

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

From: David MacDonald, Charlotte Griffiths and Hari Tulsidas

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| Conference Call of the Bureau of the Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM)<br>11 June 2019<br>MINUTES |
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Attendance 3 pm CET call:

|   | Present                             | Apology                             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| David MacDonald, EGRM Chair                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Tunde Arisekola, Nigeria                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hussein Allaboun, Jordan                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fatih Birol (alternate Glenn Sondak), IEA           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Roger Dixon, CRIRSCO                                | <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"/> |
| Nurangiz Farajullayeva, Azerbaijan                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Milan Grohol (alternate Rodrigo Chanes), EC         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| TBC, IAEA   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Zoltán Horváth, EuroGeoSurveys                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Erica Ingvald, Sweden                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Alistair Jones, EGRM TAG                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Kjell Reidar Knudsen, Norway                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Young Joo Lee, (alternate Dhiti Tulyatid), CCOP     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Rafal Misztal, Poland                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Paul Msoma, AUC                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Michael Neumann, EFG                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Roberto Sarudiansky, OLAMI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Bernard Seiller, SPE                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Olga Trofimova for Igor Shpurov, Russian Federation | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Bradley Van Gosen, USA                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Hari Tulsidas, UNECE                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Draft Agenda for EGRM Bureau Call on 11 June

1. Approval of draft agenda (attachment 1)
2. Draft minutes of call on 3 April 2019 and meeting on 2 May 2019 (attachments 2 & 3)
3. Bureau membership (attachment 4)
4. Functioning of Bureau (attachments 5 and 6)
5. EGRM-10 follow-up and action items (attachment 7)
6. UNFC revamp and update: (attachment 8 – not yet complete)
7. UNRMS – concept and design
8. International Centres of Excellence
9. Committee on Sustainable Energy 28th Session
10. Education and outreach
11. Date of next meeting or call
12. Any other business

### Documentation:

1. Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 11 June 2019
2. Draft minutes of 3 April 2019 Bureau Call
3. Draft minutes of 2 May 2019 Bureau Meeting
4. EGRM Bureau Membership as at 1 June 2019
5. EGRM Bureau Membership Briefing Note
6. EGRM Bureau structure
7. Draft UNFC revamp
8. EGRM-10 Meeting Report
9. List of events promoting UNFC in 2018–2019 as at 7 June 2019

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

Documentation: Draft Agenda for Bureau Call on 11 June 2019

1. The agenda was approved without any changes.

### **Item 2. Draft minutes on 3 April 2019 and meeting on 2 May 2019**

Documentation: Draft minutes of Bureau call 3 April 2019 and meeting on 2 May 2019

2. Kjell Reidar informed that he was present in the call of 3 April. The minutes were approved without any other changes.

### **Item 3. Bureau membership**

Documentation: EGRM Bureau Membership as of 1 June 2019

3. The Chair informed that the contact list of Bureau members has been sent with the documentation for the call and requested members to check their contact details and inform if any information has to be updated.
4. The Chair advised that UNECE had invited China to nominate an expert to the Bureau, but the nomination from China was received after EGRM-10. The Bureau agreed that China could be included as observer pending EGRM confirmation as a full member at the 11th Session.

5. The Chair noted that confirmation of nominations from Portugal, Serbia and Australia and also IAEA are awaited. These nominations were approved by the EGRM at the 10th session.

