

**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, 29 July 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Milan Grohol, EC DG GROW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
Dario Liguti, UNECE	<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 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"/>

## **Draft Agenda**

1. Approval of Draft Agenda
2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 10 June 2024
3. Functioning of Bureau
4. EGRM-16
  - (a) Parliamentary documents update
5. UNRMS Update
6. TAG Update
  - (a) UNECE response to PRMS Revision Consultation
7. Update re UNFC Adoption Group Recommendations
8. ICE-SRMs
  - (a) Task Force to prepare templates for Work Plans and Annual Reports
  - (b) Update on procedure for recognition of ICE-SRMs
9. Update on UNDA Projects
10. Update on Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals
11. Education, outreach, and communications
  - (a) 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
  - (b) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
  - (c) Update on UNFC Trainings
  - (d) UNFC Workshop for Southeast Europe
12. Date of next call
13. Any other business

## **Documentation:**

1. Draft agenda for Bureau Call on 29 July 2024
2. Minutes of Bureau Call of 10 June 2024
3. TAG Update
4. UNECE response to PRMS Revision Public Consultation
5. List of events in 2024 and 2025

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

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 29 July 2024

1. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Bureau members.
2. The draft agenda was approved without change.

### **Item 2. Minutes of Bureau Meeting of 10 June 2024**

3. The draft minutes of the Bureau meeting of 10 June 2024 were circulated on 17 July for review and/or approval during the call or in writing by close of business on 6 August 2024. Comments are to be sent to the Secretariat.
4. No requests for modifications were received during the call.
5. The minutes will be posted to the UNECE website after 6 August 2024.

### **Item 3. Functioning of Bureau**

6. The Chair noted that this item is an open question for the Bureau. A discussion was initiated on proposals to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Bureau, including the organisation of the Technical Advisory Group.
7. Victor Babashev previously proposed assigning specific roles to each Bureau member, advocating for active participation, commitment, and accountability. For example, members could champion specific Working Groups (WGs) or Task Forces, providing regular updates on progress and challenges. The Chair noted that this practice is already in place, citing the UNRMS WG, which Teresa Ponce de Leão is Chair of.
8. Considering this, the proposed roles offer a slightly different approach for engaging with the WGs, particularly those under TAG, focusing on specific resources. With the increase in Task Forces

and cross-cutting issues, there is a growing need for Bureau members to engage more actively and provide Bureau oversight.

9. The Chair invited thoughts and suggestions on the matter, emphasizing that a decision was not to be taken during this call.

10. Bureau members suggested enhancing member engagement by assigning responsibilities for specific tasks and topics while avoiding overlaps with TAG's role. They highlighted the risk of duplication if Bureau members report on WG activities to both the Bureau and TAG. The Chair recalled the agreement to avoid Bureau members chairing WGs where possible to avoid double reporting. It was also added that Bureau members should act as ambassadors of certain WGs or resources, promoting these topics to high-level stakeholders and the broader public.

11. The Chair sought TAG's perspective on Bureau members taking ambassador or championing roles for WGs and other related activities, mentioning that any change to the structure of the Bureau and TAG and their responsibilities has to be fully functional.

12. The TAG Co-Chair supported the idea, noting that having a Bureau member as an ambassador for each WG would facilitate interconnected discussions between different groups. The G axis Task Force was cited as an example of a situation in which experts from various resources collaborated on related issues. However, any decision on Bureau members championing specific resources or WGs should be collectively agreed upon.

13. The Chair concluded the discussion, inviting members to email suggestions for new working methods to the Chair and the Secretariat. Emphasizing the importance of technical WGs feeding into TAG, the Chair suggested exploring greater coordination mechanisms.

14. Members were encouraged to propose ways to improve Bureau calls to make them more efficient and engaging, to streamline discussions and to encourage active participation by all members.

15. The Chair announced that Bureau elections would be held at EGRM-16, and all members need to stand for re-election or step down, with the exception of Branka Knežević and Victor Babashev.

