

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON MINING, MINERALS, METALS AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
OCTOBER 16 – 18, 2012
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

AIDE-MÉMOIRE



The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

I. Introduction

A rich natural resource endowment provides a large number of developing countries with a comparative economic advantage. Mining is an activity that is complex and requires significant economic, social and environmental capacity for its proper management. This opportunity to generate benefits from mining must be used effectively to advance sustainable economic development and reduce poverty.

A number of international initiatives and forums are addressing the implications of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development. It has been ten years since the United Nations' World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the International Institute for Environment and Development's (IIED) Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project. During that time there has been a significant increase in international dialogue, studies, and the development of standards and best practices that have furthered our understanding of the mining sector's role in sustainable development. For instance, at the 2012 United Nations' Sustainable Development Conference (Rio+20), participants recognized that minerals and metals are important for the world economy and modern societies as a catalyst for broad-based economic development and poverty reduction. The meeting declaration also emphasized that governments need strong capacities to develop, manage, and regulate their mining industries in the interests of sustainable development. The MMSD+10 "Reflecting on a decade" discussion paper also highlighted challenges in the mining sector, including the need to support government capacity building, artisanal and small-scale mining, community development, and an integrated approach to mining.

A number of regional and other initiatives have also underscored the role of mining in sustainable development, highlighting the centrality of responsible resource governance. The African Union's African Mining Vision (AMV) espouses holistic thinking, which integrates mining into development policies at local, national and regional levels. The AMV advocates that mining can contribute nationally by improving the capacity of nations to negotiate contracts with mining multinationals that generate fair resource rents and stipulate local inputs for operations; regionally by integrating mining into industrial and trade policy, and locally by ensuring that communities see sustainable benefits from large-scale industrial mining. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is also examining sustainable development issues in mining and recognizes that such goals can be achieved through improved regional integration, investment, social responsibility, and innovation and environmental advances in mining and metallurgy. The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) advocates the need for strong and effective legal and regulatory national frameworks that work to deliver economic prosperity and safeguard the environment.

Since many of the critical issues facing the minerals and metals sector require action by governments or governments in concert with other stakeholders, there is a need for governments to convene to examine and discuss the best options to provide a focus and means of follow up for the many disparate initiatives currently underway. The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) is designed to address these needs.



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II. About the Forum

Following the outcomes of the 2002 WSSD in Johannesburg, Canada and South Africa partnered to create the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development. Officially launched in February 2005, the Forum is a voluntary partnership of 44 countries from across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, that provides members with a unique global venue for sustained discussions on practical issues related to the sustainable management and development of the mining and metals sector. The Forum also opens itself to inclusive dialogue between member and observer country governments, mining companies and industry associations. As stated in the 2009 UK Department for International Development's (DFID) independent review, the Forum plays a critical role for member governments, especially developing countries, as there is no other global organisation that specifically addresses topics related to the mining and metals sector from a government perspective.

The key policy product of the Forum is its Mining Policy Framework (MPF). Endorsed by members at the 2010 Annual General Meeting, the MPF provides a comprehensive policy model that allows mining to make its maximum contribution to the sustainable development of developing countries. The Framework was presented for consideration at the 19th Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 19) as a compendium of activities identified as best practices for exercising good governance of the mining sector and promoting the generation and equitable sharing of benefits in a manner that will contribute to sustainable development. Implementation of the Framework is a major component of the Forum's current programme of work.

This year, the Forum will host its eighth Annual General Meeting. These meetings present members an opportunity to exchange their experiences and knowledge of managing the challenges of advancing sustainable development, and engage with the proponents of global and regional initiatives relevant to the mining and metals sector.

III. Objectives of the Forum

The Forum's broader objective is to promote the contribution of the mining, minerals, and metals sector to sustainable development and enhance governance capacity in the sector. The Forum accomplishes this objective by bringing together government representatives responsible for mineral resource development in developing countries.

IV. Priorities for the 2012 Annual General Meeting

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting, the Forum will deliberate on the future of the Forum and how to advance the Mining Policy Framework. Two Task Forces were formed following the 2011 Annual General Meeting in order to contribute to this.

The Task Force on the Implementation of the Mining Policy Framework was tasked with creating a Programme of Work for the Forum for the period of 2011 to 2013, oriented around the advancement of the MPF as a policy guidance tool, particular for members.



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The Task Force on Future Funding was tasked with defining the type of funding required to support the IGF in the future and to explore options to secure that funding. Any funding model must preserve the core structure of the Forum (an intergovernmental body of sovereign states that retains independence in its decision making, and does not promote any interest other than those of its Members).

Charting a course forward for the Forum requires a clear understanding of the various actors and initiatives currently involved in the field of mining and sustainable, and articulating the relationship between both the Forum and the MPF to those actors and initiatives. To that end, the programme includes discussions with various international financial institutions and regional development bodies. It also explores new partnership opportunities with organizations like the World Economic Forum and the World Gold Council.