#### **Item 4. Functioning of Bureau**

Documentation: EGRM Bureau Membership Briefing Note; EGRM Bureau structure

6. The Bureau Membership Briefing Note and Structure of the Bureau were circulated as part of the documentation for the call. Members were invited to put forward ideas regarding the functioning of Bureau and whether Bureau member would like to see changes:

7. The Chair informed that to streamline Bureau membership, at the last Bureau elections the EGRM decided to change membership to be “representatives of Governments (both UNECE and non-ECE) and all those organizations with whom UNECE has an MoU or long-standing relationship”. The Renewable Energy Working Group had previously observed that out of its 21 members, the Bureau has no representatives for Renewable Energy except for Gioia as the IGA (Geothermal) representative. Since the members of the Bureau (Vice-Chairs) are “representing Governments (both UNECE and non-ECE) and all those organizations with whom UNECE has an MoU or long-standing relationship”, this means that UNECE has no MoU or long-standing relationship with any Renewable Energy organization, except for IGA. If correct, this should change if our UNFC work on renewable energy and its results (UNFC, UNRMS) are to have any credibility in the Renewable Energy space. Other Bureau Members also remarked that this is also true for other Working Groups such as Minerals, Petroleum, Anthropogenic Resources etc. It was suggested that all Working Groups should be represented or the TAG can represent the Working Groups.

8. The Bureau currently only meets once a year in Geneva at the time of the annual EGRM session. It had been proposed to organize this meeting in June as face to face, but members’ availability did not allow for this. Normally, Bureau calls are held every 6 to 8 weeks. In the past, the same call was held twice to accommodate different time zones and availability but the Bureau has recently moved to hold just one call.

9. The Chair noted that the Bureau calls usually last one hour. To keep to one hour, depending on the number of items to be discussed, members have to speed through the agenda items. It may be necessary to have the calls for a longer duration. Some agenda items are for information and some for discussion and decision. However, there should always be adequate opportunity for every member to intervene, and items needing discussion should not be rushed.

10. The representative of EC suggested that it could be possible to host another physical meeting of the Bureau on the sidelines of the EU Raw Materials Week, 18-22 November, in Brussels. The Chair suggested that the Bureau should explore the possibility as well as organizing a physical meeting in Geneva at the time of the Committee on Sustainable Energy 28<sup>th</sup> session, 25-27 September 2019.

11. The Chair noted the changes to the EGRM Bureau. The Social and Environmental Task Force has been changed to Social and Environmental Working Group. As per the EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021, this Working Group will work under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Group and report to the Bureau between annual sessions.

## Item 5. EGRM-10 follow-up and action items

12. The Chair note the following highlights of EGRM-10:
  - Rich attendance: Over 360 registered experts from more than 60 countries, approximately 20 international organizations, several non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and industry.
  - Workshops:
    - o A two-day workshop on UNFC and UNRMS: Tools for managing resources for sustainable development, 29-30 April, including a training course on UNFC and sessions on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
    - o Workshop on UNFC for Africa and AMREC Working Group Meeting, 29-30 April
    - o Workshop on Role of Nuclear Energy in Sustainable Development: Entry Pathways, 29-30 April
    - o Renewable Energy Working Group Workshop, 30 April
  - 10th Session of EGRM:
  - UNFC to be updated to reinforce alignment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasis on social, environmental and economic viability and harmonize terminology across different resource sectors
  - UNRMS to be developed as a system-wide tool kit for balanced and integrated management of all resources targeting good social and environmental outcomes along with economic growth as called for in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Development of specifications and guidelines for the application of UNFC to minerals, petroleum, wind energy, solar energy and hydro energy
  - Work on application of UNFC to groundwater resources started
  - Application to geothermal energy, bioenergy, nuclear fuel resources, injection project and anthropogenic resources completed. Case studies under development
  - UNFC guidelines on the commercial assessment of projects under development
  - The continuing development of detailed guidelines for social and environmental considerations
  - Competent Person and Evaluation Qualifications guidelines proposed to be strengthened
  - UNFC for Africa: development of the African Mineral and Energy Resource Classification and Management System in line with the African Mining Vision highlighted
  - UNFC for Europe: Application of UNFC as harmonising tool for the management of EU raw material resources, with examples from European Battery Initiative, raw material criticality study and initiatives of EuroGeoSurveys showcased
  - CCOP activities related to the application of UNFC in East and South-east Asia
  - Case studies from other countries where UNFC is applied tailored to local requirements, including social and environmental focused pilot study in Mexico, Uganda petroleum case study, Ukraine, Portugal and other countries
  - Support for broader application of UNFC and UNRMS through a global network of International Centres of Excellence in Sustainable Resource Management
  - UNFC and UNRMS focus on women and diversity in resource management
  - Role of resource management in pathways to sustainable energy in the UNECE region highlighted
  - EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021 agreed. To be submitted to Committee on Sustainable Energy meeting (25-27 September) for approval

