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 CET, 12 November 2021
MINUTES

Attendance:		
	Present	Apology
David MacDonald, EGRM Chair	\boxtimes	
Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation	\boxtimes	
Alternates Olga Trofimova (present) and Ekaterina		
Lovchuk and (present) Marina Kuznetcova (present)	_	
Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria		\boxtimes
Hussein Allaboun, Jordan		\boxtimes
Viktor Babashev, Kazakhstan	\boxtimes	
Andrew Cross, Australia		\boxtimes
Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO	\boxtimes	
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey		\boxtimes
Gioia Falcone, IGA	\boxtimes	
Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan		\boxtimes
Sarah Forbes, United States of America		\boxtimes
Milan Grohol, EC (present)	\boxtimes	
Alternate Robert Tomas (present)		
Karen Hanghoj, United Kingdom	\boxtimes	
Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys	\boxtimes	
Erica Ingvald, Sweden		\boxtimes
JU Jianhua, China (not present)	\boxtimes	
Alternate YANG Hua (present)		
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina		\boxtimes
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	\boxtimes	
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	\boxtimes	
Alternate Dhiti Tulyatid		
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	\boxtimes	
Jennifer McCoy, Ernst & Young	\boxtimes	
Rafal Misztal, Poland		\boxtimes
Frank Mugyeyni, AUC		\boxtimes
Henri Paillere, IAEA		\boxtimes
Alternate Adrienne Hanly	_	_
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal		
Ulises Neri, Mexico	\boxtimes	
Michael Neumann, EFG	\boxtimes	
Bernard Seiller, SPE	\boxtimes	
Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE	\boxtimes	

Hari Tulsidas, UNECE	\boxtimes	
Slavko Solar, UNECE	\boxtimes	

Draft Agenda

- 1. Approval of Draft Agenda (attachment 1)
- 2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 7 September (attachment 2)
- 3. EGRM way forward (attachment 3)
- 4. UNRMS Subgroup update
- 5. Technical Advisory Group Update
 - (a) TAG Chair/Co-chair proposal (attachments 4, 5 & 6)
 - (b) Revised TAG ToR (attachment 7)
 - (c) Updated Chinese Bridging Documents
- 6. EGRM-13
 - (a) Bureau elections
 - (b) Week overview 25-29 April 2022
 - (c) Draft provisional agenda (attachment 8)
- 7. Project information framework (attachment 9)
- 8. Competency
- 9. Review procedure for UNFC case studies
- 10. IFRS and Canadian Securities Administrators Update
- 11. MoUs
 - (a) Geoscientists Canada
 - (b) International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
 - (c) ICE-SRM Moscow
 - (d) ICE-SRM China
 - (e) European Federation of Geologists
 - (f) EuroGeoSurveys
- 12. UNFC EC XB Project Update
 - (a) Network of practitioners
 - (b) UNFC for Europe
- 13. Cooperation with Regional Commissions
- 14. Education and outreach (attachment 10)
- 15. Date of next call
- 16. Any other business

Documentation:

- 1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 12 November 2021
- 2. Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 7 September 2021
- 3. EGRM Reorganization Proposal
- 4. Satinder Purewal CV
- 5. Alexander Shpilman CV
- 6. Ulrich Kral CV
- 7. Revised TAG ToR
- 8. EGRM-13 Provisional Agenda first draft
- 9. Project Information Framework ToR first draft
- 10. List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 4 November 2021

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Documentation: Draft agenda for Bureau Call on12 November 2021

