



# United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

Sustainable management of all resources



David MacDonald, Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management

Workshop on UNFC Mexico Petroleum Pilot Project

Mexico City, 14 June 2019

# The Problem of Classification

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- How to Classify?
- By genre
- By artist
- By composer
- By instruments
- By tempo
- By date recorded
- By date purchased



## Consistent classification and management of all resources



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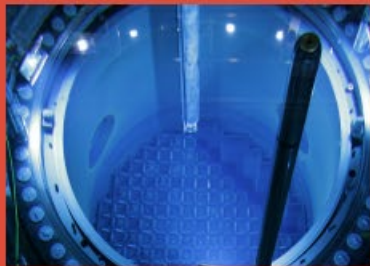
Minerals



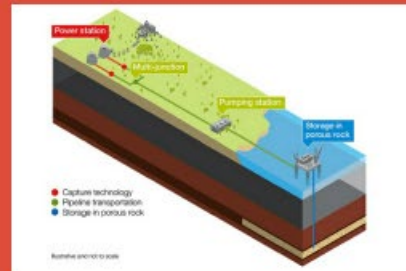
Petroleum



Renewables



Uranium



Injection



Anthropogenic

# UNFC Stakeholders



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Governments

management of national resources



Creators of energy & mineral studies

to facilitate formulation of consistent and far-sighted policies



Industry

to provide data and information necessary to deploy technology, management and finance to serve host countries, shareholders and stakeholders



Financial community

to provide information necessary to allocate capital appropriately so reducing costs

# Expert Group on Resource Management

A global community representing all users



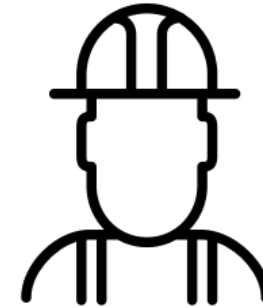
UNECE



Academia



Governments (UNECE  
and non-UNECE)



Industry



International  
organizations



Professional Societies  
& Associations



Financial Sector Incl.  
standard setters

# UNFC and ECOSOC

A call for global application



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The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

## ECOSOC Decision 2004/233

Member States of the United Nations, international organizations and regional commissions to consider taking appropriate measures for ensuring worldwide application of the Framework Classification.



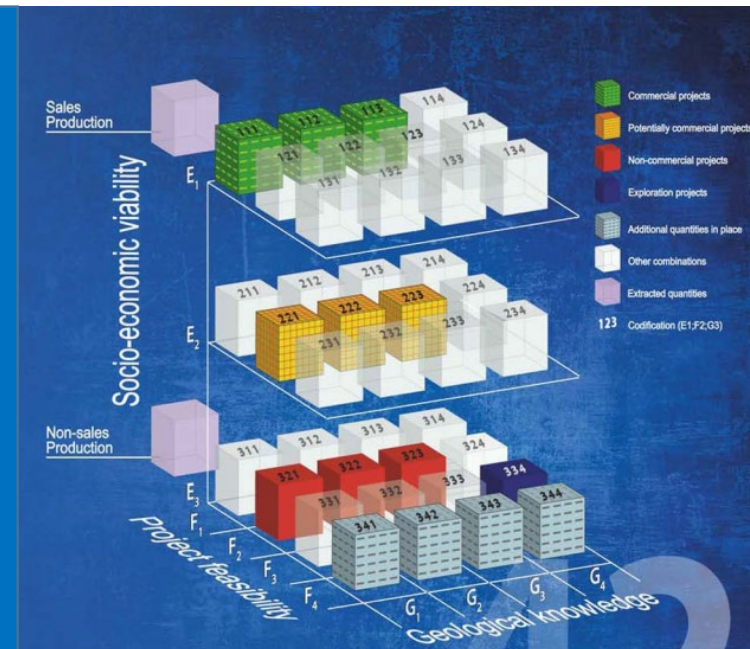
# Why UNFC?



