



Subregional Workshop on strengthening mine tailings safety in Central Asia, 21 November 2019

Discussion on scaling up joint efforts to improve mine tailings safety in view of Agenda 2030

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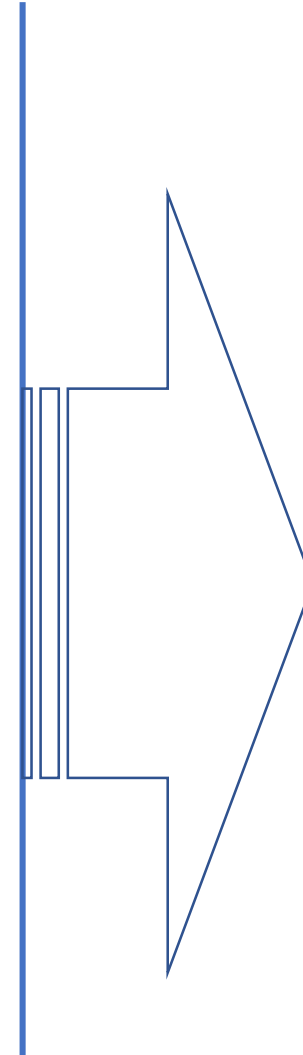
UNEP has worked on extractive and environment issues

UNEP has advanced transformative work in the past such as:

- ✓ In 2000 UNEP and ICME co-convened the work that ultimately led to the creation of the cyanide management code, which has been very successful
<https://www.cyanidecode.org/about-cyanide-code/cyanide-code>
- ✓ The provision for action on artisanal and small scale gold mining under the Minamata Convention on Mercury culminating in the launch of a GEF GOLD Programme on 6 December 2016
https://www.crowell.com/documents/docassocftype_articles_511.pdf
<https://www.thegef.org/events/gold-addressing-mercury-pollution-artisanal-gold-mining>
<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/>
- ✓ Integrated assessment of the oil spill in Ogoniland, Nigeria, which led to a full clean-up plan in 2016
https://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/OEA/UNEP_OEA
- ✓ The Climate & Clean Air Coalition Methane Reduction Partnership
<https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/activity/ccac-oil-gas-methane-partnership>
- ✓ The Oil and Gas Partnership

UNEP interests are broadly around the following

- Environmental governance in mining;
- Artisanal and Small scale Mining, mine waste and tailings dams;
- Resource and energy efficiency in the mineral value chains; mining and biodiversity;
- minerals, environment and conflict;
- responsible sourcing and trade in minerals and metals;
- sand and sustainability;
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28163/SandSust.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- sustainability reporting in the extractives sector



Thus,
on the one hand improve the environmental governance of the sector

and on the other hand transform the business and market behavior and environmental practices in the extractives sector while supporting its responsible development

UNEA-4 Resolution

No. UNEP/EA.4/Res. 19 Mineral Resource Governance, 28 March 2019

“...collect information on sustainable practices, identify knowledge gaps and options for implementation strategies, and undertake an overview of existing assessments of different governance initiatives and approaches relating to sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, and report thereon to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session”.

**THINK
BEYOND**

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Summary report “Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century: Gearing Extractive Industries Towards Sustainable Development

- *despite moves to decouple economies from resource use and promote greater recycling, extractive resources will continue to play a central role in driving the global economy.*
- *emerging economies, expanding populations, global middle-class growth, increased urbanization as well as the global transition to clean energy production are only some of the drivers highlighted by the report, showing an increase in demands for minerals and metals.*
- *calls for concerted global efforts to consolidate existing rules and regulations in the mining sector and to agree on international standards in areas such as transparency and code of conduct*

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2017 UNEP/GRID Arendal report “Mine tailings storage: Safety is no accident (at UNEA-3)

- > 2018 report “A roadmap for improved mine waste management”

(2017) informs a wider audience of the consequences of failure and importantly, the opportunities to reduce risk and improve safety of tailings storage

(2018) identifies the three priorities for action on the mine tailing agenda:

- (i) enlarging the Stakeholder forum and reinforcing communication and awareness raising;*
- (ii) undertaking an assessment of existing standards, conventions, multi-stakeholder initiatives relevant to responsible mine waste management;*
- (iii) developing a global data base of mine sites, tailing dams and mine waste volumes and characteristics*

UNEP is specifically concentrating on three areas

Develop an **international industry standard** for tailings facilities for the mining industry in the wake of several tailings dam tragedies

UNEP has been approached by the International Council on Mining and Metals and the Principles of Responsible Investment

The industry standard will be informed by a review of current global best practices in the mining industry, and beyond.

In collaboration with GRID/Arendal

<http://www.grida.no/about>

development of a publicly accessible and independent **Global Tailings Dams Portal (GTDP)**

Will be a major tool to promote standards, best practice and transparency in the management of tailing facilities

Conducting **pilot projects** to foster mine waste reuse and recovery using the UNEP **Eco-innovation methodology**

and distil lessons learned and recommendations from these experiences to advance the implementation of UNEA4 resolution on mineral resource governance

UNEP and ICSD



<http://www.mkurca.org/>



UNEP and ICSD



REP4SD - Regional Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development

- ✓ *2030*
- ✓ *based on national priorities*
- ✓ *Governments, NGOs, local communities, donors, academia and research*
- ✓ *SDGs 6,7,11,12: Green economy, including renewable energy (RES), waste management and clean transport infrastructure*
- ✓ *Road map*

<http://www.mkurca.org/>

UN

environment programme

Thank you

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