



# Minerals and Metals Sector *Update*

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## New Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

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A new Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development is ready to be launched. This forum will examine and promote the contribution of the mining, minerals and metals sectors to sustainable development and provide a platform for governments to exchange information that will help in responding to the global challenges facing these sectors. Government delegations can include various stakeholders, including industry and non-governmental groups.

The intergovernmental forum came about as a result of two preparatory meetings of the Global Dialogue of Governments on Mining, Metals and Sustainable Development — an initiative sponsored by Canada and South Africa at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to bring together like-minded governments with an interest in the mining, minerals and metals sectors.

The latest meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 1 to 3, 2004, was co-hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and included more than 60 officials representing 37 national governments. International organizations such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the World Bank also participated as observers.

Participants unanimously approved Canada to act as the secretariat for the first five years of the intergovernmental forum, after which members will re-evaluate the work done and determine if it will continue.

A preliminary work program, focusing on various issues related to governance regimes, was considered. It is expected that the intergovernmental forum will be particularly relevant to developing countries as they endeavour to use their natural resources wisely while reducing poverty.

The forum is now open for membership to interested countries. When 25 countries become members, the forum will come into effect, as will the secretariat. The secretariat will then start work on the development and implementation of the work program and prepare for a high-level inaugural meeting of the new forum.

For more information, visit the Global Dialogue web site at [www.globaldialogue.info](http://www.globaldialogue.info).

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## New Materials From Minerals and Metals Reduce Vehicle Weight

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The Canadian Lightweight Materials Research Initiative (CLiMRI), in partnership with materials suppliers, universities, and other government departments, funds research that leads to the adoption of lighter-weight materials in automobiles. CLiMRI is also a key program that delivers increased benefits from the value-added use of minerals and metals.

One recent accomplishment is the successful implementation of a pilot-scale process for seam-welding aluminum tubes developed by the CANMET Materials Technology Laboratory in the Minerals and Metals Sector. This significant advancement in tube hydroforming broadens the applicability of hydroforming in automotive production.

Fuel-cell vehicles are an important technology in reducing carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles, which account for one-fifth of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions, but the commercialization of these vehicles will not be possible without extensive use of lightweight materials.

For more information on CLiMRI, visit <http://climri.nrcan.gc.ca>.

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