

**UNECE**

# United Nations Resource Management System

An overview of concepts, objectives and requirements



**68**

UNECE Energy Series



**UNITED NATIONS**



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# UNITED NATIONS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

AN OVERVIEW OF CONCEPTS, OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

ECE Energy Series 68



**UNITED NATIONS**

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**T**he 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has inaugurated a new era of global development marked by an imperative to integrate social, environmental and economic objectives. The multifaceted requirements of sustainable development depend on optimal and responsible production and use of natural resources. Today's patterns of supply and use of natural resources are unsustainable as they present challenges in terms of environmental and societal impact and long-term availability of the resources needed for sustainable development.

Over many years, the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) has become a unified system for the classification, accounting and reporting on activities associated with resource production based on social, environmental and economic viability, technical feasibility and degree of confidence in resource estimates. UNECE's Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) has developed UNFC to classify mineral resources, petroleum, nuclear fuel, renewables, anthropogenic resources, and geological storage. Detailed rules and guidelines for the use of UNFC for groundwater are under development.

In 2017, UNECE member States decided to extend UNFC beyond a system of classification to a dynamic resource management system that can help countries, organizations and companies address the challenges of sustainability. The Expert Group on Resource Management has been tasked to develop the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) which will be a voluntary global standard for integrated and sustainable resource management, within the framework of public, public-private and civil society partnerships. While recognizing that resource management remains the responsibility of countries, UNRMS will provide fundamental principles of good governance that can be applied by stakeholders at different levels – national, regional and project level.

Resource production, transformation and use, properly managed, can ensure beneficial social and environmental outcomes. Broadening application of UNFC to a full-fledged management system – UNRMS – will offer a dynamic tool to align investment frameworks with sustainable development.

This publication discusses the objectives, requirements, outline and way forward for the development of UNRMS. I recommend the concepts discussed in this publication for critical review by all stakeholders concerned with sustainable management of natural resources. Engaging with us in this endeavour will help UNECE in its efforts to support countries to build back better.



**Olga ALGAYEROVA**

United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
Executive Secretary  
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