



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

Report of 2011 Annual Session

The 2011 General Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development was held from November 1-3 in Geneva at the United Nations. The Forum was chaired by Dr Leonard Kalindekafe, of Malawi. Of the 43 member states of the Forum, 20 attended, together with nine observer countries. A full list of the participants is found in Annex A.

In advance of the Forum, the Chair had informed delegates from member and observer states that he had set three objectives for the 2011 Session:

- to continue the practice from previous sessions of information sharing among delegates;
- discuss how the Forum can assist its members in implementation of the Mining Policy Framework, adopted at the 2010 Session and presented to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development in May 2011; and
- to initiate a process of review of the Forum's Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

The Chair also indicated that he wanted to initiate a process of making the Forum's proceedings more formal, in light of the Forum's need for sustainable long-term funding. Each of these items will be discussed separately below.

Links with UNCTAD

The Session was opened by an address by Dr Supachai Panichpakdi, Secretary General of UNCTAD. He drew particular attention to the importance of the Mining Policy Framework, both for the Forum's Member Governments but also for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. He also drew attention to two new initiatives by UNCTAD - the Global Commodities Forum and the Natural Resources Information Exchange.

On behalf of the Members of the Forum, the Chair expressed thanks to UNCTAD for its continuing support for the Forum, and indicated that he and the Secretariat would be discussing with UNCTAD options for future collaboration.

Objectives for the 2011 Session

1. *Information sharing*

A total of 13 presentations were made, of which seven were by member and observer governments of their countries' experiences and policies, and six were on issues relating to the status of mining in international policy and regulatory discussions.

Of the presentations by member and observer governments, the following features were noted:

- Although artisanal and small-scale mining poses challenges to governments of all countries, both developing and developed, and although many of the policy solutions proposed are common to

both developing and developed countries, the scale of this challenge in developing countries is significantly greater. There was the sense that although the Forum should not initiate activities which may duplicate work already under way in other organizations - notably the World Bank and its Community and Small-Scale mining Program - there was a consensus that this is a subject to which the Forum should continue to devote attention.

- In their national policies on mining, many developing countries are giving increased attention to the need to secure an increased share of the benefits arising from the value-added of mineral production and refining, and to ensure that the infrastructure which is created by the international private sector meets national needs as well as needs related to mining development. Developing countries have recognized the importance of mining sector policy that is differentiated according to the type of mineral and the importance of the individual country in the global supply of individual minerals.
- National policies on mining now include issues more traditionally reserved to ministries of finance, such as ensuring that monetary and macro-economic policies are adopted which will take account of the impact of changes in international mineral prices.
- Presentations made by Australia, Canada, and France highlighted initiatives each government had taken in relation to its international co-operation programmes in the mining sector.

Of the presentations on international policy issues, the following features were noted:

- The content and the objective international "conversation" on mining has changed significantly in the past five years, and a new global approach to mining is developing. The consensus on mining at UNCSD has had the effect of changing the outlook of the United Nations on mining and sustainable development.
- Initiatives such as EITI and the World Economic Forum's "Towards a Vision on Responsible Mineral Development" have had the effect of making it now unarguable that the future of the extractive industry in general and mining in particular should include multi-stakeholder national dialogue platforms, that commonly agreed compliance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms should be established, and that agreements between firms and governments should be published.
- Governments, the international industry, and civil-society organizations in developed countries are increasingly working together to achieve common purposes. This phenomenon gives rise to opportunities for developing country governments to secure greater benefits from the development and operation of their mining sectors.
- Governments in developed countries and the international industry are both having to respond to public pressure in importing countries on issues such as ensuring that international trade in minerals and metals does not contribute to conflict, that the industry take account of concerns on use of water and biodiversity, and that all citizens in developing countries - including indigenous peoples - should have a role in decision making. There is the risk that legislation and other actions may have the effect of doing little to reduce the problem while having severe unintended consequences not only on mining in affected countries that is not contributing to conflict but also on artisanal and small-scale producers.

- In order to become and remain "legitimate" in the eyes of citizens of developing countries, the benefits of mining must be seen to be fairly shared both with and within developing countries and be seen to contribute to reduction of poverty.

2. *Implementation of the Mining Policy Framework*

There was consensus in the Session that the Framework is a comprehensive statement of what any country needs to do in order to enable its mining sector to contribute to the country's sustainable development. Delegates identified six themes found in the Framework to which they wished to be sustained attention, and chose three themes for particular attention between the 2011 and 2012 General Sessions:

- Legal and policy environment
- Social / economic benefit and community engagement / issues
- Financial benefit optimization / Transparency

Three other themes were chosen for consideration at a later date.

- Artisanal and small-scale mining
- Environmental Management
- Post-mining transition

It was decided to create a Task Force which would create a Programme of Work for the Forum, to extend over the period of 2011 to 2013. It would be based on the Mining Policy Framework. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force are attached at Annex B.

3. *Forum's Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure*

This issue was not discussed in detail in the General Session and will be discussed by the Executive Committee and included on the agenda for the 2012 General Session.

Long-Term Funding for the Forum

The Chair welcomed the commitment by Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, to provide Secretariat services to the Forum for the next two Annual Sessions. He also noted that both Canada and France had contributed funds to meet the costs of the 2011 Session.

In discussion on the Future of the Forum, it was noted that the long-term potential of the Forum is constrained by its being dependent on a very small number of possible funding sources. It was also noted that in order for the Forum to approach possible sources of funds, it needed to have a credible programme of work for the funders to support.

It was agreed to create a Task Force to examine the issue of long-term funding. Its composition and Terms of References are found at Annex C.

Election of Executive Committee

The Secretary reported that under the Rules of Procedure, the term of the Chair and each of the Vice Chairs would expire as of the 2011 General Session.

Elections were held and the composition of the new Executive Committee is:

Chair	Leonard Kalindekafe (by acclamation)
Vice-Chairs	
North America	Ginny Flood (Canada)
Africa:	Paul Masanja (Tanzania)
Europe and CIS	Nikolay Militenko (Russia)
Asia	Bayarbat Sangayav (Mongolia)
Caribbean and Central and South America:	Octavio López (Dominican Republic)
UNCTAD	Alexei Mojarov
Secretary	Andrew Dawe (Canada)

Work following the 2011 General Session

At the close of the meeting, the Chair thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in him by electing him for a second term as Chair.

He said he was pleased by the decisions taken in the General Session not only to begin implementation of the Mining Policy Framework, but also to begin the longer-term process of securing a stable future for the Forum. He thanked all delegates for attending, and encouraged the representatives of observer countries to consider joining the Forum as full members. He said he would work with the Secretariat in the implementation of the decisions made in the Forum and asked the Secretariat to ensure regular communication with the delegates to the 2011 General Session and with the other stakeholders in the IGF.

The date of the 2012 General Session will be communicated as soon as possible.

Andrew Dawe

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