



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

### Expert Group on Resource Management

#### Thirteenth session

Geneva, 25-29 April 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 25 April 2022<sup>1</sup>

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Workshops on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System.
5. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management.
6. Proposal to reorganize the Expert Group on Resource Management.
7. United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resources Management System guidelines and best practices for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Development of the United Nations Resource Management System.
9. Development, maintenance and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources:
  - (a) Minerals;
  - (b) Petroleum;

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register, if possible, at least two weeks prior to the session (<https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/UNFC-and-Resource-Management/events/363370>). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the meeting's start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, to obtain a badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 71123) or via email: [reserves.energy@un.org](mailto:reserves.energy@un.org).



- (c) Renewable energy resources;
  - (d) Nuclear fuel resources;
  - (e) Injection projects;
  - (f) Anthropogenic resources;
  - (g) Groundwater resources;
  - (h) Social and environmental considerations;
  - (i) Commercial aspects and financial reporting;
  - (j) Other potential applications.
10. Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in different geographical contexts.
  11. International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and extrabudgetary projects for implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System.
  12. Communications, promotion and outreach.
  13. Work plans for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023.
  14. Cooperation with other organizations and entities.
  15. Other business.
  16. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
  17. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is adoption of the agenda.

Documents for the session will be published on the ECE website<sup>2</sup> as they become available. A detailed timetable will be posted to the website closer to the meeting.

Given the continuing restrictions on travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this session will be conducted in hybrid mode with the possibility of online and physical participation. To facilitate discussions, written updates on the status of the various areas of work of the Expert Group on Resource Management may be provided ahead of the meeting. Such updates would be posted to the ECE website.<sup>3</sup>

### **2. Election of officers**

At its twelfth session, 26-30 April 2021, the Expert Group elected a Bureau to serve until the close of the fourteenth session in 2023. The Expert Group will be invited to elect any Bureau members whose term ends in 2022 and who stand for re-election, as well as any new nominations, to serve until the end of the fifteenth session in 2024.

### **3. Opening remarks**

Opening remarks will be delivered, including on the status of the development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/UNFC-and-Resource-Management/events/363370>

<sup>3</sup> <https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/UNFC-and-Resource-Management/events/363370>

the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) and how UNFC and UNRMS can help governments, industry, investors, and international organizations respond to modern challenges in the sustainable development of energy and mineral resources, including addressing climate change and the socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFC and UNRMS are essential to sustaining and nurturing natural resources<sup>4</sup> as a critical public good in alignment with the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on Transforming the Extractive Industries.<sup>5</sup> They are also aligned to the Secretary-General's report Our Common Agenda<sup>6</sup> which includes concrete recommendations for a more inclusive, networked multilateralism fit for the twenty-first century. Sustainable resource management is key to addressing multiple challenges and in this regard ECE has proposed a five-point action plan comprising (i) a socio-environmental-economic contract to operate based on just transition; (ii) a sustainable finance framework and taxonomy; (iii) sustainable resource management using UNFC and UNRMS; (iv) a comprehensive framework for traceability, transparency, and sustainability in supply chains; and (v) strategic environmental assessments.

Details of the Economic and Social Council Decision 2021/250 on the Updated United Nations Framework Classification for Resources will be provided.<sup>7</sup>

#### **4. Workshops on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System**

A number of workshops on UNFC and UNRMS will be held on 25 and 26 April 2022 to explore:

(a) Development of international standards for hydrogen classification and management, including labelling according to its origin and CO<sub>2</sub> footprint, and technical issues related to sustainable hydrogen production in the ECE region and its role in the development of a hydrogen ecosystem and export potential. This event will be organized in cooperation with the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, on Gas and on Renewable Energy;

(b) The application of UNFC to coal bed methane (CBM). Is there a place for CBM and coal mine methane (CMM) in a sustainable energy future? This event will be organized jointly with the Group of Experts on CMM;

(c) The application of UNFC and UNRMS to facilitate attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) in Europe. This event will also address the challenges and opportunities in implementing UNFC for the raw materials needed for the energy transitions.

