



IGF

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Communiqué – IGF’s 16th Annual General Meeting

Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)
16th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
October 20–22, 2020

First virtual edition

Mining and COVID-19: From crisis to sustainability

The world has experienced an unprecedented shock with the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments worldwide have rushed to respond with urgent preventive measures to contain the health and economic impacts of the crisis. The mining sector has not been spared; COVID-19 has harmed workers, disrupted supply chains, and halted operations in many nations.

In response to these challenges, the theme of the 2020 IGF Annual General Meeting was “Mining and COVID-19: From crisis to sustainability.” Sessions examined how the ongoing health and economic crisis has affected the sector, and how governments and other stakeholders are responding. They featured high-level officials and top mining-sector experts from government, academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations.

16th AGM

The IGF convened its 16th AGM from October 20 to 22, 2020, and hosted the event virtually for the first time this year. Over 1,800 participants registered, including delegates from over 92 countries, as well as representatives from international organizations, companies, industry associations, and civil society.

As Chair of the IGF Executive Committee, on October 20, 2020, Senegal’s Minister of Mining and Geology, Aissatou Sophie Gladima, welcomed delegates to the first virtual convening of the AGM and highlighted the various challenges brought by COVID-19 in the mining sector as well as new opportunities that can be leveraged as countries build back their economies.

Panellists shared their experiences and insights during the AGM’s 18 parallel sessions.

Sessions Summary

Sessions examined how the ongoing health and economic crisis has affected the mining sector, people, and communities. They also reviewed how governments and other stakeholders are responding and how to move from crisis to sustainability, such as:

- The Future of Mining Employment and Skills
- Building Resilient Communities: Can we leverage impact investment mechanisms?
- Community Engagement During COVID-19: Challenges and new opportunities
- COVID-19 and the Future of Responsible Sourcing
- Global Mine Closure Needs: Government and industry responses



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- Mining, Climate Change, and COVID-19: How the pandemic has impacted global actions
- Responding to COVID-19 in the ASM Sector
- Technological Innovation in a Post-COVID-19 Era: Changing the face of mining?

Other sessions focused on the future of resource taxation; new approaches to regulating environmental and social impact assessment in the mining sector; tools to ensure greater gender equality and assess gendered impacts of mining before project development; and the newly released Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management.

General Council

On October 22, the General Council and members of the Executive Committee welcomed Armenia and Sweden as the newest IGF members.

Closing Remarks

In closing, the IGF Secretariat noted the exceptional participation at this year's AGM and thanked delegates for their contributions. IGF Secretariat expressed the wish to meet all participants in person for a traditional general assembly hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2021.

About the IGF

The IGF supports more than 75 nations committed to leveraging mining for sustainable development to ensure 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 International Institute for Sustainable Development has served as Secretariat for the IGF since October 2015. Core funding is provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information, to join or to support the IGF, please contact the Secretariat at: Secretariat@IGFmining.org.