

Chair's Report of the 2006 Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

Palais des Nations, Room XV
Geneva, Switzerland

October 18-20, 2006

Co-hosted by UNCTAD, the Meeting was opened with welcoming remarks by Mr. Jan Bruinsma, Deputy Secretary General for UNCTAD. In his remarks, he indicated that the meeting and the issues to be discussed were timely given the present high price for commodities and the opportunities this may offer for the sustainable development of many developing countries.

The chair thanked UNCTAD, co-host of the meeting, as well as other donors including the United Kingdom/Department for International Development and the Canadian International Development Agency for their support.

Keynote presentations followed by Mr. Olle Ostensson from UNCTAD, Mr. John Strongman from the World Bank, Mr. Bill Bulmer from the International Finance Corporation, Mr. Aloek Ignatow from Natural Resources Canada, Mr. Danny Graymore from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Mr. Jonathan Hobbs and Mr. Kevin D'Souza from the UK's Department for International Development and Ms. Kathryn McPhail from the International Council on Mining and Metals

A number of member countries then presented a national statement highlighting their expectations for the Forum. This was followed by a discussion on a way forward for the Forum to prepare for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) meeting of 2010 that will review the 2002 World Summit priorities for mining.

The day ended with a reception jointly hosted by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and Natural Resources Canada.

On day two, all delegates participated in workshop discussions on three priority topics. The topics were:

1. Template on Mineral policy Framework (Dallas Davis)
2. Framework on investor's perception of country risks (Jim Cooney)
3. Environment Impact Assessment: elements and process (Tony Barbour)

Although distributed at the forum, these presentations are also available on the web site of the Forum at www.globaldialogue.info in the password protected area. Contact the Secretariat for information on entering that part of the web site.

On day three, the Chairs of the workshops presented the outcomes of the discussions, including the recommendations for action. Reports of the outcomes are expected to be posted at the time of receipt of this report.

Members agreed to establish an Investment Outlook Committee to keep members informed on developments that can influence mining investments in their country. They also established a Committee, under the chairmanship of Jonathon Hobbs (UK), to prepare a way forward to the 2010-11 United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development meetings. In this context, members agreed that regional mining groups and metals study groups should be encouraged to participate in this committee to better ensure a more effective and comprehensive input to the 2010-11 meetings.

They also agreed that the leading themes for the next meeting will be to examine policies that can optimize the benefits from mining; the aspects of good governance critical to investment decisions; and issues that need resolution as they pertain to community benefits and development. Finally, the Forum agreed that its next meeting in 2007 will be held in Moscow.

Members were given copies of an overview of mining codes in 28 countries from around the world. This book was graciously offered by the Canadian Law firm McMillan Binch Mendelsohn in Toronto.

The Chair met with representatives of international organizations. They agreed to send to the Forum Secretariat information on their programmes and key activities that relate to the mining, minerals and metals sector. When received, they also will be posted on the Forum web site.

Members then agreed on a Press Release to highlight the outcomes of the three-day Forum meeting. (See attachment).

It was finally agreed that the Chair would prepare a Chair's report of the meeting to be sent to members for their review and approval.

UNCTAD's Olle Ostensson closed the meeting by congratulating members for the work done in the course of the meeting and wished for continuing progress by the Intergovernmental Forum.

The Meeting was attended by officials representing member countries, International Organizations (UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNITAR, the World Bank and ILO) and the European Commission.