#### **5. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and matters for consideration by the Expert Group on Resource Management**

The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy following its thirtieth session, 22-24 September 2021, as well as decisions taken by the Committee related to the work of the Expert Group. These include the approval/endorsement of the Work Plan for 2022-2023; the Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Petroleum; and the Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Minerals. The Committee requested the secretariat to work with the other UN regional economic commissions and relevant international organizations to ensure the application of UNFC worldwide and accelerated development of UNRMS, and to

<sup>4</sup> The term "natural resources" refers to primary and anthropogenic resources.

<sup>5</sup> [https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/UNFC-and-Sustainable-Resource Management/pub/356790](https://unece.org/info/Sustainable-Energy/UNFC-and-Sustainable-Resource%20Management/pub/356790)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common\\_Agenda\\_Report\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2021/decision-2021250.pdf>

facilitate the institution of International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management in the ECE region and beyond. The Committee also requested the Expert Group to explore alternative approaches such as "Resources as a Service"; to cooperate closely with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to support the application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy; and to cooperate with the Groups of Experts on Gas and on Cleaner Electricity Systems to develop international standards for hydrogen classification and management.

## **6. Proposal to reorganize the Expert Group on Resource Management**

The Expert Group on Resource Management is comprised of a diverse spectrum of expertise, interests, regions and experience. It is the subsidiary body of the Committee on Sustainable Energy responsible for development, promotion and implementation of UNFC, UNRMS and other related tools. The Expert Group's working group structure has grown significantly in recently years in response to the growing number of areas of application of UNFC and the interests, needs and requests of ECE member States and other stakeholders. The Bureau proposes that the Expert Group take a stock check to assess whether the current structure of the Expert Group and its ways of working are optimal in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and impact whilst noting the currently limited resources of the ECE secretariat to support and coordinate activities and drive implementation of the Expert Group's approved work plan.

A proposal prepared by the Bureau to reorganize the Expert Group will be presented for discussion and the Expert Group will be invited to make any recommendations thereon.

There will be a discussion to explore and ensure there is a common understanding on the scope of the activities of the Expert Group and how it interacts with its stakeholders and the International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management that are being established.

## **7. United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resources Management System guidelines and best practices for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals**

The attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement requires a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable resource management. The discussion will address the role of the United Nations in setting international rules and standards to sustain and nurture the natural capital as a critical public good. Implementing the 18-point call to action of the UN Policy Brief "Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development" through the UN Working Group on Extractive Industries will be discussed and implications for the work of the Expert Group will be considered.

The Expert Group will review and discuss collaboration with the United Kingdom and G7 on sustainable management of the critical raw material endowments that are essential for low carbon and sustainable energy, mobility and digital transformations. The Expert Group will discuss the "Concept Note: United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resource Management System - Systems approach to enabling the resource as a service paradigm through blockchain technologies" prepared by the Sustainable Development Goals Delivery Working Group (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/5).

## **8. Development of the United Nations Resource Management System**

The United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) is being developed as a comprehensive tool kit to ensure natural resources are managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. The UNRMS Subgroup will present the document "United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/6). Concepts for a number of tools such as a clean energy index; resources as a service; resource supply system; a blockchain and machine learning/artificial intelligence model for resource management; and a critical raw materials dashboard will be

presented. The Expert Group will review and discuss the information provided and will be invited to make recommendations on the further development of UNRMS.

## **9. Development, maintenance and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the progress made since the twelfth session on the development, maintenance and application of UNFC for the sustainable management of resources, including any recommendations from the Bureau of the Expert Group. The Expert Group is tasked to develop and maintain UNFC through rigorous testing, review, and periodic updating.

