

IRMA Update

Recent Activities of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)

IRMA Standards Development in Second Phase

The IRMA Steering Committee has worked with consultants to develop a series of draft standards covering some of the key issues that IRMA seeks to address. These issues include: indigenous peoples, cyanide and mercury use, revenue transparency, resettlement, and labor rights, among others. IRMA participants from various sectors have provided comments on drafts of an initial set of 14 standards. Those comments are available for IRMA participants at <http://www.responsiblemining.net/members/memberindex.html>

The IRMA Steering Committee has been working with a consultant who has developed revised drafts for each of the standards with the aim of identifying areas of agreement and areas where additional work is needed, and to propose options for finalizing agreement on the different standards. These revised drafts will be posted to the IRMA members' area.

Standards Working Groups

Based on the comments received, about 5 of the standards can be considered close to final. IRMA participants are now asked to join multi-sector working groups on each of the standards where additional work is needed. These working groups will be charged with taking the drafts close to finalization and refining the proposed agreements in advance of the IRMA in-person meeting in mid-November 2009. If you are interested in joining a working group, please email info@mail.responsiblemining.net. A full list of working groups and participants will be posted to the IRMA website members section and circulated on the IRMA listserv.

Verification Working Group

The assurance and verification systems working group will be working to refine and finalize options for IRMA's verification system, in advance of the November meeting. Please email info@mail.responsiblemining.net if you are interested in participating in this working group.

What is IRMA?

The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance is a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder effort to create an independent, third-party certification and verification system in the mining sector to assure compliance with environmental, human rights and social standards. IRMA brings together mining companies, industry/commodity associations, retailers, NGOs, community groups, labor and other sectors. IRMA is seeking to utilize and build upon existing work from different sectors. IRMA was launched in June 2006 at a meeting of mining companies, trade associations, jewelers, NGOs, and community representatives and called the Vancouver Dialogue. See www.responsiblemining.net for more information, including a list of IRMA participants.

IRMA Steering Committee

IRMA participants met in November 2007, in Washington D.C., and agreed to establish an IRMA Steering Committee consisting of one representative and one alternate representative from each of five sectors – the mining industry sector; the jewelry industry sector; the affected community sector; the labor sector; and the NGO sector. The list of current Steering Committee members is available at www.responsiblemining.net/governance.html.

How to Get More Involved

IRMA welcomes others who wish to help in advancing IRMA's goals by contributing their time and efforts to the initiative. If you or your organization/company wishes to contribute (e.g. by participating on a working group, serving as a reviewer for specific standards, getting on the email distribution lists, etc.), please email us at info@mail.responsiblemining.net.