

Implementation of UNEA 5/12 Resolution on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management

CPR Subcommittee Meeting 7th November

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

The United Nations Environment Assembly at its 5th session adopted a resolution entitled “Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.12) which focusses on improving the environmental aspects of mining along their full life cycle and requests UNEP, subject to available resources, to:

OP2:

“...**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.”



**Intergovernmental
consultations**

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

OP4:

Requests the Executive Director, through the Global Resource Information Database (GRID-Geneva), 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;



Sand and sustainability

OP5:

Also requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, with the engagement of the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, and bearing in mind the launch of the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management, to **compile a report on knowledge gaps in relation to the environmental aspects of tailings management**;

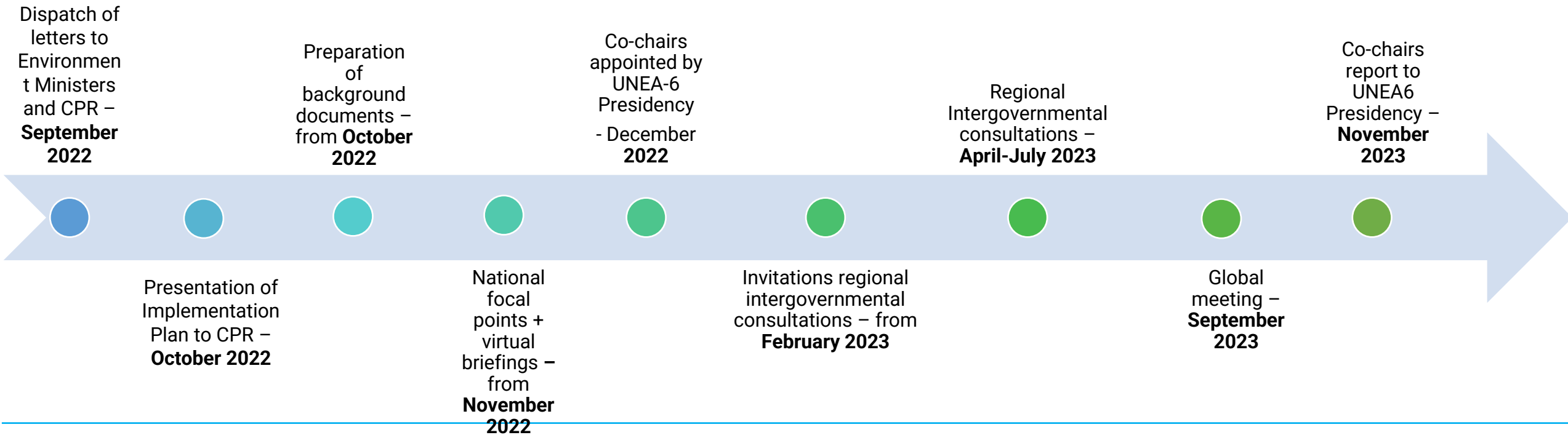


Tailings management

Component 1 (OP2): Intergovernmental Consultations – Timeline



Intergovernmental consultations





Intergovernmental consultations

Component 1 (OP2): Intergovernmental Consultations - Process

- **National focal points:** 113 nominated member State government representatives with relevant expertise.
- **Co-chairs:** appointed from Pakistan and Switzerland.
- **Background documents:** prepared and published on a dedicated web [platform](#).
- **Virtual briefings:** 7 webinars held to prepare for and consult on the planned meetings.
- **Written submissions:** 30 received, from States and observers.
- **Regional consultations and global meeting :**

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 Intergovernmental Meeting	Geneva	7-8 September 2023



Component 1(OP2): Intergovernmental Consultations - Outcomes

Development of 'non-prescriptive proposals'

- ❑ 24 'NPPs' arising from regional consultations.
- ❑ Global meeting enabled further discussion and streamlining.
- ❑ 4 thematic priorities emerged:
 - 1) A global assessment of existing instruments and standards;
 - 2) A global sand observatory;
 - 3) Open-ended / technical working group;
 - 4) Capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer;
 - 5) Enhanced international cooperation.

Summary of non-prescriptive proposals from the regional consultations

A. Policies and tools

<u>AG, AP, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 1. Global assessment of existing instruments	<u>AG</u> 2. International metal certifications	<u>AG, EEG, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 3. Establish a Global Sand Observatory	<u>AG, GRULAC</u> 4. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production, circular economy.	<u>AP, GRULAC</u> 5. Capacity building, technical assistance, transfer of know-how and support national implementation.	<u>AG</u> 6. Environmental peer reviews
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B. Minerals and metals along the entire life cycle

