



Sustainable supply chains of raw materials from mineral resources

An overview of ISO work

2024-04-26, UNECE Resource Management Week 2024

The views expressed are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

[iso.org](https://www.iso.org)

The ISO system



Global network established in 1947 → today 171 members represent ISO in their country



We produce voluntary International Standards → 25 000+



800+ technical committees and subcommittees developing 100+ standards every month



We are coordinated by a Central Secretariat in Geneva





ISO sustainability objectives

- Environmental and social sustainability is prioritized in the development of ISO standards
- Create coherence and interoperability with other tools on sustainability
- Contribute to international and national policy implementation linked to sustainability
- Enhance ISO's strategic partnerships for sustainability
- Ensure the contribution from all relevant stakeholders in ISO's standards development

ISO/PC 348 – Sustainable raw materials

Intends to:

- Specify criteria and industry best practices for sustainable raw materials
- For ‘mineral resources’ or ‘minerals’ as a naturally occurring deposit in the Earth’s crust of an organic or inorganic substance, such as metal ores, industrial minerals and construction minerals, excluding energy raw materials and water *
- Cover the full value chain, from extraction (mining) to processing, to refining, to final product manufacturing

Approved in September 2023.

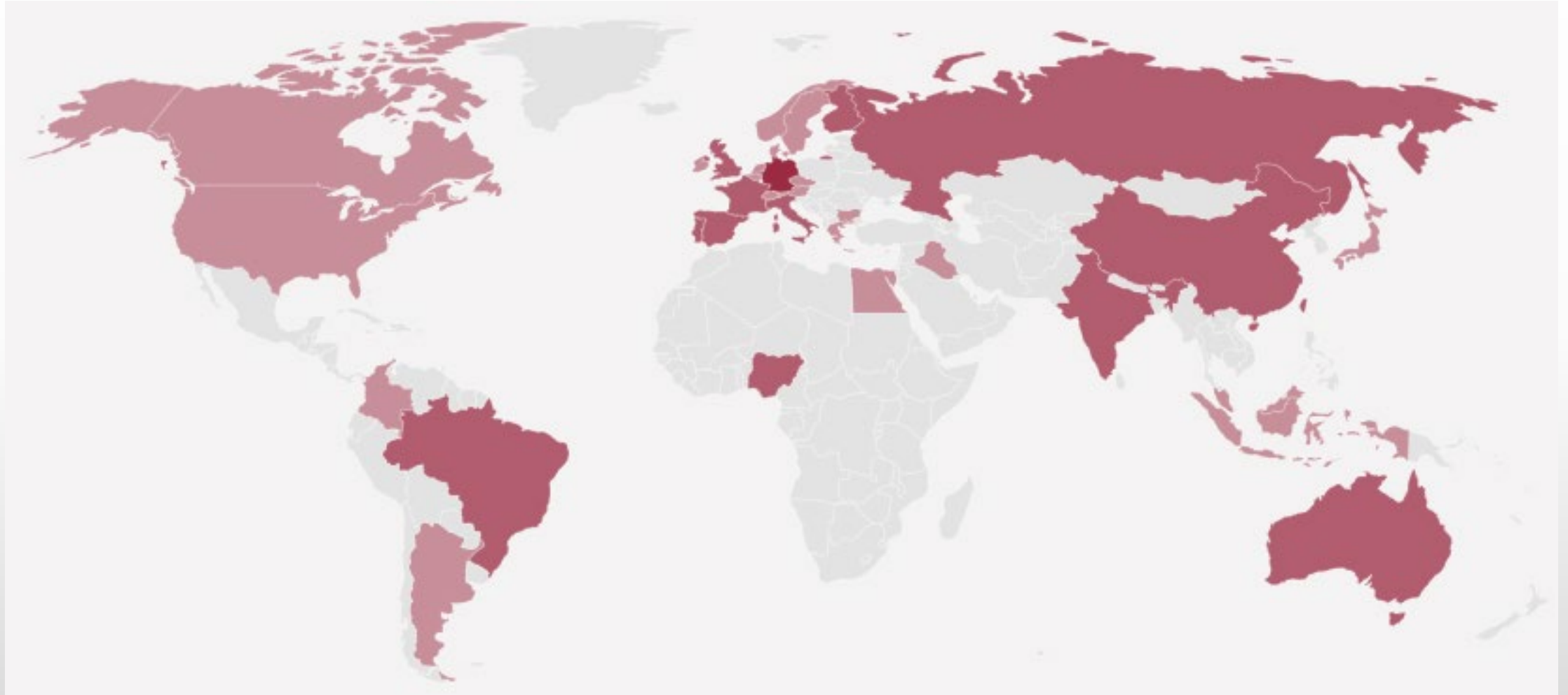
Work to start in July 2024.

