



CONCEPT NOTE

VALIDATION WORKSHOP / EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM)

On

Artisanal & Small-scale Mining (ASM) research study profiling selected countries to assess enabling environments for Africa Mining Vision (AMV) implementation in the ASM sector.

Dates: April 7th – 8th, 2016

Venue: ECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Organized by: Special Initiatives Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)



1. Organizational Summary

The Centre is currently hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as part of its Special Initiatives Division (SID). AMDC was established in 2013 at the behest of African Union Heads of State and Government, following their adoption of the Africa Mining Vision in 2009. The Centre provides strategic operational support and coordination for the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and its Action Plan. AMDC operates under the leadership of the African Union Commission (AUC). Its main implementing partners include African Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme.

Working with AU member States, national, regional and global stakeholders, AMDC systematically fosters the transformative role of mineral resources in Africa's development, through increased economic and social linkages. Coherently anchored in the AMV's strategic paradigm, AMDC's seven workstreams (Policy & Licensing; Geological and Mineral Information Systems; Governance & Participation; Artisanal & small-scale mining; Linkages, investment and diversification; Human & Institutional Capacities; and Communications & Advocacy) span the minerals value chain and methodically factors in the political economy of the minerals sector.

2. Meeting Background

This meeting follows an AMDC research study that profiled ASM in Africa. Recognizing the need for better understanding of the sector in line with implementation of the African Mining Vision (AMV), the study endeavored to map Africa's ASM landscape, factoring in three main areas that span ASM exploration, mining and processing, i.e., Governance/legal and fiscal framework and institutions; ASM benefits (economic, social, financial, and infrastructural); and negative impacts (environmental, physical, social & cultural). Key drivers and challenges were also assessed, in order to recommend solutions aimed at enabling AMV operationalization in the ASM sector; an overarching goal for the ASM programme cluster in the AMV is a "mining sector that harnesses the potential of artisanal and small-scale mining to stimulate local/national entrepreneurship, improve livelihoods and advance integrated rural social and economic development".

The study involved collection and analysis of data, profiling ASM in Africa, based on field evidence from 16 countries across four African Union geographic regions, i.e., *Central* (CAR, Chad, DRC); *East* (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda); *Southern* (Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe); and *West* (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria).

3. Objective

The main objective of this validation workshop/EGM is to conduct a review and validation exercise for the ASM study¹ that was carried out by AMDC. The primary focus of the study was to profile various African countries with a view to assessing the extent to which their ASM sectors can support implementation of the AMV. The review will therefore constitute a distinct outcome of this workshop, to ensure that the report can subsequently be enhanced and finalized.

In addition to reviewing the study, this workshop/EGM is aimed at providing a forum for structured discussion on practical and strategic considerations that will help shape AMDC's subsequent engagement in the ASM sector, in a manner that is consistent with AMV goals and realistic about the areas in which AMDC's contribution to the ASM sector would present a distinct value proposition. In this regard, another distinct outcome of the workshop/EGM would be the recommendation of feasible entry points for AMDC to carry out targeted initiative(s) that advance the Centre's goals for the ASM sector. This forward-looking aspect of the workshop/EGM reflects an understanding that in terms of critical success factors for AMV implementation, ASM presents some distinct challenges, which require tailor-made approaches.

This validation workshop/EGM will thus consist of two segments, i.e., review of the draft ASM study; and structured discussions on strategic options for the Centre's ASM work, going forward.

4. Participants

Participants will include individual and institutional experts from academia, government, civil society and United Nations or other international bodies (please note that the relevant logistical, administrative and substantive reference information has been sent to all participants). Moreover, in addition to expected Presenters², Discussants, Session Chairs, Working Group Facilitators and Resource Persons have been designated (*bios are included with the Meeting Agenda*).

¹ The draft report from this study is a key reference material/document for this validation workshop/EGM. Pending updates to be made after this validation workshop/EGM, the **unedited and unrevised draft report** is available to all workshop participants.

² Presenters should please send soft copies of their presentations to AMDC **by 2 p.m. (EAT) on Weds. 6 April, 2016.**