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To: IIED
Subject: Comments on Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project
Draft Report

Clearly a great deal of work has gone into the draft report, and at the very least MMSD has performed a service by publishing for broad distribution, information that has been the province of specialists. I have some suggestions for enhancing the utility of the report as a basis for future activities.

To get people to read the chapters that cover topics new to them, those chapters will have to be edited. In several instances, it takes too long to get past the data and to the insights; only a very dedicated reader will make it through the report in its current form, and each chapter is important, so you don't want people skipping chapters. Boxes are good; keep them.

The profile of the sector is useful; I think it would be even more so if you could incorporate a simple model of the business relationships up and down the metals chain, so readers can better appreciate the financial and market barriers to the integrated approach needed for sustainable development. Readers need to know more about the relationships between stand-alone miners and smelters/refiners, and between primary and secondary smelters.

Chapter 11 is excellent; it would be perfect if you would talk about who actually does life cycle analyses, why and with whose money.

The report's recommendations are too vague and not, despite the title, an agenda for action. I believe it will be easier to garner moral and financial support for the suggested forums and codes, if MMSD first casts its findings more specifically, and then makes recommendations. "Findings" can be drawn from each chapter, and could read as follows: "We need to....."

- strengthen mining education such that mining as an occupation attracts more and better people, and so new technologies for mining, processing and reclamation are more readily developed and adopted;
- support the development and adoption of improved (e.g. internet-based) supply chain management tools by the mining and metals (and chemicals) industries;
- support the development of new financial products to cover costs and mitigate risks of terminal liabilities;
- encourage adoption of new accounting standards for the industry, so that “value-based” management decisions and integration of production and processing are actually valued by the securities markets;
- study how minerals and metals are actually priced (on and off-exchanges) and traded, to identify additional ways to leverage sustainable development of the industry; and
- recognize and build on the transnational character of the minerals, mining and metals sector as a positive thing.

Then, proceed to recommendations about forums and codes.

I appreciate the opportunity to give my opinion on the draft report, and look forward to the Toronto meetings.

Best regards,

Leni Berliner
President & CEO