

UNECE

Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

Case studies



UNECE Energy Series



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Foreword

Efficient production and supply of energy and raw material resources are vital to attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ensuring that needed resources are developed sustainably has emerged as a critical challenge. Resource use has reached about 100 billion tonnes per year and is growing at a rate of 3 per cent per year. The production of raw materials and their transformation, delivery and use have significant impacts on the environment, including greenhouse gas emissions, environmental integrity, and biodiversity. While the sustainability of producing energy and raw materials has improved vastly in recent decades, there is widespread support among the sector's stakeholders for further improvement.

Having universally acceptable standards, guidelines and best practices in sustainable resource management has thus emerged as an essential requirement in the development and production of the full array of a country's resources. The United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) is a comprehensive resource management system that incorporates social and environmental aspects, in line with the 2030 Agenda, at its core, together with the criteria of economics, technical feasibility and resource uncertainty.

UNFC is a tool for management of resources—such as petroleum, coal, gas, minerals, nuclear fuels, renewable energy, anthropogenic resources (from waste), and storage of carbon dioxide—that will improve maintenance of national inventories, aid internal company resource management, reduce risks, and create opportunities for financial markets. With due consideration of social and environmental aspects incorporated, UNFC has emerged as the only global standard that enables multi-faceted development across all energy and raw material resources. Ensuring sustainability is a process of integrating opportunities and challenges. Increasing productivity while aiming for 'zero waste' and deriving net environmental and social benefits are some of the numerous benefits that derive from the application of UNFC.

Sustainable production and use of natural resources is one of the key nexus areas of action at UNECE. I am pleased to note that, by connecting the work of economic cooperation and integration, environmental policy, forests, housing and land management, population, sustainable energy, statistics, trade and transport, UNECE's work on this nexus will unleash innovative approaches to supporting circularity in natural resource use.

The case studies presented in this publication demonstrate how UNFC can be used in different resource sectors and national contexts to assure sustainable outcomes. I recommend this publication for all those who seek not only profits, but also good social and environmental outcomes from the use of resources.



Olga ALGAYEROVA
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and
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