

## Global Dialogue – Proposals for a Programme of Work

The main common message coming from all analyses on the contribution of the sector to sustainable development is the importance of the linkage between governance and the ability of the sector to contribute to sustainable development. In response, the overarching objective of the programme of work of the forum will be **to enhance capacity for governance in the sector at all stages of the life cycle.**

Under the overarching theme of governance, a number of sub themes have been identified based on the outcome of the Geneva meeting.

### **I. The overall national policy and administrative framework for natural resources management and development**

Many developing countries have a limited choice of assets to use in order to spur the economic development they need to alleviate poverty. Many have competitive natural resource endowments, but lack an attractive (stable, competitive and transparent) investment or business climate. Difficulties arise through a lack of ability to plan, monitor and manage the development of these resources in a manner that will bring lasting and equitable benefits, both locally and nationally. A related major concern is that the income generated by mining and the use of this income is not properly accounted for by national governments.

In many instances, donor agencies have supported the transfer of knowledge and technology to help manage natural resources and economic development but too often, the results of these efforts have not translated into sustainable economic development for these countries.

Several projects may have been done and/or could be developed under this theme. They may provide governments with:

- References about specific elements of existing resource management regimes (investment, land regimes, other regulatory, etc) in place in different jurisdictions;
- A review of existing legal frameworks and their effectiveness in promoting sustainable development outcomes;

On the basis of case studies, a project under this theme could provide recommendations for governments and donors on the most effective approaches to:

- Build long-term capacity for the management of natural resources and their development, including the technologies and practices that are best suited for developing countries;
- Develop and implement strategies that stimulate the resource based development that best contribute to sustainable national development, including value added activities;
- Enhance governance to promote accountable and transparent management of resources and of the benefits that come from their development.

## **II. Creating the conditions to promote the development of local communities**

The concept of governance is undergoing some fundamental changes. Citizens are asking for more open and transparent processes when decisions are being made that have the potential to affect their lives, the lives of their families and the communities in which they live.

New mining investments can bring lasting economic and social benefits to local communities, as well as to the regional and national economy. In the absence of clear rules and defined jurisdictions, new mining projects have the potential to raise expectations that can lead to tensions between local communities and regional and national governments. Isolated communities are often wary of mine development as well as its possible environmental aftermath. They may also have little, if any, capacity to be full participants in planning their sustainable development. Mineral development can also bring social problems such as social dislocations and diseases (AIDS and others).

Mineral projects can take place in countries where governments have little or no capacity to provide the services communities expect from governments (education, security, health, shelter, infrastructure, long-term planning, etc.) Should mining companies undertake to provide these services and if so, in what manner, to what extent and for how long should they commit themselves? What would be the implications for democratic governance of having a company answerable to its shareholders provide social services to an isolated community, particularly in a context of governance capacity? Should a local community be established or allowed to grow in the first place?

There have been a growing number of projects to address community issues. Through case studies and other activities, specific projects could promote a better understanding of:

- How best to engage local communities in a constructive manner in order to promote outcomes that will be acceptable to all parties;
- How to develop criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the various community engagement approaches;
- The role of public access, availability and transparency of information;
- The role of governments and industry in the development of local communities, particularly where there is limited capacity;
- The ways in which the capacity of communities to manage their development can be enhanced;
- The factors that influence the sustainability of development in isolated communities and the criteria that should guide sustainability strategies.

Other possible projects could provide government and industry with recommendations, best practice or guidelines on:

- Most effective approaches to provide local communities with the services they need;

- The manner, duration and extent to which companies may be involved in providing services to communities;
- Most effective approaches to develop and implement strategies in support of the sustainable development of communities;

### **III. Creating conditions to improve the fate and contribution of small-scale miners**

Small-scale mining is a major economic activity and source of employment in many developing countries. In many cases, however, it is unsafe, illegal and environmentally damaging. Governments are seeking to improve the lot of these miners through policies and regulations, to enhance their economic contribution to the national economy and to minimize the environmental damage.

On the basis of case studies and other work, possible projects may seek to identify approaches, policy, regulatory and other, to:

- Promote the formalization of the informal small scale mining sector;
- Enhance the contribution of the small scale mining to local economic development and poverty eradication;
- Enhance the health and safety of miners and their families;
- Promote working practices that minimize the environmental impact of small-scale mining.

### **IV. Creating conditions to promote effective post-closure planning and implementation for present and future mining sites**

Many stakeholders resist mineral investments based on a concern that they will be left with an environmental mess at the end of the operations. Local citizens are concerned that mining companies will simply walk away from the site once production stops or that insufficient financial resources will have been set aside to fully implement mine-site rehabilitation. Companies are concerned about long-term liability issues and the regulatory uncertainty associated with environmental assessments.

Possible projects on post-closure planning could provide recommendations for governments and industry on:

- The role of environmental impact assessments in setting targets for remediation and rehabilitation of mining sites;
- The approaches (regulatory, legal and financial, etc) that exist to guarantee performance in meeting remediation or rehabilitation requirements;
- The history of their performance through case studies.

## V. Enhancing the life cycle contribution of the sector to sustainable development

Mining takes place because there is a demand for the materials (metals and others) produced from mining. Without markets for those materials, there is no mining. Decisions or policies that affect one end of the life cycle of the sector can have impacts on another. By following an integrated approach, taking into consideration the full life cycle of the mining, minerals and metals sector, from exploration, mining, smelting, use and recycling, governments will be better able to implement policies to enhance the contribution of the sector to sustainable development.

Through the development of case studies, workshop or other activities, possible projects could promote a better understanding of:

- The trends affecting markets, of the changing expectations of societies, particularly in developed countries, the largest markets, and how governments and consumers are responding;
- The role of metal recycling in the pursuit of sustainability;
- How the resulting market forces, policies and regulations can influence mining investments globally, including the opportunities for the value added processing of the products of mining and the location of these facilities.

Projects could also provide recommendations for governments on how the forum can promote the development of global policies and regulations that will enhance the contribution of the sector to sustainable development. This could include:

- Establishing linkages with international policy making forums and organizations;
- Developing information aimed at informing and promoting a life cycle consideration of the sector in policy making.