify a new Chair. The Chair advised he will serve as Acting Chair in the meantime. (The representative of Portugal was subsequently nominated to the position of UNRMS Sub-group chair).

13. UNRMS development is progressing. UNRMS is being designed as the multi-resource toolkit for the integrated and sustainable development of all resources. UNRMS is a comprehensive, sustainable resource management system that supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNRMS embraces the critical concept of integrated resource management that considers complexity, multiple scales, and competing interests and brings these together to make informed decisions.

14. The draft UNRMS document is under development. This document is based on the UNRMS concept notes prepared over the last few years. UNRMS will be a voluntary principles-based system. The primary stakeholder will be governments. Many of the ideas presented in the earlier concept notes were abstractions or primitives extracted from specific contexts. So, first, there is a need to liberate sustainable resource management from its original resource-specific context through abstraction to explore new ideas. Abstraction is not the final goal, but it is a necessary in-between step to make heterogeneous ideas compatible.

15. The current document attempts to provide a preliminary system structure, which will be more tangible and concrete. This is only a starting point. It is hoped the document will generate discussions and feedback during and after EGRM-12 and then be appropriately modified. The document will have sections on

- The Purpose of UNRMS
- Users of UNRMS and indented uses
- Desired outcomes
- Preliminary definitions
- Fundamental principles
- Requirements
- Conceptual examples for the use of UNRMS.

16. The representatives of DG GROW and Portugal, both members of the UNRMS sub-group, observed that in their view the draft document is shaping up well.

Item 6. EGRM-12

Documentation: Overview of Week (attachment 3); Draft Conclusions & Recommendations (attachment 4)

17. Work is progressing to organize the UNECE Resource Management Week 2021 under the theme "Enabling sustainability principles in resource management." The following six English only parliamentary documents are expected to be submitted by 9 April:

- Application of UNFC to Commercial assessments - Update
- EGRM: Vision and strategy for application of UNFC and UNRMS
- Renewable Energy concept note
- UNRMS Structure
- Women in Resource Management report
- Circular economy concept note.

18. A draft week overview was circulated with the documentation for the call. Because of the COVID situation and ongoing restrictions in place, the meeting will be largely virtual. A maximum of 5 participants are currently allowed in the meeting room at the Palais des Nations. The Week is being planned as a series of virtual "webinar" type sessions of 2 hours each, including

- Opening session: Enabling sustainability principles in resource management
- Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy
- UNFC and UNRMS to support "build back better" from Covid-19 pandemic
- New UNFC specifications and ESG-focused investments
- Towards circularity in resource production and use
- Critical Raw Materials: The driver for the new low-carbon economy
- A global action plan on sustainable resource management
- A new social contract on natural resources
- UNFC in action: Progress towards a modern view on resource management
- Concluding session: Sustainable Resource Management in the UN Decade of Action.

19. Currently there are only four sessions with interpretation, but the secretariat is working to identify funding sources to provide additional sessions with interpretation. The Chinese delegation is also working to provide simultaneous interpretation in Chinese locally in Beijing.

20. EGRM-12 will use a mix of platforms during the week including Interprefy and Zoom. To the extent possible, the same start times in the mornings and afternoons will be kept: 10-midday and 15-17.00 hours CET/Geneva time. The ordering of the sessions in the timeline shared may vary depending on the availability of speakers. The Chair asked for comments and suggestion for speakers and chairs of sessions.

21. The first draft of the conclusions and recommendations for EGRM-12 was circulated with the call documentation. These draft conclusions and recommendations need to be sent to UNECE member States and posted to the website 10 days before the meeting so by 15 April. The Chair asked for comments in writing on the draft Conclusions & Recommendations by cob Tuesday 30 March.

Item 7. Technical Advisory Group update

22. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Chair provided an update on TAG activities. In addition to the four new sectoral specifications – petroleum, minerals, nuclear and groundwater, which are now posted on the EGRM-12 website- other TAG work is progressing well:

