



Sustainable Development

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Eighth Meeting of the Assurance Group, 12 May 2002, Toronto

Meeting Minutes



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Attendees

Assurance Group

Richard Baldes, Cholpon Dyikanova, Doug Fraser, Reg Green, Wanda Hoskins, Namakau Kaingu, Tony La Vina, Katherine McPhail, Glenn Miller, Duma Nkosi, Leon Rajaobelina, John Stewart, Doug Yearly

Work Group

Luke Danielson, Caroline Digby, Gabriela Flores, Bernice Lee, Frank McShane, Libby Wood

Project Coordinator

Richard Sandbrook

GMI

Peter Eggleston

Apologies

Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Mick Dodson, Colin Filer, Daniel Meilan, Ligia Noronha, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Charles Secrett, Osvaldo Sunkel, Helmut Weidner, Senzeni Zokwana

Introduction and Update

Luke Danielson reported on the usefulness of the public comment period for the work group. He felt that the Final Report was an improvement on the Draft Report in large part because of the suggestions raised in the comments.

He explained the process for incorporating comments. To track actions on comments, the work group divided comments into a number of different categories such as not actionable because too ambitious or large in scope, not for incorporation, actionable. Where work group members read the comments and felt it was obvious what to do, comments were dealt with by individuals. Where comments were controversial or difficult to incorporate at least 2 people from the work group discussed them. In some cases, outside consultants were approached for advice.

During the comment period, the work group also held regional forums in South Africa, North America, Australia and South America. In addition to the forums, a workshop on managing mineral wealth was conducted at the World Mines Ministers Forum in Toronto, and an open meeting to discuss the lessons from MMSD for multistakeholder processes was held at the WSSD prepcom in New York.

The AG asked about the balance of stakeholder groups who provided comment on the report. The work group said that the comments came from a broad range of stakeholders and reflected very different perspectives on the report. They agreed to provide a breakdown of the origin of the comments in an appendix to the Final Report.

The AG asked whether any complaints had been received about the length of the comment period. The work group replied that a network of NGOs decided that they did not have time to provide comments before the cut-off date and Philip Crowson mentioned it in the article he wrote about MMSD in the Mining Journal.

The work group confirmed that comments received post-comment phase would also be posted on the web.

MMSD Wrap-up Plans

A core group of MMSD staff will stay on until the end of August 2002. The focus of the work will be; dissemination of the report, making sure that best use is made of the information generated through the project through, for example, deciding who should inherit the information (database, literature, website), and publishing specific areas of work.

GMI

Peter Eggleston provided a breakdown of participants at the GMI conference in terms of regions and constituents and described the programme for the conference.

Other Matters

The AG felt that in some form they could continue to be a good support group for those in the industry who are committed to change. Doug Yearly said that ICMM needed to continue to engage and would like to approach some of the members of the AG in the future as useful resources to help with this engagement.

There was some discussion of a concern by one member of the AG over the contents of Box 8-4 in the MMSD Final Report. It was suggested that the AG member demonstrate the edits that needed to be made and that the work group should try and incorporate them.

Assurance Group Statement

The work group left the room while the Assurance Group developed a statement on the MMSD process and report to be included at the beginning of the MMSD report.

Richard Sandbrook conveyed that Charles Secrett is happy with the draft statement that had previously been drawn up and, if anything, felt it should be more positive.