

All Terms/Concepts					
Term/Concept	Definition	Comments	Link/Source	Additional Source	Filter
Aarhus Convention	Shorthand for the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation, in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2001. (UNEP, 2007)		UNEP, 2007. <i>Glossary Of Terms For Negotiators Of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i>		Other Terms
Aligned System	A classification system that has been aligned with UNFC as demonstrated by the existence of a Bridging Document that has been endorsed by the Expert Group on Resource Management		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Anthropogenic Resource	Concentration or occurrence of Anthropogenic Material of intrinsic economic interest, in such form, quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic exploitation. It is recognized that in traditional resource classification systems, the quantity is subdivided into resources and reserves with elaborated definitions of the two. UNFC does not use these terms but refers to "classes" instead.		UNFC Anthropogenic Resources Specifications		UNFC
Asset	Legal rights to which value is attached. Examples of an asset may be a property, a contract etc.	Assets are held both by the public and private sector. The legal rights are related to objects such as projects, land, tangible and intangible properties and define the rightsholder's privileges and obligations.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Bridging Document	A document that explains the relationship between UNFC and another classification system, including instructions and guidelines on how to classify estimates generated by application of that system using UNFC Numerical Codes.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Categories	Primary basis for classification using each of the three fundamental Criteria of environmental-socio-economic viability (related Categories being E1, E2, and E3), technical feasibility (related Categories being F1, F2, F3 and F4), and degree of confidence (related Categories being G1, G2, G3 and G4).		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Circularity (Circular Economy)	Recognized as vital to sustainable development, decarbonization, resource efficiency, and competitiveness, circular economy is an economy where: the value of materials in the economy is maximized and maintained for as long as possible , the input of materials and their consumption is minimized and the generation of waste is prevented and negative environmental impacts are reduced throughout the life cycle of materials.	Developed by the Conference of European Statisticians	UNECE Statistics Division Press Release		UNRMS
Class(es)	Primary level of resource classification resulting from the combination of a Category from each of the three Criteria (axes). (E.g. E1, F1, G3)		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Classification of resources	The categorisation of resources based on the social, environmental, and economic viability of their extraction/use, the corresponding technical feasibility, and the degree of confidence in the estimates of volumes and forecasts.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Classify	To assign estimated quantities to a specific Class (or Sub-class) of UNFC by reference to the definitions of Categories or Sub-categories for each of the three Criteria and taking into account both the Generic Specifications and the source-specific requirements that are included in the Aligned System, as set out in the relevant Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Commercial	Ready for buying and selling at scale	In the UNFC, commercial is a term that applies to products and assets. For products, it is reserved for those that are classified as E1,F1. Assets can be bought or sold irrespective of the classification of its sources and products.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Competence	The power of a person, business, court, or government to deal with something or take legal decisions.	Competence has two meanings in English, and both are used in resource management. The second meaning is: Possessing the skills and attributes and exhibiting the conduct that are used to define and measure suitability for a certain role or function. This is synonymous with qualification and is covered by that term here.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Comprehensive Resource Recovery	One of the core propositions of resource management in which the environment should be disturbed minimally by the recovery of all possible values, with a full life cycle focus on a set of priorities.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements		UNRMS
Contingency	A specific criterion or condition that must be satisfied before a project can proceed. There are 6 types of contingencies under the UNFC: 1) Technological (G/F Axes) 2) Environmental, Social, and Economic Contingencies (E Axis) 3) Timing of Development 4) External and Internal Contingencies 5) Formal and Informal Contingencies 6) Political Contingencies		Principles of Resource Classification (Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group of EGRM, 2020)		UNFC
Continuous Strengthening of Core Competencies and Capabilities	Integrated and indivisible resource management requires a cross-disciplinary approach to problem-solving and working in diverse teams, as such an approach goes beyond what is available in traditional education and requires continuous improvement of competencies and capabilities.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements		UNRMS
Controlling Factors (CF)	Social, environmental, economic, technological, and geological factors that may be considered when changing a mineral Project from one Class to another.		UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications	UNFC - Guidance to Europe	UNFC

Criteria	UNFC utilises three fundamental Criteria for reserve and resource classification: favourability of environmental-socio-economic conditions in establishing the viability of the project (E axis); maturity of technology, studies and commitments necessary to implement the project (F axis); and, degree of confidence in the estimate of quantities of products from the project (G axis). These Criteria are each subdivided into Categories and Sub-categories, which are then combined in the form of Classes or Sub-classes.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)	Natural resources essential for the functioning and developing critical sectors, such as sustainable energy, sustainable transport, health, and digital technologies. CRMs include metals, minerals, and materials with high economic importance and supply risk	UN-Energy Explanation: Typically refers to a mineral or metal essential to the contemporary economy and for the transition to a net-zero, circular economy. Many CRMs also face high supply disruption risks and have environmental and social impacts.	UNECE - Critical Raw Materials UN-ENERGY Policy Brief: Aligning Critical Raw Materials Development	UNFC