#### **Item 4. EGRM-16**

##### **(a) Parliamentary documents update**

16. The aim for EGRM-16 is to submit a maximum of 6 parliamentary documents if at all possible since the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division has a reduced document allocation.

17. The Chair shared the tentative list of required and additional documents, which include:

- (i) Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth session
- (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 – **tbc**
- (vi) Updated Wind Specifications
- (vii) Application of Groundwater Resources to UNFC Specifications – **tbc**
- (viii) SDGs Delivery WG Concept note on Natural Capital Management (English only) – **tbc**
- (ix) Case Study – **tbc**.

18. At its meeting on 17 July, TAG requested all WG Chairs to specify the documents their respective WGs require for EGRM-16.

19. It was noted that documents needing translation must be reviewed and finalised by 20 December 2024. English-only documents must be reviewed and finalised by the end of February 2025.

20. A "Save the Date" message was sent to the EGRM mailing list on 25 July.

#### **Item 5. UNRMS Update**

21. The UNRMS Subgroup continues to focus on enhancing the sustainable management of Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) and AI/Blockchain tools for CRMs.

22. Updates include:

- Collaborate with UN/CEFACT on the UN Transparency Protocol (UNTP) and develop AI/Blockchain tools for critical raw materials.
- Liaison application submitted ISO TC 348 on sustainable raw materials. This was approved on 29 July.

- The draft publication on applying UNRMS to servitisation models is being finalised.
  - A case study in Zambia under progress
  - ICE-SRM UK activities
    - Application of UNRMS in the circularity of timber construction materials by University College London
    - Application of UNRMS in the circular economy data observatory, Exeter University
    - UNRMS tool kit development – Exeter University.
23. The challenge remains to finance the activities related to the development of the aforementioned tool to automate the evaluation process to the greatest possible extent in order to control all notes and results across the value chains for decision-makers.
24. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the liaison application submitted with ISO TC 348 on sustainable raw materials has been approved. This offers a great opportunity to promote and raise the visibility of UNFC and UNRMS within the work of this Technical Committee and the standard that emerges.
25. Victor Babashev shared with the EGRM Chair and the Secretariat a proposal on behalf of ICE-SRM Central Asia regarding a digital platform for decarbonization, “Global Climate-Neutral Resource Management Platform”, which will be presented during COP29 by Kazakhstan. The proposal requests collaboration with EGRM on the development of this system since it will use UNRMS. The Secretariat underscored that the request from ICE-SRM Central Asia does not require agreement from the Bureau since it’s an activity of ICE-SRM Central Asia. The proposal will be shared with the Bureau members for questions and/or comments by the close of business on 13 August.
26. Planned activities include:
- Capacity-building workshop during the Mongolia Mining Week, 7-11 October
  - Workshop on CRMs during the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, 2-4 December, Bangkok.
27. It was also noted that Teresa Ponce de Leão will participate and present a paper on the importance of raw materials for the energy transition at the International Geological Congress in Busan, Republic of Korea, 25-31 August.

## **Item 6. TAG Update**

Documentation: TAG Update

### **(a) UNECE response to PRMS Revision Consultation**

Documentation: UNECE response to PRMS Revision Public Consultation

28. The SPE Oil and Gas Reserves Committee (OGRC) is updating the PRMS for 2028. SPE opened a public comment period on the 2018 PRMS, with a deadline of 30 June 2024.
29. During the previous Bureau call, it was proposed that the Petroleum Working Group, together with the EGRM Chair and the Secretariat, draft a set of comments for submission, which was done. The response was circulated as part of the documents for the call. It includes suggestions for aligning PRMS with UNFC for enhanced resource classification and management. UNFC was recommended as a project classification, adding environmental, social, and economic metrics to benefit PRMS. UNFC’s unified approach for a range of resources to aid integrated partnerships and comparisons was highlighted. The response also emphasised aligning UNFC with national and professional standards to support SDGs 7 and 13, calling for more joint UNFC-PRMS case studies.
30. During the Women in Resource Management Working Group call, it was flagged that SPE had drafted a Groundwater Resource Management System based on PRMS. Most of the text from PRMS has been retained in the water management system. The draft has not been made available to EGRM.
31. The Bureau had previously discussed SPE's intentions to apply PRMS to geothermal resources, critical raw materials, and renewables such as wind and solar energy.
32. It was highlighted that the National Hydrocarbons Commission in Mexico is interested to incorporate UNFC in the updated regulations as part of the official reserves report. However, it is essential for the regulators to have UNFC included in the PRMS guidelines. In this regard, and in addition to the letter already sent to the PRMS Committee, members of the National Hydrocarbons

