

Summary Report
of the
Second Preparatory Meeting for the
Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals
and Sustainable Development

Palais des Nations, Room XXVI
Geneva, Switzerland

June 1-3, 2004

Co-hosted by UNCTAD and co-chaired by the Governments of South Africa (Abiel Mngomezulu) and Canada (Richard Ballhorn), this 2nd Preparatory Meeting was opened with welcoming remarks by Lakshmi Puri, (see attachment on this web page) Director, Division of International Trade in Goods and Services for UNCTAD.

The Chairs thanked: UNCTAD who provided the meeting room and interpretation for this meeting; the United Kingdom/DFID for providing financial assistance to enable numerous countries to attend this meeting; and UNDESA, who also provided the resources for numerous people to attend this meeting and for their commitment to the minerals and metals sector and its role in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Canada brought official regrets from the United States as Robert Reilly could not attend due to a re-organization in his department. As well, participants were informed that Japan's Mr. Shin Morita was on sick leave at this time.

The first day and a half was spent negotiating the Terms of Reference and the draft Rules of Procedure for this Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Mineral, Metals and Sustainable Development. These two documents can be found on this web page.

The Programme of Work was discussed according to the five themes. Initially, officials brainstormed to produce a variety of ideas. At the beginning of Day 3, ad hoc groups formed according to specific interests to fine tune the plethora of ideas into specific projects. These discussions resulted in some projects according to themes (this document can also be found on this web page).

The Intergovernmental Forum will come into effect when confirmation of membership to either Canada or South Africa has been received from at least 25 countries. The process of confirmation was discussed and a draft letter for confirmation purposes was circulated (also attached to this web page). Participants agreed that the membership confirmation process needed be proceed in a timely manner in order for the new Forum and its Secretariat to come into effect at the earliest possible time.

The first meeting of the new Forum will be the inaugural meeting. Consideration will be given to a meeting held at high or ministerial level

The meeting closed with the co-Chairs again thanking UNCTAD, UK/DFID and UNDESA for their assistance to enable this 2nd Preparatory Meeting to be successful.

UNCTAD/Ollie Ostensson commented that this effort to create an Intergovernmental Forum is a tremendous step forward as there has not been an intergovernmental entity on minerals and metals issues for many years. This is a gap that has now been filled and UNCTAD wished the Intergovernmental Forum much success.

Finally, Canada offered thanks to the two Chairs, to Andre Bourassa for all his hard work preparing for this meeting, and to Wanda Hoskin for her assistance during this meeting.

The Meeting was attended by 55 officials representing 37 countries, and 4 Intergovernmental Organizations (UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNECA, and the World Bank).