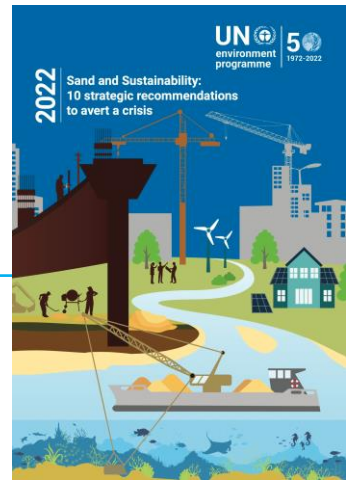
<u>AG</u> 7. Global mapping and classification of tailings facilities 8. Manual for design and construction of tailings facilities 9. Technical guideline and standards for safe and environmentally sound management of tailings facilities	<u>GRULAC</u> 10. Implementation of Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management 11. Mine closure criteria & guidelines 12. Re-development of mine sites	<u>WEOG</u> 13. Inter-agency collaboration on mine closure 14. Research on mine closure finance	<u>EEG</u> 15. Inventory of abandoned mine sites
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C. Platforms for international cooperation

<u>AG, GRULAC, WEOG</u> 16. Open-ended working Group	<u>AG, GRULAC</u> 17. UN-supported multi-stakeholder dialogues 18. Cooperation between international organisations	<u>AG</u> 19. Collaboration with the Minamata Convention.	<u>EEG, WEOG</u> 20. Collaboration with CBD on deep sea mining environmental safeguards	<u>GRULAC</u> 21. LAC network on mining and sustainability 22. Explore international agreement on <u>mining</u> 23. Implementation of Escazu Agreement 24. International SDGs mineral programme
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Component 2 (OP2 & OP4): Sand and Sustainability



- **Sand and Sustainability report:** On 26 April 2022, UNEP/GRID-Geneva launched the '[Sand and sustainability: 10 strategic recommendations to avert a crisis](#)'.

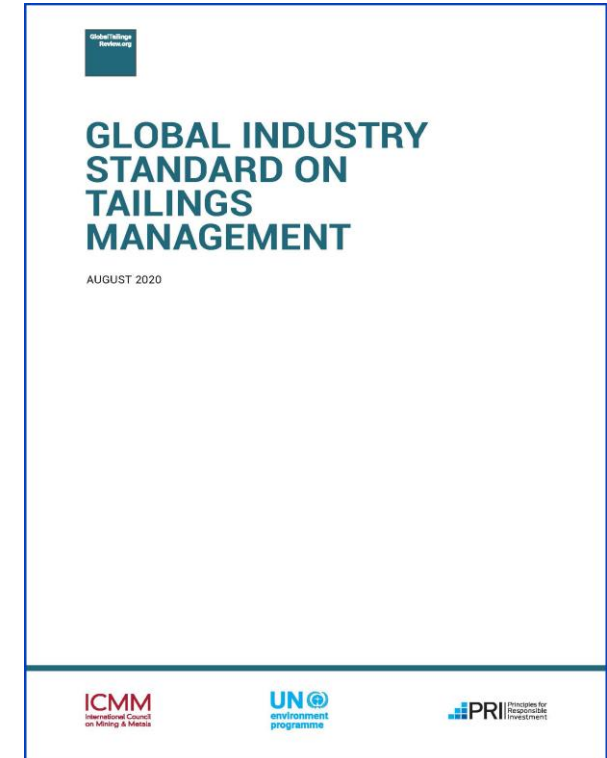
- **Marine Sand Watch:** In September 2023, UNEP/GRID-Geneva, Global Fishing Watch and other partners launched a world-first public data platform '[Marine Sand Watch](#)', to track marine dredging activities.



- **UNEA Res.5/12 Intergovernmental process:** Sand was a specific agenda item at the meetings, which led to a non-prescriptive proposal for the establishment of a **Global Sand Observatory**.
 - Subject to member States consideration and decision, the observatory would possibly support countries in raising awareness, developing knowledge and taking decisions to improve sustainability of sand extraction and use.



- **UNEA Res.5/12 Intergovernmental process:** tailings management was a specific agenda item during the intergovernmental consultation meetings. Over 150 comments relating to tailings knowledge gaps were recorded from participants, during robust information exchange.
- **Report on knowledge gaps on mine tailings management:** Requested under UNEA Res. 5/12 (OP5) and under development.
- **Building on past achievements:** the report will draw from the oral and written submissions made during the 5/12 intergovernmental process as well as build upon the Global Tailings Review, the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management, and the Global Tailings Portal, previously initiated by UNEP and partners.
- **Consultations:** Virtual workshops involving the Res. 5/12 national focal points and experts will be undertaken to inform the report development (14 November).
- **UNEA 6:** Report will be made available as an information document for the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.



Resources

UNEA resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39927/ENVIRONMENTAL%20ASPECTS%20OF%20MINERALS%20AND%20METALS%20MANAGEMENT.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

All the papers relating to the Res.5/12 intergovernmental process:

<https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/initiatives/environmental-aspects-minerals-and-metals-management/Intergovernmental%20meetings>

UNEP report Sand and Sustainability: 10 Strategic Recommendations to Avert a Crisis:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/sand-and-sustainability-10-strategic-recommendations-avert-crisis>

Marine Sand Watch: <https://unepgrid.ch/en/marinesandwatch>

Global Tailings Portal: <https://tailing.grida.no/>

Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management: <https://globaltailingsreview.org/global-industry-standard/>

Compendium of papers prepared for the Global Tailings Review: <https://globaltailingsreview.org/compendium/>

Thank you
