

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

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

Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)  
Via Teams – 15:00 CEST, 10 June 2024  
MINUTES

	Present	Apology
Karen Hanghoj, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David Govoni, EFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mücella Ersoy, Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gioia Falcone, IGA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrzej Głuszyński, Poland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Forbes, United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erika Ingvald, Sweden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marit Kitaw, AUC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Tunde Arisekola, AMDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Branka Knežević, Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Young Joo Lee, CCOP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Alternate</i> Songyang WU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luis Lopez, OLAMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David MacDonald, EGRM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Dzioubinski, UNECE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division.

## **Draft Agenda**

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 8 April 2024
3. Update on requests to Bureau
  - (a) Focal points for Task Force for Generative AI for Energy and Climate Policy
  - (b) IPCC 7th Assessment Report Nominations
4. EGRM-15 debrief and action items
5. UNFC Adoption Group Recommendations\*
6. 33rd Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
7. EGRM-16
  - (a) Theme
  - (b) Week structure
  - (c) Potential documents
8. UNRMS Update
9. TAG Update
  - (a) SPE PRMS Update
  - (b) Feedback from SPE re proposal for financial reporting document with UNFC
10. ICE-SRMs
  - (a) Templates for Work Plans and Annual Reports
  - (b) Update on establishment of network of ICE-SRMs
  - (c) ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document (attachments 4 & 5)
  - (d) Updates from ICE-SRMs
11. Update on XB and UNDA Projects
12. Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals
13. Education, outreach, and communications (attachment 6)
  - (a) Update on UNFC Trainings
  - (b) UNFC Workshop for Southeast Europe
  - (c) Survey to EGRM
14. Date of next call
15. Any other business

\* The UNFC Adoption Group is offering support to implement the recommendations, as the Group in its current form, combined with the CAWG or otherwise. The Group proposes it could look into:

- Supporting development of use cases for decision support
- Drafting a 2–5-page communication guidance note on decision support and metrics
- Exploring resourcing options for accelerated implementation of the recommendations).

## **Documentation:**

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 10 June 2024
2. EGRM-15 Meeting Report
3. TAG Update
4. ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document between Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources, and Development of Mineral Resources and to Competent Persons
5. EGRM Competency Working Group Feedback on ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document
6. List of events in 2024 and 2025

### **Item 1. Approval of Draft Agenda**

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 10 June 2024

1. The Chair initiated the call by welcoming David Govoni (EFG) as a new Bureau member, and congratulating Branka Knežević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Victor Babashev (Kazakhstan) on their re-election.
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 8 April 2024**

4. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 8 April 2024 were circulated on 10 May with a request for review and/or approval by close of business 23 May 2024.
5. No requests for modifications were received.
6. The minutes have now been posted to the UNECE website.

### **Item 3. Update on requests to Bureau**

#### **(a) Focal points for Task Force for Generative AI for Energy and Climate Policy**

7. The Chair highlighted that the nominations for focal points for the Task Force for Generative AI for Energy and Climate Policy received by the deadline were submitted. Normally, all the nominations received before the deadline are now members of the Task Force.
8. The Task Force will look into supporting Climate Policy Radar, an NGO, that is developing a tool to monitor and analyse climate policies at a range of levels. This tool provides stakeholders with real-time updates and insights into development, implementation, and effectiveness of climate policies and regulations. The goals of Climate Policy Radar align with UNECE's platform on Resilient Energy Systems in the UNECE region. UNECE will use its model as the basis for the UNECE library.
9. The Task Force held its first meeting on Monday 3 June.
10. A number of nominations were received after the deadline. If anyone drops out of the Task Force, they will be invited to join, on a stand-by basis.

#### **(b) IPCC 7th Assessment Report Nominations**

11. The IPCC launched a call to nominate experts who will draft the outline of the Working Group contributions to the Seventh Assessment Report.
12. The IPCC decided to prepare a Seventh Assessment Report during its 60th Session in January 2024. The Seventh Assessment report comprises three Working Group contributions and a Synthesis Report. The Working Group I contribution is on the physical science basis of climate change, Working Group II deals with impacts, adaptation, and vulnerabilities, and Working Group III looks at the mitigation of climate change.
13. The call was open until 7 June and was addressed to IPCC member governments and observer organizations. UNECE is an observer to IPCC.
14. EGRM was invited to nominate experts that would be prepared to join the UNECE quota and contribute to the IPCC Working Groups in their individual capacity.
15. The Secretariat flagged that a large number of nominations were received from Bureau members, Working Group Chairs and members, and EGRM members. UNECE reviewed the many nominations received from all the Divisions at UNECE. The selection is yet to be disclosed.

