

UNEA resolutions on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals

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Charlotte Ndakorerwa
Programme Management Officer
Industry and Economy Division, UNEP
Charlotte.ndakorerwa@un.org

UNEA 5/12 and UNEA 6/5 on “Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals (Management)”

- United Nations Environment Assembly at its 5th session adopted Resolution 5/12: “**Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management**”, March 2022 and a follow-up Resolution 6/5 at its 6th session in March 2024
- Focus on improving environmental aspects of mining and metals along their full life cycle
- Covers all minerals and metals, except mineral fuels



UNEA-5 resolution 12 “Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management”

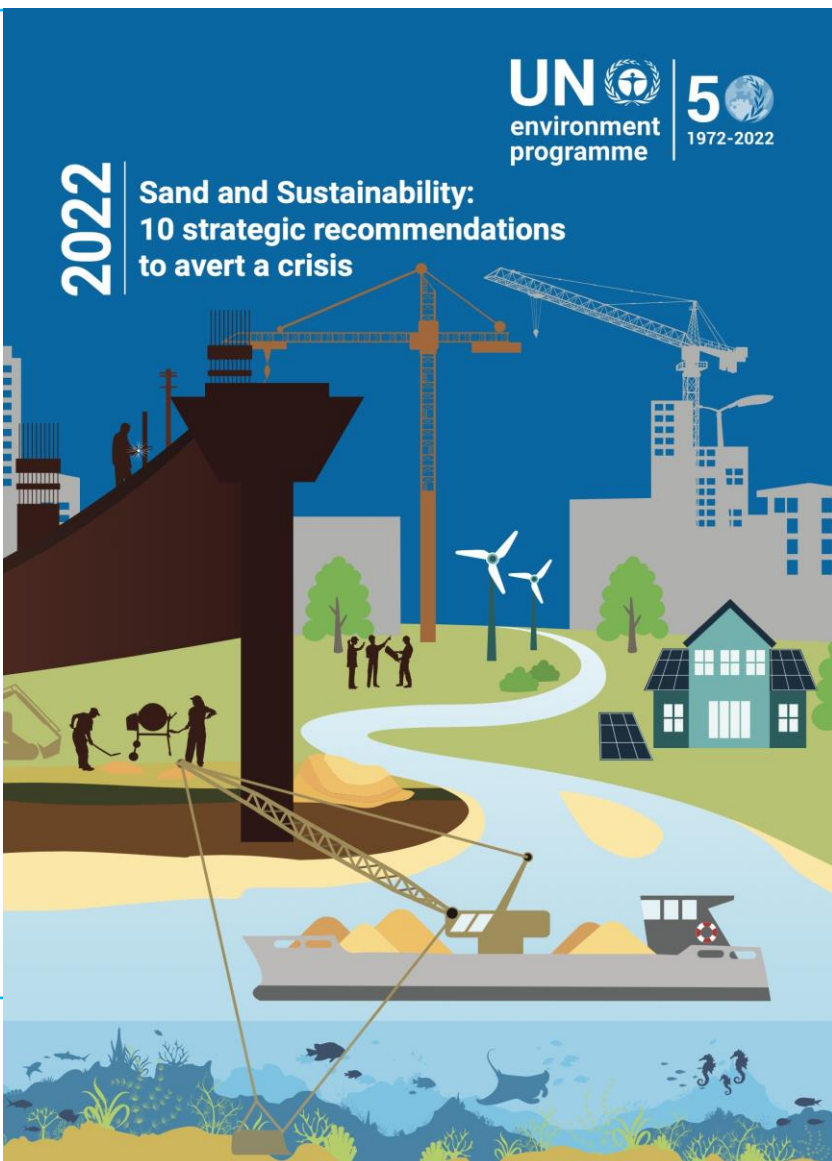
- “**...convene transparent and inclusive intergovernmental regional consultations**, including with relevant international organizations, with regional and multilateral environmental agreements, and with relevant stakeholders acting as observers, to feed into a global intergovernmental meeting, with the aim of developing non-prescriptive proposals to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full life cycle, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”
- Requests the Executive Director, (...) to **strengthen scientific, technical and policy knowledge with regard to sand**, and to support global policies and action regarding the environmentally sound extraction and use thereof;
- Also requests the Executive Director, (...), to **compile a report on knowledge gaps in relation to the environmental aspects of tailings management**;

UNEA Resolution 5/12 Intergovernmental Consultations - Process

- **National focal points:** 113 nominated government representatives.
- **Co-chairs:** appointed from Pakistan and Switzerland.
- **Outcome:** 24 non-prescriptive proposals on enhancing environmental sustainability of minerals and metals
- **Summary reports:** <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/initiatives/environmental-aspects-minerals-and-metals-management/>

