

Brussels, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## **UNECE and EuroGeoSurveys to promote the balanced development of all resources**

Sustainable resource management is now being recognized in Europe as a matter of singular importance to ensure the well-being of the society. The achievement of the Sustainable Development goals greatly hinges on easy access to energy and raw material resources. UNECE and EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) will be joining hands, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding, to achieve this through the application of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), a global standard that can ensure sound management of all resources.

The cooperation envisaged between UNECE and EGS will span a wide range of activities that seek to harmonize the classification, reporting and management of sub-surface and contribute to realizing a European Geological Knowledge Base for all resources. The partnership will promote the application of UNFC through the National Geological Surveys and Regional Surveys in Europe in the framework of the EGS Mineral Resource Expert Group (MREG) to support policy analyses, government resource management, industrial business processes, the introduction of innovative technologies and financing. The cooperation will include the practical application of UNFC in sharing geological data as part of the Geological Service for Europe, especially in relevant projects and initiatives such as the European Geological Data Infrastructure (EGDI) based on the European Union's Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Directive.

This collaboration while testing UNFC's sustainability guidelines and best practices will also seek how European Union's proactive directives and responses could be rolled back into UNFC. Such an approach will make available best practices from European institutions widely available to the global community. Since international cooperation is a bulwark of Europe's collaboration for sourcing of raw materials and energy, this collaboration will be mutually reinforcing and is expected to provide a strengthened approach towards sustainable resource management.

UNECE Executive Secretary Olga Algayerova said, "This collaboration holds immense promise in transforming the resource sectors, especially through integrating it with the forward-looking policies and frameworks of the European Union. This will help to write a new narrative for resource management, as a benign and acceptable activity that can support the realization of the Agenda 2030."

Professor Teresa Ponce de Leão, President of EuroGeoSurveys, welcomed the MoU and remarked that this collaboration would also help “other regions based on experience gained in the European region, including in promoting training and capacity-building programmes to develop skills and competencies of experts in the classification, reporting and sustainable management of all resources.”

#### Note to editors:

#### **About UNFC:**

UNFC, a flagship project of UNECE, has become the global tool for understanding and managing the resource base of energy and raw materials. This includes primary raw material and energy sources such as minerals, petroleum, coal, as well as renewable energies such as bioenergy, geothermal, solar, wind and hydropower. UNFC offers a common framework that allows countries and companies to manage how the required energy and raw materials could be assured sustainably.

In recent years, there has been significant interest in and uptake of UNFC both within the UNECE region and beyond. In October 2017, the African Minerals Development Centre hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Africa decided to adopt UNFC as the resource management system for the whole of Africa. The Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), an intergovernmental body with 14-member countries, has also decided to apply UNFC as a universal standard for petroleum and minerals.

#### **About EuroGeoSurveys:**

The Geological Surveys of Europe or EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) is a not-for-profit organization representing 37 National Geological Surveys and some regional surveys in Europe that provides the European Institutions with expert, neutral, balanced and practical pan-European advice and information as an aid to problem-solving, policy, regulatory and programme formulation the sustainable development of on- and off-shore natural resources. EGS pursues activities that lie exclusively in the public interest or in the interest of public administration that will benefit from the combined and coordinated expertise of its members and in the direct interest of the European Union and of the European Free Trade Association.

For further information on UNFC and UNECE’s Expert Group on Resource Classification, please visit:

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

Contact: Hari Tulsidas at [reserves.energy@unece.org](mailto:reserves.energy@unece.org)

For further information on EuroGeoSurveys, please visit: <http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/>

Contact: Nancy Savall at [nancy.savall@eurogeosurveys.org](mailto:nancy.savall@eurogeosurveys.org)