### **Item 4. EGRM-15 debrief and action items**

Documentation: EGRM-15 Meeting Report

16. The Chair noted that over 300 experts from around 80 countries participated to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of EGRM.
17. The key highlights from EGRM-15 were noted.
  - Workshops, seminars and courses showcased the transformative potential of UNFC and UNRMS, particularly for managing raw materials amid the energy transition. Many practical applications of UNFC and UNRMS were presented.

- Commitment to integrating human rights, gender equality, and youth engagement into resource governance was reinforced, ensuring these core values guide policies and practices.
- The UN Working Group on Transforming Extractive Industries highlighted the importance of responsibly managing minerals critical for the energy transition. The UN Secretary-General's Panel on CETMs was also flagged. The Panel, which held its first meeting on 22 May, will develop a set of global and common voluntary principles on issues which are key to building trust between governments, communities and industry, enhancing transparency and investment and ensuring a just and equitable management of sustainable, responsible, and reliable value chains for terrestrial critical energy transition minerals.
- Bridging the UNFC and CRIRSCO reporting template will enhance transparency and comparability in mineral project reporting to facilitate informed decision-making.
- The new UNECE Guidebook on Critical Minerals for Sustainable Energy Transition to Support Intergenerational Action was launched by the Resource Management Young Member Group. It supports intergenerational action for responsible mineral sourcing and use in renewable technologies.
- A case study illustrated using UNRMS for sustainable mining practices in Cornwall, UK.
- Updated specifications for applying UNFC to geological storage projects were approved to drive low-carbon solutions, with plans for bridging to the SPE storage guidelines.
- Long discussion on the work to apply UNFC to groundwater. The Groundwater Resources Working Group was requested to demonstrate the added value of applying UNFC to groundwater and alignment with existing UN frameworks such as those of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the UNECE Water Convention through consultations within the UN Water Expert Group on Groundwater. The Working Group was also asked to share the results of this analysis and organize additional stakeholder and member State consultations, before undertaking further work on the Groundwater Specifications.
- International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) spotlighted capacity-building efforts, with revised criteria, generic ToR, and expanding geographic reach. 4 Centres are now established (Russia, Central Asia, UK and Mexico), one in progress (EU to be based in Slovenia) and interest from Africa, China, India and East and SE Asia.
- The African AMREC and PARC systems based on UNFC/UNRMS reflect the tools' global applicability.
- Discussions highlighted interconnections within natural resource ecosystems and the importance of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations.
- Lunchtime lectures by renowned experts explored circular data and resource ecosystem dynamics.
- The EGRM Document Review and Approval Process was approved. This strengthens the governance of EGRM, which should be expanded to naming and reporting of Working Groups, Task Forces etc.
- Agreed to requesting an extension of the 5-year mandate for EGRM and approval of the revised ToR by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its meeting in September.
- 5 press releases were published.
- Presentations and materials are available online for further reference.

18. Lots of good feedback was received from speakers and participants, with many saying it was the best UNECE Resource Management Week to date.

19. The Chair thanked the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for all their efforts to make EGRM-15 so memorable.

20. The Chair summarized the tasks received from EGRM to the Bureau, Working Groups, and the Secretariat:

- Request to the Bureau to explore implementing the UNFC Adoption Group recommendations and to report back on progress on acceleration to the Expert Group at its sixteenth session.
- Task to the Bureau to consider integrating the activities of the Commercial Applications Working Group with the sustainability-related commercial activities required to implement the recommendations of the UNFC Adoption Group.

- Task to the Bureau, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to address the related issues raised in the G-axis report, namely: develop a brief online summary which lists all relevant UNFC documents for different types of users, update the guidance note on the definition of a project, develop guidance on aggregation, document what provides direct versus indirect evidence for different resources.
- Request to liaise with ISO, which the Secretariat will follow-up on.

#### **Item 5. UNFC Adoption Group Recommendations**

21. The UNFC Adoption Group submitted the report “Accelerating UNFC support for Sustainable Development Decisions” to EGRM-15, as per its mandate. It was noted that several Bureau members were part of the UNFC Adoption Group. The report contains eight recommendations:

- (i) Communicate and promote the purpose of UNFC.
- (ii) Add Metrics that Matter.
- (iii) Establish Alliances with Standard-Setting Organizations.
- (iv) Develop Strategic Use Cases.
- (v) Engage with Potential Adoption Champions.
- (vi) Ensure that the Bureau and the Working Groups of EGRM can support the wider adoption of UNFC.
- (vii) Update UNFC Supplementary Specifications.
- (viii) Digitalize enablement.

22. It was noted that the recommendations closely align with the core mandate and longstanding/ongoing efforts of EGRM, the Bureau, and Working Groups. Promoting UNFC's purpose, establishing strategic use cases, updating specifications, and digitalization have been integral to EGRM's work for many years.

23. Forging alliances with standard-setting organizations and engaging potential champions are vital tasks that fall within the purview of EGRM's ongoing outreach and collaboration efforts.

