



Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)



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ABOUT IGF

The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) supports more than 60 nations committed to leveraging mining for sustainable development to ensure that negative impacts are limited and financial benefits are shared.

It is devoted to optimizing the benefits of mining to achieve poverty reduction, inclusive growth, social development and environmental stewardship.

The IGF is focused on improving resource governance and decision making by governments working in the sector. It provides a number of services to members including: in-country assessments; capacity building and individualized technical assistance; guidance documents and conference which explore best practices and provide an opportunity to engage with industry and civil society.

These efforts are largely framed by IGF's flagship policy guidance and assessment tool, the Mining Policy Framework (MPF). The MPF lays out international best practices in six key pillars of mining policy and law: the legal and policy environment; financial benefit optimization; socioeconomic benefit optimization; environmental management; mine closure and post-mining transitions; and artisanal and small-scale mining.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has served as Secretariat for the IGF since October 2015. Core funding is provided by the Government of Canada.

The IGF emerged from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa where delegates recognized the challenges and opportunities related to mining and sustainable development.

IGF GOALS

The IGF's overarching objective is enhancing capacities to achieve sustainable development objectives through good governance in the mining sector. This effort is largely framed by its flagship Mining Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (MPF), which sets out concrete objectives and processes for good governance. It focuses on the following areas:

LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

A mature, modern legislative regime is one that provides clear lines of responsibility and accountability for governments and companies. Such a regime should provide the foundation of good governance and contribute to sustainable development in all aspects of social and economic life.

FINANCIAL BENEFIT OPTIMIZATION

Taxes and royalty revenues derived from exploration, mine development and production should reflect the value to society of the resources mined. They should be collected and put to work in support of the sustainable development of the nation.

SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFIT OPTIMIZATION

The conversion of natural capital into human capital holds the greatest promise for sustainable outcomes from mining activities. Maximizing the social and economic development contributions of mining with the host state, especially in developing countries, is a key goal of IGF members.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The management of the natural resource base within ecosystems is the ongoing responsibility of any society seeking to become more sustainable, and any company seeking to act responsibly.

POST-MINING TRANSITION

A mining operation that is considered consistent with sustainable development is one where planning for the environmental, social and economic transitions to mine closure must be undertaken throughout the entire life cycle of the mine.

ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING

Artisanal and small-scale mining is a complex and diversified sector that ranges from informal individual miners seeking to make a subsistence livelihood, to small-scale formal commercial mining entities that can produce minerals in a responsible way that respects local laws.

As a policy guidance tool, the MPF lays out current international best practice in these six key pillars of mining law and policy.





IGF SERVICES

IGF PROVIDES A NUMBER OF SERVICES TO MEMBERS

- Conferences where government representatives can exchange ideas, explore best practices and engage with industry and civil society
- In-country assessments
- Guidance documents
- Capacity building training on critical mining and sustainable development issues
- Individualized technical assistance to developing country governments requiring training or guidance on particular topics

BECOME A MEMBER

- The IGF is a voluntary partnership. Any member state of the United Nations may join
- Membership in the IGF implies no legal, contractual or financial commitment
- Nation states interested in joining the IGF should contact the Secretariat

For more information contact
Secretariat@IGFMining.org
1100-220 Laurier Avenue W.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5Z9 Canada

Secretariat hosted by



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