

## **IZA RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT MMSD REPORT OF 4 MARCH**

### **GENERAL RESPONSE**

IZA welcomes the publication, on 4 March 2002, of the draft project report "Mining, Minerals & Sustainable Development". Sustainable development principles are already at the heart of the zinc industry strategy and the detailed stakeholder analysis conducted by the MMSD project can be expected to assist in advancing IZA's Sustainable Development Strategy and future thinking.

IZA has actively contributed to and supports the general response of the non-ferrous metals industry to the draft MMSD report. This response has been organised through ICMM. A particular feature of this response has been the general lack of focus given by MMSD to sustainability issues associated with the life cycle of metals such as zinc and the contribution their use and applications make to sustainable development. IZA strongly concurs with this observation and looks forward to greater recognition of these issues in the final report and subsequent industry actions.

### **IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS FOR ZINC**

#### **Contributions of zinc and the zinc industry to sustainable development**

The contribution that zinc products and applications make to economic progress, conservation of resources and quality of life are not explored in the draft MMSD report. The omission of zinc from the Case Studies on Minerals presented in Chapter 5 of the draft report represents a missed opportunity to reflect on these contributions and on the active approach to sustainability issues taken by the zinc industry. In particular the adoption, in 2001, of the IZA Sustainability Charter is a significant milestone for zinc industry that is not identified in the draft report.

An overview of these contributions has recently been published in the IZA consultative document "Zinc and Sustainable Development".

A summary of the zinc industry approach to sustainable development has been submitted to MMSD and is proposed for inclusion in Chapter 11 of the report. A copy is attached (Appendix I)

**The role of commodity associations in advancing sustainable development**

The draft report highlights the problems associated with “Connecting production with use”. In doing so the draft report underestimates the role that commodity associations have, and will, play in advancing sustainability of the sector. Traditionally, these organisations have provided a valuable “connect” between miners and end users of metals. Zinc miners and smelters are actively engaged in customer consultation exercises on sustainability issues through IZA’s programmes.

*Greater recognition of this role in future industry strategy has been proposed to MMSD.*

**The importance of essential metals for human nutrition**

Only passing reference is made in the draft report to the essentiality of metals such as zinc, copper, iron, selenium, etc for human health and ecosystems. These aspects have important social and environmental consequences.

*IZA has provide an example of the considerations to be explored and submitted this to MMSD for proposed inclusion in Chapter 10 of the report (Appendix II).*

International Zinc Association  
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