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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Looking ahead: Future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy:

Approval of documents

Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management

Prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management

Summary

The mandate of the Expert Group on Resource Management expires on 31 December 2024 (EXCOM/CONCLU/108, para 22). The Committee on Sustainable Energy is requested to approve the extension of the mandate of the Expert Group on Resource Management for an additional five-year term until 31 December 2029 with the possibility of extension.

The current Terms of Reference were approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Executive Committee at its 102nd meeting (14 December 2018) (EXCOM/CONCLU/102, para 10). The proposed revised Terms of Reference prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group included in this document were discussed and approved by the Expert Group on Resource Management at its fifteenth session on 22-26 April 2024 in Geneva. The Committee is invited to approve the revised Terms of Reference.

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Resource Management

The Expert Group on Resource Management is mandated until 31 December 2029 to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

Develop, promote and support the implementation of a global system which can be used as a tool for the sustainable management of natural resources to support attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Areas of Work

Development and deployment of a United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) grounded in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) comprising principles, specifications, guidelines, application protocols (procedures and checklists) and best practices to aid sustainable management of energy, raw materials and other resources.

C. Concrete activities

(a) Develop, maintain, promote, and facilitate implementation of a comprehensive UNFC. This work will involve improving and further developing principles, specifications, guidelines, best practices and case studies to support sustainable management of energy and raw materials (including, but not restricted to, renewable energy, anthropogenic resources, minerals, petroleum, and nuclear fuel resources, groundwater resources and hydrogen) in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change mitigation (including through support for carbon capture and storage);

(b) Develop, maintain and promote a comprehensive UNRMS that is compliant with UNFC and applicable to the resource life cycle and value chains. This work will involve improving and further developing principles, specifications, guidelines, application protocols, best practices and case studies to support sustainable management of energy and raw materials within the UNRMS framework (including, but not restricted to, renewable energy, anthropogenic resources, minerals, petroleum, nuclear fuel resources, groundwater resources and hydrogen) in alignment with the SDGs and climate change mitigation (including through support for carbon capture and storage);

(c) Provide UNFC and UNRMS training materials and a toolkit to support policymaking, national resource management planning and execution, business process innovation, capital allocation, financial reporting, sustainable development monitoring and reporting, with consideration of environmental and social factors as well as local needs and priorities in sustainable resource management, for the attainment of the SDGs;

(d) Develop principles, specifications, bridging documents, guidelines and protocols that support development of a project through all stages from conceptual studies, exploration/initial investigations, feasibility studies to production, eventual closure, site remediation and handover;

(e) Elaborate guidelines for recognition and strengthening the capabilities of qualified experts in sustainable resource management and conduct related capacity-building, training courses, promotion and outreach programmes;

(f) Support dissemination, application, adoption and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in different regions and countries in cooperation with the other UN regional economic commissions and International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs) that meet the UNECE criteria. Coordinate the UNECE Network of ICE-SRMs;

- (g) Promote activities related to empowering women and addressing diversity and inclusion in the resource management sectors;
 - (h) Engage in intergenerational issues with a focus on youth in the context of sustainable resource management;
 - (i) Attract and channel extrabudgetary resources for support of the aforementioned activities and regional-, national-, and industrial-level applications;
 - (j) In addition, UNECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.
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