UNFC

- The structure to understand and manage all resources in alignment to the SDGs.
- Applicable horizontally and vertically to all sectors
- Embeds all project risks and opportunities

UNFC promotes clear thinking and a shared vision



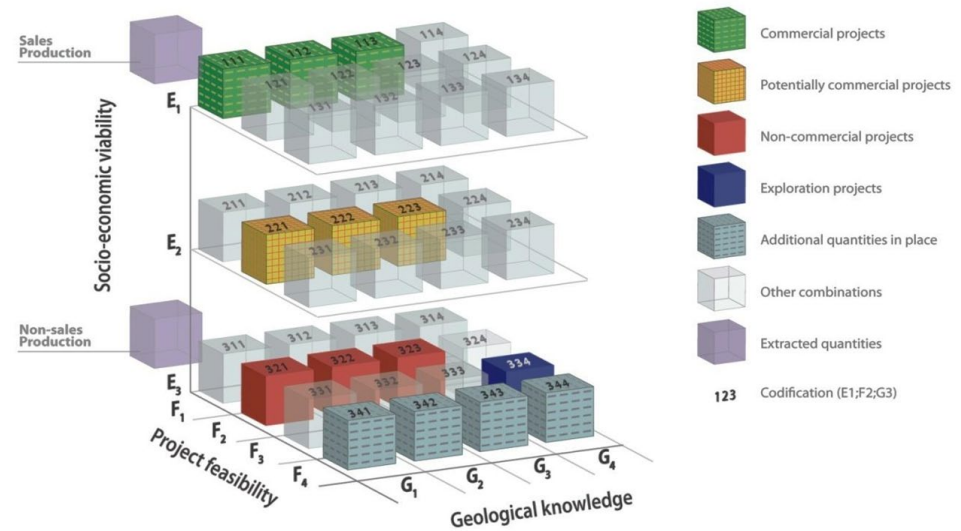
# Resources Redefined

Resource progression is critical



UNEP

- UNFC is a project maturity-based, resource-progression oriented tool for the management resources.
- UNFC provides a balanced view of socio-economic factors, technology and uncertainties involved in the classification of resources and provides a progression pathway for projects.
- UNFC puts emphasis on figuring in social and environmental considerations at the centre of resource management.



UNFC is different from other resource classification and management tools in being responsive to requirements of the Global Agenda 2030, the aspirations of the society and the modern outlook of the industry.

