

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)**

The Milos statement was introduced on the occasion of the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mining Professors (Societaet der Bergbaukunde), May 19 to 21, 2003 and the First International Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in the Minerals Industry, May 21-23, 2003, held in the Island of Milos, Greece.

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Milos Statement

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Contribution of the Minerals Professional Community to Sustainable Development

***Who we are:** The minerals professional community comprises engineers, scientists, technical experts, and academics who work in, consult for, educate, study, or are in some other manner associated with the minerals industry.*

Society's transition towards a sustainable future cannot be achieved without the application of the professional principles, scientific knowledge, technical skills, educational and research capabilities, and democratic processes practiced by our community. Our members 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:** We believe minerals are essential to meeting the needs of the present while contributing to a sustainable future.*

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 the 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 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:

- Employ science, engineering, and technology as resources to people, catalysts for learning, providers of increased quality of life, and protectors of the environment, human health, and safety.
- Encourage the development, transfer, and application of technologies that support sustainable actions throughout the product and mine life cycles.
- Give high priority to identifying solutions for pressing environmental and developmental challenges as related to sustainable development.
- Address social equity, poverty reduction, and other societal needs as issues that are integral to minerals and mining related endeavors.
- Participate in the global dialog on sustainable development.
- Engage in all stages of the decision-making process, not only in the project execution phase.

Education, Training, and Development:

- Attract the best people to the fields of mining and minerals by encouraging, facilitating, and rewarding excellence.
- Build up and maintain a critical mass of engineering, technical, scientific, and academic capacity through improved education and training.
- Promote the teaching of sustainability principles in all engineering programs at all academic levels.
- Support and commit funding to the infrastructure that enables nations to provide mineral education, professional training, information, and research.
- Prevent the loss of core competencies.
- Encourage a global exchange in academic training, as well as apprenticeship and internships programs.

Communication:

- Support professional growth and interaction through books, articles, symposia, short courses, and conferences on minerals and mining in sustainable development.
- Share and disseminate to the public sound information, knowledge, and technology, including information on every aspect of minerals and mining, through print, electronic, and other appropriate media.
- Disseminate technical information on sustainable development and the role of the minerals, metals, and fuels in sustainable development, including information on the role of minerals in maintaining a high quality of life.
- Promote the achievements and capabilities of mineral community professionals to managers and executives, policy makers, and the general public.