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**United Nations  
Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment  
Programme**

United Nations Environment Assembly of the  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Fourth session  
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment  
Assembly on 15 March 2019**

**4/19. Mineral resource governance**

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recalling* the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, its Action Plan for the Human Environment<sup>1</sup> and recommendation 56 therein on mining and mineral resources,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 37/7 of 28 October 1982, entitled “World Charter for Nature”, which states that “non-renewable resources [...] shall be exploited with restraint, taking into account their abundance, the rational possibilities of converting them for consumption, and the compatibility of their exploitation with the functioning of natural systems”,

*Recalling the Berlin II: Guidelines for Mining and Sustainable Development*<sup>2</sup> (2002) and their Fundamental Principles for the Mining Sector,<sup>3</sup> which state that governments, mining companies and the minerals industries should recognize environmental management as a high priority, establish environmental accountability and ensure the participation of directly interested parties,

*Reaffirming* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> adopted on 4 September 2002, which recognizes that minerals are essential for modern living and sustainable development,

*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>5</sup> adopted on 27 July 2012, which acknowledges the major contribution that minerals and metals make to modern societies and calls upon governments and businesses to promote the continuous improvement of accountability and transparency in that field,

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972 (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1)*, chap. II.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations (2002).

<sup>3</sup> The 2000 version of the Principles is reproduced on p. 4 of the *Berlin II Guidelines*.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1, adopted on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) and Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), and recalling the important contribution of mining to their achievement,

*Noting* that clean technologies, highly dependent on metals and minerals, are important for combating climate change issues,

*Welcoming* the report of the International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want*,<sup>6</sup> presented to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session,

*Taking note* of the reports *Mineral Resource Governance in the Twenty-First Century: Gearing Extractive Industries towards Sustainable Development*,<sup>7</sup> *Mine Tailings Storage: Safety Is No Accident*<sup>8</sup> and *Sand and Sustainability: Finding New Solutions for Environmental Governance of Global Sand Resources*,<sup>9</sup> and relevant activities of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Recognizes* the findings of the International Resource Panel related to the sustainable management of metal and mineral resources and the need for further action, as well as the findings of the United Nations Environment Programme on mine tailings storage and those of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Global Resource Information Database (GRID)-Geneva on sustainable sand management;
2. *Also recognizes* that sustainable management of metal and mineral resources contributes significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Underlines* the need to share knowledge and experience with regard to regulatory approaches, implementation practices, technologies and strategies for the sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, including over the whole life of the mine and the post-mining stage;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the basis of reports such as those prepared by the International Resource Panel and United Nations Environment Programme-GRID, to 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;
5. *Encourages* governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academia and international institutions, within their different areas of competence, to promote:
  - (a) Awareness of how the extractive industries can contribute to the sustainable development of countries and the well-being of their populations, as well as of the possible negative impacts on human health and the environment when these activities are not properly managed;
  - (b) Due diligence best practice along the supply chain, addressing broad-based environmental, human-rights-, labour- and conflict-related risks in mining, including the continuing increase in transparency and the fight against corruption, with the support of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, implementation and monitoring of existing environmental standards, and accountability;
  - (c) Capacity-building mechanisms for the sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, including the management of major hazards, as well as to address mine closure requirements and the remediation of contaminated sites, including abandoned mines;
  - (d) Public-private partnerships to promote sustainable management of metal and mineral resources;

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (2019).

<sup>7</sup> International Resource Panel, United Nations Environment Programme (2019).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Arendal (2017).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Geneva (2019).

- (e) Research, development and technological innovations to sustainably manage metal and mineral resources;
  - (f) Sustainable mining and sourcing of raw materials in order to move towards decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation through approaches including but not limited to resource efficiency and the circular economy;
  - (g) A reduction of the impacts associated with the materials needed for the transition to an innovative and environmentally friendly economy.
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