

**Canada's Statement
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – 19th Session**

Mining Theme

New York, 2 March 2011, 3:00 pm

Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank the bureau for the organization of work and its proficient efforts in preparing the mining thematic profile for the 19th Session.

Recalling Canada's national report to CSD18, Canada's approach to mineral resources development includes a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework; strong governance to maximize the contribution of Canada's mineral resources endowment to the economic and social benefit of communities and the Canadian economy; an emphasis on science, technology and innovation to improve extraction, processing, remediation of sites and the mitigation of environmental and human health impacts of mining activity; multi-stakeholder engagement and consultation; and the development of partnerships with federal, provincial, territorial governments; industry; non-governmental organizations; academia, and international institutions—to leverage knowledge and expertise both domestically and internationally.

Canada's proposals for the way forward encourages actions by governments, industry and other stakeholders in four key areas: improving national governance of mineral resources, strengthening the national mining policy dialogue, reducing the environmental footprint of mining, and promoting corporate social responsibility. Prefacing Canada's proposal is to emphasize the role that multilateral and international aid agencies play towards building governance and institutional capacity in the mining sector.

Canada recognises the need for a continued dialogue on mining. Such a dialogue needs to focus on enhancing capacity building for good governance of the mining sector, actively engage national ministries responsible for mining, take a multi-stakeholder approach, avoid duplication with existing activities, and promote cooperation with other work in mining-related forums and agencies.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development evolved from a joint partnership at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, to implement paragraph 46 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. With 43 member governments, it is currently the only global mining-related forum that seeks to strengthen governance and facilitates capacity building for developing countries through the exchange of information, the diffusion of knowledge, and the promotion of best practices to effectively manage mineral resource development. Members have developed a Mining Policy Framework as a tool to strengthen governance of mineral resources in key areas identified by developing countries, such as: legal and policy environment; financial benefit

maximization; socio-economic benefit maximization; environmental management; post-mining transition; and artisanal and small-scale mining.

Canada recognizes the contribution of the Intergovernmental Forum to the Intersessional process for CSD19, in its capacity as a global consultative body on mining policy to inform the UN System and encourages CSD19 participants to consider the Forum's Mining Policy Framework as a useful global reference on mining sector good governance. Canada also recognizes the successful partnership with UNCTAD, as both the host of the Intergovernmental Forum and a contributor to the governance dialogue since the World Summit in 2002.

Canada believes that strengthening national mining policy dialogue needs Ministries responsible for mining to pursue a whole-of-government approach to mineral policy development, ensuring better integration of legislation and regulatory frameworks of cross-cutting issues, as well as the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of mining into national development goals. Mining ministries also need to be fully engaged directly in mining-related forums, such as the current discussion of mining.

The development of multi-stakeholder engagement processes, including with Indigenous People, at the local and national levels improves government and industry transparency, reduces social conflicts surrounding mining, and strengthens information and knowledge exchange among stakeholders.

Canada recognizes the need for the enhanced coordination of existing science, research and innovation being carried out by national public-private partnerships, academia, research institutions and other organizations to reduce mining's environmental footprint. This will improve opportunities for: leveraging domestic and international technical exchanges, upgrading technologies and expertise in developing countries, and creating regional and global science-based networks. This work could be supported through the development of a research database hosted on the CSD Secretariat's website.

Canada supports efforts by all stakeholders to promote existing, internationally accepted voluntary principles and guidelines related to mining activity. Canada's Building the Canadian Advantage: A Corporate CSR Strategy for the Canadian International Extractive Sector encourages industry compliance with the UN Global Compact, IFC Performance Standards, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the Global Reporting Initiative.

Canada defines corporate social responsibility as voluntary industry initiatives which extend beyond compliance with legislation and regulatory frameworks. However, strong governance and institutional capacity of host governments is required for corporate social responsibility to be effective in poverty reduction. The contributing role of other stakeholders must also be taken into account to facilitate economic and social benefits for citizens.

Canada looks forward to working with our domestic partners and the international community through multilateral forums to develop policies and actions that will assist governments to improve mining's contribution to sustainable development. Canada

remains committed to moving forward with concrete actions, sharing of best practices, and engaging in productive dialogue to address existing challenges. Canada has several technical comments related to the Secretary-General's Report: Policy Options and Actions for Expediting Progress in Implementation: Mining, which will be submitted to the Secretariat in a separate document.