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C E P A L

Economic Commission for Latin America

Meeting on Horizontal Co-operation for the Development of the Mineral Resources of Latin America, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) and the Colombian Mining Corporation (ECOMINAS)

Bogotá, Colombia, 14-18 June 1982



ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. BACKGROUND

Latin America is very well endowed with various minerals and for many years has played an important role as world supplier of certain mining products. In addition, the mining sector has traditionally played a significant role in the socio-economic development of various countries of the region, especially as a source of foreign currency. Moreover, the contribution of this sector to the gross domestic product and to employment is considerable in some countries.

The constant demand for minerals at the world level makes it necessary for the region to make increasingly strong efforts to increase the Latin American supply of these products, not only to maintain its present level of participation on the international markets but also to increase it, including a higher degree of elaboration of mineral products.

Some countries of the region have achieved considerable development in the mining sector, becoming world leaders in the production of some minerals such as copper, tin, iron and bauxite. The valuable knowledge acquired by these countries on the different steps involved in the development of mining (geological-mining prospecting, exploitation, extractive metallurgy, etc.) could be exchanged with, as well as distributed to other countries of the region which, for various reasons, have not made greater progress in this sector.

/The international

The international community has been concerned in recent years with promoting programmes of development of national resources and co-operation between different countries, adopting in this respect numerous resolutions and recommendations. Among them should be mentioned United Nations General Assembly resolutions 3461 (XXX) and 3616 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1954 (LIX). For its part, UNCTAD, with special reference to the Integrated Programme for Commodities, in its resolution 93 (V) promotes a series of measures designed to improve the position of the commodity-exporting countries, among them that of various minerals. Finally, the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries should be especially noted.

CEPAL, for its part, in its resolutions 379 (XVII) of 1977 and 384 (XVIII), 386 (XVIII) and 388 (XVIII) of 1979, has noted the need to promote actions and carry out basic and prospective studies of regional or subregional interest on:

- The importance and planning of the development of natural resources.
- The needs for investment and its financial requirements.
- Mutual co-operation among countries and their organizations, and the contribution to professional training of government technicians.
- The development of policies for the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources and the promotion of actions to facilitate agreements among producer countries.

To fulfil these mandates and recommendations, CEPAL has carried out some specific studies on the subject and has constantly examined the main events and trends in the mining sector of the region in its annual studies and in two regional evaluation exercises of the International Development Strategy. Moreover, it recently held consultations with some governments of the region to find out what their interest is in promoting further collaboration in the mining field. As a result of these mandates, recommendations and consultations, a project was formulated designed to activate horizontal co-operation in the mining sector of the region.

As a first step, CEPAL proposes to hold a meeting, which is the basic activity of this project.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. General objectives

To promote co-operation between the public and private bodies of the countries of the region which are interested in the development of mineral resources for the purpose of expanding and improving their use, and to exchange experiences in the different aspects related to the prospection, extraction, processing and marketing of mining products.

2. Specific objectives

(a) To discuss the proposals or ideas for bilateral co-operation projects submitted by the mining enterprises of the countries, for the purpose of achieving preliminary agreements which may later be perfected and put into practice.

(b) To identify areas of regional or subregional horizontal co-operation designed to initiate a process which will serve either to satisfy the common needs of the region or certain areas, or to strengthen their bargaining capacity with third countries.

(c) To define ways and means of reaching reciprocal co-operation agreements and their implementation.

(d) To make known aspects of the evolution and prospects of the mining sector at the national level referred to by delegates and to highlight the role of public bodies in the development of the sector and some specific aspects of outstanding events in mining activity at the national or regional level.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be attended by officials and specialists of the governments or public enterprises connected with the mining policies and activities of the country. Since in some countries a large part of the mining activity is in the hands of the private sector, each government will determine the suitability of directly inviting organizations from this sector to attend the meeting as participants and observers.

/The presentations

The presentations by participants are optional. Each delegation desiring to participate in this should bring with it 30 or more copies of its work to be distributed during the meeting. It is recommended that the presentation should not last more than 30 minutes.

The topics to be treated will be related to the experiences acquired by the countries of the region in the area of mining development. These include everything from geological aspects to mineral marketing. They may include the following subtopics:

- (i) Evolution and prospects of the national mining sector.
- (ii) Role and importance of the bodies and enterprises of the public sector in the development of mining resources.
- (iii) Specific topics of mining development, which may include national, regional or world aspects.

One or more of these topics will be discussed in plenary meetings. The titles of the topics mentioned above are merely indicative, and thus the participants may include other points they consider of interest for the successful development of the meeting.

IV. NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Election of Officers

The meeting will be governed by the relevant parts of the CEPAL Rules of Procedure. The officers will consist of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and the Rapporteur, who will be elected at the first plenary session.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda and programme of work will be adopted at the first plenary session.

Item 3. Presentations on topics related to the mining and metallurgical sector in Latin America

- (a) General consideration of the proposal for horizontal co-operation projects in Latin America.
- (b) Evolution and prospects of the mining sector in Latin America.
- (c) Seven basic metals of Latin America: supply and demand.

/(d) General

(d) General and specific guidelines for the development of the mining and metallurgical industry of Latin America.

(e) Economic co-operation between Brazil and the Andean Group: the case of non-ferrous minerals and metals.

Item 4. Presentations on experiences in the development of the mining and metallurgical sector by countries

(a) Mexico: The relationship between exploration activities and increases in mineral production in Mexico.

(b) Peru: Problems and experiences in the entrepreneurial organization of the public mining sector of Peru.

(c) Panama: Experiences in the negotiations with transnational corporations for exploiting the Cerro Colorado copper deposit in Panama.

(d) Other countries.

Item 5. Study and report of the working committees on possible horizontal co-operation projects in the area of mining and metallurgy

Item 6. Analysis and determination of the possible forms of co-ordination and means of implementation of horizontal co-operation projects

Item 7. Conclusions

