

Global intergovernmental meeting on UNEA resolution 5/12 environmental aspects of minerals and metals management

Geneva, 7 - 8 September 2023

Note from the Secretariat

Introduction

This note is developed by the Secretariat in close consultation with the Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental process mandated by United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/12 entitled “environmental aspects of minerals and metals management”, H. E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard, Deputy Head of International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

The note outlines the purpose and the choreography of the global intergovernmental meeting, as proposed by the Co-Chairs.

The mandate and purpose of the intergovernmental consultations

The mandate of the intergovernmental regional consultations and the global intergovernmental meeting is reflected in paragraph 2 of [UNEA resolution 5/12](#) which

“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.”

Further, paragraph 3 of the resolution states 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;”

In accordance with this mandate, the Co-Chairs, with the support of the Secretariat of UNEP, has convened intergovernmental regional consultations for the five UN regional groups with a view to identify non-prescriptive proposals.

The non-prescriptive proposals from the regional consultations are reflected in the respective regional summary reports and summarized in the [background document](#) for the global intergovernmental meeting on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, to take place on 7 - 8 September 2023 in Geneva.

The purpose of the global meeting is to reflect on the outcomes of the regional consultations, on the written submissions, and on possible non-prescriptive proposals to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals as well as identify possible ways forward for consideration by Member States at the next session of the UNEA.

Proposed choreography of the global intergovernmental meeting

The Co-Chairs will open the global intergovernmental meeting on 7 September 2023 (Provisional agenda item 1) and propose the adoption of the [provisional agenda as well as the draft structure](#) for the global intergovernmental meeting (Provisional agenda item 2).

The meeting will be briefed on the outcomes of the regional intergovernmental consultations (Provisional agenda item 3).

Following a moderated technical panel discussion on the non-prescriptive proposals, will follow an exchange of views with panel members (Provisional agenda item 4).

The guiding questions included in the [background document](#) aim at supporting structured discussions on the non-prescriptive proposals.

The non-prescriptive proposals that have emerged from the intergovernmental regional consultations are intended to feed into the global intergovernmental meeting, as mandated in operative paragraph 2 of UNEA resolution 5/12. The meeting will discuss already proposed non-prescriptive proposals, including the [written submissions](#), as well as possible new ones (Provisional agenda item 5), including in plenary with exchange of views among Member States and stakeholders (Provisional agenda item 6).

The intergovernmental regional consultations and the intergovernmental global meeting are informal consultations, and will not serve the purpose of conducting formal negotiations. Participants therefore do not have to strive for full consensus or agreement during the discussions.

The outcome document of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting will be a Co-Chairs' meeting summary. The meeting summary document belongs to the Co-Chairs and will aim to reflect the discussions in a balanced manner, and may include consensual as well as non-consensual outcomes and proposals from the meeting. The Co-Chair's Summary is thus not a negotiated document.

The meeting will consider a draft Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting (Provisional agenda item 7).

Once finalized, the Co-Chairs' meeting summary will be submitted by the Co-Chairs to the UNEA-6 President and to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for possible further consideration at the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The Co-Chairs' meeting summary will contribute to the progress report to be developed by the Secretariat, as mandated by paragraph 6 of UNEA resolution 5/12, which requested the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution, including through a summary report on the consultations, for consideration by the Environment Assembly at that session. The Co-Chairs' meeting summary will be a UNEA-6 INF document.

Following the consideration of any other matter (Provisional agenda item 8), the meeting is closed (Provisional agenda item 9).