

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

From: Karen Hanghøj, Charlotte Griffiths, Hari Tulsidas and Slavko Solar

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)
Via Teams – 15:00 CEST, 8 April 2024
MINUTES

	Present	Apology
Karen Hanghøj, United Kingdom (EGRM Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glen Burridge, EFG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrzej Głuszyński, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC DG GROW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Robert Tomas, EC DG GROW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julie Hollis, EuroGeoSurveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marit Kitaw, AUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Tunde Arisekola, AMDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Songyang WU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David MacDonald, EGRM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henri Paillere, IAEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Adrienne Hanly, IAEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ponce de Leão, Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ulises Neri, Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexander Shpilman, TAG Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Oleg Dziubinski, UNECE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kuba Wesolinski, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ghadi Sabra, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calista Bommer, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests

Dario Liguti, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division.

Draft Agenda

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 13 March 2024
3. Bureau update
 - (a) Election on 26 April
4. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15
 - (a) UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview
 - (b) Programme for workshops/seminars 22-23 April
 - (c) EGRM-15 Documents update
 - (d) Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations
 - (e) Lunchtime lectures
 - (f) Communications
5. Date of next meeting/call
6. Any other business

Documentation:

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 8 April 2024
2. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview
3. Programme for UNFC Seminar
4. Programme for UNRMS Short Course
5. UNFC Adoption Group Report to EGRM-15
6. Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations
7. Peter Hopkinson Lecture Poster
8. Sarah Gordon Lecture Poster

Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 8 April 2024

1. The Chair opened the meeting with a remark that the agenda for this call will focus on the preparations for EGRM-15.
2. Dario Liguti, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, also joined the call.
3. The draft agenda was approved.

Item 2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 13 March 2024

4. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 13 March 2024 were circulated on 26 March with a request for review and/or approval by close of business 5 April 2024.
5. No requests for modifications were received.
6. The minutes have now been posted to the UNECE website.

Item 3. Bureau update

(a) Elections on 26 April

7. Elections to the Bureau will be held on Friday 26 April 2024 during the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 and EGRM-15.
8. Nominations have been received for Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Victor Babashev, Kazakhstan, for re-election as Vice-Chairs.
9. EFG is nominating EFG President, David Govoni, to replace Glen Burridge as a Vice-Chair.
10. No additional changes or potential nominations were mentioned by the Bureau during the call.

Item 4. UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 & EGRM-15

(a) Resource Management Week 2024 Overview

Documentation: UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 Overview

11. The latest Week overview was submitted as part of the documentation for the call. The provisional annotated agenda is uploaded on the meeting page.

12. The programme for the Week is being developed based on the topics that were deliberated and agreed upon during the last Bureau call.

13. There will be a recorded opening statement by the UNECE Executive Secretary, Ms. Tatiana Molcean, on Monday 22 April 2024.

14. Other keynote addresses include:

- **Jodi-Ann Wang**, Policy Analyst, LSE Grantham Research Institute, Just Transition Finance Lab and member of the Resource Management Young Member Group. Jodi-Ann will speak on “Financing a just transition in the extractives sector”

and potentially two others who are to be confirmed.

15. The programme promises a comprehensive and engaging Week for all participants.

(b) Programme for workshops/seminars 22-23 April

Documentation: Programme for UNFC Seminar

Programme for UNRMS Short Course

16. The current programmes for the UNFC Seminar and UNRMS Short Course were circulated as part of the documentation for the call. The updated versions will be posted on the meeting page.

17. The UNFC Seminar is scheduled on the first day and second morning, 22–23 am April. The seminar is organized in collaboration with DG GROW, and two Horizon EU Projects: The Geological Service for Europe (GSEU) and FutuRaM, with a primary focus on implementing UNFC within the EU member States in support of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act.

