

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

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths Slavko Solar and Hari Tulsidas

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)

Geneva, Switzerland, 15:00 CEST, 19 July 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance:

	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 and Ekaterina Lovchuk and Marina Kuznetcova (present)		
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria	<input 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"/>
Andrew Cross, Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC (not present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas (present)		
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erica Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JU Jianhua, China (not present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> YANG Hua (present)		
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP (present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Dhiti Tulyatid (present)		
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer McCoy, Ernst & Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rafal Misztal, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frank Mugyeyni, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly		
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Neumann, EFG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Seiller, SPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slavko Solar, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Satinder Purewal and Frank Denelle joined to discuss Items 2 and 7, respectively.

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft UNFC Supplementary Specifications for Petroleum (attachment 2)
3. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 17 March, 12 April and 29 April (attachments 3, 4 & 5)
4. Highlights of ECE Commission Session, 19-21 April 2021; EGRM-12 26-30 April 2021; UN Global roundtable on extractive industries, 25 May 2021
5. EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023 (attachment 6)
6. EGRM vision statement
7. Plan for Project Information Framework
8. UNRMS Sub-group update
9. Technical Advisory Group Update
10. Application of UNFC and UNRMS in Multi Resource Assessments (MRA)
11. UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 including Committee on Sustainable Energy 30th Session, 20-24 September 2021 (attachment 7)
12. UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 and COP26 updates
13. Education and outreach (attachment 8)
14. Date of next call
15. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 19 July 2021
2. Draft UNFC Supplementary Specifications for Petroleum
3. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 17 March 2021
4. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 12 April 2021
5. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 29 April 2021
6. EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023
7. UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 Overview
8. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 14 July 2021

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 19 July 2021

1. The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft UNFC Supplementary Specifications for Petroleum

Documentation: Draft UNFC Supplementary Specifications for Petroleum

2. The Petroleum Working Group (PWG) has finalized the draft petroleum specifications after incorporating comments from TAG, Bureau, Public Comments and EGRM-12. The PWG has been working on this document for many months now, and a lot of inputs from many experts have gone into the document. Sincere thanks were extended to the Chair of the PWG, Satinder Purewal, and the PWG members for their hard work, time and dedication.

3. The Chair noted the importance of Annex II on Quality Assurance and Quality Control: Petroleum Specific Functional Competencies and Ethical Standards and congratulated the PWG on the quality of the text. The Chair recalled the main principle of UNFC which is that it meets the needs of multiple stakeholders for multiple commodities/sectors. Hence, as per earlier discussions on competent person and ethics, QA and QC do not belong in individual specification documents and are rather better presented as a standalone document.

4. The Chair of the PWG advised that the final draft of the specifications results from four years of work. Case studies have fed into processes. The document had been reviewed and accepted by the TAG, and EGRM-12 approved the document with the current structure to be submitted to the Committee for endorsement. PWG followed a rigorous and transparent process and does not favour the removal of Annex II. The Chair of the PWG and the Bureau representative from Kazakhstan, who is also a member of PWG, commented that other systems do have instructions on QA/QC.

5. Whilst noting that the text is highly relevant and valuable, there was overwhelming consensus in the Bureau that Annex II should be published as a separate document that is though linked to the Petroleum Specifications document. One member of the Bureau supported that the text be retained in the Specifications.

6. The Chair concluded the discussion requesting that Annex II of the petroleum specifications be published separately. The specifications document should have a paragraph on the importance of the topic and link to a separate document. The Chair of the PWG advised that he will discuss this with the PWG and report back. In principle, the proposal is acceptable, however for the sake of transparency, the PWG should be involved.

Item 3. Draft minutes of Bureau calls of 17 March, 12 April and 29 April

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 17 March 2021; Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 12 April 2021; Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 29 April 2021

7. The draft minutes of the Bureau calls of 17 March, 12 April and 29 April were approved.

Item 4. Highlights of ECE Commission Session, 19-21 April 2021; EGRM-12 26-30 April 2021; UN Global roundtable on extractive industries, 25 May 2021

8. The 69th ECE Commission session was held on 20 and 21 April. There was a preceding day of virtual side events on 19 April (called Cyber Monday). The Commission session's theme was "Promoting Circular Economy and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the UNECE region." Several EGRM experts contributed to the events. Major highlights related to sustainable resource management were:

- Launch of UNECE Sustainable Use of Natural Resources Nexus Report
- 'A framework for international cooperation on sustainable resource management.' Organized by the Government of the UK with the support of UNECE
- Roundtable: Building back better - Accelerating the shift to a more circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources: Circular Energy, Mobility and Digital Transformation: Towards Cradle-to-Cradle Models.