24. Incorporating relevant metrics and ensuring the Bureau's capacity to support wider UNFC and UNRMS adoption are essential components of EGRM's continuous improvement process.

25. The UNFC Adoption Group met in early May and has offered to support implementation of the recommendations. They offered this support as the Group in its current form, combined with the Commercial Applications Working Group or otherwise. The Group proposes it could look into:

- Supporting development of use cases for decision support
- Drafting a 2–5-page communication guidance note on decision support and metrics
- Exploring resourcing options for accelerated implementation of the recommendations.

26. The main points of discussion were how to take forward the work and recommendations of the UNFC Adoption Group, the future format of the Commercial Applications Working Group, and whether the Bureau and Working Groups should take ownership of the 8 recommendations and integrate them into the respective work plans of the Working Groups, leveraging the expertise and resources already available within EGRM.

27. The Bureau was reminded that it was tasked at EGRM-15 to consider integrating the activities of the Commercial Applications Working Group with the sustainability-related commercial activities required to implement the recommendations of the UNFC Adoption Group.

28. Bureau members discussed whether the Commercial Applications Working Group should prioritize the development of resource reporting templates for financial bodies, in order to address the critical gap in this domain.

29. It was agreed that the efforts and activities of the Bureau, TAG and the Working Groups need to be streamlined and duplication avoided – this is essential while the work of EGRM and the areas of UNFC and UNRMS application continue to expand.

30. It was noted that the report of the UNFC Adoption Group includes a comprehensive table outlining the eight recommendations, with specific examples of potential work, coordination roles, and responsible entities. It was emphasized that the previous Bureau meeting had determined that existing groups, namely the Bureau, Working Groups, TAG, Secretariat, and ICE-SRMs, were sufficient to

handle the recommendations without the need for new groups. The Bureau discussed whether it would be more effective for the UNFC Adoption Group to remain a stand-alone entity, merge with the Commercial Applications Working Group, or consider another option.

31. Bureau members noted the value of the Adoption Group's work, particularly its cross-sectoral approach. They stressed the importance of maintaining this cross-sectoral work within the existing Working Groups. Members also supported following the recommendations without creating additional Working Groups. However, a concern was raised about the lack of interconnection of the eight recommendations and the need for more discussions on some of them, particularly those involving metrics and potential changes to UNFC. A suggestion was also made to reinforce links with professional organizations to accelerate the adoption of UNFC, leveraging their diverse backgrounds and experience with standards and codes.

32. The need for EGRM and its experts to mainstream the adoption of UNFC and UNRMS across all activities rather than relying on a single group was emphasized. They recommended maintaining a lean structure within EGRM and focusing on coordination with ICE-SRMs. The importance to involve representatives from all the Working Groups if the Adoption Group is to continue was highlighted, so as to ensure collaboration and awareness of all the work and activities being undertaken in EGRM.

33. The Chair requested the TAG to look into the 8 recommendations more thoroughly when it next meets and give detailed feedback.

34. The Bureau reached consensus on a number of key points arising from the discussions. The Bureau was unanimous in its appreciation of the time, energy and enthusiasm devoted by the UNFC Adoption Group to its activities and the recommendations developed. There was consensus that EGRM, the Bureau and the Working Groups and Task Forces and the Secretariat have all accelerated adoption of UNFC (and UNRMS) at the core of their work, and agreement that all of these as well as the ICE-SRM network should contribute to responding to the recommendations. It was noted, that if the UNFC Adoption Group is to continue, then it should have a representative from each of the Working Groups in its membership to ensure contribution and awareness on all the work being done and the progress that has and is being made. However, it was also noted, that this then in a way mirrors what the TAG is doing. There was also consensus that the EGRM sub/Working Group structure should not expand further if at all possible. The Chair will look at options to reorganize the EGRM structure and potentially revise the ToRs of the various Working Groups and TAG.

35. The ICE-SRMs that are established and that are being established around the world are focused on dissemination of UNFC and UNRMS. Building on and utilizing their capacities and capabilities is necessary to accelerate implementation and adoption of UNFC and UNRMS globally.

36. The Bureau agreed that as an interim next step the UNFC Adoption Group should continue in a limited way under the Commercial Applications Working Group e.g., development of the guidance note on decision support and metrics.

37. Feedback from the Bureau on the specific future work proposals from the UNFC Adoption Group included:

- Supporting the development of use cases for decision support: *The Bureau requested further clarification on this before proceeding.*
- Drafting a communication guidance note on decision support and metrics: *The Bureau was supportive of this work being done. There is not yet consensus on the need for "metrics that matter" for UNFC so it is hoped that this guidance note will bring clarity.*
- Exploring resourcing options for accelerated implementation of the recommendations: *Whilst the Bureau and the secretariat appreciated the offer, they will continue to take responsibility for this but would welcome suggestions on any potential donors, funding sources etc.*

#### **Item 6. 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy**

38. The Sustainable Energy Week (16-20 September 2024) will focus on building resilient energy systems for a just energy transition in the UNECE region.