Degree of confidence	An assessment of the certainty in an estimate of quantities.	See the G axis Category definitions	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Economic	The anticipated monetary revenues equal or exceed the costs by a margin that satisfies financing requirements, taking risks and opportunities into account, and provides a positive return on investment, often measured by a monetary criterion, such as having a positive net present value (NPV) at a discount factor.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Economic limit	The time beyond which the remaining cumulative cash flows from the Project, in case of project evaluations, or from the Asset in the case of asset evaluations is negative. This refers to the legal rights and/or the use of facilities, whether for extractive or regenerative activities.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Effective Date	The date for which estimates are valid.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Entity	An asset holder.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Environmental impact	The physical, chemical, and biological impact on, or changes to the project area and surroundings, due to a project (e.g. heavy metal contamination in soils or water, disruption of wildlife habits and migration characters, etc.).		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated and alternatives are analyzed. EIA is an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes. (UNEP, 2007)		UNEP, 2007. Glossary Of Terms For Negotiators Of Multilateral Environmental Agreements	Other Terms
ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)	Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) is a model of sustainable business development that is based on responsible attitude towards the environment, high social responsibility, and good governance.		UNDP - ESG	Other Terms
Evaluator	Person, or persons, performing estimation and/or classification		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Exploration Project	A Project that is associated with one or more Potential Source (as defined below).		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Foreseeable Future	The period of time that a Project can make a realistic projection of the occurrence of future conditions, events or other factors that determine the environmental-socio-environmental viability or technical feasibility of a Project. The precise definition of foreseeable future depends on the resource, refer to specifications for precism definitions.		UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications Geothermal Specifications (EGRM, 2022)	UNFC
Generic Specifications	Specifications that apply to the classification of products of a resource project using UNFC.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Guidelines	Additional instruction on how UNFC should be applied in specific circumstances		UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications	UNFC
Harmonization	To identify significant differences between systems, if any, by mapping and then, if necessary, to adjust definitions and/or specifications of one system so that they lead to comparable results. A system that is harmonized with UNFC can become an Aligned System through the development and endorsement (by the Expert Group on Resource Management) of a Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Integrated Management of Resources	Sustainable resource management shall be undertaken within the framework of public, public-private and civil society partnerships in an integrated and indivisible manner consistent with its social, environmental and economic viability and systems and a full life cycle view.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Known Source	A source that has been demonstrated to exist by direct evidence. More detailed specifications can be found in relevant source-specific Aligned Systems.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Life-Cycle Impact Assessment/Analysis	Life-cycle impact assessment is defined as the —phase of Life-Cycle Assessment aimed at understanding and evaluating the magnitude and significance of the potential environmental impacts of a product system - ISO 14044 (2006).		International Resource Panel: Glossary	Other Terms
Mapping Document	The output of a comparison between another resource classification system and UNFC, or between that system and existing Aligned Systems, which highlights the similarities and differences between the systems. A Mapping Document can provide the basis for assessing the potential for the other system to become an Aligned System through the development of a Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Numerical Code	Numerical designation of each Class or Sub-class of resource quantity as defined by UNFC. Numerical Codes are always quoted in the same sequence (i.e. E;F;G).		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Possibility of Discovery	The chance that further exploration, drilling and well testing of a source will result in the confirmation of a Known Source.		UNFC Geothermal Energy Specifications	UNFC
Potential Source	A source that has not yet been demonstrated to exist by direct evidence, but is assessed as potentially existing based primarily on indirect evidence. More detailed specifications can be found in relevant source-specific Aligned Systems.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC

Product	The quantity that will cross the reference points of a project and that will be delivered from or consumed by the project. Estimates should be classified separately for each product that will be sold, transferred, used, unused or consumed in operations. Where estimates for different products have been aggregated for classification, and separate estimates are not provided, the aggregated estimates shall be accompanied by a statement clarifying which products have been aggregated and the conversion factor(s) used to render them equivalent for the purposes of aggregation.	Products of the project may be bought, sold, or used, including electricity, heat, hydrocarbons, hydrogen, minerals, and water. It is noted that with some projects, such as for renewables, the products (electricity, heat etc.) are different from the sources (wind, solar irradiation etc.). In other projects the products and sources may be similar e.g. in petroleum projects both the sources and products are oil and/or gas, although the fluid state and properties may change from reservoir to surface conditions.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Production	The process of generating products from sources via projects.