

UNEA Resolution 5/12 Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals

Background document for the Global Intergovernmental Meeting

ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL OUTCOMES AND NON-PRESCRIPTIVE PROPOSALS

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR UNEA 5/12 GLOBAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

7-8 SEPTEMBER 2023, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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1. Background

UNEA Resolution 5/12 on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management

[...]

(2) Requests the Executive Director, subject to available resources, to **convene transparent and inclusive intergovernmental regional consultations**, including with relevant international organizations, with regional and multilateral environmental agreements, and with relevant stakeholders acting as observers, to feed into a global intergovernmental meeting, **with the aim of developing non-prescriptive proposals** to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(3) Decides that the intergovernmental regional consultations will:

(a) **Take stock** of existing activities and actions in the public and private sectors and by other relevant stakeholders to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals and identify, among other things, best practices, responsible business practices, standards, guidelines, technical tools, environmentally sustainable technologies and the use of renewable energy in mining;

(b) Identify **opportunities for enhanced international cooperation**, including with a view to fostering capacity-building and technological, technical and scientific cooperation in the mining sector, in particular with developing countries;

(c) Identify **possible ways forward** for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session, as appropriate;

[...]

a. Purpose of this Document

This background document has been prepared to support the **Global Intergovernmental Meeting** on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)¹ **Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management**,² being held in Geneva on 7th-8th September 2023, administered by UNEP, as requested by UNEA.

This report summarises and analyses the non-prescriptive proposals received in the context of the **five intergovernmental regional consultations**, held between April and July 2023, on enhancing the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Global Intergovernmental Meeting will draw from and be informed by the outcomes of these regional intergovernmental consultations.

The co-chairs are H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNEP and Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard, Deputy Head of International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment - as appointed by H.E. Ms. Leila Benali (President of UNEA-6 and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco). This background

¹ UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body on environmental issues, established in 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly as the governing body of UNEP. UNEA has a crucial role in providing leadership, catalysing intergovernmental action on the environment, and promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development. It brings together environmental ministers from all 193 UN Member States, along with scientists, civil society representatives, and business leaders, to set priorities for global environmental policies and initiatives.

² [UNEA Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management](#)

document was developed by UNEP as Secretariat to the intergovernmental process, under the guidance of the co-chairs to the intergovernmental consultations.

The expected outcome from the Global Intergovernmental Meeting is a series of **non-prescriptive proposals** from Member States to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along the entire life cycle, which will be presented to UNEA for its consideration at its sixth session (UNEA-6) in February 2024, through the UNEP Executive Director's progress report. The Co-Chairs' summary report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting will be made available shortly after the meeting.

b. Overview of Intergovernmental Regional Consultations Held April – July 2023

Five intergovernmental regional consultations for each United Nations regional group were held to implement UNEA Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management:

- i. The Group of Eastern European Region States ('**EEG**') in Geneva on 24-25 April 2023.
- ii. The Group of Western European and Other States ('**WEOG**') in Paris on 27-28 April 2023.
- iii. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States ('**GRULAC**') in Santiago on 17-18 May 2023, hosted by Chile.
- iv. The Group of Asia and Pacific States ('**AP**') in Bangkok on 15-16 June 2023.
- v. The African Group of States ('**AG**') in Dakar on 5-6 July 2023, hosted by Senegal.

The regional consultations were held in hybrid format. For each regional group, nominated national focal points and representatives from Member States attended the meetings, along with relevant international organisations, and UNEP accredited observer organisations.

A background paper³ for the regional consultations was prepared and disseminated in advance by the Secretariat, to summarise global trends, existing actions and instruments, and relevant organisations, pertaining to environmental aspects of metals and minerals.

In accordance with UNEA Resolution 5/12, the objective of the intergovernmental regional consultations was to develop non-prescriptive proposals to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the consultations included sessions designed to:

- (a) Take stock of relevant existing activities and actions in the public and private sectors and by other relevant stakeholders;
- (b) Identify opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, including with a view to fostering capacity-building and technological, technical and scientific cooperation, in particular with developing countries;
- (c) Identify possible ways forward for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session, as appropriate.

Seventy-nine Member States were represented across the five intergovernmental regional consultations, as follows:

EEG

Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia.

WEOG

³ [Background document to guide the Intergovernmental Regional Consultations](#)

Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA.

GRULAC

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.

AP

Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam.

AG

Algeria, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The following observers and speakers also participated (at some or all of the consultations):

- Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research,
- Earthworks,
- European Union Commission,
- Friends of the Earth,
- Global Battery Alliance,
- GRID-Arendal,
- Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF)
- International Council on Minerals and Mining (ICMM),
- International People's Conference on Mining,
- Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI),
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC),
- World Bank,
- World Resources Forum,
- Women Engage for a Common Future.

A co-chairs summary report is available for each regional meeting,⁴ containing full participant lists. These summary reports (as well as background report, meeting agendas and other relevant documentation for the intergovernmental consultations) are available online at [the 'Green Policy Platform' website](#). The list of nominated national focal points for the UNEA 5/12 intergovernmental process is available [here](#).

Participants were also invited to make written submissions subsequent to the regional meetings by 31 July 2023, and to attend the Global Intergovernmental Meeting on 7-8 September 2023 in Geneva.

c. Written Submissions

In response to the invitation to submit written responses to the key questions discussed during the intergovernmental consultations:

- 18 submissions were received from individual Member States;
- 3 submissions were received from Member States submitting jointly;

⁴⁴ [Regional summary reports](#)

- 1 submission was received from a UNEP Major Group, and
- 8 submissions were received from accredited observer organisations.

Those written submissions have been included in and informed the analysis this background document for the Global Intergovernmental Meeting. Full copies of these submissions can be accessed on the UNEA5/12 website,⁵ which is grouped by written submissions from Member States⁶ and [accredited organizations](#).⁷

2. Summary Outcomes from Regional Consultations

The below sections provide a non-exhaustive summary of the five intergovernmental regional consultations, highlighting key take-away points and commonalities between and among regions, with the aim to inform discussions at the Global Intergovernmental Meeting.

a. Existing Activities

In each regional consultation, it was noted that there was heterogeneity of practice and experience within some regions, as well as between regions.