9. The 69th session of UNECE called for an improvement in natural resources management and the advancement of more circular and resource-efficient economies. The

session emphasized the importance of circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supporting economic prosperity and resilience, addressing environmental pressures, mitigating climate change and building back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Several member States made commitments on progressing with the circular economy. Over the next two years, UNECE will prioritize activities on the circular economy, including the circular carbon economy. This is an area where EGRM can contribute a lot. The EGRM Work Plan 2022-2023 has included some of these aspects.

EGRM-12 meeting, 26-30 April 2021

11. The Chair provided an overview of the highlights of the EGRM-12 meeting, 26-30 April 2021. The session was attended by more than 400 experts representing 85 countries, over 25 UN and international organizations, numerous universities worldwide, civil society organizations, the private sector, and independent experts. The five-day meeting effectively took several decisions to accelerate the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS. The presentations and insightful contributions were greatly appreciated by UNECE member State representatives and all participants. There were many significant achievements at the meeting this year:

- Reaffirmation of UNECE's action plan to secure needed resources, which is now incorporated into the UN Secretary-General's policy brief on Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development
- Relook at the vision and orientation for EGRM firmly rooted in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Affirmation to further develop UNFC and UNRMS considering resource management as a public good
- Approval of the draft UNRMS and agreement to accelerate its development
- Approval of four primary drafts UNFC supplementary specifications for minerals, petroleum, nuclear fuel resources and groundwater
- Finalization of the guidelines for social and environmental considerations for UNFC
- Review of UNFC introductory guidance on commercial assessments
- Emphasizing the role of critical raw materials (CRMs) as a driver for the new low-carbon economy
- Appreciation of the importance of the Women in Resource Management initiative, including the study on Women Entrepreneurship in Natural Resource Management
- Agreement to develop ESG-focused competency requirements for UNFC and UNRMS
- Interest in establishing national and/or regional centres of excellence on sustainable resource management (ICE-SRMs) worldwide based on UNFC and UNRMS, including in EU, Russian Federation, China and Mexico
- Presentation of UNFC and UNRMS pilot testing and case studies ongoing or planned in the European Union (including Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom), Colombia, Mexico and Africa (including Namibia and Uganda).
- Studies on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to support the food-water-energy nexus and "build back better" from the COVID-19 pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia
- Analysis of the relevance of UNFC and UNRMS in management of CRMs involving MSMEs in Tajikistan and Ukraine

- Continuing strong cooperation with a broad array of organizations and entities.
12. The report of the meeting is available online. The presentations and audio/video recordings are also posted on the EGRM-12 meeting page.

UN Global roundtable on extractive industries, 25 May 2021

13. The Chair summarized the outcome of the UN Global Roundtable on Extractive Industries held on 25 May 2021 with participation by several Heads of State, Ministers and many Senior Officials. The European Commission and Russian Federation specifically mentioned their support of UNFC and UNRMS.

14. The roundtable also launched the UN Policy Brief on Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development which references UNFC and UNRMS. The policy brief is an official document from the UN Secretary-General that recommends all Member States adopt the action plan which includes UNFC and UNRMS. The policy brief received comprehensive support from the UN Member States during the global roundtable.

15. The purpose of the brief is to capitalize on the opportunity provided by COVID-19 to build back better by identifying concrete recommendations for transforming the extractives sector into an engine for sustainable development, which can support a just transition to a net-zero, circular, and inclusive global economy.

16. The recommendations identified in this policy brief build upon the outcomes of five Regional Roundtables on Extractive Industries hosted by the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions between October 2020 and March 2021, which fall under the purview of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative.

17. The 18-point action proposed includes addressing

- (i) financing for development: debt, liquidity, taxation, and illicit financial flows;
- (ii) governance and revenue management;
- (iii) the green economy;
- (iv) a just transition to sustainable systems;
- (v) technology, innovation, and a circular economy; and
- (vi) regional and global collaboration.

18. The Call for Action includes:

"15. Implement a shared principles-based, integrated, sustainable resource management framework using tools such as UNFC and UNRMS under development."

19. The action plan also calls for the creation or improvement of the regional frameworks aligning extractive industries with the SDGs, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Minamata Convention and the Paris Agreement. Adhere to and support the implementation of existing frameworks, such as the African Mining Vision (AMV) and the Escazú Agreement.

20. The action plan calls to "Capitalize on United Nations Regional Economic Commissions to bolster regional coordination and policy dialogue on extractive activities. Issues to be addressed include harmonizing the implementation of carbon pricing and border adjustments, developing a comprehensive framework for traceability and transparency in

global value chains, illicit activities, cross-border conflicts and disputes, transparency on trade and financial flows, and strengthening extractive sector fiscal frameworks to encourage value addition and economic diversification."

