IGF INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

October 12-14, 2026

Palais des Nations
Geneva

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE IGF'S 22ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Trust in an Interdependent World: Advancing inclusion and resilience in mineral value chains

In an increasingly complex, interconnected and fragmented global mineral economy, trust is key to ensuring effective mining governance. Rising demand for minerals, the proliferation of strategic partnerships, and growing exposure to supply disruptions have deepened the interdependence between producing and consuming countries, while reshaping the governance landscape and placing new strain on relationships between governments, companies, and host communities. Building trust depends on the equitable distribution of the benefits of mining, the meaningful participation of affected communities in decision-making, and international cooperation that supports the development priorities of producing countries.

Guided by the theme Trust in an Interdependent World: Advancing Inclusion and Resilience in Mineral Value Chains, members underscored that resilient mineral value chains rest on inclusive governance, equitable benefit sharing, and sound environmental and social performance across the mining life cycle. Discussions highlighted the role of governments as conveners, regulators, and guarantors of trust between companies, communities, and international partners, as well as the need to strengthen institutional capacities to navigate a rapidly evolving global mineral economy. 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 development.

The 22nd Annual General Meeting, October 12–14, 2026, Geneva

The IGF convened its 22nd annual general meeting (AGM), hosted by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 12-

14, 2026. Over 460 participants, from over 88 countries, including representatives from governments, international organizations, companies, industry associations, and civil society.

On October 12, 2026, UNCTAD Acting Secretary-General Pedro Manuel Moreno welcomed delegates to the AGM and highlighted the historic opportunity presented by surging demand for critical minerals. However, he cautioned that the gap in value capture remains stark, emphasizing the need for stronger governance frameworks and international cooperation to address this challenge.

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Vice President Global Strategies and Managing Director, Europe, followed with a welcome message that underscored the importance of trust and strong governance in building resilient and inclusive mineral value chains, and the IGF's role in strengthening government capacities, fostering international cooperation, and ensuring that mineral development delivers lasting benefits.

The official opening also marked the launch of the IGF Mining Academy, the new flagship initiative aimed to create a platform to support peer learning, training, and capacity development for government officials in the mining sector. Supported by the Government of Canada, the Academy will deliver hands-on training programs for policymakers, foster a community of practice, and serve as a hub for excellence in mining governance.

Sessions Summary

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

- Preparing for What's Next: New capacities for mineral governance in an interdependent economy
- Governments as Enablers of Equitable Benefit Sharing: Building trust between mining companies and communities
- Global Cooperation and Strategic Agreements in the Critical Minerals Era
- Critical Choices: From analysis to actionable critical minerals strategies
- Where Nature Thrives, Communities Trust: Rethinking socioenvironmental performance in mining
- Strengthening Social Performance: Harmonizing sustainability standards and mining policy (IGF-ICMM-OECD policy dialogue)
- Strategies for Developing Post-Mining Transition Governance Frameworks
- Beyond Risk: Managing mine waste and unlocking opportunities in remining tailings
- Sustainability Risks at the Exploration Stage

- Beyond Formalization: Moving toward more responsible artisanal and small-scale mining
- State Participation in Mining: Models, opportunities, and trade-offs
- The Future of Mineral Value Chains: Embedding trust through benefit sharing

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

- Hidden Vulnerabilities: Industrial chemicals and processing auxiliaries as strategic resources in global mineral value chains
- Commodity Session | Gold in Focus: Emerging trends and policy considerations
- When Trust Breaks Down: Preventing and managing disputes in the mining sector
- Commodity Session | Silicon in Focus: A building block of the transition
- UNCTAD Session | From Recommendations to Action: Implementing the United Nations Secretary-General's agenda on critical energy transition minerals

Closing Remarks

In closing, IGF Director Isabelle Ramdoo expressed her gratitude to all delegates and speakers for their active participation, and to UNCTAD for once again hosting the AGM. Luz María de la Mora, Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD, also delivered closing remarks, reaffirming UNCTAD's commitment to supporting producing countries in building trust and resilience across mineral value chains. The Secretariat announced that the next AGM will be once again hosted by UNCTAD in 2027 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

General Council

Following the official closing of the AGM, government representatives gathered for the IGF Government Forum on October 15, 2026, a one-day workshop for member-focused discussions on thematic and regional priorities. During the IGF General Council held that day, members welcomed Angola as the IGF's newest member and the Secretariat presented the IGF Strategy 2027-2032.

Members also shared their common challenges and priorities regionally and globally.

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 Government of Canada.

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

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