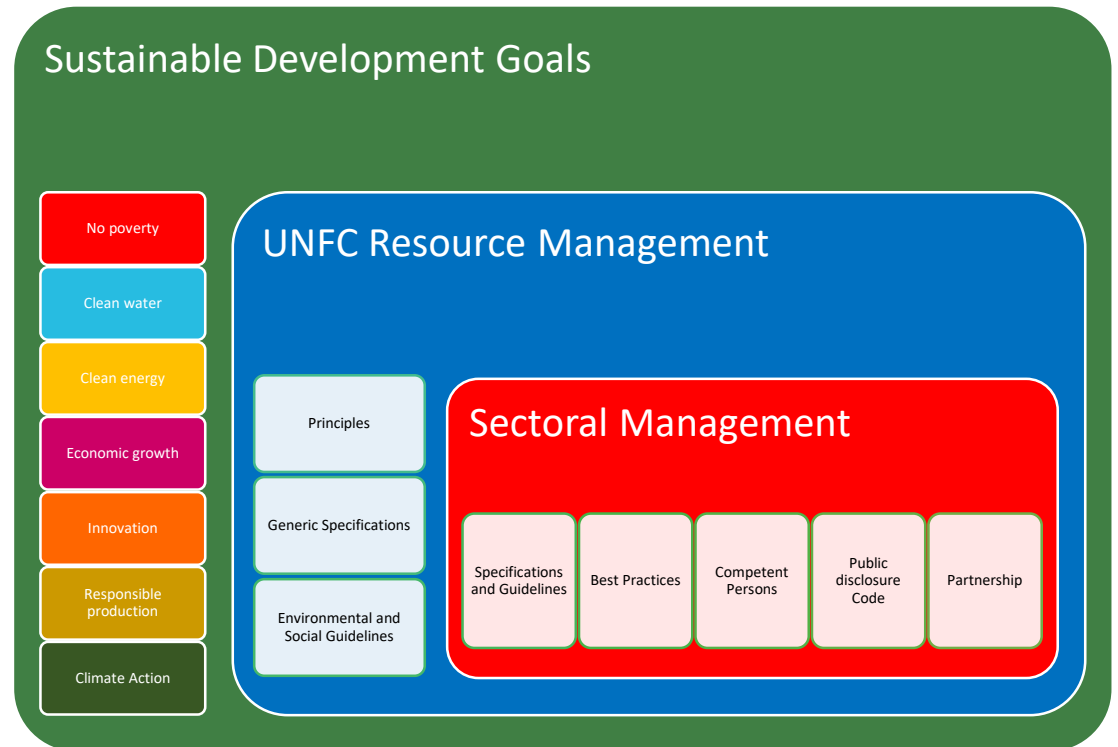


# UNFC approach



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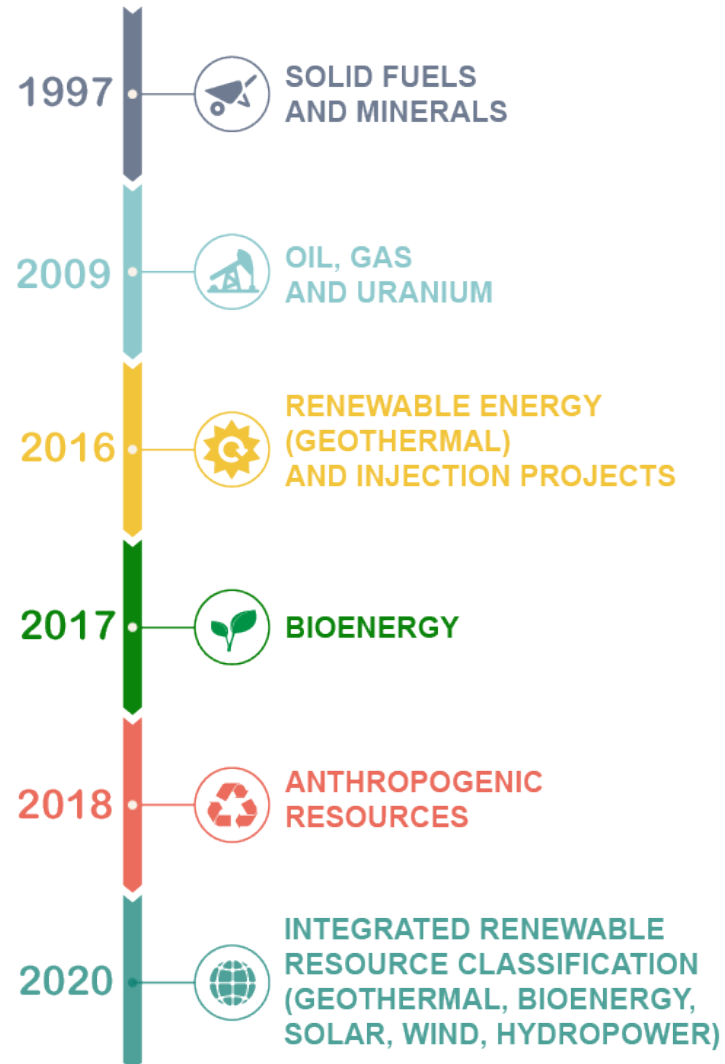
- Structured within overarching SDG framework
- Long-term policy making and planning
- Shorter-term actions - Make resource projects competitive through innovative approaches
- Efficient financial capital allocation
- Reduce environmental burden, carbon foot-print and negative public perception
- Increase collaboration globally



