

# Mining at the Commission on Sustainable Development : Perspective on CSD18 and CSD19

Annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum  
on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable  
Development  
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# Scope

- CSD process
- Discussions on mining at CSD18
- What can we expect at CSD19?
- The Forum's future

# Commission on Sustainable Development: Background

- High-level body for sustainable development
- Responsible for :
  - reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
  - providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- Established by UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the Earth Summit
- Functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
  - 53 member States.
  - Each session of the CSD elects a 5-member Bureau – representing the UN regional groupings.
  - Chairmanship rotates among regional groupings.

# Multi-Year Programme of Work of CSD

- Multi-year programme of work (after 2003)
  - seven cycles, focusing on selected thematic cluster of issues.
  - two-year cycle divided between Review year and Policy Year
  - Thematic cluster of issues is addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- Thematic cluster 2010-2011: MINING, waste, chemicals, transport, sustainable consumption and production
- 2010: Review Year: evaluates progress made, identifying obstacles and constraints.
- 2011: Policy Year: decides on measures to speed up implementation

From Review Year to  
Policy Year:  
CSD18-19



## Mining at CSD 18: points from Chair's summary (1)

- When managed properly, mining offers the opportunity to catalyse broad-based development and even reduce poverty.
- However, in many cases, environmental, cultural and social impacts of mining still inadequately addressed.
- Call for a holistic approach
  - Some delegations expressed the need for the United Nations to support a principled approach to mining,
  - others emphasized the need to continue developing a comprehensive policy framework.
- Good governance at all levels necessary condition for mining to contribute to sustainable development.
- Enhancing the participation of stakeholders critical
- Need to root the mining sector in long-term development imperatives of national economies
- Need to ensure a fair distribution of benefits from mining activities among citizens.

## Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (2)

- Governance, transparency and accountability can be strengthened
  - creating strong, clear and consistent regulatory frameworks, with laws in place to protect the environment, indigenous peoples' rights and cultures and ecosystems, and trained government officials who can implement these regulations
  - supporting voluntary international transparency and accountability initiatives such as EITI
  - building governance capacity, especially at the local level
  - providing information access mechanisms for communities and other stakeholders on mining activities, their impacts and the use of mining revenues.

## Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (3)

- Strong national capacities to negotiate effectively with prospective investors.
- Technical capacities of national institutions dealing with mining could be strengthened,
  - investing more in research and scientific capacity
  - upgrading technical education and training.
  - Technical and managerial training for the mining sector needs to include sustainable development content

## Mining at CSD 18: points from chair's summary (4)

- Transfer of environmentally sound mining technologies and know-how high priority for many countries
- Policies providing a predictable investment environment
- Need for partnerships between all levels of government, industry, communities and community organizations and aid agencies to:
  - promote coordinated and integrated approaches
  - optimize the generation and equitable distribution of benefits from mining.

# Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (5)

- Mining should decrease its ecological footprint as well as take its full responsibility for mining costs and liabilities for closure.
- Companies need to respect human rights and human rights instruments such as the ILO Convention No. 169, and respect and adapt to local and indigenous cultures.
- CSR activities should be more effectively coordinated to ensure the positive contribution for sustainable development
- Need for planning that takes into account the needs of the local community and indigenous peoples while the mine is in operation and following closure.
  - skills development,
  - alternative uses for the mine infrastructure
  - creation of new businesses and services to support mine development and downstream activities

# Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (6)

- Actions that would benefit from international cooperation:
  - measures to: strengthen governance, transparency and public accountability;
  - Measures to build technical and managerial capacities; develop new mining technology; promote investment and technology transfer;
  - Measures to ensure rehabilitation and benefit-sharing.
- Capacity-building can be furthered through the regional and interregional exchange of experiences
  - identification and dissemination of best practices
  - creation of appropriate knowledge base on:
    - mineral resources for strategic planning and policy innovation
    - managing the environmental and social impacts of mining.

# Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (7)

- More work and guidance needed on:
  - designation of areas of high ecological or cultural value
  - rehabilitation of abandoned and orphaned mines
  - proper management of waste stockpiles
  - approaches to the funding of mine closure
  - enhancing environmental and social impact assessments
  - improving health and safety of mine workers, respecting ILO Convention No. 176
  - protecting the rights of women, especially women workers
  - eliminating child labour

## Mining at CSD 18: main points from chair's summary (8)

- Technical and financial support to artisanal and small-scale miners
- Governments should consider reduce-reuse policies, increasing the recycling of critically important metals.

# Mining at CSD19: what can be expected?

## *Areas where consensus seems close (1)*

- Strong encouragement to all countries to
  - enforce Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities and indigenous communities;
  - put in place adequate participatory mechanisms related to decision-making in mining activities.
- Encourage all countries to adopt and enforce ILO core conventions in the mining industry
- Encourage the international community to conclude discussions on mercury. Promote the dissemination of techniques alternative to mercury use in ASM gold mining operations.

# Mining at CSD19: what can be expected?

## *Areas where consensus seems close (2)*

- Encourage all countries to support broad adoption of existing transparency mechanisms, in particular EITI and the Kimberley Process.
- Encourage countries and international financing institutions to adopt best practices relating to environmental and social impact assessments;
- Provide training and capacity-building to developing countries for:
  - Resource identification, surveying, mapping
  - mine closure and rehabilitation.

## *Some areas where differences remain*

- International level:
  - Ensure that international financing institutions and the private sector finance mining projects that respect best practice environmental and social standards;
  - Improve information on mining deals, contracts, operations
    - E.g. Adoption of freedom of information laws
  - Encourage countries to promote recycling of metals over the whole supply chains
- National level, with support from the international community as appropriate:
  - Establish and enforce clear rules for biodiversity protection in relation to mining, including appropriate zoning of areas where mining activities are permitted
  - Better management / monitoring of environmental impacts
    - During operations, site cleaning and rehabilitation
    - Regulations, financial / insurance instruments
    - Capacity-building in national institutions

## *Some areas where differences remain (2)*

- National level, with support from the international community as appropriate (cont'd):
  - better integrate ASM in national development strategies
    - recognize artisanal and small-scale miners
    - enable their integration in the formal economy
    - provide technical and financial support to enable artisanal and small-scale miners to upgrade technology and minimize the health and environmental risks posed by their operations
  - Develop transparency mechanisms for the allocation and use of government revenues from minerals and mining
  - Develop national and local capacities for the efficient management of revenues from mining for development
  - Improve CSR performance by the industry

# CSD19: how can the Forum contribute?

Next 2 months:

- Promote the Policy Framework:
  - Through the Business and Industry Major Group (official report)
  - As own publication (distribute it)

IPM (February):

- Forum member countries mention specific actions / options at IPM for inclusion in chair's summary
- Forum member countries mention the usefulness of continuing the Forum at IPM
- Organize side events, learning centers

CSD19 (May):

- Forum member countries mention the usefulness of continuing the Forum at IPM
- Organize side events, learning centers

# Future of the IGF: some questions

- Scope of work:
  - Broader than para. 46 of JPOI ?
- How to position the Forum's work vis-à-vis other initiatives?
  - Principles (e.g. Natural Resource Charter, ICMM)
  - Guidelines (e.g. ICMM, individual countries)
  - Capacity-building
  - Transparency (e.g. EITI, PYWP, Revenue Watch)
  - Revenue management (e.g. World Bank, IMF, OFD)
  - Exchange of practices, knowledge: GOXI, CASM, etc.
- Improve participation of "big players"?
  - Countries hosts to MNCs critical: USA, Australia, China
- Perception of Forum's position in the debate
  - CSD18: Forum's position perceived by some as pro-industry
  - Civil society perspective sufficiently taken into account?

**THANK YOU !**

**CSD19:**

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd19.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml)

**Mining documents from CSD18:**

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_mini\\_documents.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_mini_documents.shtml)