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Professional Organization	A self-regulatory professional association or government licensing authority that admits or licenses individuals based on their academic qualifications, experience, and ethical fitness; requires compliance with the professional standards of competence and ethics established by the organization; requires or encourages continuing professional development; and has and applies disciplinary powers, including the power to suspend or expel individuals or withdraw licenses.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Project	A Project is defined development or operation which provides the basis for environmental, social, economic and technical evaluation and decision-making. In the early stages of evaluation, including verification the Project might be defined only in conceptual terms, whereas more mature Projects will be defined in significant detail. Where no development or operation can currently be defined for all or part of a source, based on existing technology or technological currently under development, all quantities associated with that source (or part thereof) are classified in Category F4. There are quantities which, if produced, could be bought, sold, or used.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Property	A volume of the Earth's crust defined by an Asset. May also be termed a lease, concession, or license.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Prospective	Used in association with projects as prospective projects: Where the existence of a developable product is based primarily on indirect evidence and has not yet been confirmed.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Qualified	Possessing the ability to put skills, knowledge, and experience into practice to perform activities or a job in an effective and efficient manner for resource classification, management, and reporting.	Proposed alternative definition: Possessing the ability to put skills, knowledge, and experience into practice to perform activities or a job in an effective and consistent manner for resource classification, management and reporting as per UNFC guidelines.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Qualified Assessment	A formal report pertaining to the estimated quantities and/or value of project metrics made by a Qualified Expert, that should include, but not be limited to, sources and adequacy and reliability of the underlying data, assumptions made and limitations, the qualifications and experience of the author(s) or those responsible for sign-off.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Qualified Expert	An independent person with education, training, and relevant professional experience in a discipline pertinent to a Project, acting in compliance with the professional standards of competence and ethics established by his/her professional organization. This person is responsible for the standards and methodologies used for collecting, analysing, and verifying information used in qualified assessments.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Reasonable Expectations	Term used within the E1 classification, concerns the likelihood of obtaining necessary regulatory approvals, permits and contracts necessary to implement <i>the Project</i> .	Mineral Specifications: High level of confidence. This term is used within the E1 classification and concerns the likelihood that all necessary conditions will be met. It is also used in the F1.3 Sub-category and concerns the likelihood that all necessary approvals/contracts for the project to proceed to development will be forthcoming.	UNFC Petroleum Specifications UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications	UNFC
Reference point	A defined location at which the reported estimate or measurement is made. The Reference Point may be the sales, transfer or use point from the development or it may be an intermediate stage, in which case the reported quantities account for losses prior to but not after the delivery point. The Reference Point shall be disclosed in conjunction with the classification. Where the Reference Point is not the point of sale to third parties (or where custody is transferred to the entity's other operations), and such quantities are classified as E1, the information necessary to derive estimated sales shall also be provided.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Remaining products not developed	Quantities of resources or materials that have not been produced because no technically feasible projects have yet been identified to enable their development. These quantities are currently unexploitable but may become viable in the future with advancements in technology.		UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Remediation	The restoration of a project site conditions that are required by regulatory or other provisions.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC
Renewable	Where the inflow to, and/or generation of energy or materials in a defined body exceeds the outflow over a period of interest.	Adopted from Renewable Energy Specification	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms UNECE	UNFC

Resource	The cumulative quantity of products that are generated and/or consumed by a project from a defined date forward and evaluated at the reference point(s) of the project. A resource has an environmental-social-economic benefit and can be renewable (e.g. solar, wind, groundwater) or non-renewable. Resources can be for primary use (e.g., minerals, hydrocarbons, renewable energy, groundwater, pore space for CO2 storage) and can be derived from or after primary use as secondary resources (e.g. anthropogenic resources, mining residues and tailings, processing or refining residues, construction wastes).	The term "resource" is not defined in UNFC, because it has specific, but different, definitions in different sectors. In UNFC "resource" is only used in generic way as in the phrases "resource management", "resource project", "resource specification".	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Resource decoupling	Resource decoupling means delinking the rate of use of primary resources from economic activity. Absolute resource decoupling would mean that the Total Material Requirement of a country decreases while the economy grows. It follows the same principles as dematerialization, i.e. implying the use of less material, energy, water and land to achieve the same (or better) economic output		International Resource Panel: Glossary	Other Terms