- Side meetings held of EGRM Technical Advisory Group, Working Groups on Minerals, Petroleum, Groundwater (kick-off meeting), Commercial Assessments, Competent Persons and Communications

13. The Chair noted the following urgent follow-up actions:

- The UN system, including UNECE is facing severe a budget crisis and reduced staffing. UN has a budget freeze, and many activities are now on hold until the end of the year. Therefore, UNECE will be looking to cut down some of the activities, which are not demand-driven or not making an impact in countries. UNFC has to be a system that has to be used by the UN Member States to justify its continuation. UNFC's stress on social and environmental aspects, support to circular economy and provision for Competent Persons as seen as essential aspects for adoption in regions such as EU, AU and CIS countries. This means we will have to prioritize our activities to make UNFC an independent system with the strengthening of the core aspects.
- UNFC update (revamp) has been ongoing since August 2018, so we need to focus on agreeing on a final text as soon as practicable to allow publication before year-end. Some EGRM members view this delay in updating UNFC is hampering UNFC's adoption in the EU and AU.
- UNRMS will have to be developed with renewed vigour.
- Attracting extrabudgetary resources should underpin all the activities that have to be prioritized. We have not been very successful in this so far. Without a fully functioning and ready to implement UNFC, getting financial support will not be easy.

14. The EC representative advised that the European Commission is exploring the possibility of finding funds for promoting UNFC. He also suggested that other stakeholders should be ready to share responsibility.

#### **Item 6. UNFC revamp and update**

Documentation: Draft UNFC revamp (not yet complete)

15. The Chair informed that the EGRM-10 report includes a timeline for the UNFC revamp and update:

- a. improved language by end September (para 42 of EGRM-10 report)
- b. clarification of new requirements by the end of December (para 43)
- c. simplification/clarification of definitions by the end of January (para 44).

16. In view of the UN budget crisis and need for faster implementation of UNFC in EU and African Union, Bureau members might want to explore if it might be prudent to complete the language update by the end of the year and wait a bit before other changes are made. It could be advisable to postpone other significant changes until extrabudgetary funds are available.

17. The Chair announced that the UNFC revamp draft was circulated with the documentation for the call, which is a work in progress document proposing "revamp" changes to UNFC starting on the Introduction page.

18. The Bureau discussed some of the concerns the Renewable Working Group and its sub-groups have raised so far. It was clarified that UNFC is not just focussed on volumes of resources, but also takes into account other aspects of the project. It was also mentioned that

AMREC is a regional initiative, and the intended audience is the concerned stakeholders in Africa.

#### **Item 7. UNRMS – concept and design**

19. The Chair informed that the EGRM-10 report calls for:  
“a short statement outlining who will use UNRMS, what information users need, and for what purpose UNRMS would be used to be circulated to EGRM by 1 September 2019”.

20. A UNRMS drafting team will need to be set up to in first instance draft the short statement. The TAG Chair proposed that at the next TAG meeting volunteers could be solicited. The EC representative indicated that he would be willing to lead or contribute to the drafting team but most probably only from September due to current commitments. It was noted that developing a quality product was the driving factor and the 1 September date was only a target.