Member States shared information about regional and national practices and initiatives, including challenges faced and needs identified. Discussions also included positive examples presented by some of the countries, including the following:

- ✓ Modern and comprehensive **mining codes** with specific focus on environmental aspects. Examples were provided of robust environmental impact assessment and permitting procedures for mining projects, tailings management standards, examples of use of financial security to guarantee closure obligations, and laws that prohibit extraction in environmentally sensitive zones.
- ✓ **Policies** aimed to incentivise miners' environmental compliance, carbon neutrality, sustainable production of gold, and/or maximum polymetallic refining from an ore for waste minimisation purposes.
- ✓ **Multi-stakeholder and inter-agency mine planning** and management processes, including structured engagement with traditional leaders, communities, and other stakeholders, to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and to seek collaborative solutions to environmental challenges.
- ✓ **Innovation and research**, including into substitutes for sand, lower-metal energy supply, mine site environmental hazard mapping and mineral pricing policies as incentives for improved environmental performance. **Technological solutions** included live data feeds from tailings facilities, and a regional satellite 'eye in the sky' programme.
- ✓ Moves towards **circular economy approaches**, including sourcing sand as a by-product from river dredging processes, re-processing of tailings for metals, and recycling of tailings or overburden waste rock for construction.
- ✓ Application of regional **multilateral environmental agreements** such as the Aarhus and Escazu Conventions⁸ (on open access to information, public participation, access to justice in environmental matters) and the Minamata Convention (on mercury), to mining matters.

⁵ [UNEA 5/12 website document section](#)

⁶ [Written submissions from Member States](#)

⁷ [Written submissions from Accredited Organisations](#)

⁸ Aarhus Convention: UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Escazu Convention: Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- ✓ **Pilot projects** were also shared on: strategic environmental assessment for mining; regional-level cooperation to address tailings risks from a transboundary perspective; post-closure monitoring and site remediation; factoring climate change and 'Natech' into mine management risk assessment; and formalising artisanal and small-scale mining operators into regulated cooperative societies.

Several written submissions received after the meetings also highlighted positive examples, summarised in the table below.

| <i>Practice / precedent from written submissions</i> | <i>Source</i> |
|---|---|
| Relevant national policies, including Canada's 'Responsible Business Conduct Strategy', a 'Green Mining' Initiative, a 'Mining Value from Waste' programme, a 'National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Initiative' and database, and the 'Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance' (launched jointly with Australia, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and United States). Also the Mining Association of Canada's 'Towards Sustainable Mining' (adopted by national mining associations in 13 countries) | Canada |
| Clearly identified roles and responsibilities within Government to oversee the mining sector, ensure regulatory compliance, and promote responsible mining practices. | Chad, Honduras, Timor-Leste |
| Project focused on responsible mine closure in partner countries, including a costing database drawn from from 100 mine closure plans; research into the impact of remote sensing and satellite-based monitoring for identifying environmental risks in the mining sector; and development of a 'Climate-Smart Mining Initiative', with the World Bank, including an emissions tracker along supply chains of critical minerals. | Germany |
| A comprehensive environmental audit, field inspection and reporting programme, as a requirement of the national regime for mining. | Honduras |
| The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Extractive Waste Directive, the Habitats Directive, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Sustainability Reporting Directive, the Supply Chain Due Diligence Regulation, the Batteries Regulation, the 'Global Gateway' infrastructure partnership, reporting templates for mineral exploration findings that include environmental considerations in evaluation of a project; and proposed regulations on eco-design for sustainable products. | Belgium, European Union, Hungary |
| National inventory for closed mine tailings facilities. | Hungary |
| Various methods proactively used to obtain alternatives and substitutes for sand, for construction purposes. | Mauritius |
| Robust domestic practices for electrical equipment and critical mineral recycling funded by producers; a national initiative on responsible business conduct that requires companies to exercise and report on due diligence in relation to environmental standards and metal sourcing; and the Swiss Better Gold Initiative: a public-private partnership aiming to create responsible value chains from the mine to the consumer. | Switzerland |

b. Opportunities for Enhanced International Cooperation

In addition to positive case studies, the discussions during the intergovernmental regional consultations also yielded some common themes where governments require further support in

relation to enhancing environmental sustainability of the metals and minerals industry. Issues and needs for further action identified by more than one region included:

Developing legislation

- (a) Gaps in laws relating to mine closure [EEG, GRULAC]. mine site rehabilitation [AG, EEG], deep-sea mining [AP]
- (b) Legislation for tailings management that reflects international standards [AG, AP, EEG, WEOG]

Implementation, monitoring and enforcement

- (c) Illegal and unregulated mining activities, and non-compliant mining operators [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC], including sand extraction [AG, AP, GRULAC] and the artisanal and small-scale mining sector [AG, GRULAC]
- (d) Government technical and capacity challenges for monitoring and enforcement of mining regulations [AG, AP], including mine closure [AG, EEG, GRULAC]
- (e) Challenges in managing tailings safely, including abandoned and legacy sites [AG, AP, EEG]

Environmental aspects

- (f) Inexperience in conducting Strategic Environmental Assessment [AG, AP]
- (g) Minerals located in sites of high biodiversity [AG, GRULAC]
- (h) Unregulated sand extraction, especially from rivers [AP, GRULAC]
- (i) Land degradation and pollution from the informal mining sector [AG, GRULAC]

Social and economic aspects

- (j) Increased demand for sand [AG, AP, GRULAC],
- (k) Low public trust in the mining industry [EEG, GRULAC]

Cross-cutting aspects

- (l) Paucity or unreliability of data [AG], including about national mineral reserves [EEG, GRULAC]
- (m) Poor coordination between different government agencies [AG, EEG, GRULAC]

Written submissions:

Ethiopia reflected many of these same points in its written submission.