For details:

<https://www.iso.org/committee/9983866.html>

** Definition from the [EU principles for sustainable raw materials](#) (based on the definition from the [EU Extractive waste directive](#))*

ISO/PC 348 – Participation



■ Secretariat

■ Participating members

■ Observing members



Relevance of ISO/PC 348 – The facts

- Mineral raw materials, and related industries through the supply chain, are **essential** to the manufacturing of renewable-energy technologies required for carbon emissions to reach **net zero**.
- Mineral raw materials are sourced, processed and traded in **global supply chains**.
- Need for significant **global collaboration** to create an environment that supports effective and efficient industry activities to meet increasing international regulations and demand, while **upholding sustainability principles**.

Relevance of ISO/PC 348 – The responses



G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Communiqué

Sapporo, April 16, 2023



ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

New Delhi, India, 9-10 September 2023



EU principles for sustainable raw materials

→ 3 categories of principles

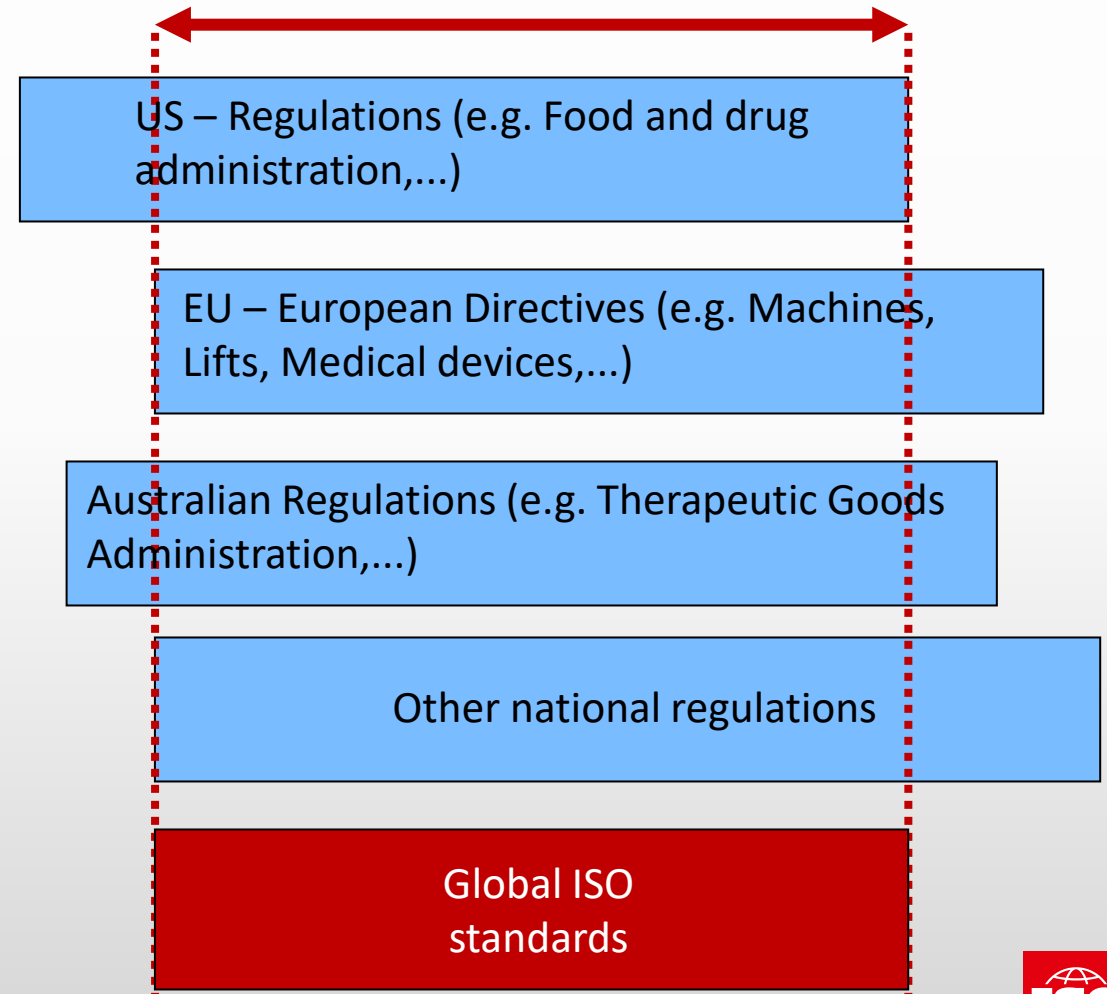
↳ 8 principles

↳ 24 guiding points

- There is a global commitment to uphold ESG principles, as expressed by G7/G20 ([Sapporo](#) and [Delhi](#), 2023)
 - The [EU Principles of Sustainable Raw Materials \(2021\)](#) are aligned to this global commitment
- PC 348 proposes to use the EU Principles of Sustainable Raw Materials as a starting point

Global Relevance of ISO/PC 348 – Work ahead

- Participation of ISO members (multi-stakeholder)
 - Consideration of other legislative frameworks
 - Influence from organizations in liaison (ITA, ICMM, CRMA)
- PC 348 aims at providing:
- **harmonization of ESG criteria** aligned to the global commitments
 - a list of accepted **industry best practices** related to the agreed ESG criteria



Stocktake of ESG standards/guides/tools

Source: ISO/TMBG/SAG CRMI - Strategic Advisory Group on Critical Minerals, [Final Report](#) with list of 19 ESG standards/guides/tools – June 2023