Resource efficiency	In general terms, resource efficiency describes the overarching goals of decoupling — increasing human well-being and economic growth while lowering the amount of resources required and negative environmental impacts associated with resource use. In other words, this means doing better with less. In technical terms, resource efficiency means achieving higher outputs with lower inputs and can be reflected by indicators such as resource productivity (including GDP/resource consumption). Ambitions to achieve a resource-efficient economy therefore refer to systems of production and consumption that have been optimized with regard to resource use. This includes strategies of dematerialization (savings, reduction of material and energy use) and re-materialization (reuse, remanufacturing and recycling) in a systems-wide approach to a circular economy, as well as infrastructure transitions within sustainable urbanization.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	Other Terms
Resource Intensity	Resource intensity depicts the amount of natural resources used to produce a certain amount of value or physical output. It is calculated as resource use / value added or as resource use / physical output. Resource intensity is the inverse of resource productivity.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	Other Terms
Responsibility to the Planet	The primary responsibility of sustainable resource management is the continued well-being of the Earth, its inhabitants, and the environment. At a minimum, sustainable development must not endanger the natural systems that support life on earth: the atmosphere, the waters, the soils, and the living beings.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Royalty	Royalty is an entitlement interest in a project where the royalty owner does not participate in any of the capital or operating costs required to produce the products. A royalty is commonly retained by resources lessor when granting rights to the producer. A royalty is paid in either cash or kind (depending on the lease) based on a fraction of the production.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Service Orientation	Sustainable resource management entails service-orientation, meaning that resources shall be produced primarily as a service to society.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Social Engagement	Essential engagement between all stakeholders involved in the sustainable development of natural resources in service to all citizens of this generation as well as future generations. Due to the complex social impacts that the sustainable resource management can have on varying groups of people, rights-based social safeguards, inclusive dialogue, and risk management principles should be applied to resource projects to ensure that they benefit the poor, leave no one behind, and respect human rights.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Social impact	The resulting impact on humans and society, from a project, such as: (i) Effects stemming from environmental changes (e.g. health issues due to heavy metal contamination); and (ii) Changes in social systems and structures, (e.g. ownership claims, traditional land usage, land and other value changes, changes in local population community structures, etc.).		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Sources	Sources, such as bioenergy, geothermal, hydro-marine, solar, wind, injection for storage, hydrocarbons, minerals, nuclear fuels and water, are the origin from which products can be derived. The sources may be in their natural or secondary (anthropogenic sources, tailings, etc.) state.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Specifications	Additional details (mandatory rules) as to how a resource classification system is to be applied, supplementing the framework definitions of that system. Generic Specifications provided for UNFC in Specifications Documents ensure clarity and comparability and are complementary to the source-specific requirements included in Aligned Systems, as set out in the relevant Bridging Document.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC 2019 Update UNFC
State rights and responsibilities in the management of resources	The States (governments) rights, legal and regulatory responsibilities for the resources located on their territory. A State has sovereignty over all resources located in its territory and they have a dominant role in producing and consuming resources. Following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted by all United Nations Member States), a State has independent legislation and full rights to manage and use resources sustainably.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Sub-category	Subdivision of a Category		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Sub-class(es)	Class defined by the combination of its Sub-categories	Optional subdivision of resource classification based on project maturity principles resulting from the combination of Sub-categories.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs as explained through the UN Sustainable Development Goals.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC

Systems Approach	The system approach (1) considers the total material throughput of the economy from resource extraction and harvest to final disposal, and their environmental impacts, (2) relates these flows to activities in production and consumption across spatial scale, time, nexus and boundary dimensions, and (3) searches for leverage points for multi-beneficial changes (technological, social or organizational), all encouraged by policies to achieve sustainable production/consumption and multi-scale sustainable resource management.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	Other Terms
Transparency	Ensuring of public understanding of the transfer of revenues and expenditures that will help public debate, allowing for an informed choice of sustainable development options.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS
Unconventional	Natural resources that cannot be extracted using traditional methods, typically requiring specialized extraction techniques.	Difference in minerals vs petroleum	UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications UNFC Petroleum Specifications	UNFC
Value Addition	Value addition refers to any economic, environmental or social benefit from further processing and manufacturing resources. The goal of value added is to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) associated directly with processing and manufacturing and also to increase the employment and other benefits that accrue.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	UNRMS

UNFC Terms/Concepts					
Term/Concept	Definition	Comments	Link/Source	Additional Source	Column1
