



IGF

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Communiqué of the IGF's 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

November 7-9, 2023
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sharing Mining Benefits in the Energy Transition

The energy transition is at the forefront of policy discussions across the globe, as we seek to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. The importance of mining critical minerals to enable this transition has been reiterated at various international gatherings. However, this transformation poses complex challenges related to environmental impacts, social considerations, and the equitable distribution of benefits. Producing nations are concerned about the capacity and preparedness of key institutions to take advantage of potential economic opportunities while destination countries are concerned about supply chain disruptions that could impede the transition. Overall, there is a growing need to ensure that the mining sector's vital contributions to the energy transition bring fair and inclusive benefits for all.

In response to these challenges, the theme of the 2023 IGF Annual General Meeting was '**Sharing Mining Benefits in the Energy Transition**'. The AGM sessions focused on a variety of timely topics surrounding the supply of minerals and benefits sharing in the energy transition. There were sessions on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), building resilient supply chains, community engagement, critical minerals, financial benefits sharing, and transparency.

Prior to the official opening of the AGM, government representatives gathered for a member workshop on November 6 for discussions on regional and thematic priorities. The General Council meeting was also held where members of the Executive Committee welcomed Zimbabwe as the newest IGF member. Elections were held during the General Council for new members of the Executive Committee. Representatives from Thailand, Lesotho, and Morocco were nominated for a second term, representing Asia, Anglophone Africa, and Francophone Africa. Newly elected Executive Committee members included Sweden representing Europe, the United States of America, representing Central, North America, and the Caribbean, and Peru representing South America. The Chair of the Executive Committee will be selected by the Vice-Chairs from among themselves. Lastly, after one year of consultations with members and non-members stakeholders, IGF members ratified the updated Mining Policy Framework and its guidance notes.

Secretariat
hosted by



Secretariat
funded by



Kingdom of the Netherlands

The 19th AGM

The IGF convened its 19th AGM, hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 7 to 9, 2023. Over 500 participants registered, from over 100 countries, including representatives from governments, international organizations, companies, industry associations, and civil society.

On November 7, 2023, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Pedro Manuel Moreno welcomed delegates to the AGM and acknowledged the importance of the issues to be discussed under the theme of Sharing Mining Benefits in the Energy Transition.

Sessions Summary

A diverse selection of panelists shared their experiences and insights during the AGM's 12 themed sessions listed below:

- Benefits Sharing and Transparency in The Energy Transition
- Bridging the Supply Gap: Where will the minerals come from?
- Building Resilient Supply Chains
- Case Studies on Community Engagement and Benefits Sharing
- Community Development Agreements and Building Community Resilience
- Fair, Equitable, and Inclusive Energy Transition
- Financial Benefit Sharing in the Energy Transition
- Legislating for Uncertainty: Price volatility and integrated value chains in the energy transition
- Managing Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Better
- Strengthening Social Engagement
- The Future of Benefits Sharing
- Transforming the Extractives Industries for Sustainable Development

In addition to the main AGM sessions, morning and lunch sessions were held on the following topics:

- Circularity and Mining
- Copper and Lithium Pricing
- Copper Briefing Session
- Critical Minerals: National priorities, regional initiatives, and global responsibilities
- The Role of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in the Energy Transition

Closing Remarks

In closing, the IGF Director thanked delegates for their participation and UNCTAD for once again hosting the meeting. The Secretariat announced to delegates that the next AGM will be hosted by UNCTAD in 2024 in Geneva at the Palais des Nations.

About the IGF

The IGF supports its more than 80 member countries in advancing their sustainable development goals through effective laws, policies, and regulations for the mining sector. We help governments take action to develop inclusive and gender-equitable practices, optimize financial benefits, support livelihoods, and safeguard the environment. Our work covers the full mining life cycle, from exploration to mine closure, and projects of all sizes, from artisanal mining to large-scale operations. Guided by our members' needs, we provide in-country assessments, capacity building, technical training, publications, and events to advance best practices, peer learning, and engagement with industry and civil society. The International Institute for Sustainable Development has hosted the IGF Secretariat since October 2015. Core funding is provided by the governments of Canada and the Netherlands.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat at Secretariat@IGFmining.org.