

# The Milos Declaration: creating a living document



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# The Milos Declaration on Sustainability

The Milos Declaration was introduced at the first SDIMI meeting held on Milos island in 2003.

This document laid out the contributions that the minerals professional community can and should make to sustainable development.

The Declaration came the year after the Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development project published its final report Breaking New Ground, which described the minerals sector and its relationship with concepts of sustainable development, and offered an Agenda for Change for immediate and future actions. What it did not describe was how to achieve the Agenda.

The Milos Declaration was groundbreaking in several ways. First, it was written at a point in history when, MMSD notwithstanding, many people in governments, academia, industry and civil society questioned the idea that sustainability principles applied to nonrenewable resources. Second, the role that the minerals industry and minerals professionals should play in the achievement of a sustainable future was unclear.

The Declaration states that:

*the engineers, scientists, technical experts, and academics who work in, consult for, educate, study, or are in some other manner associated with the minerals industry, share a mutual responsibility with all individuals to ensure that our actions meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.*

# What we believe:

The process of civilization is one of advancing intellectual, social, and cultural development for all of humankind. An important aspect of the history of civilization is scientific discoveries and technological advancements that transform raw materials into resources, thus providing the means for increased human well-being. The benefits and services derived from minerals, metals, and fuels can contribute to the achievement of a sustainable future because the inherent characteristics of these resources make productivity and consumption gains possible.

Achieving of a balance among economic prosperity, environmental health, and social equity will require significant changes in business strategies, operating technologies, personal behaviours, and public policies. Minerals professionals can engage with communities of interest in the process of improving quality of life by helping to balance the need for minerals, metals, and fuels against the need to protect the environment and society from unnecessary adverse impacts.

# Our vision for the future:

- Our minerals community will contribute to a sustainable future through the use of our scientific, technical, educational, and research skills in minerals, metals, and fuels.

# What needs to be done to achieve our vision:

- Professional Responsibility
- Education, Training, and Development
- Communication



# Linking the Declaration to SDIMI 2013

- Alternative Perspectives on Mining and SD
- Environmental Conservation and Climate Change
- Sustainable Energy and Land Use
- Sustainable Mining Practices
- Technological Developments
- Health and Safety, and Risk Management



Professional  
Responsibility

- Sustainability in Minerals Education
- Capacity Building and Human Resources
- Social Contributions and Local Communities
- Special Sessions: SNAP-SEE, WFEO Presentation



Education,  
Training, and  
Development

- Sustainability Reporting



Communication

# Endorsements

- The American Society of Mining and Reclamation
- The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
- The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum
- The European Federation of Geologists
- The Iberoamerican Association of Mining Education (The Asociación Iberoamericana de Enseñanza Superior de la Minería)
- The Institute of Geologists of Ireland
- The Peruvian Institute of Mining Engineers (Peruvian El Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas del Peru)
- The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration
- The Society for Mining, Metallurgy, Resource and Environmental Technology (Gesellschaft fuer Bergbau, Metallurgie, Rohstoff- und Umwelttechnik e.V.)
- The Society of Mining Professors (Societaet der Bergbaukunde)
- The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
- The Spanish Association of Mining Engineers (Consejo Superior de Colegios de Ingenieros de Minas)



# Milos +12

Twelve years after the Milos Declaration on Sustainability was published, its vision and goals remain very much aligned with today's sustainable mining practices. It has been widely distributed and shared in many fora, including at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSU and WFEO, 2009).

# What has Changed

In the 12 years since the first SDIMI conference the minerals community has integrated sustainable development concepts, best-practices and stakeholders participation into the mining process, demonstrating higher professional responsibility.

Thus, it is time to reconsider whether and how we can extend the Milos Declaration to reflect the current state of knowledge and practice, but also identify areas where advances in sustainable mining practice are needed.

# What has Changed

- i. Stakeholders
- ii. Capacity building
- iii. Partnerships
- iv. Risk assessment (characterization, management and allocation)
- v. Community well-being
- vi. Community health
- vii. Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- viii. Embedding SD throughout the company

# What has Changed, Continued

- ix. Resource efficiency
- x. Reduce, reuse, recycle, substitute
- xi. Critical materials, including rare earths
- xii. Value creation and Shared value
- xiii. Renewed recognition in developed nations of the importance of domestic raw materials extraction and processing
- xiv. Synergies between organizations working on mining, such as the cooperation between the WFEO Task Force and the Society of Mining Professors

# New Topics in the Frame of the MD

## Transdisciplinary topics

- Risk assessment
- Community well-being
- Community health
- Embedding SD throughout the company
- Resource efficiency
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, substitute
- Critical materials, including rare earths
- Value creation and Shared value



Professional  
Responsibility

- Capacity Building
- Sustainability in minerals education
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Synergies between organizations working on mining
- Renewed recognition in developed nations of the importance of domestic raw materials extraction and processing



Education,  
Training, and  
Development

- Stakeholders
- Partnerships



Communication



# Your Charge

Over the course of SDIMI 2015, consider how we can create an Addendum to the Milos Declaration that brings the document to the present day, i.e., makes it a living document. In addition, we want you to recommend practical commitments that mining professionals could make that would facilitate the achievement of the goals of the Addendum, for example reaching out to and working with professionals in other disciplines such as economics, ecology and sociology to ensure that the full spectrum of issues associated with mining projects are considered and addressed.

On Wednesday, during the closing Plenary we will hold an open dialogue about the Milos +12 Addendum and look forward to your feedback, comments and thoughts. We also welcome your thoughts via email or Skype.

Our goal is to create a draft Addendum by late August 2015.

# Thank You in Advance for your Assistance with this Important Task!

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