

AFRICAN MINING PARTNERSHIP (AMP)

**Second Plenary Meeting of the African Mining Partnership
Cape, Town,
7 February 2005**

Communiqué

Following the Executive Committee meeting held in Cairo, Egypt on the 21st July 2004, the second AMP Plenary meeting attended by Ministers from **Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe** was held in Cape Town on 7 February 2005. Representatives from Canada, Sweden and from the mining industry also attended. During the meeting, it was reiterated that member states should continue to show commitment in pursuing ways that will facilitate the implementation of adopted projects. The countries represented also reiterated their commitment in continuing to pursue ways in which mining and minerals industry can significantly contribute to poverty reduction and its subsequent eradication. The meeting, after reviewing the progress made thus far on the projects studies, concluded as follows:

- **Beneficiation**

The identified joint project between Mali, Ghana and South Africa be initiated in March 2005, and similar projects be implemented in other member countries such as Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Swaziland. Congo Republic.

- **Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining;**

A review of existing strategies on financing and marketing should be finalised so that best practices be developed and tested in selected countries;

In addressing health, safety and environmental hazards, the two identified field trials will commence in Ghana and Mali before the end of February 2005.

African geological surveys should form an association that will, among others, look into problems associated with establishment of a database on available geoscience information and regulatory framework;

- **Environment / Sustainable Development;**

Cooperation with NEPAD infrastructure initiative in capturing mineral potential within infrastructure development areas to be established by October 2005.

- **Human Resource Development;**

Utilise and create centres of excellence (African institutions of mining) in member states.

- **Promoting foreign investment and indigenous / local participation in mining ventures;**

Member States should adopt and implement strategies that have a great potential to attract foreign investment and promote indigenous/local participation in mining ventures;

A preliminary analysis of possible extensions of Marine Exclusive Economic Zones of African coastal states has been completed and a workshop is planned for March 2005 in Cape Town, to discuss the report and methodologies followed.

The meeting acknowledged the progress made in of the above-mentioned projects. They also invited other project leaders to bring the level of their projects to the level of those that were endorsed.

The meeting noted with concern the MIASA report on the European Union's (EU) Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) proposal, which imposes wide-ranging requirements for all substances imported into Europe. This policy, although conceived for synthetic and organic chemicals may have serious unintended consequences for several minerals. Taking into account the importance of mineral resources for African countries; the AMP member states want to ensure that the outcome of REACH will not create obstacles to the economic development and poverty reduction strategies of African states. The meeting requested the AMP secretariat to do further work on the issues raised.

The meeting acknowledged the presentation done by the representatives of AngloGold Ashanti, the DeBeers group, the Canadian Council on Africa and Lazare Kaplan International Inc. and took note of the issues raised. The Ministers would like to follow up on concrete proposals and more work needs to be done.

The meeting encouraged Member States to continue supporting the Inter-Governmental Forum on mining/minerals/metals and sustainable development and invites AMP members that have not considered membership to consider doing so.