

Information Note for Meeting Participants
Virtual Regional Consultations for the implementation of the United Nations Environment
Assembly Resolution 4/19 on Mineral Resource Governance (UNEA 4/19)
July-September 2020
Africa

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) looks forward to welcoming you to the series of virtual regional consultative meetings related to the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution [UNEP/EA.4/19 on mineral resource governance](#). The regional consultative meetings will run from July to September 2020.

Participation in the consultations is expected by governments (particularly Ministries of Mining and Environment), industry and employee groups (artisanal, small-scale, mid-sized and large mining companies, representative associations, unions etc), academia, civil society, financial institutions, representatives of international institutions and governance schemes. Participation is targeted at senior professionals and representatives, though due to the increased accessibility that online engagement brings there is wider scope to involve people with all experience levels. The consultations are planned to involve stakeholders from all regions: Latin American and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, West Asia, as well as the African, Central Europe and Western European and Others Group regions, to obtain feedback on the current extractive industries in the regions, understand the political landscape in relation to mineral governance as well as needs pertaining to the regions. Consultations will encompass a range of modalities i) a general briefing for governments, ii) sub-regional consultations, iii) regional consultations, and iv) a global forum.

The information in this note covers the general briefing, sub-regional consultations, regional consultations and global forum related to the implementation of the resolution UNEP/EA.4/19. All documentation will also be available on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, available here: <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/initiatives/unea-4-mineral-resource-governance-resolution>.

1. Background

The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11-15 March 2019 adopted the UNEA Resolution No. UNEP/EA.4/Res. 19 on Mineral Resource Governance. The resolution recognizes the important contribution of mining towards the achievement of the SDGs, and the dependence of low-carbon clean technologies on metals and minerals. Among other things, it requests UNEP 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 on sustainable management of metal and mineral resources, and report to UNEA-5 (February 2021). It also encourages governments and other stakeholders to promote awareness; calls for due diligence along the supply chain, including the continuous increase of transparency.

The regional consultations were scheduled to be held in-person in all six regions between May and July 2020. UNEP planned to organise the discussions as stand-alone and back to back with existing gatherings. Given that COVID-19 travel restrictions in many parts of the world are likely to continue into September 2020, the in-person consultations were postponed and instead will be implemented via an online and virtual consultation process with wide reach and significant participation. The target will be to engage a larger number of diverse stakeholders through virtual forms than was originally planned through in person events.

This note outlines UNEP’s proposed roadmap for delivering the consultations virtually. In doing so, it provides: (a) a proposed timetable for the virtual consultations; and (b) proposed administrative and procedural arrangements.

2. Purpose and scope of the virtual regional consultations

The consultations will obtain feedback on the governance of extractive industries. More specifically, and as requested by the UNEA-4 resolution, the consultations will identify best practices and knowledge gaps and assess governance options.

The overall objective of regional consultations is to implement the resolution and integrate the outcomes into a report for submission at UNEA-5. Actions required to achieve this are:

- assess what works and what does not work in the various overlapping initiatives and national policies aimed at improving the sustainable management of minerals and metals;
- report back on current governance frameworks of key issues, such as mine tailings, sand extraction, conflict minerals and critical metals;
- identify the knowledge gaps on good governance observed in different parts of key mineral value chains;
- explore how these gaps can be addressed given the knowledge, implementation capacity and awareness differentials in different mining geographies; and
- explore the kind of institutional and governance frameworks best suited to support sustainable development with regard to the sustainable management of minerals and metals across the whole life-cycle.

Findings from the regional consultations will feed into the report on the implementation of the resolution. The report will be presented to the fifth session of UNEA in February 2021, for consideration on any next steps.

3. Proposed timetable for regional virtual consultations

The consultation will consist of four different forms: 1) virtual events; 2) video submissions; 3) written submissions; and 4) to the extent feasible, in-person events.

A series of virtual consultation events will be held at multiple scales (sub-regional, regional, global). The idea will be to start at the sub-regional level and scale the consultations to a global level from June to September 2020. The meetings will use Webex video conferencing. Facilities for simultaneous interpretation for all UN languages are currently being investigated (e.g. Interprefy and KUDO).

Event	Details	Dates and registration details
Sub-regional consultations on the UNEA-4 Resolution on Mineral Resource Governance	Sub-regional consultations allow a greater level of grassroots participation. <i>Number of meetings:</i> 2-5 per region (total 20) <i>Participants:</i> All stakeholders (30-50 people per event). Invited participants and open to registered participants from the public following advertisement of events <i>Duration:</i> 2 hours	<i>Dates:</i> Africa: Click on the dates below to register English only: 20 July 2020 (11h00 – 13h00 GMT+3/Nairobi time)

		<p>English and French: 23 July 2020 (13h00 – 15h00 GMT+3/Nairobi time)</p> <p>Please confirm participation via email to Catherine.Mwangi@un.org and Robert.Wabunoha@un.org</p> <p>Registration link will be sent to confirmed participants.</p> <p>Please note that details for test sessions will be shared upon confirmation of participation.</p>
Regional consultations on the UNEA-4 Resolution on Mineral Resource Governance	<p>One regional consultation will be held per UN region and will build on the outcomes of the subregional consultations.</p> <p><i>Number of meetings:</i> 1 per region (total 6)</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> All stakeholders (30-50 people). Invited participants and open to registered participants from the public following advertisement of events</p> <p><i>Duration:</i> 2 hours</p>	<p><i>Dates:</i></p> <p>Africa: 6 August 2020</p> <p>Please confirm participation via email to Catherine.mwangi@un.org and Robert.Wabunoha@un.org</p> <p>Registration link will be sent to confirmed participants.</p> <p>Please note that details for test sessions will be shared upon confirmation of participation.</p>
Global forum on the UNEA-4 Resolution on Mineral Resource Governance	<p>Global forum to report on the outcomes of the consultation process and discuss the future of Mineral Resource Governance in the lead up to UNEA-5</p> <p><i>Number of meetings:</i> 1</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> All stakeholders. Open to observers from the public (50-100 people)</p> <p><i>Duration:</i> 90 mins</p> <p><i>Languages:</i> English with interpretation into other UN languages</p>	<p><i>Date:</i> Early September 2020</p> <p>[Details for this meeting will be communicated soon]</p> <p>Please note that details for test sessions will be shared upon confirmation of participation.</p>

Advance meeting documentation will be circulated to participants and stakeholders. The documents to be circulated are:

- Provisional agenda
- Discussion paper

The advance versions will be available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic only. Written comments will be invited from participants and stakeholders by **2 September 2020**. Revised versions of the documents will then be prepared and circulated by the secretariat by **30 September 2020**.