



## INFORMATION NOTE

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### **MINING FORUM CONCLUDES INAUGURAL SESSION, ADOPTS ACTION PLAN**

The Intergovernmental Forum for Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development concluded its November 7-9 inaugural meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with an agreement to pursue further work to prepare for discussions on mining at the 2010-11 United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Forum also agreed to further work on financial assurance instruments related to mine closures; on success factors underlying regional and local development strategies related to mining; on the integration of mining into national development strategies; on data management (including geoscience) system templates related to mining; mineral policy frameworks; and on other subjects.

The Forum made a number of recommendations for consideration by various intergovernmental agencies and governments pertaining to capacity building and technical support in the field of mining and sustainable development; increased collaboration; information exchanges; and other forms of cooperation.

A Market Outlook Advisory Committee was established to examine mineral and metal market trends and potential constraints to international trade in mineral and metal products.

Gary Nash of Natural Resources Canada, elected Forum Chair, said "The Forum will need to demonstrate value added by initiating actions that directly and tangibly increase the contribution of mining to sustainable development."

Elected vice-chairpersons were Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Mines and Energy of Ethiopia (African region), Glenn Gemerts of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Suriname (South American region), Michael Cabalda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines (Asian region) and Nikolay Miletenko of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (European region).

The Forum developed out of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Canada and South Africa provided aid in launching the Forum and added support was provided by UNCTAD, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the World Bank, Canada and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).

The thirty-three members of the Forum are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of

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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, UNDESA, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Office, and the World Bank), the European Commission, and observers from other countries, including Chile and Thailand.

***For more information, please contact***

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