



## Agenda Item 5 – 31st Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

### Modernizing resource management

22 September 2022, 10:00 – 11:00 CEST (Geneva time)

**Objective:** Identify opportunities and challenges in modernizing natural resource management in response to climate action and other broader needs of sustainable development.

**Context:** To deliver on climate change and sustainable development, the ECE region must optimize the management of endowments of natural resources, including renewables and critical raw materials (CRMs). Resiliency in resource supply requires careful attention to several important environmental, social and economic considerations. The United Nations published a Policy Brief in 2021 on “Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development.” The Policy Brief calls for multifaceted action on producing and responsibly consuming resources. The Policy Brief stresses the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS). To operationalize the recommendations, a United Nations (UN) Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development was established to unite all stakeholders on a common platform.

The production of CRMs, which is required for renewable energy and energy storage, needs to be assured sustainably, emphasizing the social contract on natural resources and environmental assessments. Renewable energy needs to be integrated harmoniously with the available natural resource base of the ECE region. A UNRMS-based CRMs information dashboard is required to provide socially, environmentally and economically referenced data on CRMs. As resource demand increases, progress towards a more circular economy by increasing resource efficiency and reducing waste is essential. The Resources as a Service (RaaS) approach offers a means of transitioning to a feasible, acceptable, and resilient practice of responsible resource management.

#### Key questions for the session:

- Why must sustainable resource management be modernized in an environmentally and climate-constrained world?
- What are the requirements for modernizing sustainable resource management, including the management of renewables and CRMs?
- How can UNFC and UNRMS support a modern vision for integrated and sustainable resource management?

#### Panel:

**Moderator:** David MacDonald, Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management

#### Panellists:

1. *UN Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development – Uniting the global efforts*, Elisa Tonda, Chief of the Resources and Markets Branch, UNEP

2. *Sustainable resource management for a modern world: Role of UNFC and UNRMS* – Julian Hilton, Chair, Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group, Expert Group on Resource Management

3. *Critical raw materials for the energy transition – Issues with the resource base, demand and supply information* – Simon Michaux, Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), Member, UNRMS Sub-group, Expert Group on Resource Management

4. *The current state of the State Subsoil Fund of Ukraine resource management – Directions for development* - Sergii Paiuk, Chairman of the State Commission on Mineral Resources, Ukraine

5. *Including renewables in the natural resource base – Opportunities and challenges* – Long Seng To, Loughborough University, Chair, Solar Sub-group, Expert Group on Resource Management tbc

6. *Optimizing the circularity of resources with Resources as a Service* – Frances Wall, University of Exeter, Member, UNRMS Sub-Group, Expert Group on Resource Management

Q&A

**Next steps:** Identify the key actions required to strengthen the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS as global frameworks for the sustainable management of resources, including renewables and CRMs and improve the circularity of resource use through Resources as a Service.

**Conclusions and recommendations.**

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