

## Introduction

The Global Tailings Review is consulting on a new draft standard (available in English, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, French and Chinese) that aims to prevent the catastrophic failures of tailings storage facilities (TSFs) by creating a step change for the industry in the safety and security of TSFs. In addition to an [online](#)<sup>1</sup> consultation which will open to the public, several in-country consultations will be held. The regional consultation for Central Asian countries is co-convened with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 18-19 November 2019.

## Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) share a commitment to the adoption of global best practices on tailings storage facility management across the mining industry. ICMM member companies have committed to developing an international standard for tailings storage facilities management which form a compulsory component of ICMM membership. In order to deliver on this shared commitment and to develop this global standard, UNEP, PRI and ICMM have co-convened an independent Global Tailings Review. The standard will be informed by and developed through an independent review of current global best practices in the mining industry and will build from the tragic experiences of some of the most catastrophic tailings facility failures in recent years. While the standard will ultimately be an ICMM company member commitment, it is the objective of the co-convening partners' that this standard be adopted more broadly across the industry.

## Objective of the regional consultation for Central Asia

We recognise that the mining industry and communities living near tailings facilities have a deep understanding and intimate knowledge of what best practice looks like in the management of tailings storage facilities. In as far as is practicable, we want to learn and build on this experience and as such we are hoping to collect as many perspectives as possible. The overarching objective of this consultation is to solicit input from interested and affected

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<sup>1</sup> Please visit [www.globaltailingsreview.org](http://www.globaltailingsreview.org).

stakeholders that both informs and enriches the draft Global Tailings Standard and to test whether the draft standard is fit for purpose.

The primary mechanism for providing input will be through an online survey which will open early in October. This will be supplemented with in-country consultations in a number of jurisdictions globally.

## Overview of consultation process

At the suggestion of UNEP, the secretariat to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents have graciously offered to support the facilitation of one of the in-country consultations, notably the subregional consultation of Central Asia which will be in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The consultation is scheduled to precede the *UNECE Sub-regional Workshop on Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety in Central Asia* (Almaty, 20-21 November 2019) and will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November at the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction.

*Full programme and presenter details are to be confirmed however it is anticipated that the consultation will follow the structure below.*

### Schedule

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Consultation session 1: Communities, Project-affected persons, Community representative organisations
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 9:30am – 12:30 pm	Consultation session 2: Environmental and Social Non-governmental Organisations, Rights Groups, and international codes or standards bodies.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Consultation session 3: Government Representatives, Inspectorates, Regulators and Multilaterals.

### Consultation Format

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introductions &amp; overview (GTR &amp; UNECE)</li><li>- Origins of the Global Tailings Review</li><li>- Objectives for the consultation process</li></ul>	15 mins
Breakout session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What improvements in tailings management are non-negotiable in a Global Tailings Standard?</li></ul>	30 mins
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Feedback from breakout groups</li></ul>	15 mins
Overview of Draft Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Principles and Requirements</li><li>- Underlying intent of each Principle and underlying Requirements</li></ul>	30 mins
Breakout session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Do the Principles address the identified non-negotiable improvements?</li></ul>	60 mins

*Attendees to be split into 5 groups to discuss 1 topic area from the Draft Standard.*

- Do the Requirements achieve each corresponding Principle?
- Are there opportunities to further strengthen the requirements?

Next steps

- Incorporating consultation feedback
- Overview of timeline toward launch

10 mins

Summary & Close

- Replay of key issues identified today
- Reflections from facilitators
- Close

20 mins