Item 5. EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023

Documentation: EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023

21. The EGRM Work Plan for 2022-2023 has been submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for consideration at its 30th Session (22-24 September 2021). This version was circulated to the Bureau, TAG and WG Chairs a few days prior to the meeting. The Chair thanked the Bureau, TAG and WG Chairs for their active engagement in developing the Work Plan. Every effort was made to accommodate and respond to all the feedback received. However, it was not possible to address all the comments when revising the work plan, especially on issues on terminology and definitions. The final version accommodates as much of the feedback as was possible. The Committee on Sustainable Energy, the parent body of EGRM, will be invited to review and approve the EGRM Work Plan when it meets 22-24 September. The Executive Committee of UNECE will be invited to endorse it. EGRM can always revisit the document when it meets in April 2021, should the need arise.

22. The representative of CRIRSCO noted whilst the document has improved a lot, a detailed project plan is needed. The Chair advised that UNRMS and the tactical piece will be developed with a definite timeline. Other WGs will also develop their own detailed programme.

Item 6. EGRM vision statement

23. The Chair noted that a valuable and rich discussion on the EGRM Vision was held with the Bureau, TAG and WG Chairs on 23 June. It was proposed that the vision statement needs to be more forward-looking. Whilst there may be some small wordsmithing to resolve these minor concerns, the Chair noted the need to accept and adapt it to have a shared path. It was also proposed that the vision text should include something similar to "universal access to equitable, safe, secure, and environmentally responsible supply of natural resources for sustainable development".

24. Discussion focused on looking at different scenarios - Karen Hanghoj and Maria Capello agreed to help work on this.

Item 7. Plan for Project Information Framework

25. The Chair advised that in the previous call with the TAG and WG Chairs, the need for a Project Information Framework as a tactical tool to support the attainment of the SDGs was discussed. Frank Denelle has recently taken on the role of starting an investigation into developing the information framework and proposing a ToR for the group to be established to work on this. The ambition is to develop the framework quickly to be tested and used as soon as practical.

26. Frank provided a brief update advising that he had discussed the project information framework with a number of experts. The relation of this tool to UNFC and UNRMS need to be examined. The definition and criteria for an EGS focus will need to be included. A ToR or concept note will be drafted, including the background and context and details of activities, milestones, and the required budget. The tools need to be digital.

Item 8. UNRMS Sub-group update

27. The UNRMS Sub-group Chair provided an update on UNRMS work, especially the plans to organize the First UNRMS Workshop on 5 August. The UMRMS Sub-group held a meeting on 25 June to discuss the accelerated development of UNRMS.

28. The idea of UNRMS was germinated in EGRM-9 (2018), with the concept note "Transforming our world's natural resources: A step change for UNFC? A concept note on the design of UNRMS was first presented in 2019. From that time, we have made impressive progress in furthering its development. With the 2021 UNRMS draft structure and the new UNRMS background publication, tremendous support is being received for UNRMS.

29. UNRMS is now part of the call to action by the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on Transforming the Extractive Industries. A UNRMS survey was open from 7 May to 10 June. 304 responses were received. The UNRMS Sub-group has been expanded. Some new experts who heard about UNRMS at EGRM-12 and were interested in supporting this activity are now included. A new ToR for the Sub-group, with mission and vision statements, plan for 2021-2022 etc., is under development. After we have the final draft, we will share it with the Bureau for approval.

30. The Sub-group is organizing a workshop on 5 August where all Bureau members, TAG and WG members are invited to attend. Discussions will focus on developing UNRMS in an accelerated mode.

Item 9. Technical Advisory Group Update

31. The TAG Chair provided the following updates:

(i) Petroleum WG. UNFC Petroleum specifications were finalized by the Working Group and discussed under Item 2.

(ii) Minerals WG: UNFC Mineral specifications were made available for public comments, which closed on 14 July. A number of comments were received which are now available on the UNECE web page. The Minerals WG is considering the comments and will finalize the document shortly.

(iii) Renewables WG. Produced a draft document on Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy Concept Note for the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) meeting in October. GERE has commented on the document, and the suggestions are being reviewed by the WG.

(iv) Nuclear WG. Is active in contributing to the work of the UNECE Carbon Neutrality project, especially on modelling resource use in the full life-cycle assessment.

(v) Commercial Applications WG. Has prepared a draft response for the IFRS public comment on amendment of its constitution.

(vi) Women in Resource Management WG. Agreed to contribute to UNRMS development, especially on issues around circular economy.

(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) China Minerals and Petroleum Bridging Documents: TAG is progressing with the review of the documents

The Chair thanked the TAG and all the WGs for their ongoing efforts to develop a significant number of documents.

32. The TAG Chair, Alistair Jones, announced his decision to step down as the Chair of TAG after four years in the role. The Chair and the Bureau thanked Alistair for the 4 years he has devoted to carrying out this role and for all he has achieved and the time and energy he has committed.