Aligned System	A classification system that has been aligned with UNFC as demonstrated by the existence of a Bridging Document that has been endorsed by the Expert Group on Resource Management		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Anthropogenic Sources	Concentration or occurrence of Anthropogenic Material of intrinsic economic interest, in such form, quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic exploitation. It is recognized that in traditional resource classification systems, the quantity is subdivided into resources and reserves with elaborated definitions of the two. UNFC does not use these terms but refers to "classes" instead.		UNFC Anthropogenic Resources Specifications		UNFC
Asset	Legal rights to which value is attached. Examples of an asset may be a property, a contract etc.	Assets are held both by the public and private sector. The legal rights are related to objects such as projects, land, tangible and intangible properties and define the rightsholder's privileges and obligations.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Bridging Document	A document that explains the relationship between UNFC and another classification system, including instructions and guidelines on how to classify estimates generated by application of that system using UNFC Numerical Codes.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Categories	Primary basis for classification using each of the three fundamental Criteria of environmental-socio-economic viability (related Categories being E1, E2, and E3), technical feasibility (related Categories being F1, F2, F3 and F4), and degree of confidence (related Categories being G1, G2, G3 and G4).		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Class(es)	Primary level of resource classification resulting from the combination of a Category from each of the three Criteria (axes). (E.g. E1, F1, G3)		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Classification of resources	The categorisation of resources based on the social, environmental, and economic viability of their extraction/use, the corresponding technical feasibility, and the degree of confidence in the estimates of volumes and forecasts.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Classify	To assign estimated quantities to a specific Class (or Sub-class) of UNFC by reference to the definitions of Categories or Sub-categories for each of the three Criteria and taking into account both the Generic Specifications and the source-specific requirements that are included in the Aligned System, as set out in the relevant Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Commercial	Ready for buying and selling at scale	In the UNFC, commercial is a term that applies to products and assets. For products, it is reserved for those that are classified as E1,F1. Assets can be bought or sold irrespective of the classification of its sources and products.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Competence	The power of a person, business, court, or government to deal with something or take legal decisions.	Competence has two meanings in English, and both are used in resource management. The second meaning is: Possessing the skills and attributes and exhibiting the conduct that are used to define and measure suitability for a certain role or function. This is synonymous with qualification and is covered by that term here.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Contingency	A specific criterion or condition that must be satisfied before a project can proceed. There are 6 types of contingencies under the UNFC: 1) Technological (G/F Axes) 2) Environmental, Social, and Economic Contingencies (E Axis) 3) Timing of Development 4) External and Internal Contingencies 5) Formal and Informal Contingencies 6) Political Contingencies		Principles of Resource Classification (Social and Environmental Considerations Working Group of EGRM, 2020)		UNFC
Controlling Factors (CF)	Social, environmental, economic, technological, and geological factors that may be considered when changing a mineral Project from one Class to another.		UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications	UNFC - Guidance to Europe	UNFC
Criteria	UNFC utilises three fundamental Criteria for reserve and resource classification: favourability of environmental-socio-economic conditions in establishing the viability of the project (E axis); maturity of technology, studies and commitments necessary to implement the project (F axis); and, degree of confidence in the estimate of quantities of products from the project (G axis). These Criteria are each subdivided into Categories and Sub-categories, which are then combined in the form of Classes or Sub-classes.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC

Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)	Natural resources essential for the functioning and developing critical sectors, such as sustainable energy, sustainable transport, health, and digital technologies. CRMs include metals, minerals, and materials with high economic importance and supply risk	UN-Energy Explanation: Typically refers to a mineral or metal essential to the contemporary economy and for the transition to a net-zero, circular economy. Many CRMs also face high supply disruption risks and have environmental and social impacts.	UNECE - Critical Raw Materials	UN-ENERGY POLICY BRIEF: Aligning Critical Raw Materials Development	UNFC
Degree of confidence	An assessment of the certainty in an estimate of quantities.	See the G axis Category definitions	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Economic	The anticipated monetary revenues equal or exceed the costs by a margin that satisfies financing requirements, taking risks and opportunities into account, and provides a positive return on investment, often measured by a monetary criterion, such as having a positive net present value (NPV) at a discount factor.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Economic limit	The time beyond which the remaining cumulative cash flows from the Project, in case of project evaluations, or from the Asset in the case of asset evaluations is negative. This refers to the legal rights and/or the use of facilities, whether for extractive or regenerative activities.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Effective Date	The date for which estimates are valid.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Entity	An asset holder.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Environmental impact	The physical, chemical, and biological impact on, or changes to the project area and surroundings, due to a project (e.g. heavy metal contamination in soils or water, disruption of wildlife habits and migration characters, etc.).	Harmful effects of human activities on ecosystems. In the IRP flagship report, Global Resources Outlook 2019, the following methods and impact categories are used to assess environmental impacts: 1. Climate change impacts: Greenhouse gas emissions are weighed according to the concentration change they produce in the atmosphere multiplied with the radiative forcing of the respective gas, a substance property describing how much energy the substance can absorb. This effect of altering the energy balance of the earth is accumulated over a defined time horizon (typically 100 years) and published by IPCC as "Global Warming Potentials, GWPs" (IPCC, 2013). Impacts are called climate	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	International Resource Panel	UNFC