1. The agenda was approved.

Item 2. Draft minutes of Bureau call of 7 September 2021

<u>Documentation:</u> Draft minutes of Bureau Call of 7 September

2. The draft minutes of the Bureau call of 7 September were approved.

Item 3. EGRM way forward

Documentation: EGRM Reorganization Proposal

- 3. A presentation on the proposed EGRM reorganization was shared with the documentation for the meeting. The reorganization is required for better communications, especially with the establishment of ICE-SRMs. EGRMs need to develop system and tools for industries. Currently, EGRM is more focused on commodities with small and static working groups. Communities of Experts (CoE) may be more dynamic and poll all members. This could be an Internet forum and could be backed by four standing stakeholder groups. The current format does not allow education programme to be fully utilized. A number of Task Forces could be constituted to address the issue raised by CoE, and a Bureau member would be assigned to each TF. There could be standing groups such as communications, ICEs, and document review.
- 4. In the ensuing discussions, a range of questions were posed and comments were made by Bureau members, including:
- How would industry be involved? If industry could be coordinated this could facilitate comparability.
- How do energy studies fit in the framework? The Chair responded that the work assists NGOs and IGOs such as IEA in putting together their energy studies and scenarios based on harmonized data.
- Clarity is needed on how the new structure would be streamlined and work made easier and more efficient.
- A focus on stakeholders rather than commodities, and having temporary task groups may be more effective. Having task forces that bring all commodities and users together to address issues would be more effective than a silo approach.
- Reorganization is necessary, and there need to be defined custodians and leaders to maintain the specifications that are currently in place for a while.
- What is the role of the Bureau? The Bureau should not be doing everything. It may be better to have a restructured TAG. The current Working Groups could be organized as CoEs. The TAG should be there to coordinate, without which there would be no coherence.
- Managing an online forum is a full-time job, and this needs to be kept separate from the management of a community of interest led by a Bureau member.
- The SPE TIGs do not work as well as they might.
- The CoEs could self-sort into different streams and have leaders and moderators.
- 6. Victor Badashev showed a presentation including ideas to make EGRM global. He proposed that the TAG should have regional sub-committees that would work with the ICE-SRMs.

- 7. Bureau members noted:
- Current resource management is integrated towards a circular economy.
- All resource sectors should be included, including groundwater.
- clarity regarding the direction of communications is needed.
- The idea of global representation and linking with the UN Regional Commissions (RECs) will be needed soon. The Secretariat needs to be efficient and viable and be the focal point for coordination. Other RECs should be included to reinforce the Secretariat. The EGRM work plan for the next two years has been agreed and activities and deliverables are planned in advance.
- 8. The Chair advised that his presentation was not comprehensive and showed only some examples, and there could be as many as 30 CoEs. Currently, the software industry works like this. The CoEs can communicate through the Stakeholder Groups.
- 9. The Chair asked for written feedback from the Bureau by cob Monday 29 November on the two proposals presented during the call.

Item 4. UNRMS Sub-group update

- 10. The UNRMS Sub-group held a meeting on 2 November 2021 to take stock of the situation and brainstorm ideas to speed up the development of UNRMS. It was agreed that UNRMS principles and requirements are largely robust now. UNRMS is intended to be a toolkit, i.e., it will have a suite of tools that will provide concrete solutions for tackling various issues such as:
- Data, metrics, and an evaluation framework for resources needed for the energy transition
- UNFC-based resource management tool
- Clean energy index
- Resource supply system
- Blockchain supported system for raw materials
- Critical raw materials dashboard.
- 11. The Second UNRMS workshop is planned for 26 November 2021, 3-5 pm CET. The workshop will focus on the concept of the comprehensive toolkit and discuss preliminary ideas on specific tools that could be included under UNRMS.
- 12. Small teams of 3-4 experts will be formed to further develop the tools. An updated UNRMS document with principles, requirements and the toolkit details will be provided for EGRM-13. This document will try to assimilate the understanding gained from the case studies to the extent possible.
- 13. The representative of the International Geothermal Association (IGA) noted that the International Hydropower Association (IHA) and IGA have developed sustainability protocols. See news article: Geothermal and hydropower sectors join forces on sustainability standards (thinkgeoenergy.com). This protocol has already been applied to hydrothermal and geothermal projects, and there are plans to extend its applicability and make the 'tool' and related services grow. It was recommended to check how this may/may not overlap with UNRMS or UNPIF. Also, Pietro Foschi, Group Executive Director Assurance, BSI, was hosted during COP26 BSI is also working intensively on the development of sustainability standards.

