



IGF

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Communiqué of the IGF's 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

November 18-20, 2024
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Redefining Mining: Balancing the Need for Minerals with Protecting People and the Planet

The importance of minerals for the energy transition has pushed mining governance to the forefront of policy discussions across the globe. While it is widely understood that transitioning to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources will raise demand for critical minerals, there are many unanswered questions about the impact of increased mining activity. Rising mineral demand highlights the need for good governance in resource-rich countries to manage and mitigate impacts, ensure benefits are shared fairly, and develop mineral supply chains that support an equitable energy transition.

In response to these challenges, the theme of the 2024 IGF AGM was ***Redefining Mining: Balancing the Need for Minerals with Protecting People and the Planet***. The AGM sessions focused on key policy areas including value addition, circularity, critical and strategic minerals, mining standards, gender equality, fiscal policies, protecting people, non-metallic mining, protecting nature, and environmental sustainability.

The 20th AGM

The IGF convened its 20th AGM, hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 18 to 20, 2024. Over 800 participants registered, from over 100 countries, including representatives from governments, international organizations, industry, and civil society.

On November 18, 2024, Pedro Manuel Moreno, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD welcomed delegates to the AGM and acknowledged the importance of the issues to be discussed at this year's meeting in implementing the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

Mohato Moima, IGF Executive Committee Chair, followed with a welcome message that highlighted the strong relevance of the AGM's theme of balancing the need for minerals with protecting people and the planet, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation in mineral value chains during the energy transition.

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Sessions Summary

A diverse selection of panelists shared their experiences and insights during the AGM's 12 themed sessions listed below:

- Accelerating the Production of Critical Minerals
- Balancing the Need for Minerals with Protecting People and the Planet
- Can Circularity Help Bridge the Supply Gap?
- Critical Minerals and Gender Equality
- Fiscal Policies to Incentivize Value Addition
- Navigating Global Mining Standards
- Non-metallic Minerals for Sustainable Development
- Protecting Nature Amid the Energy Transition
- Putting People First
- Regional Dialogue on Mineral Supply Chains
- Transforming Mining Through Disruptive Technologies
- Water management in mining
- The Future of Mining

In addition to the main AGM sessions, breakfast and lunch sessions were held on the following topics:

- New Governance Trends for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
- Overcoming Copper Pricing challenges for Revenue Collection
- Policy Tools for Value Addition in the Nickel Sector
- Seeking Integrated Closure in the Mining Sector: Instructive case studies
- Trade and Investment Agreements for Critical Mineral Supply Chains

Closing Remarks

In closing, Greg Radford, Director, IGF thanked delegates and speakers for their participation and the AGM's host UNCTAD. The Secretariat announced to delegates that the next AGM will be once again hosted by UNCTAD in November 2025 in Geneva at the Palais des Nations.

General Council

After the official closing of the AGM, government representatives gathered for the IGF Government Forum on November 21, a member-focused workshop for discussions on regional and thematic priorities. During the IGF General Council that day, members of the Executive Committee welcomed the IGF's newest members Guinea Bissau, Timor-Leste,

Chile, and Comoros as the 82nd, 83rd, 84th, and 85th IGF members, respectively. Members also shared their common challenges and priorities regionally and globally.

About the IGF

The IGF supports its 85 member countries in advancing their sustainable development goals through effective laws, policies, and regulations for the mining sector. We help governments take action to develop inclusive and gender-equitable practices, optimize financial benefits, support livelihoods, and safeguard the environment. Our work covers the full mining life cycle, from exploration to mine closure, and projects of all sizes, from artisanal mining to large-scale operations. Guided by our members' needs, we provide in-country assessments, capacity building, technical training, publications, and events to advance best practices, peer learning, and engagement with industry and civil society. The International Institute for Sustainable Development has hosted the IGF Secretariat since October 2015. Core funding is provided by the governments of Canada and the Netherlands.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat at Secretariat@IGFmining.org.