Evaluator	Person, or persons, performing estimation and/or classification		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Exploration Project	A Project that is associated with one or more Potential Source (as defined below).		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE		UNFC
Foreseeable Future	A period of time that a Project can make a realistic projection of the occurrence of future conditions, events or other factors that determine the environmental-socio-environmental viability or technical feasibility of a Project. The precise definition of foreseeable future depends on the resource, refer to specifications for precise definitions.	This differs greatly depending on the context and which resource	UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications		UNFC
Generic Specifications	Specifications (as documented in this Specifications Document) that apply to the classification of products of a resource project using UNFC.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Guidelines	Additional instruction on how UNFC should be applied in specific circumstances		UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications		UNFC
Harmonization	To identify significant differences between systems, if any, by mapping and then, if necessary, to adjust definitions and/or specifications of one system so that they lead to comparable results. A system that is harmonized with UNFC can become an Aligned System through the development and endorsement (by the Expert Group on Resource Management) of a Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Known Source	A source that has been demonstrated to exist by direct evidence. More detailed specifications can be found in relevant source-specific Aligned Systems.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Mapping Document	The output of a comparison between another resource classification system and UNFC, or between that system and existing Aligned Systems, which highlights the similarities and differences between the systems. A Mapping Document can provide the basis for assessing the potential for the other system to become an Aligned System through the development of a Bridging Document.		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Numerical Code	Numerical designation of each Class or Sub-class of resource quantity as defined by UNFC. Numerical Codes are always quoted in the same sequence (i.e. E;F;G).		UNFC 2019 Update		UNFC
Possibility of Discovery	The chance that further exploration, drilling and well testing of a Potential Geothermal Energy Source will result in the confirmation of a Known Geothermal Energy Source.		UNFC Geothermal Energy Specifications		UNFC

Potential Source	A source that has not yet been demonstrated to exist by direct evidence, but is assessed as potentially existing based primarily on indirect evidence. More detailed specifications can be found in relevant source-specific Aligned Systems.	UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Product	The quantity that will cross the reference points of a project and that will be delivered from or consumed by the project. Estimates should be classified separately for each product that will be sold, transferred, used, unused or consumed in operations. Where estimates for different products have been aggregated for classification, and separate estimates are not provided, the aggregated estimates shall be accompanied by a statement clarifying which products have been aggregated and the conversion factor(s) used to render them equivalent for the purposes of aggregation. Products of the project may be bought, sold, or used, including electricity, heat, hydrocarbons, hydrogen, minerals, and water. It is noted that with some projects, such as for renewables, the products (electricity, heat etc.) are different from the sources (wind, solar irradiation etc.). In other projects the products and sources may be similar e.g. in petroleum projects both the sources and products are oil and/or gas, although the fluid state and properties may change from reservoir to surface conditions.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Production	The process of generating products from sources via projects.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Professional Organization	A self-regulatory professional association or government licensing authority that admits or licenses individuals based on their academic qualifications, experience, and ethical fitness; requires compliance with the professional standards of competence and ethics established by the organization; requires or encourages continuing professional development; and has and applies disciplinary powers, including the power to suspend or expel individuals or withdraw licenses.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Project	A Project is defined development or operation which provides the basis for environmental, social, economic and technical evaluation and decision-making. In the early stages of evaluation, including verification the Project might be defined only in conceptual terms, whereas more mature Projects will be defined in significant detail. Where no development or operation can currently be defined for all or part of a source, based on existing technology or technological currently under development, all quantities associated with that source (or part thereof) are classified in Category F4. There are quantities which, if produced, could be bought, sold, or used.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Property	A volume of the Earth's crust defined by an Asset. May also be termed a lease, concession, or license.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Prospective	Used in association with projects as prospective projects: Where the existence of a developable product is based primarily on indirect evidence and has not yet been confirmed.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Qualified	Possessing the ability to put skills, knowledge, and experience into practice to perform activities or a job in an effective and efficient manner for resource classification, management, and reporting. Proposed alternative definition: Possessing the ability to put skills, knowledge, and experience into practice to perform activities or a job in an effective and consistent manner for resource classification, management and reporting as per UNFC guidelines.