

### **III ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MINING MINISTRIES OF THE AMERICAS**

**(CAMMA 1998)**

**Buenos Aires, 1998**

By direction of the Second Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas held in September 1997 in the city of Arequipa, Peru, and in accordance with the Bolivia Summit on Sustainable Development, the Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Secretaries of State, Under-secretaries and Heads of Delegation, having assembled in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on November 9, 1998 for the Third Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas, make the following:

#### **DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES**

##### **WHEREAS:**

Ministers and other Heads of delegation, acknowledging the progress made since the signing of the Arequipa Declaration, reaffirm the understandings and commitments contained therein.

At the threshold of the 21st century the Americas face a number of social and economic challenges. These include: recovery of economic growth after a period of limited growth in the lost 1980's decade, attainment and consolidation of integration processes, participation in a world swept by technological and productive transformations, and overcoming the challenges of the Asian crisis.

The aforementioned challenges have a common denominator, the need to be competitive in the production of goods and services that meet cost, quality, and market demands, without neglecting the promotion of investment in the region and, in the case of mining, the development of appropriate policies and measures, consistent with their specific needs.

The world is in a process of globalization where the importance of international trade is increasingly recognized as one of the fundamental pillars of economic development strategies.

The mining, minerals and metals industry contributes to sustainable development and plays a fundamental role in the economic and social development of our countries and the well being of mankind.

As a result of the significant levels of investment in mining during this decade, the industry's contribution to the development of our countries has increased.

The Safe Use Principle is based on the recognition that minerals and metals behave differently from organic substances and thus require appropriate methodologies for risk assessment and risk management throughout each stage of the life-cycle. The Principle provides a basis for sound decision-making that will assist in enhancing public confidence and support for minerals and metals.

Initiatives in international fora on the environment, health, social and other issues have increasing implications for the future use of minerals and metals.

The experience with integration of mining activities in the economy has demonstrated the use and benefits for participating countries, provided it is undertaken in accordance with their respective laws, contributing to the joint use of mineral resources as well as an increase in the competitiveness of the countries involved through the development of related activities and infrastructure.

The development of human resources including the training, upgrading and retraining of all occupational groups to promote productivity, versatility and adaptability, is a permanent and dynamic process of shared responsibility of all stakeholders related directly or indirectly to the mining industry.

In keeping with the Arequipa Declaration, a Pan American Workshop on the Safe Use of Minerals and Metals was held in Lima, Peru, July 1-3, 1998 involving the representatives of governments, enterprises, institutions and NGOs from 14 countries. The organization was undertaken by Peru, Canada, Argentina and Chile.

The Meeting of Experts of the Ministries of Mining of the Americas held in Lima, Peru on July 6-8, has developed proposals on Sustainable Development, Integration, and the New scenarios and Challenges facing the mining and metals and minerals industry.

Modernization of mining legislation will give countries in the region the legal instruments to facilitate and improve development of the mining sector as a whole and the linkages between the various participants in this sector.

Mechanisms and processes for consultation among governments, industry, communities and other interested parties to improve public policies, laws and regulations affecting the mining industry are very useful and important Based on the foregoing conclusions,

**The Mining Ministries of the Americas have agreed:**

1. To ask the Undersecretariat of Mining of the Republic of Argentina to serve as Secretariat for the IV Annual Conference of Mining Ministries of

the Americas, and that in fulfillment of this mandate, it carry out a horizontal coordination of any cooperation requested as well as to organize the necessary workshops to give effect to the decisions taken in this Declaration.

2. To set up a Coordination Committee with provision for specialist Working Groups comprised of relevant experts from interested countries to establish appropriate networks and carry forward the activities in the Action Plans of the Conference, along with the monitoring of progress on the priority themes identified. The Coordinating Committee will comprise the current Executive Secretariat, the next host country, and representatives of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, MERCOSUR, and the rest of South America.
3. Pursuant to the above, the Coordinating Committee, until the next Conference will comprise representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. The Committee will be responsible to coordinate and follow up on the projects and ideas in Annex III which were proposed by participating countries for the Action Plan.
4. In view of the significant progress that has been achieved, to reinforce policies and actions leading to an increased contribution of mining to our nations sustainable development.
5. To promote planning of mining projects from exploration through development operation and closure with the objective of minimizing negative environmental impact.
6. Promote the use of industrial minerals in developing productive activities in the countries of the region.
7. Encourage, update and strengthen mining geological organizations and institutions of the countries of the region, train of professional, technical and administrative human resources and stimulate technical cooperation among them in order to facilitate achievement *of* the goals.
8. Encourage each country to determine parameters for governments decisions on questions of access to and use and possession of land, in order to provide greater certainty for investment.
9. To establish multistakeholder consultative mechanisms. To this end it is necessary that information and scientific evidence be made available to all the parties.
10. Encourage the establishment of data bases and networks to systematize, exchange and disseminate information as a way to promote mining activity, the operation of markets and linkages among the countries of the region and with the private mining sector.