- (i) Renewables Working Group (WG): TAG reviewed the draft document on the Application of the UNFC to Renewable Energy Concept Note. TAG recommended changes before submission as a parliamentary document for EGRM-12. The WG is working on an abbreviated version of the concept note, complemented by a presentation in the form of a room document. The WG plans to prepare a more expanded version of the concept note as a parliamentary document for the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy meeting in October.
- (ii) Commercial Applications WG: A document on commercial assessments introductory guidance was reviewed by the TAG and agreed upon by the Bureau. It is now posted on the EGRM-12 website. In addition, the WG is working on its second English only document. The WG also organized a webinar last week that will be discussed under education and outreach.
- (iii) Social and Environmental Considerations WG: A draft guidance document has been reviewed by TAG and agreed upon by the Bureau. It is now posted on the EGRM-12 website.
- (iv) Women in Resource Management WG: This Group, which was formed in 2019, has been very active in organizing a Webinar on Women in Mining (Oct 20) and a Training Workshop on Women in Resource Management (Dec 20). A webinar on the petroleum sector is being planned. The WG will write a short report for EGRM-12.
- (v) Geothermal Specifications: Work is progressing under Gioia's leadership to update the specifications following the UNFC update at the end of 2019.
- (vi) Anthropogenic Specifications: Work is progressing under Ulrich Kral's leadership to update the specifications following the UNFC update at the end of 2019.
- (vii) Common Glossary: Work is progressing on developing a Common Glossary, and this is being led by Sigurd Heiberg. There will, of course, be a consultation to make sure that the glossary is applicable across the breadth of EGRM work.
- (viii) CRIRSCO Bridging Document: TAG is reviewing the updated bridging document provided by the CRIRSCO representative. An updated version will be sent to the Bureau as soon as ready. In addition, it will be submitted to EGRM-12 as a room document.
- (ix) China Minerals and Petroleum Bridging Documents: TAG has been advised that these were updated in 2020. The TAG will initiate its review as soon as it receives copies. TAG is hoping to provide initial feedback before EGRM-12. But there will probably not be time to complete the process of agreeing on a final document before EGRM-12.
- (x) PRMS Bridging Document: Work is underway, involving the Petroleum WG and SPE to update the PRMS Bridging Document.

23. The Chair thanked the TAG and all the Working Groups for their ongoing efforts and work.

Item 8. Resource Management Young Member Group update

Documentation: Resource Management Young Member Group Proposal v2

24. The Chair advised that EGRM and the Bureau have received many requests and expressions of interest from various sectors or groups worldwide on:

- how to educate the younger generation on sustainable development and management of resources; and
- how to communicate with young members, get them involved earlier, and guide them to use UNFC and UNRMS tools for future resource development.

25. All these requests have received significant interest from various sectors/industries and demonstrated the urgent need for education and communication with young member communities. The Communications Working Group has been working on this initiative. Ray Rui from the WG has taken the lead and has developed a revised proposal to establish a Resource Management Young Members Group (RMYMG). The revised name for the Group and the proposal circulated responds to the comments from the Bureau provided at the last meeting.

26. This proposal encompasses
- Local Young Professional Sections
 - Local student chapters
 - Study groups.

27. The Bureau and EGRM subgroups are invited to set up mentoring and lecture programmes at the global, regional and local level, education/communication materials, etc. All WGs could be asked to involve 1 or 2 young professionals or students in their membership and work for 1-2 years.

28. The representative from China proposed that young professionals could be asked to support TAG work. The need to prioritize work was underlined by the TAG Chair. The Chair noted the need to attract more experts, especially project specialists. It was recommended that expertise in financing should also be targeted. Interest in hydrogen was also noted.

29. The Chair was asked to share any presentations he had recently delivered to students to use as the basis for developing a standard set of slides.

30. Discussion also focussed on case studies on application of UNFC to solar energy and wind.

Item 9. ECE Commission Session, 19-21 April 2021

31. The 69th ECE Commission session will be held the week before the Resource Management Week, on 20 and 21 April. There will be a preceding day of virtual side events on 19 April (called Cyber Monday). The Commission session's theme is "Promoting Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the UNECE region." Major sessions related to resource management will be:

(i) Monday 19 April:

11:30 hrs: Sustainable use of natural resources Nexus Report Launch

14:00 hrs Side event - 'A framework for international cooperation on sustainable resource management.' This side event is being organized by the UK government with the support of UNECE. It will include a focus on the five-pronged UN strategy and critical raw materials. The five-pronged strategy is the outcome of the UN Roundtable on Extractive Industries: 1.

A New Social Contract; 2. Sustainable Finance Principles; 3. A Sustainable Resource Management System; 4. Supply Chain Traceability; and 5. Strategic Environmental Assessments. The discussions are also intended to raise awareness amongst international allies of the importance of international cooperation in developing a circular economy in critical raw materials (CRMs). It is anticipated that the UK will make voluntary commitments related to CRMs and the circular economy.

(ii) Tuesday 20 April

15:00 hrs Roundtable: Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources. Roundtable 1: Circular Energy, Mobility and Digital Transformation: Towards Cradle -to-Cradle Models. Speakers include: Peter Handley, Acting Director, DG GROW, Sarah Forbes, Division of Minerals Sustainability, US DoE, Aidan Davy, Deputy CEO, ICMM.

32. The secretariat was asked to send connection details for all the events.

Item 10. IFRS Foundation and global sustainability reporting

33. EGRM participated in the IFRS consultation on Sustainability Reporting by submitting a comment letter. The Trustees of the IFRS Foundation met on 2-4 March to produce a definitive proposal (including a road map with timeline) by the end of September 2021, possibly leading to an announcement on establishing a sustainability standards board at COP26 in November 2021.

