



INFORMATION NOTE

UNCTAD/PRESS/IN/2006
20 October 2006

MINING FORUM ADOPTS ACTION PLAN

The Intergovernmental Forum for Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development concluded its October 18-20, 2006 meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Forum deliberated on the follow-up to recommendations made at its 2005 Inaugural Meeting. This included a template on a National Mineral Policy Framework and the criteria affecting investor's perception of country risks. The Forum also discussed the elements and procedures of Environmental Impact Assessments. Among other matters, members identified the need for a substantial increase in international support for geological mapping and for environmental impact assessment in developing countries; support for policies that more effectively integrate mining into the economic and social objectives of countries; and following the presentation by the forum's market outlook committee on market trends, the need for greater vigilance in order to react to unjustified barriers to market access for mineral and metals. Members also acknowledged the critical role played by exploration companies in identifying mining opportunities.

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 to prepare a way forward to the 2010-11 United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development meetings that will review progress on addressing mining/metal related priorities identified in the Johannesburg plan of Action. 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.

The Forum developed out of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Forum acknowledged the support from a number of donors including UNCTAD, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Canadian International Development Agency and Natural Resources Canada.

With the recent arrival of three new members, namely, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and Mongolia, there are now thirty-six members of the Forum. They are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Guinea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia.

In addition to member countries, participants in the meeting included international agencies (UNCTAD, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations

Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Finance Corporation the International Labour Office, and the World Bank), the European Commission

For more information, please contact

Olle Östensson
Chief, Diversification and
Natural Resources Section
Commodities Branch
UNCTAD
Switzerland
tel: 41 22 917 57 61
fax: 41 22 917 05 09
e-mail: Olle.Ostensson@unctad.org

Gary Nash
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 10th Floor,
Room: C7-1
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0E4
Telephone:(613) 992-2490
Fax: (613) 996-7425
e-mail: Gary.Nash@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

*** ** ***