21. The representative of the Swedish Geological Survey suggested that Governments inputs will be required for this note

#### **Item 8. International Centres of Excellence**

22. The Chair informed that the establishment of a Task Force on International Centres of Excellence (ICE) was agreed at the EGRM-10. The chair and members of this TF will need to be identified. ICEs are currently proposed in Mexico, Russian Federation, China, Norway and Africa (a division under AMDC and possibly one under Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on seabed minerals) and possibly CCOP might want to establish one in Bangkok for its member States. Bureau was requested to suggest members and Chair to the TF.

#### **Item 9. Committee on Sustainable Energy 28<sup>th</sup> Session**

23. The Chair informed that the 28th Annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy would be held during 25-27 September. A session on “Circular economy and sustainable resource management” will be held on 26 September with a proposed panel:

- Managing resources in a carbon-constrained world
  - The Nexus approach to the responsible use of natural resources in the UNECE region
  - Facilitating the energy revolution and access to critical raw materials and rare earth minerals.

24. The Chair informed that the UNFC revamp and the Solar and Wind Specifications will need to be presented to the CSE for endorsement. The EGRM Work Plan for 2020-2021 and a request for renewal of the 5-year mandate of EGRM will also need to be presented to the Committee. The Chair informed that he will participate in the meeting and requested the Bureau members to look into the possibility of participating.

25. The Chair further informed that the possibility of having a Bureau meeting on the sidelines could be explored.

## **Item 10. Education and outreach**

Documentation: List of events promoting UNFC in 2018–2019 as at 7 June 2019

26. The Chair advised that the list of events was circulated with the documentation for the call. Upcoming meetings and workshops include, where UNFC could be prominently featured include:

- National Workshop on UNFC Pilot Project, Mexico City, 14 June (meetings with various Ministries re UNFC, UNRMS and a potential ICE in Mexico will be held on 13 June). Scott Foster, EGRM Chair and Satinder Purewal uare attending.
- Training on data collection related to sustainable energy & water resources management (monitoring & UNFC application, Nur-Sultan (formerly Astana), Kazakhstan, 19-20 June
- UNECE Sustainable Energy Week 2019: Accelerating and Deepening the Transition to Sustainable Energy Systems & 28th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 25-27 September, Palais des Nations, Geneva
- Tyumen Oil and Gas Forum featuring a workshop on “Promotion of UNFC and UNRMS for expansion of investment potential of Central Asian and BRICS countries”, Tyumen, Russian Federation, 17-19 September
- European Commission Raw Materials Week 2019 featuring UNFC Workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 18–22 November.

27. The Chair requested the Bureau to provide details of any meeting/workshop that is missing from the list.

## **Item 11. Date of next Bureau Call**

28. The next Bureau call will be held during the weeks of 22 or 29 July.

## **Item 12. Any other business**

29. The Wind Specifications were issued for public comment on 21 May 2019 and will close cob 21 July 2019. The Bureau will need to agree on the final text before submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy early September. The TAG Chair advised that the Solar specifications are being finalized for public comment

30. The AUC representative informed that the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) is being restructured with AMREC as one of the major departments. The Business Plan meeting with the African Union Consultants took place in Guinea Conakry the week prior. The AMREC Working Group was represented by Prof Samuel Dampere from Ghana. All AUC officials were in attendance. UNFC-AMREC was presented by Tunde Arisekola at the Association of Chambers of Mines, and Other Mining Associations in Africa (ACMMAA) held in Yaoundé, Cameroon also the week prior. ACMMAA agreed to fully support UNFC-AMREC. The UNFC-AMREC stakeholder meeting will be held mid-August in Namibia. The current draft of AMREC will be finalized at this meeting for submission to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) for approval. The draft will be submitted for translation in French, Portuguese and Arabic by the end of August. STC approval is expected by October 2019.

31. It was noted that Hari Tulsidas’ contract ends 30 June (now extended to 31 July), and UNECE is trying to identify XB funds to be able to bring Hari back as soon as possible. The Bureau thanked Hari for his contributions and long-standing support of the work on UNFC.

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