



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECA**  
Economic Commission for Africa

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**DESA**  
Department for Economic and Social Affairs

**Seminar on**  
**ARTISANAL & SMALL-SCALE MINING**  
**IN AFRICA:**

**IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES & BUILDING THE**  
**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS OF COMMUNITIES**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Yaoundé, Cameroon  
19-22 November 2002

## « YAOUNDE VISION STATEMENT »

**Contribute to sustainably reduce poverty and improve livelihood in African Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities by the year 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals.**

### **GOALS:**

- Acknowledge and reflect the ASM sectorial issues in national legislation, and codes;
- Mainstream poverty reduction strategies into mining policy inclusive of ASM policies.
- Integrate ASM policy into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process with linkages to other rural sectors, and develop a strategic framework for PRSPs
- Revisit existing thinking on ASM legislation (traditional land rights, and modern land use legislation nexus) and role of central government;
- Strengthen Institutions:
  - Improve the availability of appropriate technologies
  - Develop analytical & business skills
- Undertake necessary reforms of the ASM sector: Improve policies, institutions, processes and the ASM stakeholders' livelihood, reduce child labour, ensure gender equality, improve health and safety, develop partnerships, promote sustainable use of natural resources, infrastructure development and land use management.

### **THE CHALLENGES facing the ASM sector**

- Dwindling rural livelihood choices in a marginal environment and in remote regions.
- Increasing number of people seeking a livelihood in ASM.
- Limited public budgets & competing needs.
- Increasing poverty exacerbated by HIV/AIDS/STDs, natural disasters, etc.
- Increasing use of child labour
- Severe gender inequality
- Increasing pressure on available resources (institutions, land, mineral resources, etc.)

## **WHAT TO DO:** for Governments and Development Partners <sup>1</sup>

- Formalize government commitment to ASM issues.
- Revisit mining policies in order to assess their capacity as an engine for poverty alleviation (link to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process).
- Increase the profile of ASM in International Financial Organizations (IFIs) and donor agencies
- Undertake necessary reform of the ASM sector:
  - Ensure appropriate legislation for ASM: Acknowledge and reflect ASM sector in national legislation, and codes;
  - Revisit existing ASM policies and legislation with implication to traditional land rights on modern land use legislation and role of central government; Update rules, regulations, and legislation.
  - Adopt appropriate and enforceable Health & Safety guidelines
  - Adopt appropriate and enforceable Environmental guidelines
  - Establish partnerships with NGOs (i.e., BPD – Care International, etc.)
  - Ensure gender equality
  - Launch child labour reduction programmes
  - Provide credit facilities, and co-operative saving schemes. Make available credit and loans schemes, micro credit, and credit co-operatives
  - Ensure free and equitable markets
- Improve the availability of appropriate technologies
- Facilitate Institutional Strengthening and Community Training:
  - Ascertain areas suitable for ASM activities (better knowledge of mineral resources) and improve the methods of exploration, extraction processing and marketing so as to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of ASM as a business venture
  - Community health issues: establish HIV/AIDS and STDs general community health awareness programmes
  - Awareness to sustainable livelihood of communities.
- Stimulate stakeholders' partnership (government as all levels, NGOs, banking organizations, professional organizations, mining companies, etc...)

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- Governments (national, local)
- ASM communities and CBOs
- Opinion leaders
- IFIs and donor agencies
- NGOs, private sector
- Academia, public institutions
- Banks

- Identify alternative livelihoods strategies realizing that ASM is a finite venture
  - Integrate ASM sector into rural community development programmes
  - Stimulate capacity-building, and technical and organizational development
  - Facilitate access to basic social services and transport infrastructure development
  - Streamline marketing channels
  
- Facilitate community-led activities:
  - Sensitization and empowerment campaign to promote community organization and micro-business development:
  - Develop analytical & business skills.
  - Establish ASM co-operatives and associations
  - Community-based saving plans for productive investment
  - Remove gender-based constraints and the identify women leaders to stimulate alternative income generating activities
  - Health cooperative for prevention and care of sick people, particularly those living with HIV/AIDS.
  - Raise awareness, have more stringent law enforcement and monitoring coupled with the generation of alternative income opportunities,
  - Family support service and the provision of affordable education to reduce child labour on ASM sites
  - Build community based partnerships with local authorities and local private sector, and opinion leaders.

**TASKS  
FOR INTERNATIONAL STAKE HOLDERS  
(Private sector, IFI, donors, NGOs)**

- Identify and disseminate best/good practices regulations (Pan-African)(CASM)
- Present the recommendations/vision statement of the Yaoundé Seminar to the WB/EIR Regional consultative workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, 13 January 2003 (UNECA – UNDESA)
- Establish a Yaoundé communication network through CASM and encourage other countries to join (March 2003)
- Identify available resources for ASM support (CASM)
- Review existing baseline surveys to assess relevance to “Yaoundé vision statement” in selected countries (CASM and UNDESA, September 2003)
- CASM AGM and learning event in Africa, September 2003
- Identify key stakeholders (affected, interested, beneficiaries, providers, developers, donors) to build the Yaoundé Network by August 2003
- Establish an inter-agency (UNAIDS, UNDESA, ECA, etc.) working group on HIV/AIDS in mining by August 2003

**NATIONAL LEVEL TASKS FOR  
STAKEHOLDERS, GOVERNEMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR,  
NGOs/CBOs**

- Lobby and increase the profile of ASM issues within governments and the LSM private sector and country (ASM organizations)
- Convene national workshops:
  - Build partnerships with government and the private sector
  - Baseline survey – identify key issues, both positive and negative and establish common benchmarks
- Collate, consolidate existing information (Government)
  - Liaise with global ASM networks (e.g.CASM)

Deadline: September 2003