The African Group, and Chad individually, noted in particular that the oversight of artisanal mining is a need area, and highlighted legislative gaps in mining legislation as an issue also.

Liberia mentioned coastal sand mining as a particular threat to climate resilience.

Mauritius raised the challenges of developing deep-sea mining legislation including a relevant environmental management framework.

Timor Leste and Lao PDR both noted that sustainable land use planning played an integral role in managing environmental impacts from mining.

Hungary echoed this point too, emphasising the importance of maintaining soil health for agriculture.

The European Union and Belgium emphasised its view that impacts on human health, must be taken into account when considering the environmental sustainability of the minerals and metals sector.

Meeting participants were asked to identify opportunities for international cooperation that could assist government address some of these challenges. Delegations were generally open to opportunities for international level:

- research,
- knowledge exchange,
- technology transfer,
- capacity development,
- public awareness and stakeholder dialogue,
- technical assistance, and
- financial assistance.

Meeting participants also agreed that there could be further **exchanges between international organizations** and multilateral environmental agreements on technical and scientific knowledge relevant to mine management with the aim of identifying linkages and avoiding duplication of efforts.

Relevant entities discussed included: Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (**EITI**), Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (**IGF**), International Energy Agency (**IEA**) (e.g. group on mineral resources), International Resource Panel (**IRP**), International Standards Organisation (e.g. **ISO 21795** focused on mine closure and reclamation planning, **ISO 14001** on environmental management), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**), UN commodity-focused study groups (e.g. zinc, nickel, copper), **UNEP**, World Trade Organisation (**WTO**). Also the **Minamata Convention** on Mercury, and the **Basel Convention** for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.

Several written submissions received after the regional meetings highlighted additional relevant organisations, summarised in the table below.

| <i>Additional relevant bodies identified in written submissions</i> | <i>Source</i> |
|--|---|
| Delve Global Platform for Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Data International Organisation of Supreme Audit Organisations (INTOSAI) | Belgium |
| Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) The Global Battery Alliance The Mining Association of Canada | Canada |
| The World Bank | Canada, Timor-Leste |
| The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | Lao PDR, Switzerland |
| The World Resources Forum Sustainable Recycling Industries Programme | Switzerland |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) | Timor-Leste |
| United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) | Timor-Leste, and observers: Earthworks, the European Environmental Bureau |
| Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) The Global Alliance for Sustainable Mining (GASM). | Observer: Uganda Smart Youth Initiative |
| World Economic Forum’s Responsible Mineral Development Initiative The Responsible Sourcing Network. | Observer: World Resources Forum |

Regional coordination mechanisms were also highlighted, including the African Union (**AU**), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (**APEC**), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**), **Barcelona Convention** on the Mediterranean Sea, Economic Community of West African States (**ECOWAS**), **Espoo Convention** on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the European Union

(EU), International Organisation of La **Francophonie**, Iberoamerican Geological and Mining Surveys (**ASGMI**), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (**UNECE**), and United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**UNECLAC**).

Written submissions:

Lao PDR referenced the Greater Mekong Subregion regional cooperation programme.

Observer organisation, World Resources Forum, highlighted the EU-Latin America Partnership on Raw Materials and the corresponding networking platform.

Member States encouraged such multilateral organisations to coordinate and provide enhanced information flow to Member States about the work they support in relation to mining.

Delegates generally received positively updates on the ongoing work by UNEP and Principles for Responsible Investment, with the International Council on Mining and Metals, to establish the multi-stakeholder independent **Global Tailings Management Institute**, with a focus on auditing implementation of the Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management. The Tailings Portal managed by UNEP/GRID-Arendal was acknowledged as a useful resource, both to share information, and also to build capacity and best practices. A possible project to launch a **Global Observatory on Sand** (presented by UNEP/GRID-Geneva) was a major topic of discussion in all regional consultations.

Some participants expressed the view that **international instruments** can be helpful, not only to guide national laws from a technical point of view, but also to enable pushback against commercial interests seeking to influence national regimes. Some participants also emphasized the importance of **‘bottom-up approaches’**, informed by local knowledge, and the need for international proposals to take developing country circumstances into account.

Written submissions:

These points were reinforced in Saudi Arabia’s written submission.

Generally, a **multi-stakeholder approach** - including Member States, industry, academia, civil society – was emphasised as extremely important.

Written submissions:

Algeria noted the role of corporate social responsibility in fostering positive relations between mining companies, local authorities, and communities.

Observer organisation, The Mining Association of Canada, described its practice of using ‘Community of Interest Advisory Bodies’ to assist the mining industry to set standards for sustainability performance that reflect diverse stakeholder expectations within local cultural contexts.

Timor-Leste, in a written submission, highlighted the essential role that community-based organisations can play in natural resource management, including through traditional knowledge.

Honduras promoted a ‘working groups’ approach, bringing together government authorities, mining operators and civil society for dialogue on issues of common concern; and Canada recommended a similar approach in its written submission.

c. Non-prescriptive proposals

What are non-prescriptive proposals?

In the context of this process, a non-prescriptive proposal is to be understood as a formal suggestion for enhanced international cooperation or possible ways forward (per paragraphs 3(b) and (c) of resolution 5/12).

This may include, but is not restricted to, a proposal to encourage or work towards strategies, measures, options, recommendations, activities, principles, goals, agreements, or guidelines.

A non-prescriptive proposal can lead to shorter-term voluntary, creative and innovative solutions, while Member States advance discussions towards multilateral solutions. Within the mandate of the UNEA 5/12 resolution lies the expectation that the proposals resulting from this process will be put forward for consideration by the UNEA at its sixth session.