39. Key events during the Week include:

- 20th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems
- 11th sessions of the Groups of Experts on Renewable Energy and on Energy Efficiency, and
- 33rd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

40. The highlights of the 33rd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, which is the parent body of EGRM, include:

- Recommendations and strategies for resilient energy systems and a just transition. The document prepared by the Resource Management Young Management Group (RMYMG) and the SDGs Delivery Working Group, “Advancing Intergenerational Justice in Critical Raw Materials Management: Assessing the Potential of Demand-side Interventions” will be presented.
- Enhanced collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.
- Increased commitment to sustainable energy practices and policies.

41. The Chair of EGRM is scheduled to speak in two sessions “How the work of EGRM delivers on just transition” and “Accomplishment of EGRM since the last CSE meeting”.

42. The key EGRM documents/issues for discussion and proposed endorsement by the Committee were summarized:

- (i) Revised Mandate and Terms of Reference of EGRM: The revised mandate aims to align EGRM's scope with emerging priorities in sustainable resource management.
- (ii) Terms of Reference and Criteria for Recognition of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM): The document outlines the framework for establishing and recognizing ICE-SRMs as regional hubs for capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and promoting best practices in sustainable resource management. It defines the criteria for recognition, roles, and responsibilities of ICE-SRMs, fostering a global network of excellence.
- (iii) Directions regarding addressing the challenge of EGRM having a regional constituency but developing and disseminating UNFC and UNRMS which are recommended by ECOSOC for global application.

43. The Committee will be invited to discuss issue 42(iii) and give guidance on options for EGRM to consider.

44. The Secretariat extended an invitation to Bureau members to engage with their respective missions in Geneva. The purpose of this outreach is to garner support from UNECE member States, many of which are represented within the Bureau, for the revised mandate and the updated ToRs.

45. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of member States backing the ICE-SRM document. This support is crucial to addressing the challenge posed by having a regional constituency, while UNFC and UNRMS operate with a global mandate.

## **Item 7. EGRM-16**

### **(a) Theme**

46. A new format of meetings for the Sustainable energy subprogramme has been agreed upon starting in September 2024 to bring efficiencies and to call less on the network of experts to travel to Geneva for meetings. The intent is to organize two Sustainable Energy Weeks per year. These two Weeks will encompass the annual meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the six subsidiary bodies.

47. The proposal for the Sustainable Energy Week in March 2025 is to organize the meetings of EGRM and the Groups of Expert on Gas and on Coal Mine Methane (CMM) and Just Transition during the week of 24 March.

48. EGRM will meet 24-28 March 2025 and the Groups of Experts on Gas and on CMM and Just Transition Groups on 24-26 March. The Chair noted the need to consider options for a joint session with the 2 Groups, for example on just transition.

49. The theme of EGRM for the past few years has been “Assuring sustainability in resource management”. It was suggested to remove “Assuring” from the title of the theme i.e. “Sustainability in Resource Management” – the Bureau agreed on this revised wording. So the theme for EGRM-16 will be “**Sustainability in Resource Management**”.

**(b) Week Structure**

50. EGRM-16 will be held for 5 days, 24-28 March 2025.

51. The proposal is to divide the Week into 3 key areas:

- ICE-SRMs: Progress and developments of the ICE-SRMs.
- Usual UNFC and UNRMS Updates: Seminar, Workshop, Case Studies, EGRM WG Updates, etc.
- Foresight: Looking into the future of resource management, including topics on AI, Innovation, Youth, etc.

52. The Bureau agreed with the above structure. It was suggested to add within the area of Foresight, an item on the dilemma between the goals of the 2030 Agenda and how to balance them with the needs and priorities of resource management and EGRM's work. The Chair proposed having a Lunchtime Lecture on that topic and invited the Bureau members to recommend a potential speaker.

**(c) Potential Documents**

53. The aim for EGRM-16 is to submit around 6-8 parliamentary documents. Required and additional documents include:

- (i) Provisional Agenda
- (ii) EGRM-16 meeting report
- (iii) EGRM Work Plan for 2026-2027
- (iv) Governance including uniform naming of EGRM working groups and reporting structure
- (v) Updated Anthropogenic Resources Specifications
- (vi) Updated Wind Specifications
- (vii) Application of Groundwater Resources to UNFC Specifications
- (viii) SDGs Delivery WG Concept note on Natural Capital Management (English only)
- (ix) Case Study

54. Since EGRM-16 is scheduled a month earlier than usual, the deadline for documents submission is earlier than usual. Documents for translation should ideally be reviewed and finalized by 20 December 2024, and English-only documents by end-February 2025.

