

Statement on Mining
CSD18 : WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS

Thank you Chair,

As workers and trade unions, we believe sustainable mining can present opportunities for decent work in the developing world. For this to happen, there is a need for adding value to mineral extraction, moving upstream and downstream along the value chain. This should however also be coupled with skills development in this beneficiation or processing and we think that regional integration in this endeavors is key particularly in regions with a high level of mining like Southern Africa and west Africa in the African continent;

Unfortunately, mining is still far from that track.

There is an urgent need to address the environmental, economic and social impacts as mining remains in many countries the backbone of the economy and employment. Today, to a larger extent workers and communities are not compensated for the fatalities, injuries and health-related consequences as a result of unsustainable mining practices.

Chair,

Good working conditions & labour relations, and livelihoods of mineworkers and their families are part of sustainable development. Public policies are needed in order to improve working and living conditions of all miners, but in particular those in the informal sector. We consider the best way to address this issue is through decent work promotion and implementing ILO standards.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

as trade unions, we believe communities where mining takes place need to benefit from this sector. Public participation and consultation is key before starting the process of the establishment and running of the mines.

We have also observed that mining has attracted or reinforced conflicts in some countries. There is an urgent need to address this problem, because we believe that mining should not fuel further violence in our countries.

Finally, Chair, Governments have a key role to play in creating and implementing regulatory frameworks for mining to become a true source of development in our countries.

Thank you