The objective of the regional consultations was to produce a set of non-prescriptive proposals (**NPPs**) to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, for discussion at the Global Intergovernmental Meeting. Different regional groups opted to take slightly different approaches to the nature and number of NPPs formulated. Altogether 38 NPPs arose from the five intergovernmental consultations. There was, however, significant overlap among some of the NPPs, and they are presented below in a merged form, where appropriate.

This leads to a total of **24 NPPs**. These have also been grouped thematically for the purpose of this background paper, and with a view to support further structured discussion and refinement during the Global Intergovernmental Meeting in Geneva in September 2023. The three Clusters are entitled: (A) Policies and Tools, (B) Value Chain Aspects and (C) Platforms for International Cooperation. For ease of reference a table setting out the grouped NPPs (in abridged format) is also provided as an Annex to this background document. The NPPs presented in this report are each labelled with the name of a regional group or groups, to reflect from which regional intergovernmental consultation or consultations they arose. This is not intended to imply that there was consensus across every member of that regional group for every NPP put forward in their summary meeting report.

Guiding Questions (for each NPP)

Does your delegation consider that this NPP:

- focuses appropriately on the enhancement of the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- builds usefully and effectively upon existing activities and actions?
- presents viable opportunities for enhanced international cooperation?
- suggests a possible way forward that you envisage should be submitted for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session?

(i) Policies and Tools

NPP1: “UNEP is requested to produce a global collection and assessment of existing instruments and standards, in the private and public sector relating to environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along the entire life cycle, in cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and other stakeholders, building on existing work in this area; and to disseminate the findings through a compendium; and identification of a global action plan; in order to identify gaps and recommendations to address these, and to establish best practices that could be implemented in every country.” [AG⁹, AP, GRULAC, WEOG]

⁹ This merges two NPPs identified during the AG meeting, which were originally reported separately, namely “Assessment of existing instruments [relating to tailings] to identify gaps” and “Assessment of existing instruments and policies relating to minerals and the environment, and identification of a global action plan.”

A similar vision emerged from the regional consultations around the need to collect, assess and analyse existing instruments and initiatives relating to environmental aspects of mining and metals [AG, AP, GRULAC, WEOG]. The consultations generally noted the multitudinous array of existing frameworks, initiatives, standards, policies etc., that apply to mining and metals, which provided a fragmented and confusing governance landscape. States considered that an evaluation / assessment, streamlining, harmonisation and/or prioritisation would be helpful [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG]. Such a review could also provide a gap analysis and examine the possibility of drawing out at the international level a streamlined set of global minimum environmental standards or criteria for mining operations and metal production, to assist with environmental management aspects of mining regulation at national level [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].

Similar ongoing review projects were mentioned, and it was considered important to capture synergies, and also to ensure appropriate capacity and funding is made available for such work [WEOG]. One group specifically requested that Member States be given an opportunity to contribute to the terms of reference for such a global assessment [WEOG].

Written submissions:

A joint submission from the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Israel, Jamaica, Georgia, and Switzerland referred to another NPP (number 16, below) in suggesting that the expert working group could guide the process of the global assessment.

The same joint submission noted that the assessment would contribute to increased understanding among decision makers of the current governance landscape, major issues and gaps, and outline possible options for further consideration. It would also provide UNEA with a better basis for considering further international action necessary to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals.

The European Union suggested that such a global assessment may examine how improved product design, increased durability, and application of value-retention processes (remanufacturing, refurbishment, repair and reuse) could contribute to more circular supply and value chains.

The European Union and Honduras both identified that the process could also look into the possibility of a global standard for minimum environmental criteria for mining operations and metal production.

Canada's written submission added a point that enhancing interoperability of standards would allow for easier sharing and reporting of data via digital ledger technologies, which in turn ensures environmental impacts in mining operations become part of the chain of custody record, promoting greater transparency and accountability.

The United States suggested that other sustainability standards bodies, such as ISO and IRMA, should be named in the NPP to avoid duplication of other international efforts.

In relation to other ongoing processes that may be relevant to this NPP, the Children and Youth Major Group noted the Global Reporting Initiative's forthcoming sector standard for mining.

One observer (World Resources Forum) noted in its written submission the existence of around 100 relevant initiatives and instruments.

NPP2: “Develop international certifications for metals, similar to the Kimberley Process.” [AG]

One NPP with regards to metal certification, arose out of positive experiences within the regional group with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for conflict diamonds [AG]. Reference was also made to the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance for responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas [AG, WEOG].

NPP3: “Pilot project for a mechanism of environmental peer reviews on the management of minerals.” [AG]

Two regional groupings also raised the idea of a voluntary Environmental Performance Review scheme: whereby States could agree to have peer reviews and evaluate the performance of the mining sector in their jurisdiction, against objective environmental indicators. [AG, EEG].

NPP4: “Establish a Global Sand Observatory.” [AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG]

Four regional groups produced a very similar NPP to establish a new Global Sand Observatory, based on the reports and presentations supplied by UNEP/GRID-Arendal [AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].

While the other regional meeting did not formulate a specific NPP on sand, there was significant interest in the topic and support to further discussions [AP]. It was noted that the term ‘sand’ is used broadly in this context, to include different types of sand, gravel and aggregates [AG, GRULAC].

Across all five regional groups it was discussed that the mandate of a proposed new Global Sand Observatory may potentially include:

- (a) Information gathering, dissemination and awareness-raising [AG, EEG, WEOG].
- (b) Data collection and analysis, and hosting of a data repository [AG, EEG, WEOG].
- (c) Capacity building [AG, EEG, WEOG].
- (d) Provision of technical expertise, including in relation to policy and regulation [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].
- (e) Development of guidelines/checklists or model instruments e.g., on establishing legal frameworks for sand extraction, and on monitoring of compliance with those frameworks [AG, AP, EEG, WEOG].
- (f) Remote technology and a platform for monitoring data for sand mining, including tracking vessels engaged in marine dredging [AP, GRULAC, EEG], showing the impact of sand extraction on the environment over time [EEG], and mapping supply needs against resources [EEG].
- (g) Development of innovative approaches and options for reduction, substitution, restoration, recycling - with supporting tools [AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].
- (h) Sharing of best practices and lessons learnt [AG, AP, EEG, WEOG].
- (i) Technology transfer [AG, GRULAC].
- (j) Mobilising partnerships (with global coverage) [AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].