**Item 8. UNRMS Update**

55. The UNRMS Subgroup met on 29 May and agreed to progress on implementing EGRM-15 decisions. Key decisions from EGRM-15 highlighted the importance of integrating technologies like blockchain and AI to modernize resource management practices and the development of the Critical Minerals Markets Information System (CriMMIS) proposed by the UK. The Subgroup continues to focus on enhancing the sustainable management of critical raw materials (CRMs) and has received valuable feedback on the application of UNRMS in a range of case studies.

56. Activities include:

- Developing case studies that apply to all supply chains, with funding being sought.
- Based on case study feedback, developing a toolkit based on the UNRMS principles, ensuring a consistent approach in descriptions, and linking more explicitly with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The AI/Blockchain tool for critical raw materials, with collaborations underway to integrate these technologies with UNRMS principles.
- Liaison activities with ISO TC82 on mining/minerals are progressing well. The aim is to align UNRMS with ISO standards.
- The draft publication on applying UNRMS to servitization models is under review, and feedback is being incorporated for finalization.

57. The next steps include finalizing the toolkit elements, conducting new case studies, and preparing for the next short course at EGRM-16.



58. The Chair of the UNRMS Subgroup advised that she is seeking funding for the work on UNRMS. She also provided an overview of the UNRMS-focussed theses of 3 Masters students that she is overseeing.

## **Item 9. TAG Update**

Documentation: TAG Update

### **(a) SPE PRMS Update**

59. The SPE Oil and Gas Reserves Committee (OGRC) has started the process of updating the PRMS for implementation in 2028. For this purpose, OGRC issued a call for public comments on the existing 2018 PRMS, with a deadline for comments of 30 June 2024.

60. The Bureau discussed at length whether it should submit comments to encourage better alignment between PRMS and UNFC/UNRMS, and if so, determining who should be responsible for preparing and submitting these comments.

61. It was noted by a number of Bureau members that SPE had not formally approached EGRM or UNECE to provide comments. Although there is a representative from OGRC in the Petroleum Working Group (PWG), no official review or request has been received. Members questioned whether it was appropriate to provide spontaneous comments and, if a decision to comment was made, whether these comments would be accepted by OGRC given the lack of formal notification.

62. It was clarified that an email requesting public comments had been received by the Secretariat. Public comments are typically invited via mass mail and are open to anyone interested, rather than targeting specific groups. Not submitting comments would be a missed opportunity, since cooperation with SPE and OGRC brings added value for all. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of pursuing alignment regardless of reciprocation from OGRC. It was proposed that if PWG drafted comments, these could be submitted by the Bureau or by the EGRM Chair and the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division.

63. The Chair noted that a response could underline the benefits and added value of cooperation between SPE and OGRC and UNECE/EGRM and of ensuring that UNFC and UNRMS perspectives are considered in the PRMS update, without providing specific technical comments on SPE's work.

64. The Chair proposed that specific comments could be developed and discussed at the next PWG meeting to ensure alignment and convergence of efforts. Furthermore, the Chair recommended coordinating with the Secretariat and PWG to determine the best way forward. The Bureau agreed with this approach. A call would be organized between the Chair, the PWG Chair and the Secretariat to discuss the potential response.

### **(b) Feedback from SPE re proposal for financial reporting document with UNFC**

65. Victor Babashev, Chair, PWG, provided an update on the feedback from SPE re the proposal to develop a financial reporting document with UNFC.

66. SPE conveyed that SPE is unable to proceed with the current proposal concerning the financial reporting document with UNFC. The reason cited was a misalignment between the proposal and SPE's plans.

67. Additionally, SPE raised the issue of a lack of a formal agreement between SPE and UNECE since there is no longer an MoU between the two entities. For SPE, this absence of a formalized agreement raises questions about the legitimacy and framework of any potential interactions or collaboration between SPE and UNECE.

68. The Bureau acknowledged the concerns raised by SPE and discussed the implications of proceeding without an MoU. It was noted by the Secretariat that UNECE does not require an MoU to collaborate with another organization.

69. The Chair suggested that further deliberations are required to address the matter.

## **TAG Update**

70. The TAG Co-Chair provided an update.

71. The EGRM Working Groups are continuing to make progress on their work. A summary of the current focus of each Working Group was provided:

- **Minerals Working Group:** Develop guidance on probabilistic assessment of mineral resources.
- **Petroleum Working Group:** Create a financial reporting template for UNFC and develop new case studies.
- **Anthropogenic Resources Working Group:** Update UNFC Anthropogenic resource specifications and develop case studies.
- **Renewable Energy Working Group:** Update solar, wind, and bioenergy specifications and develop hydro specifications and case studies.
- **Groundwater Resources Working Group:** Meeting with UNECE Water Convention and UNESCO IHP representatives and a regular GRWG meeting to prepare a 2024 work plan.
- **Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group:** Develop case studies and guidance for advanced nuclear fuel requirements for small and medium reactors.
- **Women in Resource Management Working Group:** Develop a gender guideline document for UNFC and UNRMS, enhance collaboration with UN Women, and seek partnerships with other organizations.
- **SDGs Delivery Working Group:** Active work on two concept papers on Intergenerational Justice and Natural Capital for the upcoming Committee on Sustainable Energy and EGRM sessions.
- **Competency Working Group:** Discuss competency requirements with the Minerals and Geothermal Working Groups, hold a workshop on responsible sourcing of critical raw materials, and implement the EGRM-15 recommendations.
- **Commercial Applications Working Group:** Awaiting the Bureau's decision on the UNFC Adoption Group report, following ISSB activities, planning to ensure coherent UNFC specifications and guidelines.
- **Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group:** Ensure social and environmental considerations are included in all UNFC documents.
- **Injection Projects Working Group:** Contribute to Hydrogen Task Force activities and develop case studies.
- **Resource Management Young Member Group:** Publish white paper on intergenerational justice and advocacy at COP29, update guidebook, and keynote at GeoSaxonia 2024.
- **Communications Working Group:** Organize surveys, create videos with TAG/WG chairs, and develop a conference communications plan.

72. The Chair closed this item by thanking the TAG Co-Chair and other members of TAG for their hard work.

## **Item 10. ICE-SRMs**

### **(a) Templates for Work Plans and Annual Reports**

73. The Bureau has been tasked with developing templates for the ICE-SRM work plans and annual reports. ICE-SRMs recognized by EGRM and UNECE need to submit an annual report and forward work plan to EGRM annually.

74. The Bureau agreed to establish a small ad hoc Task Force to develop the templates. Bureau members who are not part of/supporting an ICE-SRM were encouraged to volunteer. The deadline to email the Secretariat to volunteer for this ad hoc Task Force is cob 26 June. Ulises Neri kindly offered to join the Task Force.

### **(b) Update on establishment of network of ICE-SRMs**

75. An update on progress to establish a global network of ICE-SRMs for collaboration and sharing of experiences was shared. The network aims to ensure application consistency, foster innovation, and

maintain transparency. Any ICE-SRM wanting to join the network would need to undergo due diligence by UNECE. The due diligence process will start soon.

76. The Chair highlighted that extrabudgetary resources will be required to support the global network.

### (c) ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document

#### Documentation:

- ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document between Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Reserves, Resources, and Development of Mineral Resources and to Competent Persons
- EGRM Competency Working Group Feedback on ICE-SRM Russia Bridging Document

77. ICE-SRM Russia has developed a Bridging Document between the Model Requirements for Experts in Estimation of Mineral Reserves, Resources and Mineral Development and Competent Persons of the CIS countries (Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan) and the UNECE Guidance Note on Competency Requirements for the Estimation, Classification and Management of Resources.

78. The EGRM Competency Working Group reviewed the document and provided comments.

79. The key recommendations were:

- (i) Disclosure Form: The most crucial aspect of the Guidance Note is completely absent from the Model Requirements and from this document. The Statement of a Qualified Expert form is foundational to the UNECE Competency Guidance, and it is not considered by the ICE-Russia's Model Requirements.
- (ii) Document Title: This document should not be considered a bridging document, as this implies it links two equal-level documents that need bridging each to the other. The UNECE Competency Guidance Note is the broader-reaching, higher-level global document, while the Model Requirements are regional in scope. The document with clarifications on definitions used in the Model Requirements should be considered an annex to the Model Requirements. Hence, we suggest renaming the so-called "Bridging Document..." as "Explanatory Note on the application of the Model Requirements...", to be published as an annex of the Model Requirements.
- (iii) Terminology: The Model Requirements use the term "Competent Person" (as in CRIRSCO) instead of "Qualified Expert". The Working Group unanimously agrees that the use of the same term for a different purpose in a different standard will create confusion and should be avoided.

80. A call was held with ICE-SRM Russia on 7 June to discuss the feedback further. During this meeting, all three recommendations were thoroughly addressed, leading to an agreement and a defined way forward for the document in question. ICE-SRM Russia acknowledged the feedback provided and committed to revising the Document accordingly.

81. Additionally, ICE-SRM Russia offered clarifications on why certain requirements are more stringent compared to those outlined in the UNECE Guidance Note. Both parties were satisfied with the discussion and the outcomes. ICE-SRM Russia will submit a revised document within the next few weeks, which will be reviewed by the Competency Working Group for further comments.

### (d) Updates from ICE-SRMs

82. An MoU has been signed between ICE-SRM Russia and ICE-SRM Central Asia. Joint areas of cooperation on sustainable resource management, UNFC and UNRMS have been identified.