Commission in Mexico are planning to send a response to the PRMS Revision Consultation. This response will emphasize the importance of considering UNFC in the updated version of PRMS.

33. Bureau members noted a parallel issue with the SPE's Storage Resources Management System (SRMS) for Geologic Storage and the EGRM efforts on geologic sequestration, stating that commenting now is deemed essential. It was mentioned that SPE is advocating from the USA perspective, driven by the market and financial interests in the USA. Consequently, it was suggested that EGRM prepare case studies or recommendations from EGRM members and users in the USA, particularly those using and developing UNFC and UNRMS. The goal is to emphasize, through press releases or disclaimers, that UNFC and UNRMS are directly relevant to the USA market, not only in the oil and gas sector but also in geothermal.

34. The Chair supported this idea and suggested that it might be an activity for the UNFC Adoption Group to undertake.

### **TAG Update**

35. The TAG Co-Chair provided an update.

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

- **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:** Discussions with UNECE Water Convention and UNESCO IHP representatives to progress with the UNFC specifications.
- **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 UN/CEFAT UNTP standards. Developing two concept papers on Intergenerational Justice and Natural Capital.
- **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:** Met on 1 July with the UNFC Adoption Group to discuss the Bureau's feedback on the 8 recommendations included in the UNFC Adoption Group report submitted to EGRM-15, 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 Working Group:** Publish a 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.

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

#### **Item 7. Update re UNFC Adoption Group Recommendations**

38. Several discussion points emerged during the Bureau Call on 10 June regarding the UNFC Adoption Group recommendations, namely, how to proceed with the recommendations and the Group itself.

39. The Chair summarized the feedback from the Bureau regarding the specific future work proposals from the UNFC Adoption Group as follows:

- The Bureau requested further clarification on “Supporting the development of use cases for decision support” before proceeding.
- Whilst the Bureau was supportive of work “on metrics that matter” being done, it noted that there is not yet consensus on the need for “metrics that matter” to be included in UNFC. The Bureau requested that the Commercial Applications WG and the UNFC Adoption Group draft a communication guidance note on decision support and metrics. It is hoped that this guidance note will bring clarity.
- On 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.
- It was agreed that the Bureau and Working Groups should take ownership of the eight recommendations, integrate them into their respective work plans, and leverage the expertise and resources within EGRM. It was also determined that existing structures of the Bureau, Working Groups, TAG, Secretariat, and ICE-SRMs are sufficient to handle the recommendations without creating new groups.
- Consensus was reached that the UNFC Adoption Group should continue in a limited capacity under the Commercial Applications Working Group, focusing on tasks like developing a guidance note on decision support and metrics.

40. The Commercial Applications Working Group and the UNFC Adoption Group met on 1 July to discuss the Bureau’s feedback. Over the coming weeks, they intend to provide a 2–5-page communication note on decision support, with clarity on the metrics.

41. The Bureau had also asked TAG to look into the 8 recommendations and provide detailed feedback.

42. TAG met on 17 July and discussed the recommendations; the conclusions are summarized as follows:

- TAG members support recommendations 3-8 but do not unanimously support Recommendations 1 and 2, though some fully endorse them, including adding metrics to UNFC.
  - **Recommendation 1:** Some TAG members object to viewing UNFC as a project assessment rather than a resource classification.
  - **Recommendation 2:** Suggestions include only metrics determining a project’s E and F axes positions should be added, with detailed consideration and justification for each metric.

