



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

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UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue

Mineral Resource Governance

November 17, 2020

Virtual

Background

The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (“UNEA-4”), which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11-15 March 2019 adopted the Resolution No. UNEP/EA.4/Res. 19 on Mineral Resource Governance. The resolution recognizes the important contribution of mining towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the dependence of low-carbon clean technologies on metals and minerals.

There has been a multiplicative of resource consumption – particularly in non-metal minerals like sand and gravel. The recycling rates are 1% for some precious metals which are used in innovative technologies (e.g. solar cells).¹ Over the next decade, to accommodate demand, there is a need to improve the sustainability and responsibility of the extractive sector.

Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.19 requests the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP”) to, *inter alia*, collect information on sustainable practices, identify knowledge gaps and options for implementation strategies, and undertake an overview of existing assessments of different governance initiatives and approaches on sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, and report to the fifth session of the UNEA (February 2021). With this resolution, the UN Environment Assembly encourages the UN system, governments and other stakeholders to promote awareness about mineral resource governance and calls for due diligence along the supply chain, including the continuous increase of transparency. This is a call to action which is supported by the United Nations Environment Management Group (“EMG”).

In pursuance of the UNEA-4 resolution, UNEP initiated a process to engage governments, national, regional and global stakeholders through virtual consultations from July through October 2020. The consultations contributed to the implementation of the resolution and to consideration of future action on the topic. The consultations also assisted to create ownership of the outcomes of the process among all Member States. Additional information is available [online](#).

The consultations sourced expert feedback on sustainable practices, knowledge gaps and options for implementation strategies in the mineral resource sector, and provided an opportunity to review existing assessments of different governance initiatives and approaches

¹ IRP (2019). Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want. Report of the International Resource Panel. United Nations Environment Programme. Nairobi, Kenya. Available from <https://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook>



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on sustainable management of mineral resources. The outcomes of the consultations will be presented and discussed during the EMG Nexus Dialogue on Mineral Resource Governance, held in collaboration with UNEP and with support from the Federal Office for the Environment (“FOEN”) from the Swiss Confederation. The Nexus Dialogue will support an outcome document which pursues the strategic implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution and will be presented to UNEA-5.

Objectives

The main objectives of this Dialogue are to:

- *Present Key Policy Messages and Best Practices:* Presenting trends and findings from the recent expert reports on mineral resource governance² on current governance frameworks of key issues;
- *Share Outcomes and Recommendations:* Share the outcomes and recommendations from the regional consultations to support the strategic implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution by UNEP, and;
- *Discuss and Assess Capacity Gaps:* Discuss gaps on good governance across key mineral value chains (i.e. extraction and processing) and explore opportunities and next steps within the UN system and intergovernmental processes to address them.

Outcomes

The Dialogue is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Establishment of a network of focal points from interested agencies for further dialogue and follow up with respect to good mineral resource governance.
- Discuss the feedback derived from the regional consultations, including key findings, policies, and recommendations and;
- Strengthen and support recommendations on the implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution, to be presented at UNEA-5.

Structure and Content

For safety and logistical reasons, the two-hour Nexus Dialogue will be held entirely virtually - hosted, streamed, and recorded on Zoom Webinar.

² Reports include the following: “Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century: Gearing extractive industries towards sustainable development” (IRP 2019), “Mine Tailings Storage: Safety is No Accident” (UNEP – GRID ARENDAL, 2017); “Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources (UNEP-GRID 2019; and the Mosi-oa-Tunya Declaration on ASM, quarrying and development.



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Provisional Agenda

<p>Time: 8:00-10:00am EST</p>	<p>Mineral Resource Governance</p> <p>Introduction and welcoming by EMG Secretariat, UNEP, and Swiss Confederation outlining objectives and structure – 15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satya S Tripathi, Head of Office-New York and Secretary, EMG Secretariat • Ligia Noronha, Director of the Economy Division of UNEP • Martine Rohn-Brossard, Head of Section/Deputy Head of Division, FOEN <p>Saliency and timeliness of the Mineral Resource Governance, contextualized within the UNEA 4/19 resolution. – 10 minutes total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamine Diouf, Directeur du Contrôle et de la Surveillance des Opérations Minières, Republic of Senegal • Carmen Hagenaaars, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands <p>Presentation/video recapturing the areas discussed in the Regional Consultations, and outcomes of the Global Forum - Daniel Franks, Program Leader, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland – 10 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Options/Gaps • Best Practices • Thematic Priorities • Next Steps <p><u>Roundtable Discussion (65 minutes)</u> <i>The roundtable gets a sense from various agencies on the challenges/gaps that countries have flagged, whether agencies have the tools/resources needed to cover the gaps and challenges to respond to members states' needs, the role of UN bodies and the intergovernmental processes to strengthen the sustainable management of mineral resources.</i></p> <p><i>Roundtable Participants:</i></p> <p>Ligia Noronha, Director of the Economy Division of UNEP</p> <p>Tim Scott, Senior Policy Adviser, UNDP</p> <p>Antonio Pedro, Director: Subregional Office, Central Africa, UN Economic Commission for Africa</p> <p>Franziska Hirsch, Secretary, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</p> <p>Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE</p> <p>Camila Pereira Rego Meireles, Technical officer: mining, extractives, energy & manufacturing, ILO</p> <p>Louis Marechal, Policy Advisor, Responsible, Business Conduct Unit, OECD</p> <p>Ludivine Wouters, Director, International Women in Mining</p> <p>Isabelle Ramdoo, Deputy Director, IGF</p> <p>Greg Radford, Director, IGF</p> <p>Özlem Adiyaman, Programme Specialist, UNESCO</p>
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Natascha Nunes Da Cunha, Senior Specialist of Extractives, Inter-American Development Bank

Valeria Torres Larranaga, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC

Katherine Ortiz, Regional Specialist, Child Rights and Business, UNICEF

1. What challenges and governance gaps have risen in the sustainable management of mineral resources in the experience of your agency?
2. Can your agency contribute to the future of- and play a role in- the implementation of the sustainable management of mineral resources?
3. What would be the immediate and broader/longer-term implementation concerns you would have in your agency's capacity to contribute to sustainable mineral resource management? What are some important considerations you'd like to share or emphasize?
4. What nexus themes, agencies, and agendas within the UN-system do you foresee a natural collaboration with in order to pursue mutually-beneficial workstreams by sharing capacities, resources, and expertise?
5. What opportunities does the international community have to take further steps to address the gaps identified? What will be the challenges?
6. What are some final recommendations you'd like to contribute to the UNEA-5 process and present to the mineral resource governance community, UN-system wide, and to member states?

Concluding Q&A – 10 minutes

Closing and way forward (EMG, UNEP, FOEN) – 10 minutes