V. Date and Venue of the 8th Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place from October 16-18th, 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will be held in room XXIV of the Palais des Nations.

VI. Programme

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting is being finalized and will be distributed to all participants in advance of the meeting.

Three themes priority themes were chosen by Members during the 2011 Annual General Meeting, and these themes will guide this year's meeting:

- 1) Financial Benefit Optimisation/Transparency
- 2) Legal and Policy Environment
- 3) Social / Economic benefit and community engagement

Specific attention will be given to the issues addressed by the task forces relating to the implementation of the Mining Policy Framework and the future of the Forum. An opportunity for detailed engagement with the various international financial institutions and other regional intergovernmental bodies will also figure prominently in the program.

There will also be a joint dinner on the evening of Wednesday October 17 for participants in the Forum Annual General Meeting and members of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Minerals and Metals group. This will be followed on the afternoon of Thursday October 18, with a joint session with the WEF Minerals and Metals group, focusing on:

- 1) Mineral Value Management - going beyond royalties and taxes, and
- 2) Resource Dynamics - the intersection of mining and metals with water and energy.

This session will be followed by a reception at the World Economic Forum.



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On **Friday, October 19th from 8 a.m. - noon** the World Gold Council will host a **Roundtable on Gold and Conflict Issues**: This breakfast meeting will involve a review of the leading regulatory, normative and industry-led initiatives designed to sever the link between gold production and armed conflict and their implications for both large-scale and artisanal producers, including access to market. Although the US Dodd-Frank legislation is focussed on Central Africa, the OECD guidance and the leading industry initiatives have a global focus on 'conflict affected and high risk areas'. Current approaches to increase the oversight of flows of gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten may also have implications for other commodities as the demand for assurance around supply chains grows, potentially affecting all producer countries. Venue to be confirmed.

VII. Organizer

The Annual General Meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the IGF in association with UNCTAD.

VIII. Participation

Representatives from government departments responsible for mineral resources will attend the Forum's Annual General Meeting. Trade associations, civil society organizations, and company representatives are welcome to participate in the Forum as part of national delegations, or upon invitation from the Secretariat.

IX. Organization of work

The Annual General Meeting will be organised into plenary sessions. Presentations will emphasize key lessons-learned and experiences in addressing the three priority themes, highlighting the progress on the implementation of the MPF, reviewing developments in the mining sectors of member countries, and initiatives of other organizations - this year focusing on international financial institutions.

X. Financial Arrangements

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provides some financial assistance to delegates from developing countries to attend the Annual General Meeting. The assistance guarantees support to one delegate per country; however, requests for assistance for an additional delegate may be submitted for consideration on a case-by-case basis.

CIDA financial assistance to delegates from developing countries will cover airfare to and from the Annual General Meeting and will include a per diem (daily allowance). The daily allowance will help cover the costs of a hotel room, meals and incidentals while staying in Geneva, Switzerland for the Annual General Meeting. The amount received will be determined by the number of nights the delegate stays in Geneva from the period of arrival in Geneva on October 15, 2012 to departure from Geneva on October 19, 2012.



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XI. Travel and Visa Arrangements

Delegates are responsible for their own travel, hotel and visa arrangements. Participants are advised to make their travel and visa arrangements at the latest by September 15th, 2012. *The Secretariat has an arrangement with American Express to organize air travel to Switzerland for delegates receiving financial assistance, who will receive separately a Travel Request Form.*

Delegates should inform the IGF Secretariat of their flight details, including expected time of arrival in Geneva.

For delegates requiring an entry visa to Switzerland, the visa must be obtained directly from the Swiss Embassy/Mission in your country of origin. If there is no Swiss Embassy or Mission in your country, the visa application will need to be sent by post to the Embassy or Mission nearest to your country.

Please note that it could take several weeks for the Swiss Government to agree to issue a visa. In support of the visa application, UNCTAD will issue a letter confirming the delegate's participation in the Annual General Meeting in Geneva. CIDA will also be issuing a support letter directly to the delegates. CIDA's letter of support should be included in the visa application if the delegate has not already applied for the visa.

XII. Hotel Arrangements

Delegates are responsible for booking their own accommodation in Geneva. A list of centrally located hotels as well as a map of the meeting location are enclosed with the delegate information accompanying this document. We advise you to make your reservations as soon as possible, as room availability is already becoming limited.

XIII. Registration and Identification Badges

Registration and the collection of identification badges will begin on October 15th, 2012 at the Pregny Gate of the United Nations. For this you are required to bring with you:

- 1) An original completed conference registration form (attached)
- 2) An official identification

A full list of confirmed participants will be provided to UN Security and participants have to carry identification to be allowed entry into the premises. Kindly also carry your invitation letter and personal identification for onsite accreditation. For identification and security reasons, identification badges should be worn by all participants at all times during the Annual General Meeting.

Conference registration forms for each delegate should be sent directly to the IGF Secretariat via email or fax. Photos are not required.



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XIV. IGF Secretariat Contacts

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