



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
14 March 2024

Original: English

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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Sustainable Energy

**Expert Group on Resource Management****Fifteenth session**

Geneva, 22-26 April 2024

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Building capacity: International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management**

## **International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management - Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference\***

**Prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management in collaboration with the Secretariat**

### *Summary*

This document provides the proposed revised text of the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) Criteria for Recognition and Terms of Reference as approved by the Expert Group on Resource Management at its Eleventh Session (Geneva, 22-25 September 2020). The Committee on Sustainable Energy also took note of that document at its twenty-ninth session (Geneva, 25-27 November 2020) (ECE/ENERGY/133, para 19(i)).

The text has been revised to better reflect the needs of the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management; to reflect the most recent work of the Expert Group; to ensure the required level of governance and oversight; and, to avoid potential conflicts of interest. The criteria for recognition as an International Centre of Excellence are included in Section I and the Terms of Reference in Section II. This revised text was prepared by the Bureau of the Expert Group in collaboration with the Secretariat. It is submitted to the Expert Group at its fifteenth session for review and approval.

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



## I. Criteria for ICE-SRM Recognition

1. The International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRM) are focused on supporting sustainable management of the resources needed for development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Centres are linked in a Network and conceived to provide – in full compliance with the adopted United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) standards and guidelines – policy support, technical advice and consultation, education, training, dissemination, and other critical activities for stakeholders involved in sustainable development of national resource endowments.

### A. Mission

2. Each Centre will promote the global deployment of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), in line with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 2021/250<sup>1</sup> and ECOSOC Resolution 2023/19<sup>2</sup> respectively, within its geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint.

## B. Criteria for ICE-SRM Recognition

(a) Committed to the objectives of UNFC and UNRMS, as well as to the overall objectives of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the deployment of UNFC and UNRMS, including research, technical advice, consultation and training thereon, education, advocacy, testing, dissemination, and contributing to the definition of competence. In this respect, committed to an agenda relevant to regional, national and local needs based on an agreed menu of activities and projects decided by ECE;

(b) Committed to active engagement across the Network of International Centres of Excellence, ensuring consistency in application, by sharing of experiences, and reporting on progress made;

(c) Established as a not-for-profit going concern and legal entity or as an association with not-for-profit objectives such as international, national and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, with strong relationships in the regional, national and local resource development community;

(d) Must have national, regional, and/or local government support and visibility demonstrated via a letter of support or similar;

(e) Committed to innovation, continuous development and excellence in all areas of resource management, including social, environmental, economic, financial, technological and digitalization aspects, fully in line with UNFC and UNRMS policies and objectives;

(f) Fully transparent and fully compliant with UN and relevant national norms and requirements regarding potential conflicts of interest;

(g) Demonstrated competence and capacity in the area of sustainable resource management in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This will be assessed by the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management;

(h) Responsible for own resourcing (financial, human, and physical);

(i) Must be able to deliver successfully on its commitment from an organizational and operational perspective. This will be assessed by the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023/decision-2021250.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unece.org/sed/documents/2023/08/reports/ecosoc-resolution-eres202319-unrms>

## II. Terms of Reference for an ICE-SRM

3. The mission of an ICE-SRM recognized by ECE is to support global dissemination of UNFC and UNRMS (and their locally adapted applications) through research, testing, consultation, education, and advocacy. The ICE-SRM (within its geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint) identifies opportunities, navigates barriers to adoption of UNFC and UNRMS and efficient resource management, brokers relationships, and showcases best practices and shares results with the ICE-SRM Network. The ICE-SRMs directly support stakeholders within their geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The activities and projects of an ICE-SRM will include:

### A. Capacity-building

4. In full compliance with the adopted ECE standards and guidelines and within its geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint:

- (a) Conduct training on a non-commercial basis, including where appropriate procedures for the recognition of qualified experts and competent persons;
- (b) Conduct research on efficient, integrated and sustainable resource management;
- (c) Conduct testing, case studies, and demonstrations of UNFC and UNRMS;
- (d) Conduct consultations on the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in specific areas of application;
- (e) Develop training curricula and standardised materials and conduct educational courses, workshops and conferences on UNFC and UNRMS on a non-commercial basis.

### B. Contribution to further development and maintenance of UNFC and UNRMS

5. In full compliance with the adopted ECE standards and guidelines and within its respective geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint and as appropriate:

- (a) Engage in regular interactions with the Network of ICE-SRMs and the Expert Group on Resource Management (and its Bureau) to ensure consistent development and application of UNFC and UNRMS, and the proper conduct of its activities in line with the principles of these TORs, including at least annual reporting to the Expert Group of activities conducted in the previous period and plans for the coming 12-month period;
- (b) Develop application of UNFC and UNRMS in line with the three axes of (i) environmental-socio-economic viability, (ii) technical feasibility and (iii) degree of confidence;
- (c) Where appropriate, develop principles for public private partnerships, in cooperation with other ECE activities in this area, emphasizing the importance of government-set framework conditions, industry adaption of capabilities and the capital market's ability to finance valid business models that the two generate;<sup>3</sup>
- (d) Develop and promote quality assurance procedures including, as appropriate, a "qualified expert and competent person" mechanism, qualification guidelines and procedures.

<sup>3</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/ECTD-Booklet\\_Final.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/ECTD-Booklet_Final.pdf)

### **C. Advocacy**

- (a) Gather and disseminate knowledge directly and through partner organizations, including education and training, exhibits, case studies, research, demonstrations, and the production of industry focused print and on-line resources, including in languages other than English;
- (b) Catalyze industry tools and training development;
- (c) Identify and develop potential solutions for potential barriers, in particular region- and nation-specific, to adoption and implementation;
- (d) Foster public demand and support for best practices through recognition and awards, public events, and demonstrations;
- (e) Support resource management improvements, including through uptake in the use and/or legislation of UNFC and UNRMS by countries, companies, regulators, and other organizations.

### **D. Outreach**

6. In full compliance with the adopted ECE standards and guidelines and within its respective geographical reference area and activity (sectoral) footprint:
- (a) Conduct outreach workshops;
  - (b) Institute a dedicated website that provides a link to the ECE website;
  - (c) Prepare and disseminate publications and documentation;
  - (d) Create online resources and tools to disseminate, free of charge, information on UNFC and UNRMS;
  - (e) Present at key venues;
  - (f) Support dialogue among international practitioners to identify challenges, share best practices and build a growing and diverse community of practice;
  - (g) Promote global recognition of UNFC and UNRMS as methodologies in resource classification and management. Work with countries, companies, and other organisations to advocate their uptake;
  - (h) Develop partnerships with other ICE-SRMs and organizations, such as NGOs, government agencies, and businesses;

### **E. Reporting**

- (a) An ICE-SRM reports to the Expert Group Resource Management;
  - (b) An annual report on activities and achievements conducted in the previous period is to be submitted by the ICE-SRM to the Expert Group ahead of the annual meeting of the Expert Group;
  - (c) An annual work plan for the coming period is to be submitted by the ICE-SRM to the Expert Group ahead of the annual meeting of the Expert Group;
  - (d) A report on the activities of the ICE-SRM Network is to be submitted by the Bureau of the Expert Group to the Committee on Sustainable Energy annually.
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