The Expert Group will be briefed on the activities of the Technical Advisory Group. The development of a Glossary of Common Terms for UNFC will be presented (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/3), as well as updates to existing bridging documents, any potential new bridging documents under consideration and harmonization of UNFC subsidiary documents.

Current applications and expansion of UNFC for the sustainable management of mineral, petroleum, renewable energy, nuclear fuel and anthropogenic resources, and groundwater and injection projects will be discussed and reviewed. Issues related to social and environmental aspects, commercial application, competency requirements (Draft Guidance Note on Competency Requirements for the Estimation, Classification and Management of Resources, ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/4) and capacity-building will also be addressed. A proposal for a project exploring cooperation between professional societies and associations to develop common competency guidelines will be presented. The Expert Group will additionally discuss its activities on gender and diversity in resource management.

### **(a) Minerals**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to mineral resources and the activities of the Minerals Working Group. Improvements required to the Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Minerals and case studies will be provided for discussion.

### **(b) Petroleum**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to petroleum resources and the activities of the Petroleum Working Group. Updates on the status of the development of the UNFC Guidance for Application to Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and the Additional Social and Environmental Guidelines for the Application of UNFC to Petroleum will be presented.

### **(c) Renewable energy resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy resources and the activities of the Renewable Energy Working Group. The progress to update the Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Geothermal Energy Resources will be presented. Progress to test application of UNFC to renewable energy through case studies will also be provided.

The Expert Group will discuss the avenues for cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to support the application of UNFC and UNRMS to renewable energy.

### **(d) Nuclear fuel resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to nuclear fuel resources and the activities of the Nuclear Fuel Resources Working Group. The Expert Group will be briefed on work to finalize the Supplementary Specifications for application of UNFC to nuclear projects. An update on the development of case studies for the Application of UNFC to Nuclear Projects will be provided. The collaboration with the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems in the implementation of the Project “Enhancing the

understanding of the implications of and opportunities for moving to carbon neutrality in the ECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” (Carbon Neutrality project) will be presented.

**(e) Injection projects**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to injection projects and the activities of the Injection Projects Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss the case studies under development.

**(f) Anthropogenic resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to anthropogenic resources and the activities of the Anthropogenic Resource Working Group. The Expert Group will discuss the case studies under development.

**(g) Groundwater resources**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the application of UNFC and UNRMS to groundwater resources and the activities of the Groundwater Resources Working Group. An update on the finalization of the Supplementary Specifications for the Application of UNFC to Groundwater will be provided. The Expert Group will discuss the case studies under development.

**(h) Social and environmental considerations**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the activities of the Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group. An update on the Draft Governance Guidelines related to Environmental and Social Factors in Resource Classification and Management (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2022/7) will be provided.

**(i) Commercial aspects and financial reporting**

The Commercial Working Group will provide an update on commercial aspects and financial reporting, including the development of Guidance for UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments. An update on financial reporting related to the work of the Expert Group, including activities of financial regulators and other actors, will be provided.

**(j) Other potential applications**

The Work Plan for 2022-2023 notes that upon request the Expert Group will explore and develop additional applications of UNFC and UNRMS provided such work does not compromise the Expert Group's ability to fulfil its other obligations. The Expert Group will discuss cooperation with the Groups of Experts on Gas and on Cleaner Electricity Systems to develop international hydrogen classification and management standards. The Expert Group will also discuss opportunities for cooperation with the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. The Expert Group will be invited to discuss other potential applications of UNFC and UNRMS.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

## **10. Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in different geographical contexts**

The Expert Group will be briefed on the increasing adoption of and interest in the application of UNFC and UNRMS in various countries, sub-regions and regions, including: European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, African Union, Asia-Pacific, North America and Latin America. An update on documents developed to assist application of UNFC and UNRMS in Europe and in Africa (African Minerals and Energy Classification and Management System (AMREC) and Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC))

will be provided. The updated versions of the Bridging Documents between the China national minerals and petroleum classification standards and UNFC will be presented. A number of case studies from different geographical contexts will also be presented.

