

Invitation to Comment on MMSD's Draft Report

MMSD has completed its Draft Project Report. This document is now available for you to comment on.

The Report – drawn from research and consultation activities over the last 23 months – aims to provide a broad overview of the minerals sector and its potential contribution to sustainable development. It identifies some of the principal challenges confronting the sector and recommends ways in which it can move forward. The Report concludes by proposing an Agenda for Change which draws these recommendations together and suggests immediate and longer-term actions for the various actors in the sector, including government, industry and civil society.

Why Are Comments Needed?

This seven-week comment period is intended to provide interested individuals or organisations an opportunity to respond to, criticise, or point to gaps or errors in the report's analysis, or suggest where there is any lack of balance in its findings and recommendations.

Comments received will help improve the Report so it has as much value as possible for everyone in the sector. They will also assist MMSD in ensuring that the proposed ways forward have as much potential as possible for being adopted.

This period will not seek to build consensus among stakeholder groups on the views presented in the Report. The objective is to present an opportunity for receiving – and providing – feedback on the Project's conclusions to date.

Companion Documents

The Draft Project Report is accompanied by three short documents listing commissioned research, workshops, and MMSD regional and national reports, and, where available, website references. These documents provide useful background to the Project's findings and recommendations described in the Draft Report. In addition, an MMSD pamphlet describing the Project's process will be available in the next few days on our website. Printed copies are available on request.

Getting a Draft Report Copy

Electronic copies in PDF format may now be obtained from the Project's website at www.iied.org/mmsd/draftreport.

Many of the organisations who have been involved in MMSD activities – or those who have specifically requested one – will be receiving hard copies of the Draft Report in the next few days.

A limited extra number of printed copies are still available. You may request one by writing to mmsd@iied.org. MMSD will respond as a priority to requests received from individuals or organisations unable to download and print large files.

To Send Comments...

email
mmsddraftreport@iied.org

fill the online form on the Project's website,
www.iied.org/mmsd/draftreport/comments.html

fax +44-20-7831-6189

post 1a Doughty St,
London WC1N 2PH, UK

Regional Forums and other Meetings

Four regional forums will be held in conjunction with MMSD Regional Partners to seek feedback at the regional level. The forums will also contribute to ensuring that regional concerns and perspectives are adequately reflected in the Final Report. These are:

MMSD Australia, Melbourne, 22 March 2002

MMSD North America, Vancouver, 18-20 March 2002

MMSD South America, Lima, 2-3 April 2002

MMSD Southern Africa, Johannesburg, 10 April 2002

MMSD will also host and participate in other international events seeking additional reactions to the Draft Project Report. These include the World Mines Ministers Forum (Toronto, 13-15 March 2002), the next WSSD PrepCom (New York, 24 March – 5 April 2002), among others. More information on any of these events can be obtained through the Project's website.

Informal 'bilateral' meetings with individual stakeholder groups are also being scheduled. Suggestions on events where MMSD may present its Draft Project Report are also welcome.

What Next?

Comment on this Draft Report will be accepted through 17 April 2002. All comments received will be individually acknowledged, read and considered. In as much as possible, we will do our best to reflect them as testimony to the diversity of opinion that exists in the sector. Size permitting, all submissions will be made public on the Project's website on a weekly basis, and will also be assembled into a separate document which will be available when the Final Project Report is published.

Following the comment period, the Final Report will be finalised by 1 May 2002, when it will be sent to the publishers for printing. Final printed copies will be available in late June.

We hope that this Draft Report may serve as a basis for an open debate and dialogue about the minerals sector and how it can be made more supportive of the goals of sustainable development at the global, national, regional and local levels.

We look forward to receiving your comments!



International
Institute for
Environment and
Development



World Business Council for
Sustainable Development

Translations

The Executive Summary of this draft will be available in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and possibly Russian. These translations will be available on the Project's website within ten days of the document being released in English.

Most chapters will also be translated into Spanish within the first three weeks of the comment period. These will also be posted on the Project's website as they become available. Hard copies of any of these documents will be mailed on request.

Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development is a project of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London, UK.

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