18. The UNRMS short course will be held on Tuesday 23 April (15:00-18:00 CEST). The short course is intended to be an introduction to UNRMS. The major topics are:

- **Introduction to UNRMS:** covering the system's overview and its importance in sustainable development.
- **UNRMS Framework:** discussing the principles, structure, and case studies demonstrating UNRMS's impact on the SDGs.
- **UNRMS in Action - Case Studies:** presenting case studies from UK, Mexico, and Zambia, focusing on circular economy and integrated resource management.
- **Advanced Technologies for a Circular Economy:** exploring the application of AI, blockchain, and other disruptive technologies.
- **Critical Raw Materials and UNRMS:** on the significance of CRMs and the UNRMS approach to managing them.
- **Impact Assessment:** on assessing environmental, social, and economic impacts using UNRMS methodologies.

19. The course aims to equip professionals with strategic knowledge to drive sustainability and innovation in resource management

(c) EGRM-15 Documents update

Documentation: UNFC Adoption Group Report to EGRM-15

20. The following documents have now been posted on the Week’s webpage:

- (i) Annotated provisional agenda
- (ii) EGRM Document Review and Approval Process
- (iii) ICE-SRM – Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference
- (iv) Bridging Document between the CRIRSCO Template and UNFC
- (v) Optimizing Resource Management for Critical Raw Materials: A Case Study of the Application of UNRMS with Cornwall Regional Government, UK

- (vi) Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management
- (vii) Supplementary Specifications for the application of UNFC (Update 2019) to Injection Projects for the Purpose of Geological Storage
- (viii) Task Force report and recommendations on the use of the G axis of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

21. It was noted during the call that these documents will be discussed throughout the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024, namely on Wednesday 24, Thursday 25, and Friday 26 April. The Secretariat requested Bureau members to provide any comments on these documents in advance, in order to agree on as many documents as possible during EGRM-15.

22. The Chair announced that a Press Release was issued by UNECE on the UK UNRMS case study, on Friday 5 April. The Press Release can be found at this [link](#).

23. Another Press Release is planned for the Bridging Document between the CRIRSCO Template and UNFC.

24. The Chair highlighted that there are three outstanding documents yet to be reviewed by the Bureau:

- UNFC Adoption Group Report to EGRM-15 “Accelerating UNFC support for Sustainable Development Decisions”
- Groundwater Resources Specifications and addressing the public consultation feedback
- UNFC Case Study – Classifying production of lithium, caesium tantalum, Manitoba, Canada.

25. It was noted that the Groundwater Specifications document will be concise and will require expedited review by the Bureau prior to EGRM-15. The UNFC Case Study will to be submitted to the Bureau as soon as possible. The Bureau was urged to accommodate a swift turnaround.

26. The UNFC Adoption Group Report was submitted as part of the documentation for the call. Comments have been received from the Chair, Victor Babashev, and the Secretariat. The document including the comments was shared during the call.

27. It was noted that the title of the document has been modified by the authors to “Informed Dialogue and Decisions for Sustainable Development – Adoption of UNFC”.

28. The Chair highlighted the alignment of the 8 recommendations with past practices of EGRM in promoting UNFC but underscored challenges in detailing the recommendations due to constraints on resource allocation. Discussion points included whether UNFC adoption necessitates comprehensive project viability assessment or remains distinct from, for instance environmental assessments and social assessments. Additionally, there was a recommendation for the continuation of the UNFC Adoption Group with new Terms of Reference. However, there was some opposition to this idea, with a number of members advocating for utilizing existing entities within EGRM for implementation rather than creating new governance structures. The Chair proposed maintaining the current approach to avoid working in silos.

29. The Chair directed attention to key decisions required regarding the Adoption Group Report for EGRM-15. The document, as shared with the Bureau, is slated for submission pending UN editing and formatting. The Bureau decided to note the report in order to facilitate progression. The Chair emphasized the importance of determining the document's status for EGRM-15 and to look into its advancement after EGRM-15.

30. The wording regarding the UNFC Adoption Group was therefore modified accordingly in the draft conclusions and recommendations document.