Some groups during the intergovernmental meetings discussed that the Observatory’s focus could include a multi-stakeholder focus [AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG], a circular economy including sustainable consumption and production [AP, GRULAC, WEOG], traceability tools [GRULAC], incentives [AG], and transparency and accountability [AG, WEOG].

Other potential topics of interest to States included: formalising the sand mining sector [AG, GRULAC, WEOG], marine and riverine sand extraction [AP, GRULAC, WEOG], methods and technology for monitoring sand extraction [AP, WEOG], and the reduction of environmental impacts including through early warning indicators [AG, WEOG], prioritising high-grade sand for requisite uses [AP], environmental accounting to identify the true ‘cost’ of sand extraction [AP], transboundary issues [AG], source of sand as a consideration in development funding [WEOG], opportunities and barriers to development of ‘ore sand’ (re-purposing of mine tailings for use in construction) [AP, GRULAC, WEOG], site rehabilitation [AP].

Written submissions:

The same NPP, to establish a Global Sand Observatory, was also proposed in written submissions from the European Union and the African Group, respectively.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel and Switzerland proposed that, rather than creating a new centre, the Global Sand Observatory could constitute a global network of partners from all world regions, coordinated by a small secretariat hosted at UNEP/GRID-Geneva. The main objective would be to promote sustainable practices concerning sand extraction and use. Its three main functions would be based on the mandate of the UNEA resolution 5/12 (operative paragraph 4), to strengthen (i) scientific, (ii) technical, and (iii) policy knowledge regarding sand.

Mauritius and Liberia noted the NPPs relevance to governments who dredge sand offshore for the purposes of boat passages.

Liberia, as well as two observer organisations (Association Institute of Total Environment – Cameroon; and Earth Regenerative Project - Sierra Leone) wished to ensure inclusion of the artisanal sand mining sector in this NPP’s scope. Liberia and Earth Regenerative Project each also emphasised the impact of unsustainable beach sand extraction on local communities, including populations vulnerable to sea-level rise and other climate hazards; and suggested a need to identify new livelihood opportunities for artisanal sand miners.

Ethiopia proposed the development of an internationally binding agreement on the extraction of sand.

During the consultations, the need to discuss funding arrangements was raised. Member States were invited to work with UNEP/GRID-Geneva to develop a specific concept note and proposal for this Global Sand Observatory.

NPP5: “Support for how to apply best practices for environmental sustainability of minerals and metals at national level, including through capacity building, technical assistance and transfer of know-how, as appropriate.” [AP, GRULAC]

A further NPP, arising from the discussions of two regional groups, partly building on the ‘global assessment of best practices’ NPP1 (above), focused on how to bring more practical application of such practices, via capacity-building and technical assistance, from international to national level [AP, GRULAC]. This NPP5 is included here in Cluster A, about policies and tools, but is also relevant to and can be discussed with the next Cluster B of NPPs, ‘Value Chain Aspects’.

Written submissions:

The focus of this NPP5 was also reflected in many of the written submissions received.

Mauritania, for example, considered that direct capacity-building for its ministries of environment and mines would improve national management of the minerals industry.

Vietnam highlighted interest in technical assistance for legislative reform, support to consultation events, technical seminars, intergovernmental sharing of best practices including via field visits, and/or a high-level summit on critical mineral supply chains.

The United States made a specific proposal for UNEP to collaborate with IGF to develop guidance or best practices documents on mining exploration, both for large-scale and artisanal and small-scale mining, noting that much destruction of habitat and biodiversity can occur during the exploration phase, due to limited understanding regarding geological deposits, or failure by large-scale miners to disclose deposit map information.

(ii) VALUE CHAIN ASPECTS

Circular Economy

NPP6 “Work towards promotion of the circular economy, sustainable design, consumption and extended producer responsibility at the national level, including by addressing regulatory barriers and developing legislative guides.” [AG, GRULAC]

In many of the regional consultations, circular economy approaches, as well as sustainable sourcing, design and consumption, were considered principles that should be applied towards metal and minerals management [AG, AP, WEOG]. It was discussed that more guidance at the international level could assist States to operationalise at national level both in mining practices [AG, GRULAC], as well as in national raw material strategies [EEG].

Member States during the intergovernmental discussion proposed that useful topics could include: incentives for circularity and environmental best practices, recycling, secondary markets, and eco-design of products [EEG, GRULAC]. Delegates also identified the importance of a life cycle assessment, including social, environmental, and economic impacts, and all actors, across all stages of the supply chain [AP, EEG].

The rising trend of consumer and investor interest in metal sourcing was acknowledged positively [AG, EEG], and ‘digital passport’ initiatives from the Global Battery Alliance, and the EU were discussed [EEG, WEOG]. Extended producer responsibility was also a topic of interest [AG].

Written submissions:

Similar circular economy and sustainable design and consumption topics to those raised in NPP6 were identified in written submissions from the European Union and individually from Spain and Canada, as well as observer organisation Earthworks.

Algeria, Canada, Timor-Leste, as well as observer Earthworks, stressed the importance of promoting responsible supply chains, including through traceability.

Canada, Saudi Arabia and Spain also identified the importance of a life cycle assessment.

The European Union suggested for UNEA to seek synergies between this UNEA Resolution 5/12 process, and UNEA Resolution 5/11 on enhancing circular economy.

The European Union and Hungary also encouraged transparency in publication of national environmental laws, as well as mining operator reporting, to enable investors to make choices informed by environmental standards and performance. The European Union noted that transparency and traceability concepts should be applied at all stages of the metal lifecycle, as a means to promote protections of human rights and environmental standards, as well as circular economy and sustainable consumption and production. The European Union considered that the multilateral system could play a role to improve data availability along the full value chain of minerals and metals. Canada also called for price and supply chain transparency, to better enable sustainable sourcing decisions, to incentivise higher standards.

