

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

On behalf of the Governments of Canada and South Africa and in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), I am pleased to invite you to the second preparatory meeting of the Global Dialogue of Governments on Mining/Metals and Sustainable Development. The meeting will take place June 1-3, 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland in Conference room XXVI at the Palais des Nations.

Attached for your information and review is a copy of the draft annotated agenda. The objective of this second preparatory meeting is to complete negotiations of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures as well as the Programme of Work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals and Metals and Sustainable Development.

All documents required for the meeting, including the latest versions of the draft Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedures and Programme of Work, will be sent by email next week. The documents will also be posted on the Global Dialogue Web site in the members-only area. Members can access the information on the web site at [www.globaldialogue.info](http://www.globaldialogue.info). The members-only area is accessible by typing the following user name and password: Username: globaldialogue; the password: Gd@03.

A list of hotels in Geneva that has been provided by the U.N. will be posted on the web site. Delegates are expected to make their own hotel arrangements.

Participants are requested to respond to this invitation no later than May 15, 2004, and to identify their delegation to the meeting to the contact person (Mr. André Bourassa) identified at the end of this letter. In the event that a delegate cannot travel to the meeting, countries may consider sending a representative from their permanent mission in Geneva. Delegations should include officials that have significant responsibility for the mining/metals sector. UNCTAD has indicated that the meeting will have simultaneous interpretation in French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

Countries that may require assistance in order to participate at the meeting should contact Mr. Bourassa and he will endeavour to assist as best he can. For countries that may require a letter of support when applying for a Swiss visa, UNCTAD is prepared to issue such letters upon request. Contacts at UNCTAD for requesting such letters are either of the following two officials:

Mr. Olle Ostenson; email: [Olle.Ostensson@unctad.org](mailto:Olle.Ostensson@unctad.org).

Mr. Ulrich Hoffman; email: [Ulrich.Hoffmann@unctad.org](mailto:Ulrich.Hoffmann@unctad.org).

The June meeting represents another important step in the realisation of an intergovernmental forum for governments with an interest in the contribution of the mining and metals sector to sustainable development. Should the conclusion of the meeting reflect a successful outcome, over the coming months governments will be invited to submit their formal notifications to join the Forum. Once twenty-five notification have been received, the Forum will be formally established and the next meeting will be the inaugural meeting.

I look forward to your response and to the establishment of the new Forum.

Kindly let us know if you need further information.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Gary Nash, Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachments:

c.c. : Abiel Mngomezulu, Chief Director  
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