Item 5. Technical Advisory Group Update

Documentation:

- Satinder Purewal CV
- Alexander Shpilman CV
- Ulrich Kral CV
- Revised TAG ToR
- 14. The Chair provided the following updates.
- (a) TAG Chair/Co-chair proposal
- 15. The Chair noted that three nominations were received for the TAG Chair/Co-Chair role, i.e., Ulrich Kral, Satinder Purewal and Alexander Shpilman. Their CVs were circulated as part of the documentation for the call.
- 16. All three have long experience in the development of UNFC and have been members of TAG for a long time. Due to the significant workload of the TAG in coordinating the various WGs, reviewing a lot of documents etc., there is a considerable workload for one person to chair the TAG. The proposed EGRM reorganization will impact TAG, i.e. the proposal doesn't include a TAG.
- 17. The Chair advised that he had discussed the TAG Chair/Co-Chair role with Alex, Satinder and Ulrich, and there was general agreement that this arrangement could work, but a well-aligned division of labour would be needed. The Bureau members approved Alex, Satinder and Ulrich to be Co-chairs of TAG. It was noted that Ulrich still needed to confirm resources and support from his management to be able to take up the role.
- (b) Revised TAG ToR
- 18. The TAG ToR was last updated in 2017. A draft revised ToR was circulated to the Bureau on 10 November. The Chair requested the Bureau provide comments on the TAG ToR by 30 November.
- (c) Updated Chinese Bridging Documents
- 19. The Chair noted that a request was sent to the Bureau on 28 October requesting agreement from the Bureau for Alistair Jones to finalise the update of the Chinese Bridging Documents in the absence of an appointed TAG Chair/Co-Chair. This was agreed to by the Bureau (there was no feedback from members opposing this by the deadline of 9 November).
- 20. Two EGRM review teams were established to work with a group of experts from China to update the Bridging Documents between the Chinese minerals and petroleum systems and UNFC. Both review teams have provided written feedback to the China Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). MNR has been working to incorporate the changes. Alistair will now continue to finalise the Bridging Documents with the Chinese experts.
- 21. The changes mainly relate to the new UNFC (2019) terminology and are not substantial. In view of this, there is no requirement to issue the revised Bridging Documents for public comments. The final drafts will be circulated to the Bureau when available and presented at EGRM-13.
- (d) Other TAG updates:
- 22. The Chair provided other updates as below:

- (i) Social and environmental WG (SECWG): Has developed a draft guidance document on Governance Guidelines related to Environmental and Social factors in Resource Classification and Management. This draft document has been created with the UN Decade of Action, 2030 Agenda, SDGs, UNFC and UNRMS taken into account as per the WG's Plan for 2022-2023. 36 references have been added. The SECWG has already developed principles and guidelines for Social (S) and Environmental (E) considerations documents. Governance is a new addition based on the Working Group's 2022-2023. There are two versions; one copy is shorter and provides an overview to highlight governance aspects. It does not contain details of the application for the UNFC E-axis. Another version of the document is structured differently and includes an application for the UNFC E-axis. The SECWG has requested a TAG review of the document(s) and that feedback be provided before being submitted to the Bureau for approval for issuing as an EGRM-13 document.
- (ii) Petroleum WG: Progressing with two documents on coal bed methane (CBM) and Social and Environmental guidelines.
- (iii) Commercial WG: Developing an updated version of guidelines for commercial applications of UNFC. Monitoring IFRS developments.
- (iv) SDGs Delivery WG: Developing a draft document on "UNFC and UNRMS: A Systems approach to enabling resource as a service paradigm through blockchain technologies."
- (v) Groundwater WG: Continuing to test and develop UNFC groundwater specifications as well as case studies. Discussions are being initiated with the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) to adopt the specifications and provide inputs for its development. If agreeable to IAH, an MoU may be envisaged for the future. How UNFC application to groundwater could be highlighted at the World Water Week is also being explored.
- (vi) Renewable WG: Contributed to several sessions during the Sustainable Energy Experts Week, 5-8 October. Working closely with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) on industry adoption of UNFC and financing. The Chair of the Solar Subgroup delivered a presentation on UNFC application to solar during the COP26 side event "SDG7: How do we Scale Low Carbon Cooking?"

