

# Memorandum

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To: Members of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development  
Cc: Non-member countries and Organizations with Observer Status  
From: Dr. Leonard Kalindekafe, Chair of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining  
Subject: Objectives for the Forum's 2012 Meeting

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As we approach the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF), I would like to highlight certain developments of the past year and underline the key objectives for the meeting this year.

Since our last annual meeting the IGF has welcomed two new members – Guatemala and Honduras. For the first time, the IGF held regional events in 2012, first in February at the African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa. The second event was in March at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada trade show and exhibition in Toronto, Canada. A joint event with the World Economic Forum was held in April in Addis Ababa. Building on these successful activities, the IGF is pleased to expand its partnership with the World Economic Forum at this year's annual general meeting in Geneva through the joint session with their Minerals and Metals group, and another joint event on the margins of the African Development Forum in Addis Ababa on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are also very pleased to be partnering with the World Gold Council for the seminar on gold and armed conflict following our annual general meeting.

This year's annual meeting will be a crucial stepping-stone for the IGF, as the two Task Forces created last year will report their findings to the Forum. One Task Force studied the organizational viability and future financing options for the Forum. The other Task Force examined how to operationalize the Mining Policy Framework. Given the limited time and the complexity of the issues the Forum will be addressing, I invite you to review the reports from the two Task Forces beforehand. To facilitate decision-making on these reports, and to reiterate their complementarity, I invite you to reflect on the institutional requirements for the IGF to advance the implementation of the Mining Policy Framework. On this basis, a number of key questions are posed at the beginning of the Financing Task Force Report. I would encourage you to use these questions to guide your deliberations, and in particular to focus on these overarching questions:

- How can the IGF – a voluntary partnership of member states – and its Secretariat work to concretely advance the Mining Policy Framework?
- In what institutional directions can the IGF evolve, as per the models presented in the Financing Task Force report?
- What commitments are Members prepared to make to support the IGF as a formal institution?

A series of presentations from member and observer countries, international organizations, industry associations and initiatives has been organized based on the three thematic priorities chosen at last year's plenary:

**1. Legal and Policy Environment**

*A mature modern legislative regime is one that provides clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Such a regime provides the foundation for good governance and contributes to sustainable development in all aspects of social and economic life.*

**2. Financial Benefit Optimization/ Transparency**

*Taxes and royalty revenues derived from exploration, mine development and production reflect the value to society of the resources mined. They are collected and put to work in support of the sustainable development of the nation while transparency is central to ensuring that resource revenues are appropriately mobilized.*

**3. Socio-economic Benefit Optimization and Community Engagement Issues**

*The conversion of natural capital into human capital holds the greatest promise for sustainable outcomes from mining activities. This work begins with the communities around the mine site where value must be created in order to ensure the social license to operate.*

I look forward to hearing from all of the presenters, and enjoying in-depth discussions on the topics they will be covering. This rich dialogue is invaluable to all participants, and I encourage your active engagement during the sessions.

On a final note, it is essential that we take this opportunity to articulate and define the Forum's future role, recognising the plethora of initiatives related to mineral governance and mineral policy at the international and regional level. As we move forward, we need to ensure that the Forum's work is relevant and complementary to the existing international mining policy landscape in order to secure the viability of the IGF in the years to come, and its relevance to you its members.

Please find the agenda for the meeting included.

I look forward to seeing you in Geneva.

Leonard Kalindekafe

Chair of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development