



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

BACKGROUND

**The Intergovernmental Forum on Sustainable Development
For Mining, Minerals, Metals**

The Intergovernmental Forum on Sustainable Development for Mining, Minerals and Metals came out of the voluntary partnership initiatives presented during the 2002 World Summit Plan of Implementation that took place in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Formerly known as the Global Dialogue, the initiative was developed by national governments with an interest in the mining, minerals and metals sector, and was co-sponsored by Canada and South Africa. The 53 countries that participated in the Global Dialogue decided its objectives would be best achieved through the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on the mining, minerals and metals sector.

The forum aims to take a leadership role in implementing the priorities of Paragraph 46 of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, mineral and metals, and to enhance the role of stakeholders in mineral development as well as to foster sustainable mining practices.

Canada, represented by Natural Resources Canada, has accepted to provide the Forum Secretariat for the initial five-year period, after which an assessment of whether or not the forum should continue will be made. The inaugural meeting of the forum will take place November 7 to 9, 2005, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The topics of discussion will include the national policy frameworks; the mix of policies that can best assure equitable local, regional and national distribution of economic and social benefits; financial security and environmental protection, in particular mine rehabilitation and closure.

During the course of the meeting, the member countries will decide on how best to prepare for the 2010 review of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

The current forum members are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Guinea, Romania, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Surinam, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia.

The initiative is supported by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank, the United Kingdom's Department of International Development, and Canada's departments of Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs and International.