Item 7. EGRM-13

Documentation: EGRM-13 Provisional Agenda – first draft

23. The Chair provided the following updates.

(a) Bureau elections

24. At the twelfth EGRM meeting in April this year, the Expert Group elected the current Bureau from the close of the twelfth session for two years until the close of the fourteenth session. The exceptions to this are Ms. Branka Knežević (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Viktor Babashev (Kazakhstan), and Mr. JU Jianhua (the People's Republic of China). They were elected to the Bureau at the eleventh session in 2020. They will continue as Bureau members until the end of the thirteenth session next April. Those who wish to be re-elected will need to send an email or letter to the Secretariat.

(b) Week overview 25-29 April 2022

25. The UNECE Resource Management Week 2022 starts on Monday 25 April with two workshops on Hydrogen (probably related to Guarantees of Origin) (in the morning) and CMM/CBM (in the afternoon) led by the Group of Experts on Gas and ono CMM respectively. The strapline for the meeting will be the same as last year "Enabling sustainability principles in resource management". On 26 April, there will be a Workshop on UNFC for Europe, showcasing some case studies from other regions. The central EGRM annual meeting will be organized over the 3 days, 27 to 29 April. The Groundwater WG has advised that it wants to organize an in-person meeting of the WG during the Week. The Chair requested TAG and WGs to provide suggestions for the various sessions. The Bureau was requested to provide suggestions for keynote speakers, lunchtime events etc.

(c) Draft provisional agenda (attachment 8)

26. The draft provisional agenda was circulated along with the documentation for the call. The agenda is proposed to have the same structure as in previous years. The annotated text for the agenda will be developed over the coming weeks and circulated to the Bureau for approval. To allow time for substantive discussion, it is proposed that WGs provide short written updates that can be posted to the meeting page for the EGRM/participants to read. The Chair asked the Bureau to provide any additional suggestions for topics to be included in the provisional agenda.

Item 7. Project information framework

<u>Documentation:</u> Project Information Framework ToR – first draft

- 27. The Chair noted that a draft ToR for the Project Information Framework (PIF) was circulated with the documentation for the call. Frank Denelle prepared this ToR based on his research and calls with EGRM experts.
- 28. The goal of UNPIF is to act as crucial support to both UNFC and UNRMS by providing them with the project information they need in a consistent, standard and up-to-date way. The draft ToR aims at two things:
- (i) the first is a tool for helping classification using UNFC; and
- (ii) the second aspect is adopting a set of standards for information on the "project" to be provided on Technical, Economic, Environmental, Social, Governance and Controversy. The proposed use of Refinitiv criteria needs to be explored further i.e. are the Refinitiv standards the right ones to adopt and is it a good idea for the UN to align itself with a company (Refinitiv is a company now owned by LSE) or better with for example a globally-accepted NGO?
- 29. The Chair noted that the proposal is not for EGRM to develop the software but rather to provide the framework or specifications for what is needed and for any interested companies to take and use this.
- 30. A number of Bureau members supported UNPIF to inform UNFC classification. UNFC users need to be able to rank criteria to select the right E-category overall for a project. The representative of CRIRSCO noted that industry would have data/information available in the CRIRSCO Template format but not UNFC. He asked how UNPIF relates to the work of the International Raw Materials Observatory (INTRAW).