11. To have those authorities responsible for mining, minerals and metals participate actively in the international fora deliberations affecting the sustainable development of minerals and metals resources.
12. To adopt, implement and communicate management policies aimed at continuous improvement within their countries and to promote the safe use of minerals and metals, regionally and internationally, taking into account the Conclusions of the Experts who attended the Pan-American Workshop on the Safe Use of Minerals and Metals held in Lima, Peru.
13. Promote training of mining companies with a view to establishing a model for a technical, economic, social and environmental aspects that, irrespective of size will lead to viability as a business unit.
14. Seek alternatives for small mining companies or promote their technological and management transformation to increase competitiveness and meet the aforementioned viability criteria.
15. To promote the transfer of technology and linkages among scientific and technological organizations to increase the competitiveness of the industry, protect the environment, generate employment, and improve the quality of life of the people for the Americas.
16. In preparation for the next Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas, the Undersecretariat of Mining of Argentina, serving as Executive Secretariat, shall arrange a Meeting of Experts in Buenos Aires in June 1999 and shall coordinate information exchange, to facilitate discussion with respect to the topics suggested by the countries for inclusion to the Agenda.
17. To organize the IV Annual Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas in Mexico,

In agreement and in conformity with the above, signed by the representatives of the Ministries of Mines of the Americas present at the III Annual Conference

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## **Annex I**

### **PANAMERICAN WORKSHOP ON THE SAFE USE OF MINERALS AND METALS**

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING**

##### **DEFINITION**

Safe Use can be defined as a risk-based approach for the responsible management of minerals and metals at each stage through their life-cycle, (from production, use, recycling, reuse, and return to the natural environment). Its objective is to maximize benefits and at the same time minimize risks, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

##### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Minerals and metals play a fundamental role in the economic development of society. This development needs to be achieved in a sustainable and responsible way by giving an appropriate consideration to social as well as environmental aspects.
2. The world in general has evolved towards globalization and international trade has become one of the main elements of the strategies for economic development. This situation creates implications for the production and use of minerals and metals.
3. The international trend is towards more environmental controls and restrictions on the use of chemicals and minerals and metals, in some

cases without sufficient scientific support. This is an important issue because it can have negative impacts on the use of minerals and metals in multiple applications and markets.

4. Countries need to participate more actively in international fora related to minerals and metals. National positions should always be based on social, economic, and environmental factors. This position should, as much as possible, be developed through consultations with other relevant government institutions and stakeholders.

5. The precautionary principle is increasingly being used as a mechanism for decision making in response to environmental issues. This raises the need for ensuring that the required scientific evidence is available to all stakeholders (e.g: regulators, producers, communities, and consumers) so that adequate decisions can be taken.

6. The safe use of minerals and metals requires risk-based approaches for meeting the desired environmental management and social objectives.

7. Inorganic minerals and metals, behave differently from organic substances and thus require appropriate methodologies for risk assessment and risk management. Among others, toxicity, bioavailability and speciation issues of minerals and metals need to be adequately considered.

8. In many cases, public perception of risk is not based on sound science; therefore, improved communication and understanding of risk will assist decision making on the safe use of minerals and metals.