33. The Chair proposed postponing the discussions regarding a new TAG Chair for at least a month.

Item 10. Application of UNFC and UNRMS in Multi Resource Assessments (MRA)

34. The representative of Sweden noted that a recent Geoscience policy and society workshop discussed the importance of Multi Resource Assessments (MRA). The activities that affect the subsurface naturally affect the surface resources as well. Thus, assessments of subsurface resources tell only part of the story that is of interest to policymakers, resource managers, and the public. How do past, current, and future uses of the subsurface affect the multiple natural resources they are connected to? For example, how do old mining sites affect current and future water and ecosystem quality? How does geologic sequestration of carbon affect future agricultural or recreational uses of the landscape?

35. Multi-resource assessments aim to provide decision-makers with more holistic assessments of natural resources to answer these crucial questions, especially regarding how SDGs are impacted, i.e. positively or otherwise. Further, MRAs require working across disciplines and developing and using innovative tools for improved decision support, including scientific and technological advances such as improved sensor technologies, integrated modelling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and high-performance computing.

36. The assessment of resources like minerals, petroleum, anthropogenic resources, injection projects, groundwater, renewable energy, land, soil air and ecosystem value (the natural capital) are also crucial to this exercise. Since UNFC now has specifications for all resources, it can be an essential support tool for MRAs. Land, soil, air, water, and other ecosystem assessments could be carried out through UNRMS whilst integrating the MRAs analysis.

37. The UNRMS Sub-group and the WGs should pay attention to this emerging style of resource assessment and cooperate with the relevant stakeholders such as geological surveys to build case studies.

Item 11. UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 including Committee on Sustainable Energy 30th Session, 20-24 September 2021

Documentation: [UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2021 Overview](#)

38. The 30th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be held in a hybrid format. The week overview was circulated with the documentation of the call. Two panels where EGRM involvement will be required are:

- 22 September afternoon - Global Framework for Sustainable Resource Management
- 24 September morning - Energy and Resources as Services

39. Suggestions for speakers for the two panels are welcome. The Bureau was invited to advise the secretariat of any suggested speakers. The Committee will also discuss the following EGRM documents

- EGRM Work Plan 2022-2023
- Petroleum specifications
- Mineral Specifications.

Item 12. UN High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 and COP26 updates

40. The Chair informed the Bureau regarding General Assembly resolution 74/225. The convening of a High-level Dialogue on Energy on 20 September 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 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.

41. As a prelude, Ministerial Thematic Forums were held during 21-25 June 2021. The week's discussions will form the backbone of a global roadmap for achieving SDG 7 by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050, to be submitted to the High-level Dialogue on 20 September 2021.

42. The Forums showcased over two dozen "energy compacts" submitted or "previewed" by actors at all levels, setting actions and commitments they will undertake to help achieve SDG 7 and net-zero emissions. The compacts are intended to inspire a steady stream of such commitments between now and the High-level Dialogue. Taken together, the UN hopes that these compacts will demonstrate sufficient new will and commitment to prompt new waves of action to bridge the enormous gap that exists between the current reality and the aspirations in the SDG 7 targets.

43. Nearly 1,500 participants, including 50 Ministers and 20 executive or deputy executive heads of UN agencies or other international organizations, and representatives of local, regional, or national governments, the private sector, and civil society participated during the Thematic Week in June.

44. The Chair noted that the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1–12 November 2021. Proposal for a stand in the Green Pavilion to showcase the UNECE Carbon Neutrality Project and EGRM and other activities

in cooperation with Glasgow University was not accepted. However, Glasgow University will be organizing several events during which these topics will be addressed.

Item 13. Education and outreach

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 14 July 2021

45. The list of meetings promoting UNFC and UNRMS in 2020-2021 was circulated with the documentation for the call. Key upcoming events are:

- First UNRMS Workshop, 5 August
- 30th Annual Session of the Committee of Sustainable Energy, 22-24 September 2021

Item 14. Date of next call

46. The weeks of 6 or 12 September were proposed for the next Bureau call . The regular availability message will be issued.

Item 15. Any other business

47. The following additional items were discussed:

(i) Cooperation with Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems: The annual session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems will be held jointly with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, 6-8 October. EGRM has been invited to support Item 3, "Roundtable on financing decarbonization of energy systems in the UNECE region". The EGRM Nuclear Fuel Resources WG is fully engaged with the work of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems on carbon neutrality, both on modelling and on life cycle assessments. The life-cycle assessment work has a specific resource focus. The Nuclear Fuel Resources WG is also working with Commercial Applications WG on financing aspects. So the plan is for EGRM to engage in this Roundtable via the Nuclear Fuel Resources WG, keeping the Commercial Applications WG informed.

(ii) The Chair welcomed Slavko Solar, who joined the UNECE secretariat on 1 July.