Item 8. Competency

- 31. The Chair noted that the Competency WG has developed an updated set of UNFC guidelines called "Guidance Note on Competency Requirements for the estimation, classification and management of resources". The current draft assimilates the two previous competency documents approved by EGRM. Whilst competency guidelines are provided, they are not mandatory for the use of UNFC. These guidelines are provided only for stakeholders who need "Qualified Experts" to sign-off reports as part of the regulations in certain jurisdictions.
- 32. The WG organized a call on 3 November to which all Bureau and Working Group members were invited to discuss the draft guidelines. There was good participation and discussions. The discussions flagged that EGRM work on this matter should be limited to ensuring that competency assessments are made when reporting using UNFC. ICE-SRMs could take on the responsibility for managing the competency system in a particular region. It was also proposed that there be an agreement with other professional bodies to recognise the competency standards, including a proposal for bridging to existing systems.
- 33. The representative of the Russian Federation noted that the guidance should include current and future Bridging Documents with expert societies. The Chair agreed that bridging to other expert associations should be taken up by the individual ICE-SRMs. Other Bureau members raised that references to materiality and valuation and certification should be avoided.
- 34. The WG is currently updating the draft guidelines based on the feedback provided. An updated version will be circulated. The WG plans to organize an external workshop in January or February 2022 to get more stakeholder feedback on this issue before presenting it to EGRM-13. Once the draft document is ready, it will be reviewed by TAG and the Bureau.

Item 9. Review procedure for UNFC case studies

- 35. The Chair said that given the implementation phase of UNFC, this agenda item is to discuss if a new procedure for review and approval of case studies is needed. UNFC case studies are currently reviewed by the concerned WGs. The TAG is sometimes invited to undertake a review of case studies. Case studies are also presented at conferences that have never been reviewed. i.e. the current procedure is somewhat ad hoc. The Chair posed the question as to whether the Bureau should consider new procedures to streamline the review of case studies in consultation with the TAG?
- 36. Many case studies (as well as factual reporting) will be developed by ICE-SRMs and other users in the future. It may be impractical for EGRM to review all such case studies and reports. EGRM is a standards setter. Case studies are clearly needed for testing the system, getting users to understand how UNFC is applied, and getting ideas on how the system could be improved. It is clearly not feasible for EGRM to review every single UNFC case study or report. It is the responsibility of the user or mandater of UNFC to ensure the proper use of UNFC and abide by the regulations for each jurisdiction.
- 37. The Bureau agreed on the importance of case studies but that EGRM need not regularly review all case studies. Only "official" case studies that demonstrate the application of UNFC to new sectors should be reviewed and published/posted on the UNFC website. "Non-reviewed/non-official" case studies should be rather called "Application examples" with a clear indication on the cover page that the application example is not EGRM approved.

Item 10. IFRS and Canadian Securities Administrators Update

- 38. The Chair noted that IFRS announced the creation of an International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) at COP26. The ISSB will sit alongside and work in close cooperation with the IASB, ensuring connectivity and compatibility between IFRS Accounting Standards and the ISSB's standards—IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. The IFRS Foundation will consolidate the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB—an initiative of CDP) and the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF—which houses the Integrated Reporting Framework and the SASB Standards) into the new board. The Technical Readiness Working Group (TRWG) developed a prototype climate and general disclosure requirements, a group formed by the IFRS Foundation Trustees to undertake preparatory work for the ISSB. UNECE had discussions with IFRS on possible cooperation, and several letters have been exchanged. We have asked to either be on the new ISSB or provide support.
- 39. On 18 October, the Canadian Securities Administrators published proposed National Instrument 51-107 Disclosure of Climate-related Matters. When finalized, this instrument will introduce new climate-related disclosure requirements for all reporting issuers (other than investment funds).

Item 11. MoUs

40. UNECE enters into MoUs with relevant partners to participate and support its activities. MoUs do not have financial implications and are for a maximum of three years. Annual review of the cooperation is now mandatory. The Executive Committee of UNECE is advised of planned MoUs but does not approve them. If there are financial implications under any partnership, it needs to become a Donor Agreement linked to a specific extrabudgetary project proposal that has to be approved by the UNECE Executive Committee. The following MoUs are under consideration.

(a) Geoscientists Canada

An MoU has been proposed and is being reviewed by UNECE.