31. The Chair noted that the following room documents have been submitted:

- INF.1: Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations
- INF.2: Resource Management Young Member Group Report
- INF.3: Guidance Note on the use of the Bridging Document between the CRIRSCO Template and UNFC

(d) Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations

Documentation: Draft EGRM-15 conclusions and recommendations

32. An updated draft of the Conclusions and Recommendations for EGRM-15 was included as part of the documentation for the call. As per UN procedures, the draft will be shared with UNECE member States at least 10 days before the meeting i.e. a day or two following the call and then uploaded to the website. The C&Rs are not intended to prejudice discussions at the fifteenth session but rather to provide a draft text that will be updated as the meeting progresses.
33. The draft text included some text in square brackets for the Bureau to discuss and agree on. Victor Babashev provided feedback in the text.
34. The document was shared during the call and the proposed modifications were made.
35. On the UNFC Adoption Group and following the decision from the previous agenda item, the document and its recommendations are to be “noted” by EGRM, to further “note” that there are diverse opinions and also solutions to the challenge of implementing UNFC, that some of the points suggested are perhaps better incorporated into UNRMS, and that UNFC adoption is best supported by existing Working Groups as the adoption will have different barriers in different areas of resource management.
36. On the Commercial Applications Working Group, changes were made to substitute the word “implement” with “explore the application of” since there is no mandate yet in place for the UNFC Adoption Group to implement the recommendations. In addition, on the proposal for the Commercial Applications Working Group to report to the Bureau, the Bureau agreed to add the following “The Expert Group requested the Bureau to explore the modalities for this including the ToR, modalities and reporting lines”.
37. Regarding the representation of EGRM/UNECE in the governance of ICE-SRMs, “and/or” was inserted between the Expert Group and UNECE as they represent two different bodies. Additionally, the words “representing” was substituted with “offering the views of”, and “as an observer in the” was added to replace “governance”.
38. No further revisions were made during the call. The Secretariat will finalise the document before posting it on the meeting page.

(e) Lunchtime Lectures

Documentation: Peter Hopkinson Lecture Poster

Sarah Gordon Lecture Poster

39. The Chair highlighted that two lunch time lectures are confirmed for the Week. The lectures will be held on 23 and 25 April, from 13:45 to 14:30 CEST. The first lecture on Tuesday 23 April will be delivered by Peter Hopkinson from Exeter University, on “Circular Data”, and the second one on Thursday 25 April, by Sarah Gordon, CEO, Satarla, on “The beauty of interconnected natural resource ecosystems” with a focus on ESG issues.
40. Promotional posters for both lectures have been shared as part of the documentation for the call and uploaded to the Week’s webpage.

(f) Communications

41. The Chair advised that a press release on the [UK UNRMS case study](#) was published on 5 April and another is planned for the CRIRSCO-UNFC Bridging Document. Additional press releases and/or news articles are being considered.
42. The EGRM Communications Consultant is developing a video that will be shown at the opening on Monday as well as a video to show during the breaks.
43. Social media posts are being posted to raise the visibility of the Week. Posts are also planned throughout the Week.
44. Speakers cards are being prepared for speakers to promote their participation on social media.
45. Additionally, a number of interviews are scheduled during the Week, including with Dario Liguti, Karen Hanghøj, Hari Tulsidas, and Bianca Neumann, with a view to developing podcasts.
46. The communications outputs have been developed by the EGRM Communications Consultant in cooperation with the Communications Working Group.

Item 5. Date of next meeting/call

47. The Chair proposed to hold the next Bureau call during EGRM-15, on Thursday 25 April from 18:00 – 19:00 CEST in-person only, and another on Friday 26 April at 8:30 – 9:30 CEST if needed, which will be in the Palais des Nations, Geneva for those present in-person, and online

48. It was also noted that the next online Bureau meeting will be held in the first half of June 2024.

Item 6. Any other Business

(i) Dates of EGRM-16

49. The dates for EGRM-16 have now been fixed for 24-28 March 2025. This is a month earlier than the usual due to meeting room availability. The annual sessions of the Groups of Experts on Coal Mine Methane & Just Transition and on Gas will be held during the same week as EGRM-16

50. No other business was discussed.

51. The Chair thanked the members of the Bureau for their hard work and support, and advised she was looking forward to seeing as many members as possible in Geneva during the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024 and EGRM-15.
