

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Expert Group on Resource Management
Thirteenth session
Geneva, 25 October 2022
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

DRAFT Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the thirteenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management¹

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

1. The Expert Group elected the following experts to the Bureau as Vice-Chairs with effect from the close of the thirteenth session for a period of two years until the close of the fifteenth session: XXXX. Other members elected to the Bureau at the twelfth session in 2021 will continue until the end of the fourteenth session.

2. The Bureau comprises: XXXX.

Agenda item 3: Expert Group on Resource Management Realignment

3. The Expert Group noted the growing applications of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) and their deployment in the ECE region and beyond. The Expert Group has evolved into a rich source of expertise for sustainable resource management, which could be tapped for various initiatives, including the United Nations Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development. The Expert Group further noted the proposal of the Bureau and the Technical Advisory to realign the Group. The Expert Group recommended that its current structure needs to be realigned as proposed to respond to the needs of all stakeholders, including the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management that are being established.

4. The Expert Group noting the critical importance of sustainable resource management in responding to the emerging energy, raw material, food supply and climate crises, agreed that the ECE secretariat's capacity to support and coordinate activities needs to be enhanced.

5. Noted with appreciation the decision of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to request additional resources to support activities under the Sustainable energy subprogramme, including on modernizing resource management systems.

Agenda item 4: Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals: Development, maintenance and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System

6. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the accelerated implementation of UNFC, in particular in countries of the European Union with a focus on application of UNFC to mineral and anthropogenic resources. Further noted with appreciation the extrabudgetary project funded by the European Commission "Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS" (2020-2024), implementation of which is in its third year, which has facilitated

¹ These draft conclusions and recommendations were developed by the Bureau of the Expert Group and are not intended to prejudice discussions at the thirteenth session, but rather to provide a draft text that will be updated as the meeting progresses.

accelerated implementation of UNFC. Noting the scale of the task to deploy UNFC in the ECE region and beyond, further develop UNRMS and build the required capacity for application of both at national level, requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to secure additional extrabudgetary resources.

7. The Expert Group noted the initiation of the United Nations Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development co-chaired by the Regional Commissions, UNDP and UNEP to align the activities of global stakeholders. The Expert Group agreed that the development, maintenance and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS is an essential element of this initiative. The Expert Group requested the Bureau and the secretariat to fully engage with and support the activities of the Working Group and report the progress made at the fourteenth session of the Expert Group.

8. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the SDGs Delivery Working Group and the concept note on "UNFC and UNRMS: Systems approach to enabling the resource as a service paradigm through blockchain technologies" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/5). The Expert Group requested the Working Group to further develop the three models proposed on (i) Resources as a Service; (ii) Resource Supply System; and (iii) Blockchain and machine learning/artificial intelligence model for resource management as elements of UNRMS. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the various initiatives on transparency and traceability of the ECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division and requested the SDGs Delivery Working Group to explore possibilities to collaborate with these initiatives. The Expert Group further requested the SDGs Delivery Working Group to support the UNRMS Sub-group in developing these tools and report the progress to the fourteenth session of the Expert Group.

9. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the UNRMS Sub-group and the development of the document Draft United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6). The Expert Group requested the draft document be revised to reflect the comments provided prior to and during the meeting and from the public consultation. Subject to the document being approved through its agreed procedures, the Expert Group recommended that it be published on the ECE website. The Expert Group further requested the UNRMS Sub-group to develop additional tools to support the application of UNRMS such as (i) Clean energy index; (ii) Resources as a service; (iii) Resource supply system; (iv) Blockchain and machine learning/artificial intelligence model for resource management; and (v) Critical raw materials dashboard and inform the Expert Group at its fourteenth session. The Expert Group also requested all the Working Groups to actively support the development of UNRMS.

10. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Technical Advisory Group to coordinate and support the activities of all the sectoral Working Groups of the Expert Group. The Expert Group requested the Technical Advisory Group to continue to review documents developed by the Working Groups and submit recommendations thereon to the Bureau between annual sessions. The Expert Group further requested the Technical Advisory Group to develop a roadmap for UNFC-related activities covering the next five years for review by the Bureau and subsequent submission to the fourteenth session of the Expert Group.

11. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the development of a Glossary of Common Terms for UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/3) and requested its use in UNFC and all subsidiary documents, including specifications, guidelines and case studies.

12. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the updated Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (GB/T 17766-2020) and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/16) and the updated Bridging Document between the National Standard of the People's Republic of China Classification for Petroleum

Resources/Reserves (GB/T 19492-2020) and UNFC (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/17) and requested that they be posted on the UNFC website.

13. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Competency Working Group and reviewed the document "Guidance Note on Competency Requirements for the Estimation, Classification and Management of Resources" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/4) and the revisions proposed since the document was published. The Expert Group agreed to the revised text and recommended it be posted on the website. The Expert Group noted that additional guidance may be needed to accommodate resource sector-specific requirements and regional and/or national requirements. Resource sector-specific requirements could be addressed by developing separate guidance notes or annexes to the Guidance Note. The Expert Group noted that the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management would be well placed to develop additional guidance that meets regional and/or national requirements.

14. The Expert Group reviewed the Draft UNFC Guidance for application to Coal Bed Methane (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/8) and requested the Petroleum Working Group to consider all comments received from the Expert Group, as well as the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition. Should there be no substantive changes proposed, the document can be posted to the UNFC website. In the event of substantive changes proposed, the Bureau should prepare a revised text for submission to the Expert Group for agreement.

15. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the Updated Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/18) developed by the UNFC Ad Hoc Committee of the International Geothermal Association (IGA) and approved it to be posted online. The Expert Group noted the importance of further testing the classification of renewable energy projects using UNFC and agreed to facilitate case studies or pilot projects by countries in cooperation with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for presentation at its fourteenth session.

16. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group. The Expert Group reviewed the "Draft Governance Guidelines related to Environmental and Social Factors in Resource Classification and Management" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/7) and recommended that the Guidance be posted to the ECE website and encouraged its use.

17. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work of the Commercial Applications Working Group and the information provided in the document "The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources applied to Commercial Assessments – Guidance" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/10). The Expert Group requested that the Guidance be posted to the ECE website.

18. The Expert Group noted that the work on commercial applications of UNFC has revealed a need to adjust the formal definition of UNFC to include metrics that projects carry beyond sources and products, e.g. emissions, costs, revenues, energy requirements, other input factors etc. Users require this information as scalars such as initial quantities of sources and cumulative quantities over a project life. Some of them are also required as time series (vectors).

19. The Expert Group noted the request of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its thirty-first session that the Expert Group:

(a) Investigate existing classifications and specifications for hydrogen and develop, where appropriate, specifications for the application of UNFC and UNRM) to hydrogen projects and production technologies;

(b) Develop pilot hydrogen resource management projects and case studies applying UNRMS principles.

The Expert Group recommended that subject to volunteers and extrabudgetary funds being identified, a working group be established to undertake this work. The Expert Group further noted that the Committee at its thirty-first session had requested the Group of Experts on Gas to lead the work of the subprogramme related to hydrogen and to do so in close collaboration with the other groups of experts. The Expert Group also recommended the Bureau to explore opportunities for cooperation with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency.

Agenda item 5: Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in different geographical contexts

20. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the work carried out under the "UNFC for Europe" initiative, including the development of the Draft Guidance for the Application of UNFC for Mineral and Anthropogenic Resources in Europe (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/9) to harmonize classification and management of raw materials at EU-level under the European Commission's Raw Materials Initiative. The Expert Group noted the revised version of the document based on comments received from the public consultation and requested that it be posted on the website and its wider use promoted.

21. The Expert Group noted with appreciation the developments related to the deployment of UNFC in Africa, in particular the adoption of the UNFC African Mineral and Energy Resource Classification and Management System (UNFC-AMREC) and the Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC) by the Specialized Technical Committee of the Ministers of Industry, Mining and Energy in 2021 and its endorsement by the Heads of State of Africa in 2022 as the continental system for Africa. The Expert Group noted the efforts by the African Union Commission's AMREC Working Group and the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) to implement UNFC-AMREC.

Agenda item 6: Work plan for 2020-2021 and work plan for 2022-2023

22. The Group of Experts noted with appreciation the work of the Bureau and the secretariat to manage and direct the Group's activities between annual sessions in spite of human and financial resource constraints and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic situation.

23. The Expert Group noted that it had made good progress in implementing its work plan for 2022-2023 despite the challenging situation caused by COVID-19.

Agenda item 7: Other business

24. The Expert Group noted the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee at its thirty-first session, in particular related to the Expert Group and its activities and implications for its work plan (ECE/ENERGY/143, paras 32-40).

25. Following discussion and careful review and in the light of the expanded scope of application of UNFC and the development of UNRMS, the Expert Group agreed that its fourteenth session needs to be held over five days, including an educational and training session on UNFC and UNRMS, but with an option to reduce the total number of days commensurate with the required agenda items.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

26. The Expert Group adopted the conclusions and recommendations.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

27. The meeting report was adopted subject to any necessary editing and formatting.