(b) International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

The Groundwater Working Group is considering whether an MoU with IAH would be an option to adopt and support the UNFC Groundwater specifications under development. This would follow the partnership model with the International Geothermal Association for maintaining the UNFC geothermal specifications. The Bureau was supportive of a potential MoU with IAH,

(c) ICE-SRM Moscow

The proposal to approve an extrabudgetary project to support ANCO ICE-SRM Moscow is progressing. The proposal requires UNECE Executive Approval. The issue of an MoU and/or Donor agreement is being internally discussed in UNECE.

(d) ICE-SRM China

Initial discussions have started with the Ministry of Natural Resources of China for UNECE support for the ICE-SRM China.

(e) European Federation of Geologists (EFG)

The MoU signed over 3 years ago is up for renewal. Both UNECE and EFG are keen to continue the MoU for another period, which will be done by an exchange of letters.

(f) EuroGeoSurveys

The MoU signed over 3 years ago is up for renewal. Both UNECE and EuroGeoSurveys are keen to continue the MoU for another period, which will be done by an exchange of letters.

Item 12. UNFC EC XB Project Update

- 41. The Chair noted that the implementation of the European Commission-funded project "Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)" (a Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and UNECE) started in August 2020 and has another three years to go. Over the past year, the project has been supporting the work of the EGRM Secretariat to strengthen its activities to develop and implement UNFC and UNRMS. Work under the project is currently focusing on implementing UNFC in raw materials in EU countries.
- 42. The report of the first year of work under the project i.e. for August 2020 July 2021 was submitted to the European Commission in September. A review of the work of the past three months, i.e. August-October, was done at the end of October. Both Hari Tulsidas and Slavko Solar are hired under this project as temporary UNECE staff members. Significant current achievements are:

(a) Network of UNFC practitioners

A call for members of a new Network of UNFC Practitioners on raw materials/minerals (NoPE) was sent out in October to the European Federation of Geologists and EuroGeoSurveys. An introductory meeting was held at the beginning of November. The following steps are to develop a Terms of Reference for the Network and a work plan and quality assurance.

(b) UNFC for Europe

The "UNFC for Europe" document is being developed. The intent is to issue it for public consultation starting in December.

Item 13. Cooperation with Regional Commissions

- 43. The Chair noted that one of the outcomes of the Global Extractive Industries initiative of the UN Secretary-General is the establishment of a UN Working Group on Extractive Industries. The Working Group has yet to be set up UNECE has proposed launching it during the UN Resource Management Week in April 2022. The UN Regional Commissions, together with UNDP and UNEP, will be the main stakeholders in this Working Group. The Working Group will provide a platform for collaboration. This initiative could provide an opportunity to convince the Regional Commissions to mandate activities to support EGRM and its work on UNFC and UNRMS.
- 44. The ICE-SRMs also provide a platform for collaboration. When an ICE-SRM is set up outside the UNECE region, it will partner with the relevant Regional Commissions. ESCWA has agreed to contribute to the development of UNRMS and will join the future sub-group meetings. The secretariat is exploring with other Regional Commissions on possible collaboration, especially on UNRMS. The secretariat will also examine the possibility of the Regional Commissions participating in EGRM-13. Active engagement of the Regional Commissions will be crucial to implementing UNFC and UNMRS worldwide. Bureau members have been elected from all of the regions covered by the Regional Commissions, with the goal being for them to be the interface, e.g. Ulises Neri liaises with ECLAC.

Item 14. Education and outreach

<u>Documentation:</u> List of events promoting UNFC in 2020-2021 as at 4 November 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:

- EU Raw Materials Week UNFC Workshop, 18 November 2021 this event is organized jointly by UNECE and EuroGeoSurveys in Brussels
- Joint UNECE and UK post-COP26 hybrid meeting on 'Future-proofing supply of critical minerals for net-zero: Cross-sectoral perspectives', Geneva and online, 23 November
- Second UNRMS Workshop, 26 November, online.

Item 14. Date of next call

46. The weeks of 17 or 24 January are proposed. The regular availability message will be issued.

Item 15. Any other business

47. No other business was discussed.
