

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FROM PAPER POLICY TO RESULTS-ORIENTED ACTIONS?

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Numerous conferences and organisations have mentioned in their works and conclusions the small-scale mining activity which is always taken in account as a way for social and economic development. Some of their final statements are listed hereafter.

Durban Declaration (21-22 November 1997)

- “Give due consideration to new and renewable energy sources, rural electrification, artisanal and small-scale mining activities for the alleviation and ultimate eradication of poverty and economic empowerment of women in the rural areas”
- “These measures will be reflected in our national plans of action and in the programmes of sub-regional groupings in Africa and will provide a framework for monitoring progress”

Special Conference of African Energy and Mining Ministers

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2-3 December 2000)

- Address artisanal mining needs in both national and sub-regional policy
- Set-up a sub-regional forum on the contribution of mining to poverty alleviation under the auspices of sub-regional organisations
- Assist women in mining by providing resources to enable them to rapidly create an African Women in Mining Network using the existing organisation to reinforce regional integration
- Provide effective support through capacity building, easy access to credit and data on mining (especially for women)
- Facilitate mining ownership by nationals (women in particular) and their participation in joint ventures

SADC Mining Protocol (Article 7)

- Member States agree to promote policies that will encourage and assist small-scale mining in the region
- Member States shall facilitate the development of small-scale mining through, amongst others the provision of technical extension services, establishment of marketing facilities, including exhibitions and establishment of mineral exchanges
- Member States shall encourage the provision of training, institutional and financial support for the small-scale mining sector in the region

SADC Mining Sector Strategic Plan

Strategic objective:

- To support and encourage the development of a commercially viable small-scale mining industry

Strategic priorities:

- Develop a regional strategy to promote and regulate SSM
- Develop support mechanisms for SSM
- Promote SSM
- Develop and implement regulations applicable to SSM

UEMOA Joint Mining Policy (PMC)

- Acte Additionnel No. 01/2000 of 14 Décembre 2000
- ... la Politique Minière Commune de l'UEMOA ... qui comporte ... les objectifs spécifiques suivants : "la coexistence des mines industrielles avec l'artisanat minier"
- ... La mise en œuvre de ces programmes contribuera notamment à un meilleur encadrement de l'artisanat minier et au développement des petites exploitations ; et à l'émergence d'entreprises privées locales performantes et compétitives.

ECA's area of intervention

- Policy analysis
- Identifying and disseminating best practices
- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Convening stakeholders, fostering policy dialogue and consensus building [e.g. Regional Conferences of Ministers responsible for the Utilisation of Mineral Resources in Arusha (1981), Lusaka (1985), Kampala (1988), Ouagadougou (1991), Addis Ababa (1993), Accra (1995) and Durban (1997). CNRST I (1999) and CNRST II (2001)]
- Monitoring the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes agreed by member states

ECA Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST)

Recommendations of CNRST-II (December 2001) on Poverty Alleviation and Science and Technology:

- "Special attention be given to developing simple, robust and affordable technologies for the natural resources sector
- "Capacity building activities specifically tailored for small rural operators should be intensified"
- "An appropriate policy environment should be created to enable small-scale operators to run as viable business"

Theme of CNRST-III

- “Making technology work for the poor in Africa”, to focus on different aspects of natural resources transformation to achieve poverty alleviation.

NEPAD

- Improve the quality of mineral resources information
- Create a regulatory framework conducive to the development of the mining sector
- Establish best practices that will ensure efficient extraction of natural resources and minerals of high quality

WSSD Implementation Plan (Chapter on SD for Africa)

- Enhance the contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting the development of effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks and value addition, broad-based participation, social and environmental responsibility and increased market access in order to create and attractive and conducive environment for investment

Africa Mining Partnership (AMP)

- Strengthening the contribution of mining to poverty eradication and sustainable natural resources management
- Enhancing international and regional co-operation to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound mineral services, as an integral part of poverty reduction programmes
- Promoting small-scale mining for poverty alleviation of the rural community in an environmentally responsible manner taking into account related social issues such as child labour and women in mining

Nice policies: where is the problem?

- Lack of time-bound and results-oriented actions
- Poor definition of roles and responsibilities
- No indicators of achievement
- Lack of monitoring instruments and means of verification
- Lack of resources (human, financial, technical)
- Many ad-hoc programmes with dubious sustainability/poor management
- Inadequate institutional set-up
- Lack of political will
- Inadequate empowerment processes
