



# *A Story of Partnerships: The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)*

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# *Presentation Overview*

- Setting the Context
- Strategy for Action
- Establishment of a CSD Partnership
- Outcome and Accomplishments
- The Way Forward



# *Setting the Context*

- Economic development needed for poverty alleviation:
  - Priority for developing countries (UN Millennium Goals)
- Mining represents a comparative advantage:
  - Mineral resources often greatest source of potential
  - Investment growing in many developing countries
- Lack of institutional capacity to manage mining:
  - Limited human & financial resources – competing priorities
  - Mining a complex sector to manage
  - UN and donors have been out of mining for the last 15 years
- Lack of capacity undermines contribution to SD
- What change is needed & how to do it?

# *Recognising the Need*

- What does good governance in mining mean?
  - need for information and functioning institutions
- Need for capacity building:
  - break the link between negative perceptions/lack of support
- Partnerships are key to making progress:
  - Essential role for national governments
  - Industry cannot act alone – acts within a policy framework
  - NGOs represent a range of separate agendas
  - National mines ministries – managers of the resource sector
    - Understand what is needed to manage the sector
    - Have a mandate for action from society, i.e. elected governments
    - But lacked a forum for sharing best practise/capacity

# *The Strategy*

- World Summit on SD in 2002:
  - Provided a global forum for a range of issues
  - South Africa as host: a developing mining country
  - Issues related to mining under global scrutiny (World Bank/EIR)
- Put mining back on UN agenda in positive manner:
  - Working group formed to negotiate text
  - Result: Paragraph 46 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- Need to create a follow up mechanism to:
  - Address priorities of Paragraph 46
  - Inform mines ministries about evolving best practice
  - Establish credibility and voice of mines ministries on policy issues



# *A CSD Registered Partnership*

- Important complementary outcome of the WSSD
  - Work is reported and recognised
- Voluntary and Independent
  - Members set the ToR and the agenda
  - Members have a common interest and agenda of progress
- Not legally binding
  - Minimum negotiations to establish
  - Simple to join (and leave)
  - Provides a forum for open dialogue
  - Does not undermine national decision making



# *The Outcome: IGF*

- Intergovernmental Forum comprising 43 members:
  - Started with 25 in 2005 –Canada hosts Secretariat
  - Representative from Malawi elected Chair in 2009
  - UN agencies participate as observers – UNCTAD hosts meetings
  - Stakeholders part of national delegations
  - Invited subject matter experts – practical solutions/tools
- Message from Kofi Annan at inaugural meeting:
  - Stressed import contribution that mining can make
  - Recognised the challenges – economic/social/environmental
  - “Governments, industry and civil society must work together to address these challenges”
  - Role for the UN System



# *IGF Accomplishments in 5 years*

- Reviewed key mining related issues such as:
  - Generation and distribution of economic benefits
  - Dealing with social issues – community engagement
  - Environmental best practice – life cycle approach
  - Comprehensive survey of members
- Preparing to table a policy framework at UNCSD 2011
  - Summary of learning over the last 5 years
  - A compendium of best practices for good governance
- Third party evaluation done in 2008:
  - Members expressed satisfaction
  - Deliberations have led to changes in national policies





# *The Way Forward*

- CSD18 opportunity for reflection of progress to date
  - Review successes and acknowledge work to be done
- CSD19: mapping the future
  - A road map from good governance to sustainable development
  - Identify a role for UN agencies to support country efforts
  - Solidify the partnership with the IGF
- SD approach recognises the need for coordinated action:
  - No one group has all the answers
  - UN system, IFI's & Donor Agencies have important roles to play
  - Partnerships at all levels are the key to success
  - IGF represents a unique platform to bring all the actors together



Thank-you

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