

**IGF**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Communiqué of the IGF's 21st Annual General Meeting

November 3-5, 2025

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Value Beyond Extraction: Rethinking mining for a resilient future

Amidst growing global demand for minerals, and the accelerating digital and energy transitions, mining governance is central to fostering resilient economies, social progress, and environmental stewardship. Creating value beyond extraction means moving beyond raw material exports toward potential local value addition and economic diversification, ensuring that mineral wealth drives sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development in resource-rich countries.

Guided by the theme **Value Beyond Extraction: Rethinking Mining for a Resilient Future**, members underscored the importance of translating mineral wealth into lasting and equitable development outcomes. Discussions highlighted that value extends beyond production volumes to encompass decent employment, linkages to local economies, and protection of ecosystems and communities. The meeting renewed the collective commitment of Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) members to further promote policies and partnerships that ensure mining contributes meaningfully to sustainable and inclusive growth.

The 21st Annual General Meeting, November 3-5, 2025, Geneva

The IGF convened its 21st annual general meeting (AGM), hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 3–5, 2025. Over 800 participants registered, from over 100 countries, including representatives from governments, international organizations, companies, industry associations, and civil society.

On November 3, 2025, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Pedro Manuel Moreno welcomed delegates to the AGM and emphasized the need for countries to diversify within and beyond the mineral value chain. He noted that creating value beyond extraction means rethinking how we approach mining by promoting local value addition and broader economic diversification to build more resilient economies.

Sessions Summary

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

Secretariat
hosted by



Secretariat
funded by



Kingdom of the Netherlands

- Broadening Horizons: Diversification as a driver of value
- Mineral Exploration: What is the role of government?
- Leveraging Mining Revenue in the Financing for Development
- Diversifying Value in Small-Scale and Non-Metallic Mining
- Sustainability Standards and Producing Countries: From impact to agency
- From Extraction to Economic Transformation: Value addition policy case studies
- Abandoned Mine Lands: Addressing challenges through opportunities
- Ensuring Value Addition Really Adds Value: Environmental policies for mineral value chains beyond mining
- Strengthening Water Governance: Innovative, collaborative, and principled approaches
- Value for All: Inclusive strategies across mineral value chains
- Critical Minerals: National strategies in a global rush
- Regional Perspectives and Official Closing

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

- Lessons Learned from Local Content in Mineral Value Chains
- Launching the Global Coalition for Action on ASGM: A policy-driven path to responsible gold
- Commodity Session | Rare Earth Metals
- Rewiring Global Mineral Trade: Securing investment and value chains amid geopolitical shifts
- Production Sharing Contracts: A new model of benefit sharing for mining?
- Commodity Session | Lithium
- Rethinking Permitting in the Critical Minerals Rush
- Setting Out Standards: Mineral resources reporting codes and resource classification
- Legal Tools for Gender Equality in Critical Mineral Governance

Finally, IGF partners organized partner-led side sessions on the following topics:

- Security and Human Rights as Foundations for Resilient Mining
- Strategies for Strengthening Traceability and Circularity
- Critical Minerals, Critical Choices: Curbing risks and adding value
- Who Decides? Mine closure planning
- Unlocking Value: Helping economies in Africa to diversify within and beyond the critical energy transition minerals value chain
- Responsible Metals for Renewable Energy: A value chain approach

Closing Remarks

In closing, IGF Director Isabelle Ramdoo expressed her gratitude to the IGF Executive Committee members who have completed their mandate; to all delegates for their active participation; and to the UNCTAD for once again hosting the AGM. The Secretariat also announced that the next annual general meeting will be hosted by the UNCTAD in 2026 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

General Council - November 6, 2025

The General Council meeting was held on November 6, 2025, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The General Council welcomed Kiribati as the 86th IGF member.

The Rules of Procedure were amended to reflect the growth of the Executive Committee from six to seven vice-chairs. In addition, elections were held during the General Council for new members of the Executive Committee. Newly elected Executive Committee members included Chad, representing Francophone Africa; Sierra Leone for Anglophone Africa; Saudi Arabia for the Middle East and Central Asia region; and Timor Leste for Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Executive Committee vice-chairs representing Europe, South America, Central America, North America, and the Caribbean, having served a first term, were reconfirmed for a second term.

About the IGF

The IGF supports its 86 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.