

Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development
18th Annual General Meeting
November 7–10, 2022

Critical Minerals and the Energy Transition

Mineral resources are essential ingredients in the things we use every day. As we transition to a low-carbon future, the need for and dependence on critical materials will grow exponentially. Critical minerals such as cobalt, copper, lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements are essential for clean energy technologies, from solar panels and wind turbines to electric vehicles. The rising demand for critical minerals will place even more pressure on extraction, production, and refining processes, presenting both challenges and opportunities for governments to consider.

In response to these challenges, the theme of the 2022 Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was “**Critical Minerals and the Energy Transition.**” 2022 AGM sessions focused on a variety of timely topics surrounding mining sector governance, including the need for critical minerals, responsible mining and supply chains, community engagement, gender equality, artisanal and small-scale mining, taxation, environmental management, social impact assessments, and land restoration.

18th AGM

The IGF convened its 18th AGM from November 7 to 10, 2022, hosting the event in person for the first time since COVID-19 outbreak. Over 400 participants registered, including delegates from over 90 countries, including representatives from government, international organizations, companies, industry associations, and civil society.

Prior to the official opening of the AGM, government representatives gathered on November 7 for discussions on regional and thematic priorities. The Secretariat also hosted a consultation on the upcoming process to review and update the Mining Policy Framework (MPF).

On November 7, 2022, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Officer in Charge, Commodities Branch, Janvier Nkurunziza welcomed delegates and acknowledged the importance of the issues to be discussed under the theme of Critical Minerals and the Energy Transition. He emphasized this theme is of relevance to current debates about climate change and the fact that this week, leaders are meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, at COP 27 to chart a way to lowering greenhouse gas emissions to achieve

climate-resilient development. He stated that critical minerals are expected to play a central role in helping collective efforts to achieve climate change objectives over the next decades.

Following UNCTAD's opening remarks, IGF Executive Committee Chair Maureen Coulas also welcomed delegates and highlighted the strong relevance of the AGM's theme of Critical Minerals and the Energy Transition, emphasizing that the accelerated deployment of renewable energy and clean technologies to meet zero-emissions targets will be materially intensive, with real implications for global mineral and metal markets.

Sessions Summary

A diverse selection of panellists shared their experiences and insights during the AGM's sessions listed below:

- Accelerating Decarbonization: Technology, innovation, and partnerships
- Building Resilient Supply Chains
- Community Resilience in a Just Transition
- Critical Minerals and The Future of Resource Taxation
- ESG and Responsible Mining
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Policy Diagnostics from Exploration to Mine Closure
- Government Readiness for Modern Policy and Regulatory Frameworks
- Integrating Social and Community Considerations in Mine Closure and Post-Mining Transition
- Managing Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
- Re-mining for Critical Minerals and Land Restoration
- Women in the Future of Mining

General Council

On November 7, the General Council and members of the Executive Committee welcomed Togo as the 80th IGF member. Members discussed the review of the MPF and agreed to a process that will lead to an updated MPF in 2023.

Closing Remarks

In closing, the IGF Director thanked delegates for their participation and expressed the wish to meet all participants in person again for a general assembly hosted by UNCTAD in 2023.

About the IGF

The IGF supports 80 nations committed to leveraging mining for sustainable development to ensure negative impacts are limited and financial benefits are shared. It is devoted to optimizing the benefits of mining to achieve poverty reduction, inclusive growth, social development, and environmental stewardship. The International Institute for Sustainable Development has served as Secretariat for the IGF since October 2015. Core funding is provided by the governments of Canada and the Netherlands.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat at: Secretariat@IGFmining.org.