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Qualified Assessment	A formal report pertaining to the estimated quantities and/or value of project metrics made by a Qualified Expert, that should include, but not be limited to, sources and adequacy and reliability of the underlying data, assumptions made and limitations, the qualifications and experience of the author(s) or those responsible for sign-off.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Qualified Expert	An independent person with education, training, and relevant professional experience in a discipline pertinent to a Project, acting in compliance with the professional standards of competence and ethics established by his/her professional organization. This person is responsible for the standards and methodologies used for collecting, analysing, and verifying information used in qualified assessments.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Reasonable Expectations	Term used within the E1 classification, concerns the likelihood of obtaining necessary regulatory approvals, permits and contracts necessary to implement the Project.	UNFC Petroleum Specifications	UNFC
Reference point	A defined location at which the reported estimate or measurement is made. The Reference Point may be the sales, transfer or use point from the development or it may be an intermediate stage, in which case the reported quantities account for losses prior to but not after the delivery point. The Reference Point shall be disclosed in conjunction with the classification. Where the Reference Point is not the point of sale to third parties (or where custody is transferred to the entity's other operations), and such quantities are classified as E1, the information necessary to derive estimated sales shall also be provided.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC
Remaining products not developed	quantities of resources or materials that have not been produced because no technically feasible projects have yet been identified to enable their development. These quantities are currently unexploitable but may become viable in the future with advancements in technology.	UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Remediation	The restoration of a project site conditions that are required by regulatory or other provisions.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I. UNECE	UNFC

Renewable	Where the inflow to, and/or generation of energy or materials in a defined body exceeds the outflow over a period of interest.	Adopted from Renewable Energy Specification	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Resource	The cumulative quantity of products that are generated and/or consumed by a project from a defined date forward and evaluated at the reference point(s) of the project. A resource has an environmental-social-economic benefit and can be renewable (e.g. solar, wind, groundwater) or non-renewable. Resources can be for primary use (e.g., minerals, hydrocarbons, renewable energy, groundwater, pore space for CO2 storage) and can be derived from or after primary use as secondary resources (e.g. anthropogenic resources, mining residues and tailings, processing or refining residues, construction wastes).	The term "resource" is not defined in UNFC, because it has specific, but different, definitions in different sectors. In UNFC "resource" is only used in generic way as in the phrases "resource management", "resource project", "resource specification".	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Royalty	Royalty is an entitlement interest in a project where the royalty owner does not participate in any of the capital or operating costs required to produce the products. A royalty is commonly retained by resources lessor when granting rights to the producer. A royalty is paid in either cash or kind (depending on the lease) based on a fraction of the production.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Social impact	The resulting impact on humans and society, from a project, such as: (i) Effects stemming from environmental changes (e.g. health issues due to heavy metal contamination); and (ii) Changes in social systems and structures, (e.g. ownership claims, traditional land usage, land and other value changes, changes in local population community structures, etc.).		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Sources	Sources, such as bioenergy, geothermal, hydro-marine, solar, wind, injection for storage, hydrocarbons, minerals, nuclear fuels and water, are the origin from which products can be derived. The sources may be in their natural or secondary (anthropogenic sources, tailings, etc.) state.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Specifications	Additional details (mandatory rules) as to how a resource classification system is to be applied, supplementing the framework definitions of that system. Generic Specifications provided for UNFC in Specifications Documents ensure clarity and comparability and are complementary to the source-specific requirements included in Aligned Systems, as set out in the relevant Bridging Document.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE	UNFC 2019 Update	UNFC
Sub-category	Subdivision of a Category		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Sub-class(es)	Class defined by the combination of its Sub-categories	Optional subdivision of resource classification based on project maturity principles resulting from the combination of Sub-categories.	UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs as explained through the UN Sustainable Development Goals.		UNFC – Glossary of Common Terms I UNECE		UNFC
Unconventional	Natural resources that cannot be extracted using traditional methods, typically requiring specialized extraction techniques.	Difference in minerals vs petroleum	UNFC 2019 - Mineral Specifications	UNFC Petroleum Specifications	UNFC

UNRMS Terms/Concepts				
Term/Concept	Definition	Comments	Link/Source	Additional Source
Circularity (Circular Economy)	Recognized as vital to sustainable development, decarbonization, resource efficiency, and competitiveness, circular economy is an economy where: the value of materials in the economy is maximized and maintained for as long as possible , the input of materials and their consumption is minimized and the generation of waste is prevented and negative environmental impacts are reduced throughout the life cycle of materials.	Developed by the Conference of European Statisticians	UNEPCE Statistics Division Press Release	
