United Kingdom Experience for a UNFC based mineral inventory

Tom Bide, British Geological Survey
United Kingdom Experience

- Provision of mineral resource data for national resource management/planning is often a key role for National Geological Surveys.
- Each country is in a unique situation. The UK does not collect data for national mineral resources and BGS has no mandate to do this.
- In 2019 the UK compiled an inventory of national resource data using UNFC as part of the ORAMA project.
United Kingdom Experience

- Resource inventories form basic data for polices relating to resource management that decision makers ask for due to security of supply, decarbonisation, circularity etc..

- Clear ways of presenting data are needed to ensure policymakers use the right datasets and ask the right questions.

- Current industry standards are not suitable for national resource evaluation
United Kingdom Experience

- A need for consistency, we developed decision trees to ensure internal consistency with classification.
- It was useful to group data into different common sources, i.e. data supplied by industry adhering to modern standards, vs historic data.
United Kingdom Experience

- No hard and fast rules - UNFC strength is that it is very flexible – however this sometimes means subjective decisions need to be taken
- Significant issues remaining with data gaps, i.e. confidentiality, co- and by-products etc....
- UNFC is an excellent classification system for national level reporting, but continued investment in exploration is needed, often for metals for new technologies which may not have been previously considered
- The need for a ‘competent person’ and the range of factors needed to be considered
- The time component – this is not a one off exercise
- These inventories are the first step only, now we have this we can begin to think about how these data can be used in a resource management context
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Thank you!

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