The Expert Group will be briefed on the implementation of the following projects:

- (i) United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project (2018–2021) “Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia”;<sup>8</sup>
- (ii) UNDA Project (2020–2023) "Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector";<sup>9</sup>

Under the two aforementioned projects, UNFC and UNRMS are being tested in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

- (iii) UNDA Project (2022–2025) "Food-Water-Energy nexus support to post-COVID-19 recovery in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa" led by ECE and jointly implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe);
- (iv) Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation Project (2021) "Improving capacity in Ukraine to support the circular economy in e-mobility and sustainable resource management using a nexus approach of Mobility and Resource as a Service model (M-RaaS)".

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to propose future work to manage regional and global uptake and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS.

## **11. International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management and extrabudgetary projects for implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System**

International Centres of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ICE-SRMs) are being established for the global deployment of UNFC and UNRMS. The Centres are conceived to provide policy support, technical advice and consultation, research and development, education, training, dissemination, and other critical activities for managers and stakeholders involved in sustainable resource management. At its twenty-eighth session (25-27 September 2019), the Committee on Sustainable Energy noted the proposal to develop a Centre on Sustainable Resource Management (CSRMS) to coordinate ICE-SRMs. It mandated the secretariat to make an effort to seek extrabudgetary funding to support activities in this area. The Expert Group will be briefed on the various initiatives to implement ICE-SRMs.

The Expert Group will additionally be briefed on progress in the implementation of extrabudgetary projects that support the implementation of UNFC and UNRMS, including:

- (a) Supporting UNECE member States in the development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS (2020-2024; donor: European Commission);<sup>10</sup>
- (b) Strengthening capacities of selected UNECE member States in sustainable and harmonious management of natural resources (2022-2026; donor: Autonomous Non-

<sup>8</sup> <https://unece.org/integrated-energy-and-water-resource-management-project-0>

<sup>9</sup> <https://msme-resurgence.unctad.org/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://unece.org/supporting-unece-member-states-development-and-implementation-unfc-and-unrms-0>

Commercial Organization - International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management (ANCO “ICE-SRM”);<sup>11</sup>

- (c) Latest developments related to establishing an ICE-SRM in China; and
- (d) Latest developments related to establishing an ICE-SRM in Mexico.

The Expert Group will discuss the information provided and be invited to make any recommendations.

## **12. Communications, promotion and outreach**

The current activities of the Communications Working Group will be presented to the Expert Group.

The Expert Group will review and discuss activities in 2021 and upcoming events in 2022 and 2023 to promote and educate on UNFC and UNRMS.

## **13. Work plans for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023**

The Expert Group will discuss the status of the implementation of its work plan for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/11).

The Expert Group will also discuss the implementation of its work plan for 2022-2023 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2021/3).

## **14. Cooperation with other organizations and entities**

The Expert Group will discuss its current and proposed cooperation with other organizations and entities, including but not limited to, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), African Union Commission (AUC), European Federation of Geologists (EFG), EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), Geoscientists Canada, European Investment Bank (EIB), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Mining Association of Canada, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the UNEP International Resource Panel, to achieve synergies and complementarity of efforts and to avoid overlap and duplication.

## **15. Other business**

The Expert Group may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the terms of reference of the Expert Group. Delegations are encouraged to notify the secretariat and the Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

The Expert Group will discuss the dates for its fourteenth session to be held in Geneva in 2023.

## **16. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

The Expert Group will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

Where possible, the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Item%2013\\_ECE\\_EX\\_2021\\_37\\_XB\\_10%20Management%20of%20Nat%20Resources%20.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Item%2013_ECE_EX_2021_37_XB_10%20Management%20of%20Nat%20Resources%20.pdf)



**17. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting**

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Expert Group will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau, following which the Chair will close the meeting.

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