



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**

## **Nexus Dialogue on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management**

**30 August 2023  
15.00 – 16.30 CEST**

### **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 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 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 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. Five intergovernmental regional consultations were convened from April to July 2023, with a global intergovernmental meeting scheduled for 7 and 8 September 2023. Amongst others, the regional consultations took stock of existing activities to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals, identified opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, including with a view to fostering capacity-building and technological, technical and scientific cooperation in the mining sector, and resulted in a series of non-prescriptive proposals from each regional group. Additional information on the implementation of this resolution is available [here](#).

## **Objective**

The main objectives of this Nexus Dialogue are to:

- Build/follow-up on the outcomes of the 2020 Nexus Dialogue on Mineral Resource Governance
- Provide all EMG members and other relevant stakeholders with an update on the implementation of UNEA resolution 5/12 and current state of play in anticipation of the global intergovernmental meeting on 7 and 8 September 2023
- Present an update of the work and initiatives of the UN Secretary General's Working Group on Extractives Industries
- Beyond the abovementioned Working Group, identify additional 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, with a view to, *inter alia*, seeking synergies among them.

## **Outcomes**

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

- Engagement of relevant and interested UN agencies in the global intergovernmental meeting on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management
- Establishment of a network of focal points from interested agencies and stakeholders for further dialogue and follow up with respect to the implementation of potential future UNEA resolutions on minerals (and related themes)
- Identification of potential next steps for system-wide collaboration on the topic of environmental aspects of minerals and metals management or related themes