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## Sustainable Development Strategies Group

### COMPILATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO THE MINING INDUSTRY

There is no international organization capable of passing and implementing performance standards for the mining industry as a whole in the sense that national legislatures pass laws. Yet there is a great need for such standards.

The only way to resolve this seeming contradiction is by attempting to build consensus. Norms only have value to the extent that they are broadly accepted, and there are very few ways on the international level that anyone can force the observance of standards.

It is also clear that there has never been a consensus seeking process on a global scale that has included everyone who has an interest in the subject. Everyone in the world is a consumer of minerals, and most of us are also impacted by the processes of finding, mining, refining, fabricating, disposing of or recycling minerals. Nor has any process been perfectly balanced among different interests – the rich countries of the global North, for example, are generally much better represented in such processes than the poor countries of the “South.” And the traditional overseas minerals investors from places like Europe or North America have been consulted much more than the so-called “emerging investors” in countries such as Brazil, China, India or Russia.

Since there is no official body that promulgates or recognizes standards, there is difference of opinion over which sets of standards should be included in such a list. We have chosen the bodies of norms set out below because they are products of relatively broad if imperfect processes of consultation and discussion, not because they are universally accepted. Nothing is universally accepted.

### GENERAL PERFORMANCE

**BREAKING NEW GROUND** – the report of the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project<sup>1</sup> (2002). <http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/business-and-sustainable-development/mmsd-final-report>

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<sup>1</sup> The process of consultation leading to the final MMSD report is described in Danielson & Digby, *Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development History Project*, [http://www.gppi.net/approach/research/mining\\_minerals\\_and\\_sustainable\\_development\\_history\\_project/](http://www.gppi.net/approach/research/mining_minerals_and_sustainable_development_history_project/)

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### REGIONAL MMSD REPORTS

The Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development Project had four regional processes of consultation which each produced their own reports.

MMSD Southern Africa – **Mining, Minerals and Economic Development and the Transition to Sustainable Development**

MMSD Australia – MMSD: **Managing Australian Mineral Wealth for Sustainable Economic Development**

MMSD North America – **Seven Questions to Sustainability:** How to Assess the Contribution of Mining and Minerals Activities.

MMSD South America – **Final Report**

- All of these regional MMSD reports are available at <http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/business-and-sustainable-development/mmsd-regional-reports>

**STRIKING A BETTER BALANCE** – The Report of the World Bank Extractive Industries Review, (2004). <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTOGMC/0,,contentMDK:20306686~menuPK:336936~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336930,00.html>

**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT** – a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

**GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE** – GRI is a network-based organization that has developed the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework. <http://www.globalreporting.org/Home>

- The G3 Guidelines are the cornerstone of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Framework which serves as a good basis for an organization's sustainability report. <http://www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/G3Online/>
- See also the most recent Mining and Metals Sector Supplement: <http://www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/SectorSupplements/>

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**FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING** – A Guide to Evolving Standards (2005)

<http://www.csp2.org/reports/Framework%20for%20Responsible%20Mining.pdf>

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION** – Includes related

Guidance Notes. <http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/Content/PerformanceStandards>

**EQUATOR PRINCIPLES** – A financial industry benchmark for determining, assessing and managing social & environmental risk in project financing. <http://www.equator-principles.com/principles.shtml>

**RESOURCE ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE** – The International Council on Mining & Minerals' (ICMM) initiative seeks to identify good policy practice for mining and metals investments at national, regional, local and corporate levels within developing countries. <http://www.icmm.com/page/1409/resource-endowment-initiative>

**INITIATIVE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING ASSURANCE (IRMA)** – Is a multi-sector effort to develop and establish a voluntary system to independently verify compliance with environmental, human rights and social standards for mining operations. <http://www.responsiblemining.net/>

- The Framework. <http://www.responsiblemining.net/pubs/IRMAframeworkFinal.pdf>

**GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES** – OECD recommendations addressed by governments to multinational enterprises operating in or from adhering countries. They provide voluntary principles and standards for responsible business conduct

[www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines](http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines)

## SPECIFIC ISSUES

### BIODIVERSITY

**GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR MINING AND BIODIVERSITY** – ICMM's informative guide on biodiversity which can be used by mining companies at all stages of their operations, from initial exploration to mine closure planning and implementation. <http://www.icmm.com/document/13>

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### CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY

**EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE** – The EITI sets a global standard for transparency in oil, gas and mining. <http://eiti.org/>

The EITI Principles and EITI Criteria are the most concise statement of the beliefs and aims of the Initiative. <http://eiti.org/eiti/principles>

- **IMPLEMENTING THE EITI** – <http://eiti.org/document/implementingtheeiti>
- **POSITION STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY OF MINERAL REVENUES** – ICMM  
<http://www.icmm.com/page/14652/position-statement-on-transparency-of-mineral-revenues>
- **ADVANCING THE EITI IN THE MINING SECTOR** – A consultation with stakeholders  
<http://eiti.org/files/MINING%20Compressed.pdf>

### HUMAN RIGHTS

**VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS** – Provides guidance to extractives companies on maintaining the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that ensures respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES** – John Ruggie.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,4565c22529,458aa6c22,49a5223b2,0.html>

- Addendum\* Corporations and human rights: a survey of the scope and patterns of alleged corporate-related human rights abuse\*\* <http://198.170.85.29/Ruggie-2-addendum-23-May-2008.pdf>

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTECT, RESPECT AND REMEDY FRAMEWORK** – <http://www.srsdconsultation.org/>

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### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**ISO 14000 AND 14001 Management Standards** – The International Organization for Standardization’s requirements and guidelines for Environmental Management Systems.

[http://www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_14000\\_essentials](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_14000_essentials)

### GUIDELINES FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR PROJECTS AFFECTING INDIGENOUS LANDS OR RESOURCES

**AKWÉ: KON GUIDELINES** – For the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/akwe-brochure-en.pdf>

### PRODUCTION OF DIAMONDS FROM COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

**KIMBERLEY PROCESS GUIDELINES** – An initiative by governments, industry, and civil society to stem the flow of conflict diamonds. <http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/>

### USE OF CYANIDE

**INTERNATIONAL CYANIDE MANAGEMENT CODE FOR THE MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORT AND USE OF CYANIDE IN THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD (CYANIDE CODE)** – Is a voluntary gold mining industry program to promote responsible management of cyanide to enhance the protection of human health and to reduce the potential for environmental impacts. <http://www.cyanidecode.org/>

- The Code is available at [http://www.cyanidecode.org/about\\_code.php](http://www.cyanidecode.org/about_code.php)