# Growing applications of UNFC



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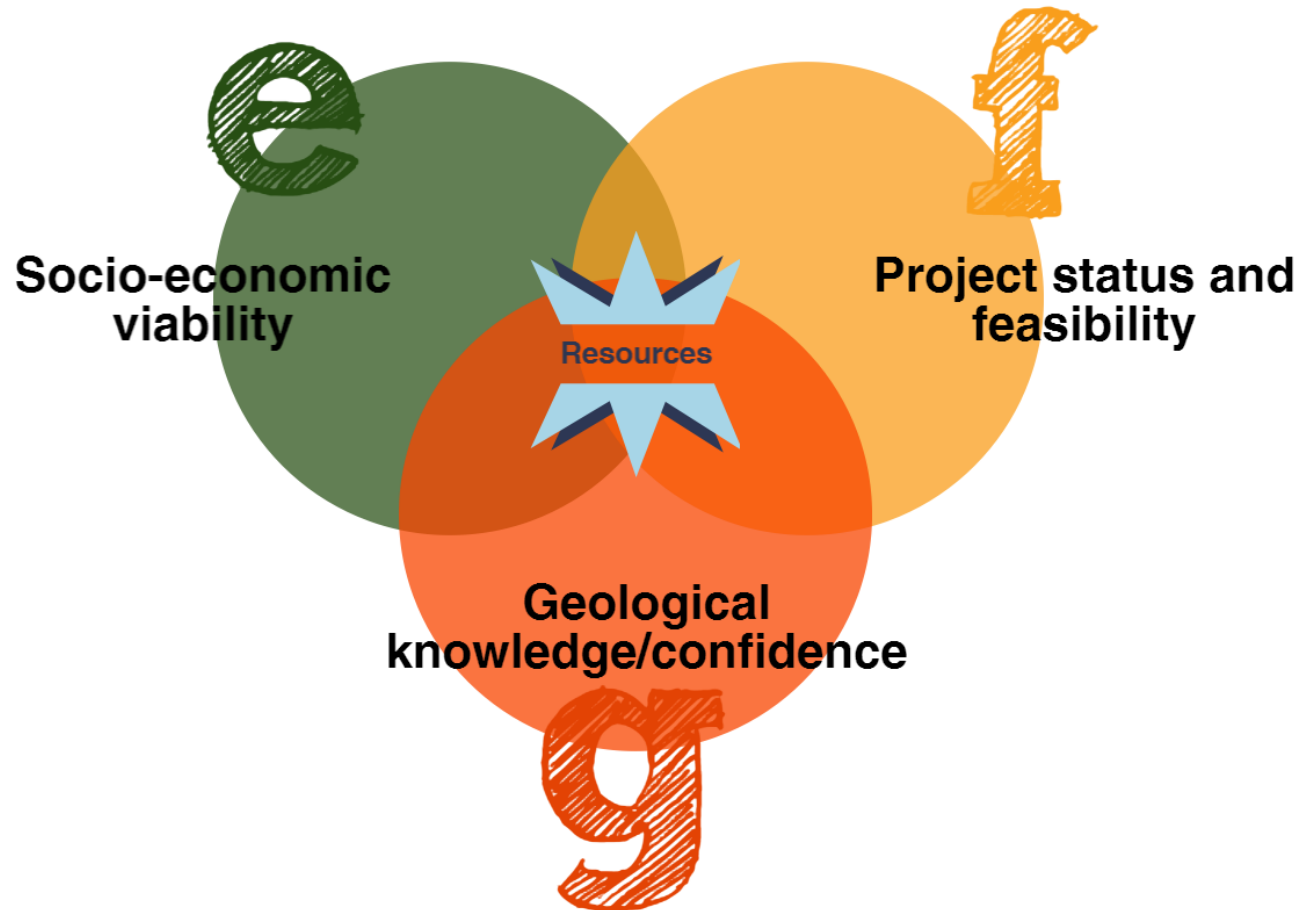


# Defining resources with UNFC

## The 3 Criteria



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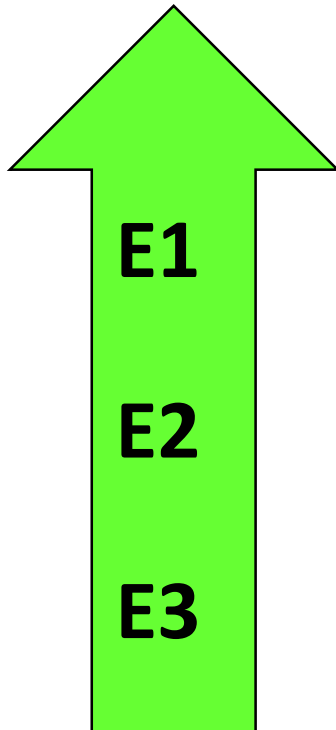
# Criteria and Categories



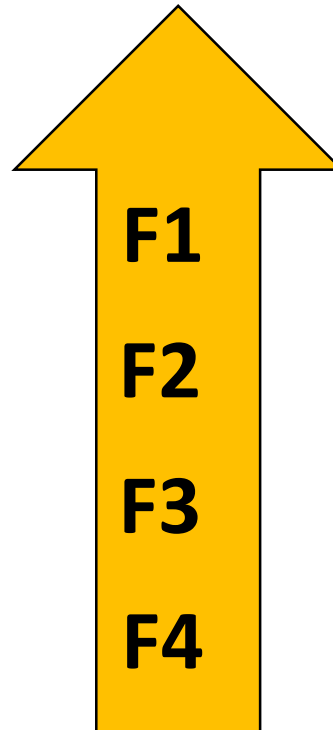
UNEP

Numerical coding system based on the three criteria, sub-divided by categories:

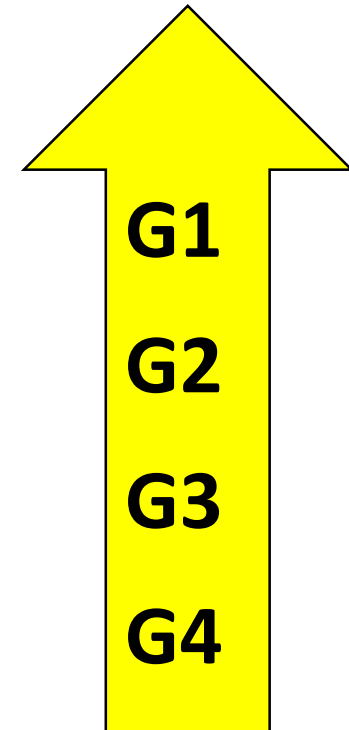
**Economic and  
social viability**



**Field project status  
and feasibility**



**Geological  
knowledge**



# UNFC – E Axis



UNECE

- Degree of favourability of social and economic conditions in establishing the commercial viability of the project
- Includes consideration of market prices and relevant legal, regulatory, environmental and contractual conditions
- E1, E2 and E3 categories
- E1 is “best”
- Definitions should always be read in conjunction with supporting explanation

# E axis category definitions



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Category	Definition
E1	Extraction and sale has been confirmed to be economically viable.
E2	Extraction and sale is expected to become economically viable in the foreseeable future.
E3	Extraction and sale is not expected to become economically viable in the foreseeable future or evaluation is at too early a stage to determine economic viability.

The phrase “economically viable” encompasses economic (in the narrow sense) plus other relevant “market conditions”, and includes consideration of prices, costs, legal/fiscal framework, environmental, social and all other non-technical factors that could directly impact the viability of a development project.

# UNFC – How it works



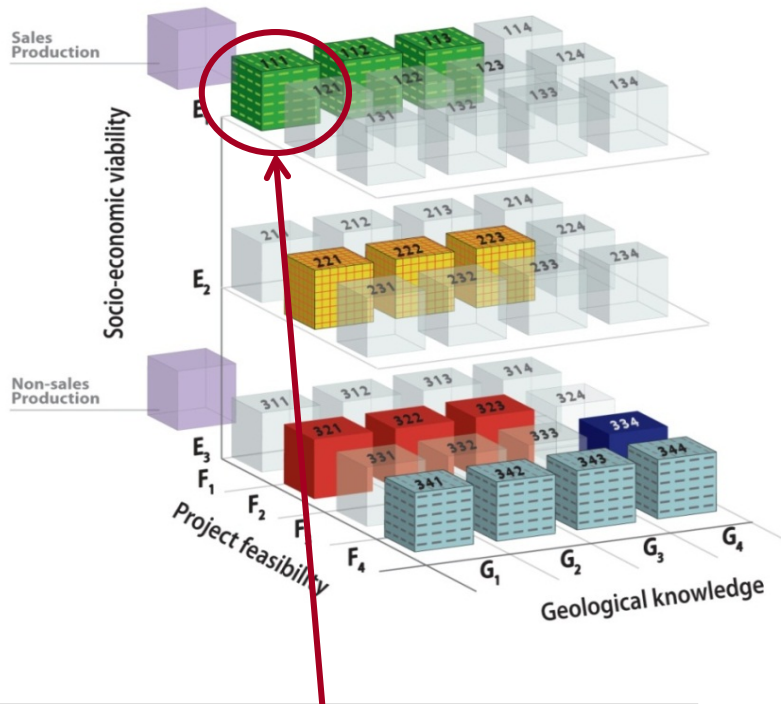
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- The category definitions are the building blocks of the system:
  - Select the correct category for each of the three criteria
- These are combined (E, F, G) in the form of classes
- **Class 111** means that the reported quantities have satisfied the definitions for:
  - **E1, F1 and G1**
- There are no constraints on combinations, but not all will be meaningful

# UNFC – How it works



UNECE



**UNFC Class: 111**

Category	Definition
E1	Extraction and sale has been confirmed to be economically viable.
Category	Definition
F1	Feasibility of extraction by a defined development project or mining operation has been confirmed.
Category	Definition
G1	Quantities associated with a known deposit that can be estimated with a high level of confidence.