9. Relevant stakeholders need to be involved early in the process of formulating policies, adopting measures, and implementing activities in support of the safe use of minerals and metals. Among others, these could include: governments, industry, workers, local communities, NGOs, consumers, scientific institutions and international organisations.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

As a follow-up to the Arequipa Ministerial Declaration (September 1997, Peru) and as a result of the Pan-American Workshop on the Safe Use of Minerals and Metals (July 1998, Lima, Peru), we suggest that Ministers consider that countries will work to:

-adopt and implement policies and activities for the safe use of minerals and metals

-implement a network amongst the Pan-American countries strengthen national capacities to assess, manage and communicate the risks promote intersectoral bilateral and multi-lateral

-cooperation to achieve the objectives of safe use disseminate information about the safe use of minerals and metals promote practices and continuous improvement towards the safe use of minerals and metals.

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## **Annex II**

### **Pre-CAMMA 1998 Experts Meeting - Lima, Peru, July 6-8, 1998**

#### **Panel I Conclusions: MAKING CONCEPTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMPATIBLE**

##### **WHEREAS:**

Environmentally responsible mining is a major contributor to the Sustainable Development of individual countries;

The Arequipa Declaration conveys the agreement reached by and among our countries on the need to work towards making Sustainable Development concepts compatible and coordinating policies among them;

Mining is an industry dealing with non-renewable resources, hence, its contribution to Sustainable Development lies on its ability to promote long term economic, social and cultural welfare as a result of the exploitation of such resources.

The Ministries of Mining acknowledge the progress attained towards harmonising the concept of Sustainable Development, the result of which is reflected in the Conclusions of the Meeting of Experts held in Lima.

The Burndtland Commission's definition of Sustainable Development as that which "*...meets the requirements of the present time without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*" was thereby accepted and ratified.

As a rule, Sustainable Development has been a concept applied to renewable resources. However, the extension thereof to non-renewable resources, such as minerals and metals, is relatively recent. Accordingly, a clear distinction should be drawn between renewable and non-renewable resources whenever the concept of Sustainable Development is used. In the case of non renewable resources, Sustainable Development may be defined in terms of society's long term ability to promote economic, social and cultural welfare as a result of exploiting such resources. Sustainable Development in the Mining industry should be guided by the following principles:

In the economic field, mining shall contribute to the national, regional and local economic development, while laying the foundations for future development.

Socially speaking, legitimacy, equity and the largest consensus possible should attend mining development,

From an environmental Point of view, preventive measures are to be taken to minimise the negative impact of any mining project during the operations and decommissioning stages.

The safe processing and use of minerals and metals is another basic principle and a major tool to face the challenge of combining the economic, social and environmental issues of the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to decommissioning. Under such principles, promoting the recycling of metals and proper waste disposal is of paramount importance.

On the basis of the above-mentioned principles, the following courses of action are recommended for the mining industry:

In the economic area, to contribute towards regional development by making a proper use of the benefits derived from the mining industry (infrastructure, demand for inputs and services, technology transfers, human resources, job creation, etc.).

In the social area., to promote a process of multi-sectoral participation towards developing policies and regulations, and the assessment of specific mining projects. Such goal implies establishing effective communication channels to promote the exchange of information, communication and transparency.

In the environmental area, to promote the utilisation of safe, clean and efficient mineral recovery and treatment technologies and processes, establishing proper waste management standards.

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### **Pre-CAMMA 1998 Experts Meeting - Lima, Peru, July 6-8, 1998**

#### **Panel 2 Conclusions: MINING INTEGRATION: EXPERIENCES AND PROPOSALS**

##### ***Integration and co-operation***

Integration has been a complex and continuous challenge faced by the people of the American continent, where attempts have been made by different players and with different results, always guided by the objective of facing the future as a community.

Mining is one of those few activities contributing to the countries' common development, eliminating the limitations imposed by political borders.

Integration and co-operation are imperative requirements of globalisation, where competitiveness is achieved through complementation rather than competition.

Trade agreements, including free zones and Customs unions, are substantial contributors to the building of such integration objective.

Mining integration serves the countries' common interest pursuant to their respective legal framework while contributing to the joint use of their mineral resources.

Countries that are physically integrated through mining - as Chile and Argentina- are benefited from the development of related activities and infrastructure.

Regional integration blocks such as Mercosur and NAFTA, and experiences such as the Group of Three, the Andean Pact, the San Jose Agreement, the CARICOM, and the Association of Caribbean States are integration benchmarks for the entire region.

\*The existence of bilateral and multilateral co-operation processes, as Canada Cuba, and Argentina - Bolivia - Canada - Chile - Peru, respectively, proves that they are viable.