Standard/Tool	Organisation	Governance structure	Frequency of update	Coverage (i.e. general or mineral specific)	Part of supply chain	Is there a reporting component to the tool?	Audience for report?	Usage (is not)		
ICMM Standard Development (SD) Framework (including ICMM Mining Principles and Position Statements)	International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)	Industry led initiative (initial 10 principles), with the updated Mining Principles based on a global public consultation with 263 respondents from 31 non-member companies/institutions	Position Statements updated irregularly (latest 'Climate Change' in 2021), depending on developments of critical industry challenges. Frequency of updates not	General	Mining and On-site Processing	Members are required to disclose, publicly, their Performance Expectation validation activities on an annual basis. Asset-by-asset disclosures	Public or interested parties in a company's Performance Expectation validation.	All companies fully Mar		
		RMAP Mineral Supply Chain Due Diligence (DD) Standards (voluntary) RMAP ESG Standard	Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP)/Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI)	Industry led initiative by Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) with structured stakeholder engagement by a Steering Committee	Standard revision process in line with RMI Standards and Assessment Criteria Development Process (2021) The RMI shall review Standards on a 3-5 year cycle or as needed based on	DD: tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold, cobalt, copper, nickel, lead, zinc and for all	Processing/Smelting/R refining	Publication of summarised results required - Supply Chain policies, the RMAP Audit Summary Report and the OECD Step 5 Due Diligence Report (annually).	Downstream companies	
IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining	Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)	Multi-stakeholder collaboration equitably sectors community organisations companies and investors.	Climate-related Disclosures Prototyp	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation	Developed by International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), with external consultation.	Still under development	General	General dependent on the scope of the business	Reporting requirement for the disclosure of information that enables users of general purpose financial reporting to understand its assessment of the impact of sustainability.	Investors, lenders
TSM Protocols and Frameworks	Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)/Mining Association of Canada (MAC)	Industry association with stakeholder interest Panel (group of 12 to 15 Indigenous community industry NGOs, financial	Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards	Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)	Developed by Global Standards 15 member diverse background around the range of expertise, experienced stakeholder support					
			Blueprint for Responsible Sourcing of Critical Minerals (ESG Paper 2021) Breaking Down Barriers for Responsible Sourcing of Critical Minerals (ESG Paper	Critical Minerals Association (CMA)	2021: Industry (mining and initiative. Group and with industry organisations and analysts mining, processing, financial and industries 2022: Multi-stakeholder workshop attended academia government	ITSCI Joint Industry Traceability and Due Diligence Programme	The International Tin Supply Chain Initiative (ITSCI)	Industry led initiative; developed by International Tin Research Institute (ITRI), a UK based tin industry association.	Frequency of update unknown but aligned with OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains	Coltan/tantalum and tin



<https://www.standards.org.au/engagement-events/events/international-workshop-agreement-iwa-sustainable-critical-minerals-supply-chains-workshop>

IWA 45, Sustainable Critical Minerals Supply Chains

IWA = International Workshop Agreement

To support the understanding of the range of sustainability frameworks available

Two workshops concluded (February and April 2024)

3rd workshop week 13 May, [registration to open soon](#)

Outcomes and recommendations to be delivered end June

→ **PC 348 will integrate the insights of IWA 45**



Survey – New standard for sustainable raw materials

Short survey to help **understand the broader needs** of the raw materials sector for the development of a new ISO standard that **harmonizes criteria** for sustainable raw materials from mineral resources and sets out **industry best practice**.

The survey will be open until **Tuesday 14th May**.

Please feel free to share the survey link with your networks who are interested in this area.



<https://tinyurl.com/ISORAWMAT>

→ **PC 348 will integrate the results of the survey**

Other ISO committees relevant to critical minerals

Material-specific (chemical analysis testing, traceability)

ISO/TC 26	Copper and copper alloys
ISO/TC 27	Coal and coke
ISO/TC 79	Light metals and their alloys
ISO/TC 79/ SC 5	Magnesium and alloys of cast or wrought magnesium
ISO/TC 79/ SC 12	Aluminium ores
ISO/TC 132	Ferroalloys
ISO/TC 155	Nickel and nickel alloys
ISO/TC 183	Copper, lead, zinc and nickel ores and concentrates
ISO/TC 298	Rare earth
ISO/TC 333	Lithium
ISO/TC 345	Specialty metals and minerals (Sb, Be, Co, Cr, Graphite, Nb, Pt group)

} JWG on Sustainability

Material-agnostic (ESG)

ISO/TC 82/ SC 7	Sustainable mining and mine closure
ISO/TC 207	Environmental management
ISO/TC 308	Chain of custody
ISO/TC 323	Circular economy
ISO/PC 348	Sustainable raw materials

The **Critical Minerals Coordination Committee** provides a forum for the Officers of these committees to coordinate activities.

ISO/PC 348 – Next steps

First meeting planned late October 2024:

- Consideration of the recommendations from IWA 45 and the results of broader survey of market need
- Consolidation of title, scope and strategic business plan
- Identification of missing stakeholders
- Development of initial draft
- Planning work ahead

Join us in Berlin!

Through your National Standards Body
or applying for a liaison





THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT
NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Thank you.

Working together to make lives
easier, safer, better.

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