83. ICE-SRM Russia wants to also reach out to other ICE-SRMs to seek similar possibilities to cooperate.

84. Updates from the ICE-SRMs that have been established or are being established were provided:

#### • ICE-SRM Mexico and Latin America:

The new Government in Mexico looks to be proactive in the field of sustainability and the 2030 Agenda. This is an opportunity for the ICE-SRM to reinforce its activities with the Government, especially with the Parliament, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Finance. The secretariat of the ICE-SRM has also changed and Ulises Neri is no longer the Executive Director, he has been replaced by Nestor Flores.

#### • ICE-SRM UK:

The ICE-SRM UK has been launched but is still in its early stages.

#### **Item 11. Update on XB and UNDA Projects**

The Chair provided updates on the extrabudgetary and UN Development Account (UNDA) Projects:

##### **XB Projects:**

- **EC UNFC and UNRMS Phase I:** Work is underway to close the project and spend any remaining funds by 15 July 2024.
- **EC UNFC and UNRMS Phase II:** Implementation of the project is starting. Slavko Solar's contract has been extended to 15 November 2024. Recruitment of his successor is progressing. Hari Tulsidas' contract will be extended beyond 15 July.
- **UK Implementing the United Nations Resource Management System for Circular Materials and Sustainable Resource Management in the UNECE Region:** Recruitment of the P3 post is now completed. The new incumbent will hopefully start in mid-August.

##### **UNDA Projects:**

- **Enhancing Capacities in the Sustainable Production of Critical Raw Materials for Low-Carbon Transitions:** The project aims to address the growing global demand for critical raw materials for low-carbon economies. The project supports Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea. The project addresses the challenges in producing raw materials necessary for low-carbon energy, mobility, and digital transitions and their associated economic, social, environmental and governance impacts. Specifically, it centers on lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements. The objective is to assist Member States in implementing international best practices that align with the principles and requirements of UNRMS. The project is led by UNECE and ESCAP and supported by ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA. The project supported the ASEAN Mining Vision Workshop (20-22 May 2024), Kuala Lumpur and the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue session on "Secure and Affordable Energy Transition in Northeast Asia & Developing Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains for Critical Energy Transition Minerals". A workshop will be held during the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 2-4 December 2024, Bangkok. All participating countries and RECs are expected to develop UNRMS case studies under the project.
- **Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa:** The natural resource nexus refers to the interconnectedness and interdependence of food, water and energy. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for sustainable management of these resources. The three pillars of the project are (i) Food security and sustainable production and consumption patterns; (ii) Water, sanitation and hygiene; and (iii) Energy and raw materials supply. The project is developing an integrated approach to managing the food-water-energy nexus to assist Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Iraq, Namibia and Uganda. Additionally, Georgia was also supported by the project. The workshop on "Unlocking Central Asia's Critical Raw Materials Potential: Challenges and Opportunities" was convened in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2023. It brought together stakeholders to discuss CRMs' significance for low-carbon energy transition and sustainable development. The CETM Sustainability Assessment Tool was introduced for comprehensive sustainability assessment, emphasizing UN frameworks. The project facilitated the implementation of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 5/12, producing a report on tailings management's environmental aspects in collaboration with GTK (Geological Survey of Finland). Expert roundtables identified best practices and knowledge gaps, leading to a finalized report shared with government focal points and stakeholders, informing the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly session. Further, workshops and guidelines will be developed under the project

#### **Item 12. Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals**

85. The UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals is now established and held its first meeting on 22 May. Subsequent meetings will be held in July and August. The Panel needs

to deliver the set of global and common voluntary principles outlined under Item 4 to the Secretary-General by the first week of September.

86. The Panel is Co-Chaired by Ms. Ditte Juul Jørgensen, Director General, DG Energy, European Commission and Ms. Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko, South Africa (Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Former G77 Chair).

87. There are 4 work streams (WS) with Co-facilitators:

- WS1: Benefit sharing, local value addition and economic diversification (Co-facilitators: Colombia and Zambia)
- WS2: Transparent and fair trade and investments (Co-facilitators: Indonesia and UK)
- WS3: Sustainable, responsible and just value chains (Co-facilitators: DRC and Chile)
- WS4: Mineral value chain stability and resilience (Co-facilitators: Japan and Brazil)

88. The Work Streams are all developing issue papers and organizing meetings to assist the Panel members with their work. UNECE is a member of the Technical Advisory Group supporting the Panel.

### **Item 13. Education, outreach, and communications**

Documentation: List of events 2024 and 2025

89. A list of events at which UNFC and/or UNRMS were presented or promoted or will be presented at upcoming events in 2024-2025 was included as part of the documentation for the call.