## **IMPLEMENTATION CHANNELS**

Mining and Geology Government agencies.

Exchange of information in the geological, mining, metallurgical, technological and scientific fields.

Mining laws and other regulations directly incidental to the mining industry should be made compatible.

Education, training and dissemination of mining activities

## **PROPOSALS**

Setting up of a permanently updated geological and mining data network.

Promoting encounters and meetings with other sectors (education, economy, trade and others) with the purpose of implementing mining integration policies.

Undertaking joint mining prognosis work.

Setting up work teams by areas towards effectively fulfilling the above proposals.

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## **Pre-CAMMA 1998 Experts Meeting - Lima, Peru, July 6-8, 1998**

### **Panel 3 Conclusions: STRATEGIES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE MINERALS AND METALS INDUSTRY**

1.0 Given the technological revolution and new trends in consumption, their impact on substitution and miniaturisation, and the need to maintain stable and predictable conditions for the sustainable development of mineral and metal resources in our countries there is a need to develop activities to strengthen markets for mineral and metals and support the development of new end uses and markets.

2.0 Because of the nature and location of mining, the sector has an important social and economic role to play in local and regional sustainable development. To facilitate this role it is necessary to define and apply coherent policies supporting continuous improvement and the safe production and use of minerals and metals.

3.0 Considering the differences in the development of mining sector institutions in the region and the need to enhance predictable, stable, reliable and efficient conditions that support an environment favourable to new and existing investment in the sector, it is necessary to modernise and strengthen these institutions as well as co-operation between institutions and other national or international organisations which may affect mineral and metal development.

4.0 Globalisation and current market conditions for minerals and metals create the need to promote greater production efficiency, market transparency, and quality of products and processes in order to meet social, economic and environmental requirements, and maintain or increase global market access.

5.0 To enhance the competitive capability of the mining sector and improve its relationship with local communities, particularly for small and medium sized companies that are important to many economies (e.g: local, regional, national), it is necessary to promote the adoption of modern and efficient activities relating to technology use, management practices, information dissemination, product marketing, work force development, and stakeholder consultation.

6.0 The new paradigms supporting sustainable development of minerals and metals (e.g'. technological advancement, changing social needs) require a versatile, productive and adaptable work force, with a need for human resource training as a dynamic and permanent process where responsibility is shared by all stakeholders directly or indirectly linked to the mining industry.

7.0 There exists a lack of awareness about the importance of the minerals and metals sector to society and an inadequate evaluation of the risks and

benefits associated with processes and products. Improved communication among stakeholders is needed to enhance our understanding of minerals and metals and to support sustainable development of the sector.

8.0 To meet the needs of present and future generations and address other social, economic, and environmental challenges it is essential that there be advancement in scientific, and technological research relating to mineral and metal production and use.

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### **Annex III**

#### **PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF MINES MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE 1999 PLAN OF ACTION**

Project 01/99 - Inventory of mineral resources in the countries of the Association of Caribbean States

Project 02/99 - Minerals and metals in the Americas: Implementing sustainable development

Project 03/99 - Design, implementation and monitoring of environmental mining policies

Project 04/99 - Identification of mining scientific and technological supply in the hemisphere

Project 05/99 - The minerals market

Project 06/99 - Metallogenic maps of South America

Project 07/99 - Identification of infrastructure to increase the mineral cargo shipment efficiency in intra- and extra-regional trade

Project 08/99 - Seminar on the environment and ethnic minorities

Project 09/99 - Pan-American workshop on occupational health in mining

Project 10/99 - Workshop on training in underground rescue techniques in coal mines

Project 11/99 - Meeting to identify the best practices for pollution prevention and reclamation of land adulterated by mining, for the purpose of promoting policies of sustainable development in mining

Project 12/99 - Modernization of mining laws to give countries in the region legal instruments that will facilitate and improve relations with mining companies  
Project 13/99 - Establishment of data banks and information networks

Project 14/99 - Modernization and strengthening of geological and mining bodies and institutions in the countries of the region, training of their professional, technical and administrative human resources and fostering of technical cooperation among them

Project 15/99 - Underwater mining exploration

Project 16/99 - Regional geological map of Central America

Project 17/99 - Training of human resources for mining