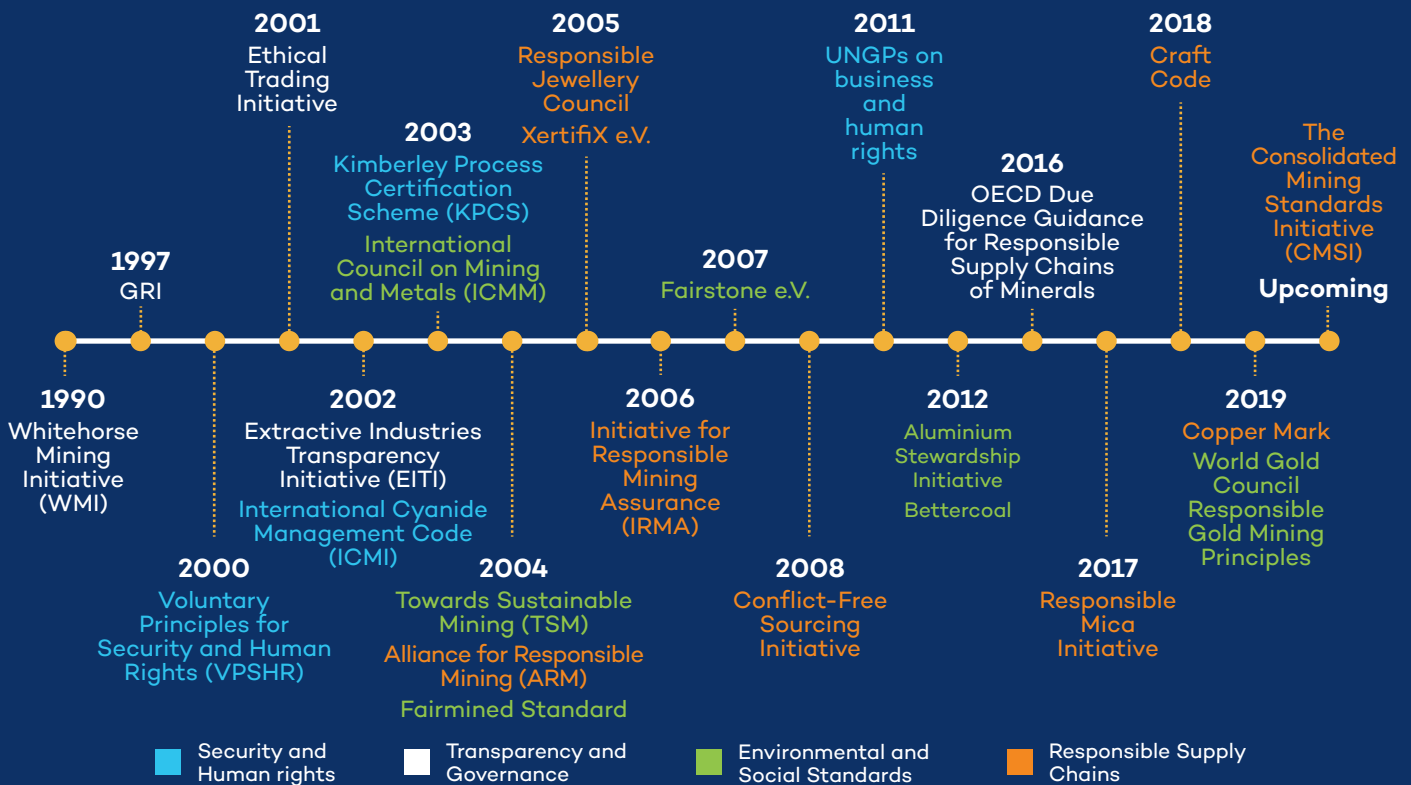


Integration of Sustainability Standards and Initiatives in Public Mining Governance

The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) conducted a survey among its member countries to understand how they have incorporated sustainability standards and initiatives (SSIs) into mining policy and regulatory frameworks. Results reveal that government engagement with SSIs is widespread and growing. While approaches vary significantly, most countries report some form of interaction with SSIs in their mining policy frameworks. Three case studies exemplify the diverse ways in which different SSIs are integrated into public policy-making in Brazil, Madagascar, and Sweden.

Sustainability Standards and Initiatives in the Mining Sector: A timeline



Key insights

The use of SSIs is most advanced at the policy implementation stage. Governments most frequently rely on SSIs as operational tools to support implementation, compliance, and reporting.

SSIs are not confined to voluntary use. Results indicate that SSIs are

- used as a basis for developing policies, laws, or regulations;
- directly referenced as mandatory requirements in regulations; or
- recognized as proof of compliance with legal obligations.

Policy development is a key entry point, but capacity constraints remain a major barrier. More than four fifths of respondents identify the need for **additional training and institutional capacity to effectively integrate SSIs into national regulatory frameworks**. Over a quarter of respondents indicate that they are **actively considering integrating SSIs into mining regulation**.

The three case studies illustrate how SSIs interact with public policy in practice:

Brazil

Brazil shows how an international technical standard, the **Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management**, can inform and reinforce regulatory reform following catastrophic dam failures, while national and sub-national legislators ultimately set stricter requirements.

Sweden

Sweden highlights the long-standing mandatory use of the Global Reporting Initiative's GRI standards for state-owned enterprises as part of corporate governance.

Madagascar

Madagascar demonstrates how transparency requirements aligned with the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative** can be embedded directly into mining legislation.



Together, these cases illustrate that SSIs can be most effective when used as complementary instruments, supporting learning, harmonization, and implementation, while public regulation remains the primary source of legal authority.



Takeaways for policy-makers

IGF member countries could improve their own use of SSIs to enhance their mining governance framework while addressing related challenges by

- ensuring that producing-country perspectives are reflected in the design and governance of international sustainability initiatives,
- identifying which SSIs are most relevant to national priorities,
- systematically assessing where and how SSIs can add value within the policy cycle, and
- strengthening institutional capacity for oversight, audit interpretation, and data use.



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