



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



Mid-Term Technical Segment of the 28th Senior Officials Meeting

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GoToMeeting

from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Geneva time

EMG SOM28/mid-term/04c

Distribution: EMG members

Proposal by UNEP

Nexus Dialogue on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals

Objective

To pursue synergies across the UN system among existing workstreams relevant to the topic of the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, including in the context of a just transition.

Background

Substantial efforts have been made within the UN system to address the economic, environmental and social aspects of extractive activities, particularly mining. The enhanced system-wide focus on extractives aligns with developments across many regions to improve mining practices in the face of the triple planetary crisis and transition towards a greener and more sustainable future. In 2019, the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) adopted UNEA Resolution 4/19 on Mineral Resource Governance. The resolution requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to, *inter alia*, collect information on sustainable practices, identify knowledge gaps and options for implementation strategies, and undertake an overview of existing governance initiatives on mineral resources. In pursuance of this mandate, UNEP engaged national governments and global stakeholders through virtual regional consultations between June and September 2020. The Report of the UNEP Executive Director on progress in the implementation of resolution 4/19 on mineral resource governance, which provides a summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the consultations, is available [online](#).

In October 2020, an Initiative on Extractive Industries was launched as part of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative (FfDI). The Initiative resulted in five Regional Roundtables hosted by the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and culminated in a [Policy Brief by the RECs](#) and a [Policy Brief by the UN Secretary-General](#). The Secretary-General's Policy Brief sets out 18 recommendations on how to transform the extractives sector

into an engine for sustainable development. The recommendations were then presented to and discussed by Member States and other high-level representatives during a [Global Roundtable on Extractive Industries](#) which was held on 25 May 2021. During the Global Roundtable, the Secretary General announced the establishment of a Working Group on Extractives Industries which is co-chaired by UNEP, UNDP and the UN Regional Economic Commissions. The objective of the Working Group is to develop a common narrative to achieve just transitions in the extractives sector, develop policy recommendations and foster collaboration among initiatives and stakeholders in the sector as well as provide a knowledge and information hub on policy actions and best practices in the extractives sector.

In November 2020, UNEP co-convened with the Environment Management Group (EMG), a Nexus Dialogue on Mineral Resource Governance. The purpose of the Nexus Dialogue was to:

- Present key policy messages from expert reports on the topic of minerals;
- Share the outcomes and recommendations from the virtual regional consultations; and
- Identify further capacity gaps across the UN system on the topic of minerals.

The outcomes of the Nexus Dialogue are available [online](#).

In 2022, during the fifth resumed session of UNEA (UNEA-5.2), Member States adopted a resolution on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management (UNEP/EA.5/Res.12). The resolution requests UNEP to convene intergovernmental regional consultations, including with relevant international organizations, and regional and multilateral environmental agreements, with the aim of developing proposals to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle. Amongst others, the regional consultations will take stock of existing activities to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals. The consultations, to be held in 2023, will identify opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, including with a view to fostering capacity-building and technological, technical and scientific cooperation in the mining sector. The convening of a new Nexus Dialogue is envisioned to inform the 2023 consultations and take this new and additional work forward.

Activities and scope (*please outline deliverables and results, purpose and added value of your suggestion*)

The main objectives of this Nexus Dialogue are to:

- Provide all EMG members and other relevant stakeholders with a briefing on the content of UNEA resolution 5/12 and identify collaboration opportunities across the UN system in the implementation of the resolution during 2023;
- Present the objectives of the recently launched UN Secretary General's Working Group on Extractives Industries and identify pathways for system-wide, coordinated delivery across the UN system;
- Build/follow-up on the outcomes of the 2020 Nexus on Mineral Resource Governance; and
- Identify synergies among existing workstreams across the UN system relevant to the topic of the environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, including in the context of a just transition.

Outcomes

The Nexus Dialogue is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Establishment of a network of focal points from interested agencies and stakeholders for further dialogue and follow up with respect to the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12;
- Identification of a common approach to respond to the need of enhanced international cooperation on the management of environmental aspects of minerals and metals, as requested in the UNEA resolution 5/12;
- Identification of focal points from the EMG to the Secretary General's Working Group on Extractives Industries
- Development of a consolidated narrative on the UN collective approach to achieve just transitions in the extractives sector within the context of the UN SG working group.