43. The Chair provided an update on the call of the Digital Enablement Task Force of the UNFC Adoption Group held on 23 July to discuss the proposal received for a 3D visualisation tool for UNFC. Under several Horizon Europe projects, the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) had previously explored using open-source tools and frameworks to enable 3D visualisation of the UNFC classification. This innovative visualisation can track how resources progress over time from one class to another, providing invaluable insights for decision-makers. Visualizing a group of projects and determining their position within the UNFC cube could significantly enhance strategic decision-making. Earlier exercises have laid a solid foundation, and completing this initiative would require minimal time and cost, given the reliance on open-source technologies. With a dedicated team focusing on this, the project could quickly reach fruition and offer substantial benefits for resource management. Mark Simoni led the discussions from NGU.

44. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

45. It was noted that over 10 years ago, efforts were carried out to develop a code to plot the EFG cube. The code may still be available and is relatively easy to implement. GIZ also undertook some work to digitalise UNFC for application to geothermal in Central America. However, the question remains on whether insisting on the cube format is the best approach, given that many end users are uncomfortable mixing the E and F axes with the G axis, which has a distinct role compared to E and F. While a digital, user-friendly tool to enhance accessibility is beneficial, the Bureau needs to consider if this is where they should focus their efforts now.

46. Other Bureau members added that while a 3D visual tool is appealing, it focuses on details and may detract from the overarching goal of adopting UNFC for future progress. The Bureau, together with the WGs, needs to discuss this further and decide on the way forward. As an example, to accelerate the adoption of UNFC, both in Norway and the UK, regulators working on carbon storage are debating whether to use UNFC and UNRMS or SPE to classify reservoirs and systems. An elevator pitch explaining why UNFC should be adopted for such systems would be useful.

47. The meeting held on 21 July was in response to a specific request and not because the digital enablement of UNFC is a top priority. The Secretariat reached out to the UNFC Adoption Group to connect it directly with Mark Simoni to initiate discussions amongst the different groups working on digital enablement.

48. In this context, Victor Babashev also reached out to the Bureau for a proposal on creating an internal logic of EcoSystem that involves a lot of technical questions in different domains like ecological, technological and finance. For the environmental aspect, Victor needs EGRM expertise and has requested approval to create a Task Force under ICE-SRM Central Asia. That dedicated Task Force will then contact relevant Working Groups for technical experts. The request from ICE-SRM Central Asia does not require agreement from the Bureau since it is an activity of ICE-SRM Central Asia. However, the request will be shared with the Bureau for members to consider supporting it.

## **Item 8. ICE-SRMs**

### **(a) Task Force to prepare templates for Work Plans and Annual Reports**

49. The Bureau has been tasked with developing templates for the ICE-SRM Work Plans and Annual Reports. The Bureau decided to establish a small ad hoc Task Force to develop the templates, which will be used by the ICE-SRMs recognized by UNECE and EGRM for annual reporting to EGRM.

50. Bureau members were invited to volunteer for this ad hoc Task Force.

51. Sarah Forbes, Julie Hollis and Ulises Neri have kindly volunteered. A response from Andrew Cross is still pending.

52. Bureau members interested in joining the Task Force are invited to send an email to the Secretariat.

53. The Chair and the Secretariat will also support this Task Force, as well as the Secretary of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (CMM) on Just Transition since two ICE-CMMs exist.

### **(b) Update on the procedure for recognition of ICE-SRMs**

54. The Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division provided an update on the procedure for recognition of ICE-SRMs.

55. The Terms of Reference for ICE-SRMs have been submitted to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy for consideration for approval. Concurrently, letters initiating the due diligence process have been sent to the four existing ICE-SRMs (Central Asia, Russia, Mexico, and the UK). These letters request the responsible individuals in each ICE-SRM to complete a questionnaire regarding the juridical nature of their ICE-SRM and other pertinent details. The deadline for submitting this questionnaire is at the beginning of September. Following the Committee's consideration of the Generic Terms of Reference and Criteria for Recognition of ICE-SRMs at its 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, UNECE will proceed to issue letters of recognition for the ICE-SRMs. These letters, to be signed by the Chair of EGRM and the Secretary of EGRM, will formally recognize the role and identity of the ICE-SRMs. The recognition letters will be valid for one year, as the ICE-SRMs are required to report annually to EGRM on their activities. This recognition is contingent upon the activities conducted by the ICE-SRMs, with the goal of maintaining a vibrant and active network that adheres to UN rules and procedures while contributing to the mission and objectives of EGRM. As interest in establishing ICE-SRMs grows among various countries and regions, it is crucial to ensure that all members actively

