

The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

The Forum is an intergovernmental organization open to all countries that are members of the United Nations and have an interest in mining/metals. It is a voluntary partnership initiated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg with no legally or financially binding obligations of any kind associated with membership.

The objective of the Forum is to enhance and promote the contribution of the mining, minerals and metals sector to sustainable development. Consequently, enhancing capacity for governance in the mining/metal sector is an area of priority. Representatives therefore appropriately are national officials with responsibility for the mining and mining-related activity in their country.

The inaugural meeting of the Forum took place in Geneva, November 7-9, 2005. The main topics addressed were the key concerns identified by member countries. Following discussions during break out groups, the forum supported a number of recommendations for action. The 2006 Annual General Session of the Forum will be held in Geneva October 18-20. It will follow-up on the recommendations of the inaugural meeting as well as initiate work on new key issues.

The thirty-five members of the Forum are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Guinea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia. Government delegations can comprise industry and other interest groups. Observer bodies include intergovernmental bodies such as UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDESA, World Bank, ILO, UNIDO, among others.

To become a member, a government should send a note to the Secretariat of the Forum indicating a decision to become a member and identifying the senior national official or minister who will act as the key national contact. A sample membership document is attached but is also available on the Forum web site under membership..

The web site of the Forum at www.globaldialogue.info contains additional information on the Forum and the inaugural meeting.

Secretariat:

Andre Bourassa,

Tel:(613)992-3834; Fax:(613)992-5244

Email: abourass@nrca.gc.ca

Natural Resources Canada, 10th Floor, 580 Booth Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4