Participants	Location	Date
Group of Eastern European Region States (EEG)	Geneva	24-25 April 2023
Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG)	Geneva	27-28 April 2023
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) – hosted by Chile	Santiago	17-18 May 2023
Group of Asia and Pacific States (AP)	Bangkok	15-16 June 2023
African Group of States (AG) – hosted by Senegal	Dakar	5-6 July 2023
Global Meeting	Geneva	7-8 September 2023

Knowledge products: Outcomes of UNEA-5 Resolution 12



Marine Sand Watch

<https://unepgrid.ch/en/marinesandwatch>



Knowledge Gaps in Relation to the Environmental Aspects of Tailings Management



Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management held pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 5/12, on 7-8 September 2023

UNEA-6 Resolution 5 “Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management”

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, in cooperation with Member States, including national focal points appointed pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/12, stakeholders and experts, while ensuring equitable regional balance, building on existing work and avoiding duplication, to:

(a) Establish a digital knowledge hub to compile, among other things, information on existing good practices relevant to the environmental aspects of minerals and metals and to share, as appropriate, that information with all Member States and stakeholders;

(b) Develop capacity-building opportunities relating to environmental aspects of minerals and metals with experts on the subject from each region, including but not limited to online training;

(c) Support enhanced cooperation among Member States to strengthen the policy, technological, technical and scientific elements of the management of environmental aspects of minerals and metals;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director, within the scope of available resources, to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant international and regional organizations and forums, and with relevant stakeholders, on environmental aspects of minerals and metals;

- Open-ended
- Report on progress at UNEA-7

OP 2 (a) UNEA 6/5 Digital Knowledge Hub

- **Objective:** To provide access to information and best practices on enhancing environmental sustainability of minerals and metals.
- User-friendly, interactive and inter-operable gateway.
- Now at advanced design stage :
 - Desk research and outreach to understand existing online landscape.
 - Survey to National Focal Points and stakeholders for needs identification: > 70 respondents
 - Collate UNEA4/19 and 5/12 data, knowledge and outcomes.
 - Content (UNEP, Member States and Partner Contributions)
 - Testing and Launch: August 2025
 - Full Hub functionalities (incl. upgrades/API/AI integration): November 2025

Working with Green Growth Knowledge Partnership as platform host.

Funding from the Government of Switzerland and the European Commission.

OP 2 (b) Capacity Building

- African Workshop, Nairobi – November 2024
 - Co-convened with AMDC and PACJA, with contribution from IGF.
 - Sessions on 5/12 outcomes, SEA/EIA, mine closure, ASM, and critical energy minerals.

- Future plans:
 - Developing online resources (for digital knowledge hub) e.g. African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System (AMREC) introductory course.
 - Planning in-person event for National Focal Points and stakeholders September 2025.



Group photo - Regional Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Environmental and Social Aspects of Critical Energy Transition Minerals (Green Minerals) and The African Mining Vision – 7-8 November 2024

UNEA resolution 6/5: OP 2 (c) Supporting enhanced cooperation among Member States

Online Communities of Practice

- Set up as part of the Digital Knowledge Hub
- Facilitate peer learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among stakeholders in the management of environmental aspects of minerals and metals.
- Serve as a discussion and networking platform for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and civil society.
- Provide real-time insights on best practices, policy developments, and emerging trends.
- The CoPs align with UNEA 6/5 OP 2(c): *“Support enhanced cooperation among Member States to strengthen the policy, technological, technical and scientific elements of the management of environmental aspects of minerals and metals.”*

UNEA resolution 6/5. OP 3: Strengthened cooperation between UNEP and relevant stakeholders

Building on existing and forging new partnerships, e.g.

- MOU with IGF, Strategic partner for capacity building (workshops, webinars) .
- Industry Partners: ICMM, Global Battery Alliance Investors: PRI (Principles for Responsible Investment)
- Civil Society: Earthworks, EEB, Global Witness, PACJA
- Standard Setters: IRMA, EITI, ISO, GRI
- African Minerals Development Centre (African Union).
- UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention.
- UN SG Panel on CETM



Elisa Tonda, UNEP, Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, IISD, and Greg Radford, IGF Secretariat, at the signing of the MOU between UNEP and IGF, 18 November 2024
Photo by IISD/ENB

Next Steps

New Digital Knowledge Hub features (OP 2a)

- Testing and Launch: **August 2025**
- Full Hub functionalities (incl. upgrades/API/AI integration): **November 2025**
- Engagement in the online Communities of Practice; Global meeting (OP 2c)

Capacity Building (OP 2b)

- Mobilizing resources for technical assistance and advisory services (to be delivered with partners eg UNEP GRID-Geneva, IGF) and developing project portfolio

Strengthened cooperation between UNEP and other Stakeholders

- Support implementation of actionable recommendations of the UN SG Panel on CETM