participate and cooperate within the network. The Secretariat has already created a landing page for the ICE-SRMs on the UNECE SRM web pages, where links to the websites of recognized ICE-SRMs will be listed, further acknowledging their contributions.

56. Additionally, EGRM should consider establishing a process for considering new ICE-SRMs, given the interest from various countries, regions, and companies. This will require dedicating time at the EGRM meetings to review the existing ICE-SRMs in accordance with the Terms of Reference, as well as to evaluate applications for potential new ICE-SRMs.

57. The representative of AMDC reminded the Secretariat of the invitation to visit the ICE-SRM planned in Tanzania.

58. A Bureau member flagged that ICE-SRMs should not focus only on priority commodities; otherwise there is a risk that a country or region will perceive that UNFC and UNRMS are valid only for application to petroleum and minerals.

59. The Chair noted that the value of the Network lies in each ICE-SRM focusing on its local priorities and expertise, which can then be shared within the Network.

### **Item 9. Update on UNDA Projects**

The Chair provided updates on the UNDA Projects, as follows:

#### **UNDA Projects:**

- **Enhancing Capacities in the Sustainable Production of Critical Raw Materials for Low-Carbon Transitions:** This project, led by UNECE and ESCAP with support from ECA, ECLAC, and ESCWA, aims to enhance capacities in the sustainable production of critical raw materials for low-carbon transitions and implementing UNRMS. It supports Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea. The project supported the ASEAN Mining Vision Workshop and the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue session on CRMs. Planned activities this year include a CRM session at the Mongolia Mining Week, 7-11 October, and a workshop on CRMs at the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Bangkok (2-4 December).
- **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, highlighting the interconnectedness of food, water, and energy, underscores the need for sustainable management, especially highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project focuses on food security, water and sanitation, and energy and raw material supply, supporting Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Algeria, Uganda, and Namibia. A workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2023 discussed Central Asia's CRMs for the low-carbon energy transition. The CETM Sustainability Assessment Tool was introduced, and a report on tailings management was produced with the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), influencing the sixth UN Environment Assembly session. Future workshops and guidelines will continue to support these efforts.

### **Item 10. Update on Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals**

60. The work of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals is progressing. The Panel held its second meeting in Copenhagen, 8-9 July.

61. The Secretary-General emphasized three key issues to be prominently featured in the CETM Voluntary Principles:

- Human Rights,
- Environment, and
- Local Value Addition.

62. The upcoming meeting in Nairobi in August will be crucial in refining these principles.

63. The final report is expected to be completed and submitted in early September. The CETM Principles will then be presented at COP29 and integrated into the decision-making process.

64. UNECE is involved in the process as a member of the Panel's Technical Advisory Group, which comprises other Regional Commissions and UN organizations. Panel Co-Chairs will hold bilateral discussions with senior members of the TAG. Originally, discussions were scheduled to be held with



the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division on 30 July. However, this meeting was postponed to later in August. It is expected that the discussions will revolve around implementing the Principles.

65. The UN Working Group on Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development has requested all the UN Regional Commissions to hold regional dialogues on CETMs and Just Energy Transitions. UNECE plans to organize its consultation as a lunchtime hybrid side event on 18 September during the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2024. Inputs on the final Panel recommendations might be presented at this event.