34. The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Board has announced its intention to work with the IFRS Foundation in developing a plan to establish a new board for setting sustainability reporting standards that meet the needs of the capital markets. The Trustees recognize the importance for the public interest of reporting standards that address enterprise value, which captures expected value creation for investors in the short, medium and long term and is interdependent with value creation for society and the environment. The IOSCO Board identified the following three priority areas for improvement in sustainability-related disclosures by companies and asset managers:

(i) Encouraging Globally Consistent Standards. To encourage progress towards globally consistent application of a common set of international standards for sustainability-related disclosure across jurisdictions, covering the breadth of sustainability topics and leveraging existing principles, frameworks, and guidance.

(ii) Promoting Comparable Metrics and Narratives. To promote greater emphasis on industry-specific, quantitative metrics in companies' sustainability-related disclosures and standardization of narrative information.

(iii) Coordinating Across Approaches. To drive international consistency of sustainability-related disclosures with a focus on enterprise value creation, including companies' dependence on stakeholders and the external environment, while also supporting mechanisms to coordinate investors' information needs on wider sustainability impacts

35. Based on the 2020 consultation which EGRM contributed to, the IFRS Trustees reached the following views about the strategic direction of a new board:

- (i) Investor focus for enterprise value: the new board would focus on information that is material to the decisions of investors, lenders and other creditors.
- (ii) Sustainability scope, prioritizing climate: due to the urgent need for better information about climate-related matters, the new board would initially focus its efforts on climate-related reporting while also working towards meeting the information needs of investors on other ESG (environmental, social and governance) matters.
- (iii) Build on existing frameworks: the new board would build upon the well-established work of the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), as well as work by the alliance of leading standard-setters in sustainability reporting focused on enterprise value. The Trustees will consider the prototype proposed by the alliance for an approach to climate-related disclosures as a potential basis for the new board to develop climate-related reporting standards. To prepare for this work, the IFRS Foundation will initiate structured engagement with the relevant organizations.
- (iv) Building blocks approach: by working with standard-setters from crucial jurisdictions, standards issued by the new board would provide a globally consistent and comparable sustainability reporting baseline while also providing flexibility for coordination on reporting requirements that capture broader sustainability impacts.

36. The Trustees intend to publish a feedback statement that summarises the responses received to their 2020 Consultation and how that feedback informed the above decisions. Together with the feedback statement, the Trustees will issue for public comment the proposed changes to the Foundation's Constitution necessary to formalize the establishment of a new board, including its composition.

37. The Chair asked the Bureau members for any comments on the interaction between EGRM and the IFRS Foundation, FSB TFCFD, SEC and others and increased cooperation and collaboration. The representative of SPE observed that it would be good to know whether SEC wants a standard reporting for energy and asked if SEC and IFRS are cooperating. It was noted that SEC could force companies to do UNFC-type reporting.

Item 11. COP26

38. The Chair noted that UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1–12 November 2021. The representative of IGA submitted a proposal for a stand in the Green Pavilion to showcase the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Project and EGRM and other activities in cooperation with the work of the Centre for Sustainable Solutions at Glasgow University. (The representative of IGA informed later that this proposal was not accepted.)

Item 12. UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021

39. Following General Assembly resolution 74/225, the Secretary-General will convene a High-level Dialogue in September 2021 to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's energy-related goals and targets Paris Agreement. The Dialogue will be held at the summit level during the UN General Assembly in September. It will represent the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since 1981. The High-level Dialogue will have five themes, namely,

- i) energy access,
- ii) energy transitions,
- iii) energy action to advance other SDGs,
- iv) capacity building and data, and
- v) finance and investment.

40. The Sustainable Energy Division is cooperating with UN DESA in New York to see how it will engage and contribute. Integrated management of natural resources and sustainable finance and investments are areas of focus that the secretariat will recommend be addressed.

Item 15. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 10 March 2021

41. The EGRM Commercial Applications Working Group organized a Webinar on 11 March, "How the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) can help channel investments into energy and resource projects for sustainable development", on 11 March. Sigurd Heiberg moderated the event, and Scott Foster, Donald Lessard, David MacDonald and Matthias Hartung spoke. More than 120 experts participated in the event. The webinar shared knowledge on commercial opportunities and risks in the transition from a 70-80% fossil energy-driven economy to net-zero GHG emissions in 30 years; adopting UNFC as a tool to channel sustainable investments for energy and raw material projects, and practical examples to demonstrate the feasibility and attractiveness of adopting UNFC, and the need to agree on standards for sustainability reporting including the progress towards circularity. The recording of the webinar is available on the UNECE website.

42. The key upcoming events are the UNECE Commission 69th Session 19-21 April, focusing on circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources and EGRM-12, 26-30 April. The Chair asked Bureau members for details of any virtual or other events to be included in the list of events. The representative of DG GROW advised that the EU Raw Materials Week will be held 15-19 November.

Item 14. Date of next Bureau Call

43. A Bureau call was proposed on 12 April to take stock of the preparations for EGRM-12.

Item 15. Any other business

44. No other business was discussed.