#### **(a) Update on UNFC Trainings**

90. The Chair provided an update on the ongoing UNFC trainings as follows:

##### **UNFC Strategic Projects Trainings:**

The European Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) officially came into effect on 23 May 2024, opening the first call for applications on Strategic Projects. Within the application process, UNFC classification is mandatory, requiring projects to be classified according to UNFC. To facilitate this requirement, the EGRM Secretariat and the Minerals and Anthropogenic Working Groups and DG GROW, have organized two training sessions on 6 June and one scheduled for 2 July. They are aimed at supporting the application of UNFC to Strategic Projects by Project Promoters in alignment with the CRMA. The training sessions are designed to give project promoters the necessary knowledge and skills to apply UNFC in accordance with the Strategic Projects Application Form. They cover UNFC application across various projects, including extraction, processing, recycling, and substitution. The trainings are structured over 2.5 hours, with interactive sessions. The first part looks into UNFC fundamentals, including principles, definitions, guidance, and mineral and anthropogenic resources specifications. Practical use cases are also presented to illustrate the application of UNFC. The second session focuses on the integration of UNFC within the Strategic Project Form, followed by classroom exercises on UNFC application to Strategic Projects. The 6 June training session had 56 participants from 37 companies.

##### **GSEU UNFC Trainings:**

As part of their capacity-building programme, GSEU and the EU ICE-SRM are holding a series of UNFC “Train the Trainers” trainings. The trainings focus on national exploration programmes and monitoring for the classification of projects using UNFC and establishment of national project inventories. The targeted trainees are from Geological Survey Organizations, that are GSEU Project Partners, covering about 20 EU Member States. The Albania Geological Survey was invited as well, with support from UNECE. The objective is to train experts from Geological Surveys to be able to train on UNFC at national levels. The trainings were divided into three levels:

- Level 1: General UNFC Principles, held online over two days (15-16 April), targeting everyone.
- Level 2: Focusing on User needs Specifics, for UNFC users. Held in-person only in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 14-15 May.

- Level 3: Going into case studies, for trainers only. Held in-person only in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 18-19 June.

The EGRM Secretariat was invited to all three level trainings as observers.

It was noted that national workshops on UNFC have also been organized by France, Germany and Italy in the context of the CRMA.

**(b) UNFC Workshop for Southeast Europe**

91. The EGRM Secretariat is jointly organizing with the Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia, the Geological Survey of Serbia, DG GROW, and GSEU a workshop on "Implementing the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) in Southeast Europe". The workshop will take place at the Geological Survey of Serbia in Belgrade, 4-5 July. It aims to support the implementation of UNFC in Southeast Europe with respect to the European Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), with a focus on UNFC National Minerals Inventories.

92. The expected participants are from Southeast Europe and neighboring countries, targeting governmental representatives and national administrations officials. Some 50 participants are anticipated, a number of whom will be funded by UNECE (one from a national administration per country).

93. Preparations are ongoing.

**(c) ASEAN Mining Vision Workshop, 20-22 May, Kuala Lumpur**

94. During the workshop, the Secretariat contributed to formulating a comprehensive ASEAN Mining Vision aligned with the SDGs by sharing insights from the African Mining Vision (AMV) and UNECE's support since 2009. Highlighted the successful AMREC-PARC frameworks based on UNFC and UNRMS, promoting sustainable mining development and discussing the merits of a UNFC and UNRMS-based ASEAN classification and management system. Emphasized the need transparent resource development, effective governance, and collaborative stakeholder engagement.

**(d) Ulaanbaatar Dialogue, 6-7 June 2024**

95. UNECE supported a session on "Secure and Affordable Energy Transition in Northeast Asia & Developing Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains for Critical Energy Transition Minerals".

96. Government representatives, regional experts, academics, and other relevant stakeholders shared views on developing sustainable and resilient value chains for minerals and materials critical for the energy transition. Participants discussed how Northeast Asian countries can collaborate to meet the increasing demand for critical raw materials and identify opportunities to move up the value chain for energy transition technologies.

**(e) Survey for EGRM**

97. A survey is being planned by the Communications Working Group to seek feedback on EGRM-15 and the activities (current and future) of the EGRM Working Groups.

**Item 14. Date of next Call**

98. The Chair proposed to hold the next Bureau call at the end of July/early August, followed by another call in the second half of September/early October.

99. The regular doodle poll will be issued.

100. The Chair asked for feedback if going forwards Bureau calls should be held over 3 hours with a short break in the middle or if calls should be shorter – eg 60-90 minutes max – but organized more frequently.

**Item 15. Any other Business**

**(i) UNFC case studies on Australian CRMs**

101. Geoscience Australia (GA) has given approval for Andrew Cross to undertake UNFC classifications on a number of Australian critical minerals deposits. These case studies will be used to road test UNFC and the updated UNFC and CRIRSCO Template Bridging Document with the aim to build a better understanding of UNFC in the Australian context and to assess its applicability as a tool for government policy. Andrew will be seeking guidance from UNFC users.

102. These case studies are timely, given the signing of the MoU on 28 May 2024 between the European Union and Australia on a strategic partnership on sustainable critical and strategic minerals.

103. No other business was discussed.

104. The members of the Bureau were thanked for their continued hard work and support.

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