66. Additional discussions include:

- The Voluntary Principles are likely to result in 12 principles/guidelines (similar to UNRMS), and each principle will have actionable requirements.
- In the general discussions, there were opinions that the new Principles should be applied to new mining projects to ensure sustainable practices from the outset.
- Indonesia provided a compelling case study on its successful value addition in nickel after initial years of failed attempts.
- The need to attract developmental funds for CETM projects, particularly for knowledge platforms, was emphasized.
- Discussions highlighted low-carbon processes, including chemical processes, circularity, legacy issues and tailings as a source for CETMs.

67. The Panel opened a consultation exercise for governments and other stakeholders not currently involved in the Panel to submit priorities for principles and recommendations for operationalizing them. The form is available at this [link](#). It will be open until the close of business on 30 July. The Secretariat advised that if Bureau members have any comments, they can also send them via email to the Secretariat by midday CEST on Friday 2 August and they will be transmitted.

#### **Item 11. Education, outreach, and communications**

Documentation: List of events 2024 and 2025

68. 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) 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy**

69. The UNECE Sustainable Energy Week will be held in Geneva, 16-20 September. The 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE-33) will take place on 18-20 September.

70. The Chair of EGRM will speak in 2 sessions of the Committee:

- How the work of EGRM delivers on just transition
- Accomplishment of EGRM since the last CSE meeting.

#### **CRMs and Just Transitions document for CSE-33:**

The Resource Management Young Members Group (RMYMG) and the Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group (SDGD WG) have finalized a document for the Committee meeting: “Advancing Intergenerational Justice in Critical Raw Materials Management: Assessing the Potential of Demand-side Interventions”. The document argues that an effective approach to combating climate change must be intergenerationally just, addressing root causes and ensuring long-term equity. Current unsustainable production and consumption patterns contribute to ecological crises, with significant impacts on future generations, particularly in the CRMs value chain essential for low-carbon technologies. To mitigate these impacts, policies must evolve to prioritize intergenerational justice, incorporating demand-side solutions that reduce resource use and promote equitable, well-being-oriented economies. The document will be circulated to the Bureau for comments.

#### **Draft EGRM Conclusions and Recommendations for CSE-33:**

The draft Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee meeting related to EGRM are expected to include:

- Acknowledge the inclusion of UNFC in the European CRM Act, highlighting its significance for standardizing resource management and classification.

- Recognize the widespread adoption of UNFC and UNRMS in Africa, marked by the launch of the Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC-2023).
- Highlight the Ministerial Declaration on UNRMS by the Asia-Pacific Ministers of Energy, showcasing the regional commitment to sustainable resource management. Acknowledge ongoing engagements with ASEAN and Northeast Asian countries, indicating a growing regional collaboration in resource management.
- Approval of the ICE-SRM Generic Criteria for Recognition and the Terms of Reference (ToR), ensuring consistent standards and practices.
- Emphasize the critical importance of managing CRMs in a manner that supports a just transition, ensuring that the shift to low-carbon economies is equitable and inclusive.
- Request EGRM to develop a concrete proposal to address the inconsistency between the regional constituency of EGRM and the mandates from ECOSOC for the global application of UNFC and UNRMS.

71. The Secretariat will share with the Bureau members the draft Conclusions and Recommendations for the 33rd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for comments by the close of business on 9 August 2024.

72. The UNECE Regional Dialogue on Critical Minerals and Just Energy Transitions will be held as a hybrid side event during CSE-33 (Geneva, 18 September)

**(b) International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development**

73. The International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, which is being hosted by ESCAP and the Government of Thailand, will be held in Bangkok from 2-4 December 2024. The Forum is organized by all five UN Regional Commissions.

74. A one-day workshop on CRMs, UNFC and UNRMS is planned on 4 December. The concept note is being prepared.

75. The EGRM Chair will participate.

**(c) Update on UNFC Training**

76. The Chair provided an update on recent UNFC trainings:

**UNFC Strategic Projects Trainings:**

In light of the first call for application for Strategic Projects, the EGRM Secretariat, in cooperation with the Minerals and Anthropogenic Working Groups and DG GROW, held a second planned training on the application of UNFC to Strategic Projects in accordance with the European Critical Raw Materials Act, on 2 July. The 2.5 hours of training aimed to support project promoters in the application of UNFC to Strategic Projects, including extraction, processing, recycling, and substitution projects, with a focus on the Strategic Projects Application Form. The training session held on 2 July was attended by 76 participants, with around 50 companies. The training material, recordings, and outcome are posted to the UNECE website: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/392855>