Comprehensive Resource Recovery	One of the core propositions of resource management in which the environment should be disturbed minimally by the recovery of all possible values, with a full life cycle focus on a set of priorities.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Continuous Strengthening of Core Competencies and Capabilities	Integrated and indivisible resource management requires a cross-disciplinary approach to problem-solving and working in diverse teams, as such an approach goes beyond what is available in traditional education and requires continuous improvement of competencies and capabilities.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Integrated Management of Resources	Sustainable resource management shall be undertaken within the framework of public, public-private and civil society partnerships in an integrated and indivisible manner consistent with its social, environmental and economic viability and systems and a full life cycle view.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Responsibility to the Planet	The primary responsibility of sustainable resource management is the continued well-being of the Earth, its inhabitants, and the environment. At a minimum, sustainable development must not endanger the natural systems that support life on earth: the atmosphere, the waters, the soils, and the living beings.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Service Orientation	Sustainable resource management entails service-orientation, meaning that resources shall be produced primarily as a service to society.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Social Engagement	Essential engagement between all stakeholders involved in the sustainable development of natural resources in service to all citizens of this generation as well as future generations. Due to the complex social impacts that the sustainable resource management can have on varying groups of people, rights-based social safeguards, inclusive dialogue, and risk management principles should be applied to resource projects to ensure that they benefit the poor, leave no one behind, and respect human rights.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
State rights and responsibilities in the management of resources	The States (governments) rights, legal and regulatory responsibilities for the resources located on their territory. A State has sovereignty over all resources located in its territory and they have a dominant role in producing and consuming resources. Following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted by all United Nations Member States), a State has independent legislation and full rights to manage and use resources sustainably.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Transparency	Ensuring of public understanding of the transfer of revenues and expenditures that will help public debate, allowing for an informed choice of sustainable development options.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	
Value Addition	Value addition refers to any economic, environmental or social benefit from further processing and manufacturing resources. The goal of value added is to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) associated directly with processing and manufacturing and also to increase the employment and other benefits that accrue.	Mixture of <i>shall</i> statements and explanations	United Nations Resource Management System: Principles and Requirements	

UNEP Glossary - Sustainable Resource Management

Term/Concept	Definition	Comments	Link/Source	Additional Source
Aarhus Convention	Shorthand for the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation, in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2001. (UNEP, 2007)		UNEP, 2007. <i>Glossary Of Terms For Negotiators Of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i> . ; https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/glossary/	
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated and alternatives are analyzed. EIA is an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes. (UNEP, 2007)		UNEP, 2007. <i>Glossary Of Terms For Negotiators Of Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i> . ; https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/glossary/	

International Resource Panel - Glossary				
Term/Concept	Definition	Comments	Link/Source	Additional Source
Resource decoupling	Resource decoupling means delinking the rate of use of primary resources from economic activity. Absolute resource decoupling would mean that the Total Material Requirement of a country decreases while the economy grows. It follows the same principles as dematerialization, i.e. implying the use of less material, energy, water and land to achieve the same (or better) economic output		International Resource Panel: Glossary	
Resource efficiency	In general terms, resource efficiency describes the overarching goals of decoupling — increasing human well-being and economic growth while lowering the amount of resources required and negative environmental impacts associated with resource use. In other words, this means doing better with less. In technical terms, resource efficiency means achieving higher outputs with lower inputs and can be reflected by indicators such as resource productivity (including GDP/resource consumption). Ambitions to achieve a resource-efficient economy therefore refer to systems of production and consumption that have been optimized with regard to resource use. This includes strategies of dematerialization (savings, reduction of material and energy use) and re-materialization (reuse, remanufacturing and recycling) in a systems-wide approach to a circular economy, as well as infrastructure transitions within sustainable urbanization.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	
Resource Intensity	Resource intensity depicts the amount of natural resources used to produce a certain amount of value or physical output. It is calculated as resource use / value added or as resource use / physical output. Resource intensity is the inverse of resource productivity.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	
Systems Approach	The system approach (1) considers the total material throughput of the economy from resource extraction and harvest to final disposal, and their environmental impacts, (2) relates these flows to activities in production and consumption across spatial scale, time, nexus and boundary dimensions, and (3) searches for leverage points for multi-beneficial changes (technological, social or organizational), all encouraged by policies to achieve sustainable production/consumption and multi-scale sustainable resource management.		International Resource Panel: Glossary	
Life-Cycle Impact Assessment/Analysis	Life-cycle impact assessment is defined as the —phase of Life-Cycle Assessment aimed at understanding and evaluating the magnitude and significance of the potential environmental impacts of a product system -ISO 14044 (2006).		International Resource Panel: Glossary	