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Mapping of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources

Report of the Economic Commission for Europe Task Force on Mapping

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PREFACE

In July 2007, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology charged a special Task Force to prepare a mapping of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) with the classification systems of: the Society of Petroleum Engineers/World Petroleum Council/American Association of Petroleum Geologists/Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (SPE-PRMS); the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (the CRIRSCO Template); and, the Russian Federation. The Task Force's mandate also included consideration of possible changes to the UNFC that would facilitate the mapping between these systems.

Although this document represents the final report of the Mapping Task Force, it should be seen as an interim step in an on-going process. In particular, the mapping work was completed in the context of proposed changes to some of the definitions of the UNFC and, as these changes have yet to be adopted, it is therefore provisional in that sense. Further, it is recognised that as more detailed mapping work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make some adjustments to the mapping between systems.

The views presented in the report are solely those of the Task Force members in their capacity as individual professional experts. The report does not purport to represent the views of the employers of the Task Force members nor the views of any of the organizations that they represent or are associated with. Specifically, it should be noted that the report has not been formally endorsed by any of the organizations whose classification systems were included in the mapping exercise.

The Task Force was led by Ms. Mücella Ersöy and Mr. Per Blystad, with Mr. Niall Weatherstone, Mr. Ferdi Camisani-Calzolari, Mr. John Etherington, Mr. Kirill Kavun, Mr. James Ross, and Mr. Andrej Subelj as members.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAPG	American Association of Petroleum Geologists
CRIRSCO	Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
LOM	Life-of-Mine
PRMS	SPE/WPC/AAPG/SPEE Petroleum Resources Management System
QRE	Qualified Reserves Evaluator
ROM	Run-of-Mine
SPE	Society of Petroleum Engineers
SPEE	Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers
SRO	Self-Regulating Organization
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WPC	World Petroleum Council

Introduction

The United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) is a universally applicable scheme for classifying petroleum and solid minerals (including energy minerals) reserves and resources. The Classification is designed to allow the incorporation of currently existing terms and definitions into this framework and thus to make them comparable and compatible. This approach has been simplified through the use of a three-digit code clearly indicating the essential characteristics of energy and mineral commodities in market economies.

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology has always recognized the need for supplementary guidelines to assist users in interpreting the UNFC beyond the definitions, but has refrained from developing these in order to retain flexibility to align with other systems. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts requested the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), on behalf of the petroleum industry, and the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO), on behalf of the solid minerals industry, to compare their respective systems and the UNFC with a view to harmonizing terminology and providing the required guidelines.

In July 2007, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts charged a special Task Force to prepare a draft mapping of the SPE, CRIRSCO, Russian Federation and UNFC systems. The Task Force was led by Ms. Mücella Ersöy and Mr. Per Blystad with Mr. Niall Weatherstone, Mr. Ferdi Camisani-Calzolari, Mr. John Etherington, Mr. Kirill Kavun, Mr. James Ross, and Mr. Andrej Subelj as members. The mandate stated:

The team is to complete the mapping of the various classifications and definitions to the UNFC. Specifically, this will be the CRIRSCO Template, New Russian Classification and SPE PRMS terminologies. The results of this initial effort can then be leveraged to support mapping of other national and international classification systems to the UNFC.

In doing this work, you are invited to consider the changes that will be required to bring the classifications and definitions together for wide acceptance and global adoption with United Nations support. This should include changes to the UNFC for minerals and for petroleum to align these on a project status based framework. It should also include recommended changes to the three underlying classifications for further consideration. It is important to recognize that it is costly to change any of the systems. It may therefore be wise, in the first instance, to exploit flexibility inherent in the current systems in the form of specifications and guidelines that may affect practices within the current systems. Substantive changes to classifications and definitions would probably be best handled in the context of an International Financial Reporting Standard

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