

UNCSD19 MINING ROUNDTABLE – QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Thank you Mr. Chairman for this opportunity to speak. I come from a region where there is traditional small-scale mining as well as corporate mines.

1. In the context of CSD19 discussions, and the inter-linkages with SCP and waste management, it needs to be underlined that Mining is a fundamentally unsustainable industry – AND ISSUES OF MINIMIZATION AND REDUCTION NEED TO BE ON THE TABLE - NOT MERE ACCEPTANCE OF ITS CONTINUED EXPANSION.

As mineral deposits are exhausted and the industry moves to exploit lower grade deposits, there are ever increasing impacts to biodiversity, water and food security, not forgetting its climate impacts.

With a view to reducing mining impacts, governments need to designate social and ecological zones, including no-go mining areas rich in biodiversity, ancient forests, critical water systems and sacred sites.

2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues on mining policy is absent at international, national and local levels. CSD19 could recommend the establishment of a multi-stakeholder forum, under the auspices of a UN agency, to promote knowledge sharing and generation to address the challenges posed by mining to sustainable development, which is broader than the existing Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF). This will increase communication and overcome divisions present among stakeholders.

3. Free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples is the international standard to be applied with regards mining and resource development projects on ancestral lands.

WILL GOVERNMENTS RESPECT THIS IN THEIR NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATION OF MINING DEVELOPMENT, OR HAS CSD19 LOWERED THE HUMAN

RIGHTS STANDARDS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

WILL ICMM TAKE STEPS FOR THEIR MEMBERS TO RESPECT UNDRIP AND FREE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT?

- 4. The creation of funding mechanisms to address the legacy of abandoned mines and the ongoing harm to ecosystems and affected communities caused by mining disasters and abandoned mines is urgently needed.**

In the USA for example, dealing with the legacy issues of abandoned mines is a major drain on the Federal EPA super fund for environmental clean up of dangerous pollution sites. – not read

In the Philippines over the last 25 years there has been on average more than one major serious mines tailings breach every eighteen months many involving loss of life and all having devastating impacts on farming fisheries and other parts of the economy. – not read

HOW WILL THE DISASTROUS MINING LEGACY BE ADDRESSED, OR ARE WE CLOSING OUR EYES TO THIS, AND ALL SIMPLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A PERIOD OF NEW SUSTAINABLE MINING? THIS IS ALWAYS PROMISED BUT HAS NOT ARRIVED FOR MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.