# UNFC using all sub-categories



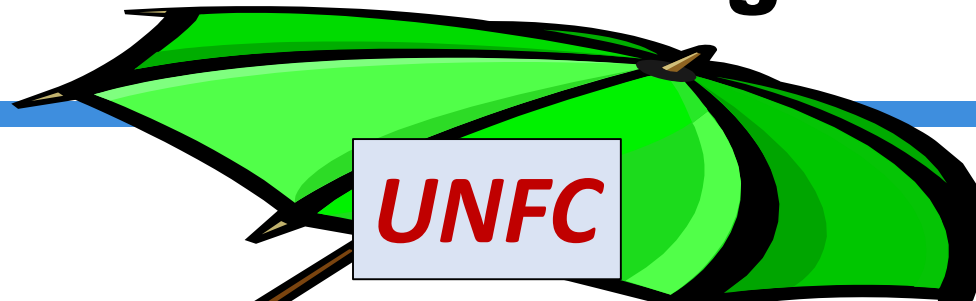
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UNFC Classes defined by categories and sub-categories						
Total commodity initially in place	Extracted	Sales Production				
		Non-sales Production				
	Class	Sub-class	Categories			
			E	F	G	
Known Deposit	Commercial Projects	On Production	1	1.1	1, 2, 3	
		Approved for Development	1	1.2	1, 2, 3	
		Justified for Development	1	1.3	1, 2, 3	
		Potentially Commercial Projects	Development Pending	2	2.1	1, 2, 3
			Development On Hold	2	2.2	1, 2, 3
		Non-Commercial Projects	Development Unclarified	3.2	2.2	1, 2, 3
	Development Not Viable		3.3	2.3	1, 2, 3	
	Additional quantities in place			3.3	4	1, 2, 3
	Potential Deposit	Exploration Projects	[No sub-classes defined]	3.2	3	4
		Additional quantities in place			3.3	4

# Specifications and Aligned Systems



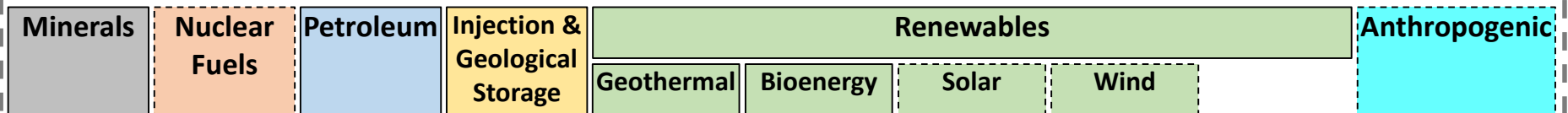
UNECE



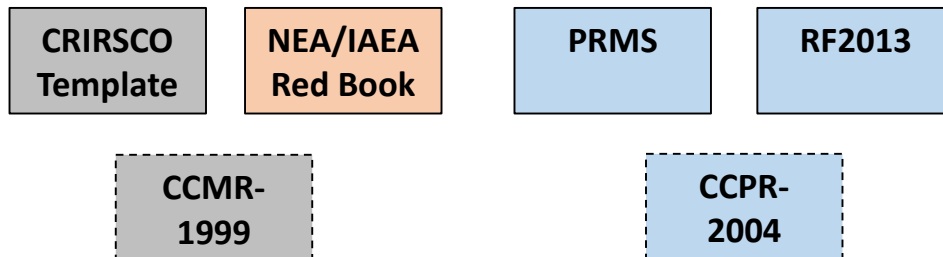
## Classification Framework and Category Definitions

Generic Specifications (UNFC 2009)

Commodity-Specific Specifications



### Aligned Systems



# Generic specifications



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- **Minimum standards for using UNFC**
- **Mandatory requirements**
  - Use of numerical codes
  - Effective date
  - Clarity in aggregated estimates (provide disaggregated data as possible)
  - Aggregation should include proper justification
  - Basis of classification to be clear
  - Reference point to be mentioned.
  - Reclassification in case of suspension of a project
  - Include only potentially recoverable quantities.
  - Clarity in economic assumptions.
  - Use of SI units (or conversion factors to be given)
  - Provide documentation with sufficient details

# UNFC advantages

A view in 3 dimensions



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- Provides definitions, rules and guidelines
- Not a single resource project is the same

Each resource project needs  
a defined progression pathway

Principles

Rules

Guidelines

# Social & environmental considerations

## Understanding the system boundaries



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- EGRM has a Working Group to examine the social and environmental aspects of the classification. Two guidance notes are available:

- Accommodating environmental and social considerations in UNFC
- Clarification of terminology and concepts related to UNFC

United Nations  
ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/3  
Economic and Social Council  
Dist.: General  
8 February 2018  
Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe  
Committee on Sustainable Energy  
Expert Group on Resource Classification

Ninth session  
Geneva, 24-27 April 2018  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda  
Guidelines for accommodating social and environmental considerations  
in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

**Draft guidance for accommodating environmental and social  
considerations in the United Nations Framework  
Classification for Resources**

Prepared by the Social and Environmental Considerations  
Task Force of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

#### Summary

The Social and Environmental Considerations Task Force on Resource Classification is the successor to the E-axis Sub-Group on social and environmental aspects of classification of the E Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC). Progress of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Expert Group (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2017/6 respectively). The main focus of the ninth session is the division of the E2 Category into E2.1 and E2.2 to social and environmental issues will be resolved, and recommendations of this report only address the social and environmental issues. Further thought will be needed with respect to economic and social and environmental issues of specific resource types. Accommodating Social and Environmental Consideration Terminology (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/4) recommends that the Group consider the clarification of some terms in UNFC necessary to the work of the Task Force. It also contains topics that arose during the course of work, for consideration of UNFC.

GE.18-01856(E)



\*1801856\*

United Nations  
ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/4  
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**Accommodating Social and Environmental Considerations in  
the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources:  
Concepts and Terminology**

Prepared by the Social and Environmental Considerations Task Force  
of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

#### Summary

This report of the Social and Environmental Considerations Task Force is a supplement to the document "Draft Guidance on accommodating environmental and social considerations in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC)" (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/3) that will be presented at the ninth session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification. It covers two main topics:

- Clarification of some terms relevant to social and environmental considerations.
- Discussion of topics that arose during, but outside, the immediate scope of the work of the Social and Environmental Considerations Task Force.

It is presented for consideration by the Expert Group at its ninth session, and the review and update of UNFC that is planned to start in 2018. It is not intended to be comprehensive, and many of the issues it contains would benefit from further thought and discussion.

GE.18-01854(E)



\*1801854\*



Please recycle

# UNFC Evaluator / Competent Person



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- “Evaluators must possess an appropriate level of expertise and relevant experience in the estimation of quantities associated with the type of deposit under evaluation.”
- Two guidance notes developed:
  - 1. UNFC Specification for Evaluator Qualifications – **Top-level guidance**
  - 2. Competent Person Requirements and Options for Resources Reporting – **Detailed guidance on generic requirements for public reporting and disclosures for all commodities**



# In summary ...



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- **UNFC is a generic, principles-based system**
  - Applicable to both solid minerals and fluids
  - Uses a numerical coding system
- **Based on three fundamental criteria**
  - Economic and social viability
  - Field project status and feasibility
  - Geological knowledge
- **Each criterion is sub-divided into 3 or 4 defined categories**
  - Optional use of sub-categories for more granularity
- **Classes are defined by a combination of a single category or sub-category for each of the three criteria**
  - Numerical category or sub-category for E, for F and for G
  - Always quoted in same sequence: E – F – G
  - Axis letters can be dropped: e.g. Class 221

# Recent publications



UNECE

**United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009**  
*incorporating Specifications for its Application*

**42**  
UNECE Energy Series

UNITED NATIONS

**UNECE**

**Guidelines for Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to Uranium and Thorium Resources**

**55**  
UNECE Energy Series

UNITED NATIONS

**UNECE**

**Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to Geothermal Energy Resources**  
*Selected case studies*

**51**  
UNECE Energy Series

UNITED NATIONS



# More information



UNECE

<http://unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html>

Sustainable Energy

UNFC and Sustainable Resource Management

About UNFC and Sustainable Resource Management

Areas of Work

Applications

UNFC Documents

Case Studies and Application Examples

Governance

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MOUs

FAQs

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## UNFC and Sustainable Resource Management

**United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC)** - a universally acceptable and internationally applicable scheme for the sustainable management of all energy and mineral resources.



INTRO



UNFC



EGRC



MEDIA



23-27 April 2018

**Resource Management Week 2018**  
**UNFC FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification



Applications



UNFC Documents



Case studies



Governance



Public consultations



MOUs



Learning



FAQs



**Thank you!**



**Workshop on UNFC Mexico Petroleum Pilot Project  
Mexico City, 14 June 2019**