**GSEU UNFC Trainings:**

The EGRM Secretariat attended the third level of the “Train the Trainers” UNFC Trainings, organized by GSEU and ICE-SRM EU in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 18-19 June 2024. Level III training marked the culmination of the training series under the ICE-SRM EU and GSEU Project as part of their capacity-building programme. This advanced level was specifically designed for future UNFC trainers, providing them with the necessary skills and materials to conduct national-level training. The aim was to delve deeper into the practical application of UNFC, equipping participants to handle complex classification scenarios and to disseminate their knowledge effectively.

A noteworthy outcome from the training was the establishment of the ABC1 sub-group, which aims to harmonize UNFC application and bridging methodology among countries with GKZ-based national systems. The group’s objectives include synchronizing national terminologies, developing harmonized UNFC Guidance documents, and creating national UNFC inventories. The group will function as a sub-

group of the Network of Practitioners (NoPE), co-chaired by GSEU and UNECE, and will be officially part of ICE-SRM EU.

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

77. The EGRM Secretariat co-organized with the Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia, the Geological Survey of Serbia, DG GROW, and GSEU a one-and-a-half-day workshop titled "Implementing the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) in Southeast Europe". It was held at the Geological Survey of Serbia in Belgrade on 4-5 July 2024.

78. The Workshop aimed to support the implementation of UNFC in Southeast Europe with respect to the European CRMA, with a focus on UNFC-based National Minerals Inventories. There were 45 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, and Serbia, mostly governmental representatives and national administration officials.

79. Key highlights include:

- Keynote by Dr. Ivan JANKOVIĆ, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Mining and Energy of Serbia.
- Active engagement, exchange of ideas and experiences, and discussions with participants on matters related to primary and secondary raw materials in Southeast Europe.
- Expansion of the established ABC<sub>1</sub> Sub-group that is focused on building a common bridging methodology from national classification systems based on the GKZ system to UNFC.

80. Positive feedback was received from the presenters and participants, saying that the workshop was beneficial and insightful and that cooperation should continue.

81. The UNECE news article on the event is available here: <https://unece.org/media/news/392719>

**Item 12. Date of next Call**

82. The next call will be held on 1 October 2024, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM CEST. The draft agenda, call-in details, and supporting documents will be circulated the week prior to the call.

83. The Chair proposed a call during the period 11-23 November.

84. The regular doodle poll will be issued.

**Item 13. Any other Business**

**(i) PARC application for Geothermal Energy and other Renewables:**

85. There is a concern regarding the current alignment of AMREC-PARC for geothermal resources, which primarily focuses on minerals and oil & gas. It has been noted that it is crucial to ensure that the framework does not assume AMREC-PARC's applicability to geothermal resources and other renewables without proper adaptation. The potential risks must be considered, and the unique requirements of geothermal resource reporting must be appropriately considered.

86. The following should be noted concerning AMREC-PARC:

- AMREC-PARC is designed to cover minerals, oil & gas, coal, renewables, and nuclear fuels, applying UNFC (2019) and the most recent sectoral specifications. For geothermal, the 2022 updated specifications will be used. Broadly, AMREC-PARC aligns with frameworks such as Agenda 2063 and the Africa Mining Vision.
- In Africa, "Mining" and "Minerals" are inclusive terms for all resources, encompassing geothermal, bioenergy, and hydro. However, the current focus is largely on minerals and oil & gas, prioritized by the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) and the African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC). Minerals and energy are differentiated in AMREC-PARC, adopted by African Heads of State in 2022 and tasked to be applied to all resources by AMDC.

87. A Bureau member underlined the importance of being clear on terminology used in other classification systems that only applies to a specific resource sector and should not be applied to others, especially in UNFC and PARC-2023, e.g., inferred resources.

88. No other business was discussed.

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