Saudi Arabia cautioned that taking a standardised approach to circularity may not adequately address the diverse needs and contexts of different countries. National-led tailoring should be allowed for, in any proposals taken forward.

Timor-Leste, by written submission, suggested States could consider ways to promote economic diversification to reduce dependence on mining and extractive industries – both to reduce overall environmental impact and to foster the development of more sustainable sectors.

The Children and Youth Major Group supported focus on increased efforts in recycling and developing alternatives to mined resources.

Observer Earthworks cautioned against ‘critical mineral’ strategies being used to mask unsustainable practices; and also emphasised the link between company transparency, and accountability for environmental and human rights performance throughout the supply chain.

Observer World Resources Forum highlighted the effectiveness of repeated independent assessments of the due diligence and transparency policies of companies at all stages of the minerals value chain; and called for ‘mainstreaming’ circularity and achieving a closed loop recycling model.

Tailings Management

NPP7: “Global mapping, cartography, inventory and classification of tailings facilities, including toxicity.” [AG]

NPP8: “Develop a manual for the design and construction of tailings facilities.” [AG]

NPP9: “Technical guidelines and standards for the safety and environmentally sound management, and safe disposal, of tailings facilities.” [AG]

NPP10: “National focal points to follow the implementation of the Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management (GISTM).” [GRULAC]

There was recognition in all five of the intergovernmental consultations of the importance to address environmental risks presented by tailings. Specific NPPs came from two regional consultations, in which past history of catastrophic tailings dam failures were also shared [AG, GRULAC].

Across all the consultations, the following needs were identified:

- (a) Planning for tailings facilities during the mine licensing process [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC].
- (b) Better inter-agency division and coordination of responsibilities for tailings planning and management within government [AG].
- (c) Advice on design parameters and monitoring methodologies for tailings facilities [AG].
- (d) Understanding on ‘Natech’ challenges and the effect of climate change on tailings management [EEG, GRULAC].
- (e) Technical capacity and expertise in-country, including for monitoring and auditing of tailings facilities [AG, AP, GRULAC].
- (f) Financing for tailings management [AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].
- (g) Hazard-mapping and risk assessment of existing tailings facilities [AG, EEG, GRULAC], including early warning systems [AP, GRULAC].
- (h) Enhanced disclosures to the Tailings Portal, supported by States [EEG, WEOG].
- (i) Innovation and policy focused on reducing tailings volume or liquidity [AG, GRULAC, WEOG].
- (j) International initiatives on tailings could focus more on artisanal and small-scale mining [AG, GRULAC].
- (k) More information about circularity and re-use, including potential development of ‘ore sand’ (re-purposing of mine tailings for use in construction) [AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].
- (l) Opportunities and risks around re-mining or repurposing of tailings [AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].

The Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management was acknowledged [AG, AP, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG], with Member States noting that it could be reviewed and supplemented [GRULAC, WEOG], as well as better implemented at national level including via legislation [AG, AP, EEG, WEOG].

Transboundary cooperation [AP, EEG, GRULAC], public participation and transparency [AP, GRULAC, WEOG], and bringing UNECE instruments relevant to tailings management to the international level [EEG] were also opportunity areas suggested during the meetings.

Written submissions:

Observer organisation Earthworks called for significant reform around tailings management, based on a series of ‘best practice’ recommendations contained in the 2022 report ‘[Safety First: Guidelines for Responsible Mine Tailings Management](#)’, strongly advocating an overarching aim of minimising tailings volume, and maximising conversion of tailings into useful, marketable products.

Canada and Hungary made similar points by written submission, with Hungary calling for sharing of best practices and research on appropriate technologies to increase the recovery rates from processing critical minerals, noting the need for paradigm shift from waste disposal towards re-use.

The United States proposed collaboration with IGF with regards any NPPs on tailings management.

Observer Mining Association of Canada offered its own experience to contribute to these NPPs, drawing on tailings management aspects of its ‘Towards Sustainable Mining’ programme.

Observer Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research proposed these NPPs on tailings management could be framed around a decadal UN-led programme.

Observers Earthworks and European Environment Bureau both echoed the benefits of international standards for tailings, underscoring the independent leadership UNEP can offer in this work. Earthworks also, citing a specific example, raised the importance of transboundary cooperation in tailings decision-making and management.

Mine Closure

NPP11: “Establish mine closure criteria, and environmental, social, economic guidelines for mine closure based on indicators.” [GRULAC]

NPP12: “Promote the re-use and re-development of old and abandoned mine sites, and re-processing of tailings from old mining operations.” [GRULAC]

NPP13: “UNEP to explore collaboration with IGF on mine and tailings facility closures, site rehabilitation and restoration and post-closure monitoring, where this adds value.” [WEOG]

NPP14: “UNEP, with relevant stakeholders, to undertake research on financing of mine closure and reclamation.” [WEOG]

NPP15: “Establish an inventory of abandoned mine sites.” [EEG]

Three regional consultations identified five NPPs specifically directed at mine closure issues. This arose from discussion that mine closure and abandoned facilities were high priority need areas globally, which may not be adequately addressed by existing initiatives, and which have environmental implications. [EEG, GRULAC, WEOG]

Relevant need areas discussed across regional consultations included:

- (a) Identification of locations and development of inventories of abandoned mine and tailings sites (including information about ownership, risk rating, and the chemical composition of tailings piles) [EEG, GRULAC].
- (b) Improving coverage of mine closure and post-closure commitments in national regulatory regimes [AG, AP, GRULAC].
- (c) Measures to monitor and reduce harmful environmental effects of abandoned mines and tailings facilities (including transboundary risks) [AG, EEG, GRULAC].
- (d) Improving understanding of ‘Natech’ challenges [EEG, GRULAC].
- (e) Examples and methodologies for best practice rehabilitation of sites [AP, GRULAC].

