

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Global Dialogue of Governments on Mining/metals and Sustainable Development

Expected date of initiation: End of 2003

Expected date of completion: open

Partners Involved:

This is an initiative of national Governments with an interest in mining/metals. Interested national governments are invited to add their names to the list of members. Participants include Canada, South Africa, Namibia, other members countries of the Southern African Development Community (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), Philippines, Peru, Mexico, Morocco,

This initiative by national governments is built on the recognition that activities undertaken would benefit from participation by relevant stakeholders, industry, NGOs, labour, indigenous people and others, as well as intergovernmental organizations. In the process leading to the setting up of the Global Dialogue, the national governments will discuss this with stakeholders to determine their role and participation in the Dialogue. The dialogue will take into account, build on and not duplicate their activities.

Leading Partners:

Name of the contact person/focal point:

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A contact name for Namibia will be added.

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The Global Dialogue will provide a framework to address sustainable development issues relevant to the mining and metals sector that benefit from consideration at the global level. The structure of the Global Dialogue will be determined by the participating governments. They will also determine the objectives of the Global Dialogue, which could include the following elements:

- Review the contribution of the mining/metals sector to the development of sustainable local communities, including poverty alleviation;
- Promote national governance of the sector, including through capacity building and other activities as required;
- Enhance the ability of member countries to be full participants in informing international policies, activities and priorities affecting the sector throughout its life cycle;
- Improve the ability of Mines Ministries to influence policy making in a manner that will enhance the life cycle contribution of the sector to sustainable development;
- Promote, through dialogue and information, more integrated and co-ordinated approaches to policies and strategies with existing decision making activities or organisations that affect the sector;
- Foster changes in the way the sector operates throughout its life cycle in a sustainable development perspective;
- Exchange information and experiences between member governments in relation to the national management of the sector; and
- Promoting transparency, anti-corruption practices and accountability in the sector.

Paragraph 44 (a-c) of the Plan of Implementation for WSSD process identifies a number of priorities for the sector. This partnership of governments aims to promote the fulfillment of these priorities. This partnership will also help address the five key areas identified by the Secretary-General for the Summit, particularly water, health, agriculture and biodiversity as they may relate to the sector.

Expected results:

- More sustainable mining communities;
- More effective contribution of mining to poverty alleviation, particularly in developing countries;
- Higher social, environmental and economic contribution and performance by all stakeholders including governments and industry, including greater accountability and transparency;
- Better informed international policies and strategies that affect the sector;
- Enhanced capacity by governments to exercise governance in the national management of the sector;
- Better access to financial and other resources to promote greater advances in capacity building related to the sector;
- Enhanced capacity of developing countries to bring forward consideration of their interests in the development of international policies and strategies affecting the whole life cycle of the sector;
- Improved capacity to influence and respond to global issues and events affecting the sector;
- Improved capacity to share sustainable development practices and experiences among regions.

The Partnership is oriented towards dialogue and information exchange. Any future roles will be agreed between the partners.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and time frame for their achievement:

The first stage of the initiative is a preparatory process aimed at creating a Global Intergovernmental Dialogue on Mining/metals and Sustainable Development. The preparatory process will be completed at a meeting to be held at the end of 2003.

At that meeting, governments will determine whether and in what form the dialogue will continue and be a global tool for governments to examine and implement their contribution to sustainable development in the sector.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Stage one of the initiative (the preparatory process) will be jointly led by a core group of interested governments. The group will promote the Dialogue in existing government networks and forums such as APEC-GEMEED, CAMMA, SADC as well as other government regional groups, the International Study Groups (Lead and Zinc, Nickel and Copper) and other government forums, to support and encourage the participation of other governments in the Global Dialogue. Where appropriate, the Dialogue will also be promoted in bilateral meetings of governments.

The group will arrange the logistics of the meeting to be held in the year following WSSD as well as prepare whatever information or documents may be required for decision to be made at that time. At that meeting, the future of the dialogue (stage 2) will be determined by the participating governments.

Arrangements for funding

Funding for the stage 1 will be provided by Canada and other donor countries. Funding for subsequent activities will be determined by participants.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Capacity building will be a key issue for the global dialogue. In coordination with interested parties, the global dialogue will seek to identify capacity building priorities, facilitate coordination and complementarity of the capacity building activities of donor organizations and countries, promote access to additional resources to be devoted to capacity building as well as strengthening linkages between the institutions of the sector in developed and other countries.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

The Global Dialogue will take into account and seek to build upon the existing regional networks of governments with an interest in mining, in the Americas (CAMMA), in Africa (SADC, AMP, and other) and in Asia (APEC-GEMEED). The Dialogue will work with these organisations to enhance the global impact of local, regional and commodity specific work. The dialogue will also seek to build on other sector specific activities such as the International Commodity Study Groups, the “Consultative Forum on Nonferrous Metals and Sustainable Development” and the “World Mines Ministries Forum”.

Discussions will be undertaken with intergovernmental organisations to identify areas for co-operation.

The Dialogue will also take into account and could draw on industry-based activities, including the Global Mining Initiative, the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Projects, and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) as well as on work by all other stakeholders on sustainable development in the sector.

Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring arrangements and reporting will be part of the requirements of the dialogue. They will be determined in the course stage 1 and adopted at the founding meeting.

Other relevant information:

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