- (f) Funding options, including for redress and remediation, insurance, and financial guarantees [EEG, GRULAC, WEOG].

One NPP recognised IGF's existing work, but considered UNEP could add reach to officials with environmental management responsibilities on the topic of mine closure [WEOG]. UNECE was also identified by many as a potential collaboration partner on this topic.

Written submissions:

Hungary expressed its support for this set of NPPs around mine closure, suggesting international standards, and use of financial guarantees, as important areas of focus.

The European Union made the same proposal as NPP13 in writing (regarding collaboration with IGF). The United States suggested that NPP13 be expanded to include also financing and regulatory frameworks needed for the full tailings facility lifecycle (design and operations, as well as closure), given IGF's expertise and existing relations with mining ministries and operators.

Two observers' written submissions (from the Earth Regenerative Project - Sierra Leone, and the Children and Youth Major Group) noted the need for restoration of closed mine sites including re-planting and re-forestation, and another (World Resources Forum) called for work towards a global fund to manage the rehabilitation of active and legacy mine sites.

Two other observers (Earthworks, and European Environmental Bureau) supported the proposal for an inventory of abandoned mines.

Observer Earthworks also in its written submission, noted the potential for re-processing of mine waste, while cautioning against related environmental risks: identifying a lack of industry-wide best practices for such 're-mining' projects as a possible area of focus for this set of NPPs.

(iii) PLATFORMS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NPP16: "Establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to follow up on the implementation of the proposals made, and to address the needs identified, under this Resolution UNEA 5/12 process." [AG, GRULAC, WEOG]

NPP17: "Develop dialogue mechanisms and convene multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, including with the support of the UN". [AG, GRULAC]

NPP18: "Cooperation between international organisations, and processes." [AG, GRULAC]

NPP19: "Collaborate with the Minamata Convention with regards to artisanal and small-scale mining." [AG]

NPP20: "Collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the follow-up of the COP 15 decision 24, with regards to the provisions pertaining to deep sea mining environmental safeguards." [EEG, WEOG]

NPP21: "Create a Latin American and Caribbean Network of experts on mining and sustainability." [GRULAC]

NPP22: "Explore the idea of an international agreement to support environmental consideration in mining (e.g., in the update of national legislation)". [GRULAC]

NPP23: "Support the implementation of the Escazú Agreement" [GRULAC]

NPP24: "Explore the idea of an international mineral programme that would support the SDGs / 2030 Agenda and assist Member States with the alignment of mining policies." [GRULAC]

Three regional consultations identified a similar NPP around the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group to continue the work commenced under the UNEA Resolution 5/12 process. This was in recognition of the potentially positive and constructive role that could be played in the longer term, by harnessing the momentum and expertise of the national focal points network established for the intergovernmental process, and the value of intergovernmental exchange of ideas and experiences. [AG, GRULAC, WEOG].

Written submissions:

The European Union, Honduras, and a joint submission from: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel, Jamaica, and Switzerland, made similar proposals to NP16 on the open-ended working group.

The joint submission identified that this working group should provide a structured setting for the implementation of the other NPPs identified by this process, and to further steer the process and prioritise the proposals.

The European Union proposed the group should consider specific policy recommendations made by the International Resource Panel.

Observer organisation, Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research, suggested inclusion of non-state actors.

Two regional groups indicated interest to see multi-stakeholder dialogues on mining and sustainability issues convened at the international level [AG, GRULAC]. It was felt that a UN-led process could promote legitimacy [GRULAC], also that surveying of citizens' views [GRULAC], and gender issues and mainstreaming should be included [AG, GRULAC].

Written submissions:

Honduras supported the idea that UN-supported dialogue can bring impartiality and credibility to issues that may be contentious nationally.

Canada noted that understanding connections between environmental issues and other issues faced by equity-seeking groups, such as women, LGBTQ individuals and families, and Indigenous Peoples' communities, governments can develop more inclusive and impactful strategies around minerals and metals.

Germany highlighted positive outcomes from a national inclusive and consultative multi-stakeholder commission established to address issues arising from the phase-out of coal mining.

Timor-Leste suggested an additional NPP around 'enhancing community engagement and environmental awareness in local schools' aimed to integrate relevant topics into the education system, to empower local communities to engage from an early age. This chimed with a recommendation from the Children and Youth Major Group, for States to take steps to encourage young people to pursue careers in fields related to sustainability, such as environmental science, renewable energy, or sustainable design.

Observer organisation Smart Youth Network Uganda proposed a 'Sustainable Mining Innovation Network', a voluntary collaborative platform to facilitate exchange of ideas, research, and technological innovations among mining industry stakeholders, research institutions, governments.

One group identified a need to explore the idea of an international agreement to support environmental considerations in mining [GRULAC], and a similar issue was proposed specifically in relation to tailings in another regional consultation [AG].

Similar NPPs on general enhanced coordination with other existing international (and sub-international) processes resulted from two of the regional consultations, after discussions about how different existing technical partners could improve collaboration, with the aim to identify linkages in

their work, avoid duplications, and present a more coherent offer to States [AG, AP]. In both proposals, it was suggested to ensure broad focus across all states of the metal supply chain [AG, AP].

Written submissions:

The European Union raised related points about the need to align national mining practices with the 2030 Agenda as well as relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Honduras noted that this proposed programme could promote inclusion of sustainable management of mining activities as a priority goal in Member States' national development plans.

Specific international processes were identified at some of the consultations, as being particularly relevant to UNEP's work on minerals and metals, leading to specific NPPs, including:

➤ **The Minamata Convention on Mercury** [AG, AP, WEOG] with particular relevance for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. It was noted that implementation of the Minamata Convention could assist with sector formalisation and incentivisation towards mercury-free alternatives, with a view to reducing pollution from small-scale mining waste [AG].

Written submissions:

The African Group, as well as Chad individually, supported the formalisation of the artisanal mining sector as a high-priority area. The African Group specifically requested technical assistance on alternatives to toxic chemicals, and on combatting land and forest degradation, in relation to artisanal mining.

Observer Smart Youth Network Uganda considered that a voluntary certification scheme may help promote more environmentally responsible artisanal and small-scale mining operations.

➤ **The Convention on Biological Diversity** in relation to deep-sea mining [EEG, WEOG]. Three of the regional consultations discussed deep-sea mining as an emerging area of environmental importance [AP, EEG, WEOG]. The two regional groups which proposed NPPs relating to deep-sea mining considered that the Decision 15/24 of 19 December 2022 on marine biological resources at the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity should be the starting point for UNEA interactions and noted also the importance of the ongoing negotiations at the International Seabed Authority [EEG, WEOG].

Written submissions:

The European Union also submitted in writing the NPP related to deep-sea mining.

Switzerland and observer World Resources Forum, in separate written submissions, indicated support for a moratorium on deep-sea mining beyond national jurisdiction, until there is better scientific understanding of its impacts and the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of such activities can be guaranteed.

➤ **The Escazú Agreement** on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean [GRULAC]. It was noted that ratification of this regional Convention, with support of UN ECLAC, was leading to improved access to environmental information and public participation mechanisms in mining-related decision-making, which should be continued in the region, and could be expanded beyond [GRULAC].

➤ **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals** [GRULAC]. This proposal arose out of a perceived need for leadership at the international level to bring Member States' policies and laws into alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals [GRULAC]. The need was expressed for support in coordination, research, data collection, policy and law advice, technology transfer, and dispute settlement [GRULAC]. The creation of a new international programme to perform these functions was discussed [GRULAC].

Written submissions:

Algeria, Hungary and Lao PDR, in their respective submissions, identified potential for mine operators to move towards use of clean energy. The same point was made in the written submissions of the observer Uganda Smart Youth Network (which also called for a zero-deforestation initiative) and the Children and Youth Major Group.

The Children and Youth Major Group also called for further exploration of the intersection between climate change and environmental impacts of mining, and for intergenerational equity to be better factored into discussions about environmental sustainability of mining and metals.

Canada noted a challenge in balancing urgent need for decarbonization with the necessity to adhere to comprehensive environmental standards across critical mineral value chains. Canada also highlighted the importance of collaboration with First Nations, while acknowledging the need to uphold the goals of UNDRIP in the process of urgent critical minerals' development.

Observer organisations Earthworks and European Environmental Bureau urged that any international programme should incorporate the principles of 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' (including via codification into legally binding instruments), as well as human rights and environmental due diligence across mineral supply chains, meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, and incorporation of traditional knowledge.

3. Looking Ahead to the Global Intergovernmental Meeting

The Global Intergovernmental Meeting, in accordance with UNEA Resolution 5/12, is intended to provide a transparent and inclusive platform for further and cross-regional intergovernmental discussions on the NPPs so far identified during this intergovernmental process. At the global meeting, to be held in hybrid format, all national focal points from all regions, as well as relevant international organisations and regional and multilateral environmental agreements, and accredited observer organisations will convene.

The aim is for Member States to contribute ideas on possible ways forward for consideration of UNEA during its sixth session, to reflect and build upon the implementation during 2023 of resolution 5/12 in relation to the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle.

Delegates will be able to discuss further, in informal breakout groups and in plenary, the NPPs arising from the regional consultations and from written submissions (as described above in Section 2, and as set out in abridged form in the Annex to this report). The discussions may lead to further crystallisation of commonalities between and among regions, and/or prioritisation of issues raised in the previous meetings, as well as refinements and suggestions of how to take the NPPs forward for consideration by UNEA-6.

This background document is intended to provide a summary and analysis of the discussions and outcomes of the intergovernmental regional consultations, to support structured conversations at the Global Intergovernmental Meeting scheduled for 7-8 September 2023 in Geneva.

The dialogue at the Global Intergovernmental Meeting will be captured in a Co-Chairs' summary report as well as in the UNEP Executive Directors' Progress Report to UNEA-6. The Co-Chairs summary report will not be a negotiated document nor need consensus but will reflect the prioritised NPPs and related discussions from the Global Intergovernmental Meeting.

Annex I – Regional perspectives of Non-Prescriptive Proposals put forward

A. Policies and tools

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| <u>AG, AP, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 1. Global assessment of existing instruments | <u>AG</u> 2. International metal certifications 3. Environmental peer reviews | <u>AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 4. Establish a Global Sand Observatory | <u>AP, GRULAC</u> 5. Capacity building, technical assistance, transfer of know-how and support national implementation [Also <i>cross-cutting into Cluster B 'Life Cycle Aspects'</i>] |
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B. Value Chain aspects

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| <u>AG, GRULAC</u> 6. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production, circular economy | <u>AG</u> 7. Global mapping and classification of tailings facilities 8. Manual for design and construction of tailings facilities 9. Technical guideline and standards for safe and environmentally sound management of tailings facilities | <u>GRULAC</u> 10. Implementation of Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management 11. Mine closure criteria & guidelines 12. Re-development of mine sites | <u>WEOG</u> 13. Inter-agency collaboration on mine closure 14. Research on mine closure finance | <u>EEG</u> 15. Inventory of abandoned mine sites |
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C. Platforms for international cooperation

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| <u>AG, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 16. Open-ended working Group | <u>AG, GRULAC</u> 17. UN-supported multi-stakeholder dialogues 18. Cooperation between international organisations | <u>AG</u> 19. Collaboration with the Minamata Convention | <u>EEG, WEOG</u> 20. Collaboration with CBD on deep sea mining environmental safeguards | <u>GRULAC</u> 21. LAC network on mining and sustainability 22. Explore international agreement on mining 23. Implementation of Escazu Agreement 24. International SDGs mineral programme |
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