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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
3<sup>rd</sup> ORDINARY SESSION  
13th – 17 November, 2013  
Maputo - Mozambique**

**AU/DTI/CAMMRD-3/AM  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

## **Leveraging the Africa Mining Vision for Africa's Renaissance towards broader ownership**

### **AIDE-MÉMOIRE**

## **I. Introduction**

Mining can contribute to economic development in several ways; foreign direct investment, employment, government revenues, foreign exchange earnings, innovation and development of related sectors through diversification, beneficiation as well as infrastructure investments.

The mineral sector is characterized by complex relationships and competing demands, rights, and claims. Successful exploitation of mineral resources is dependent on good governance, macro economic stability, clear policies and strategies, good regulations and effective institutions. Additionally, revenue transparency, the protection of affected peoples' rights, benefit sharing and rigorous environmental and social standards, are all important.

The growing demand for minerals and their increased exploitation has brought new challenges to African governments and local communities in mineral dependent economies. These include increased revenue management, social change, high community expectations, and conflicts. Furthermore, with rising pressures exerted by civil society and other stakeholders for an equitable share of benefits, and the maximization of local impacts to promote sustainable development, there has been a shift towards a more societal oriented development mining sector that emphasises improved social well being, livelihood security, and reduced vulnerability of local communities.

To address these challenges, the AU Executive Council, in Decision No. EX.CL/Dec. 368 (XI), instituted a statutory Conference for the African Union Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development with the aim of developing common and consistent positions on issues pertaining to the management of Africa's mineral resources.

The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) has taken deliberate steps to address challenges in the mineral sector, inter alia, the formulation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and its Action Plan and endorsement to establish an African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) to provide strategic technical support capacity for implementing the Action Plan for AMV.

In October 2008, the first Session of AU Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, considered the AMV as a strategic framework for the management of Africa's mineral resources in order to promote growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development in Africa. The AU Heads of State and government, at their assembly in Addis in February 2009, welcomed the AMV and requested the "AU Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development to develop a concrete action plan for its realization".

In December 2011, the Second AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, approved the

Action Plan for the implementation of AMV, and through their Declaration on Building a sustainable future for Africa's extractive industry – from Vision to Action, endorsed it as the “continental tool for guiding the prudent, transparent and efficient development and management of Africa's mineral resources”. The Ministers further endorsed the proposal to establish a Mineral Development Centre to provide strategic technical support capacity to AU/NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States for the implementation of the Action Plan and hence the AMV. Following this directive, the AU Commission in close collaboration with Member States of the Second Bureau of CAMRMRD, UNECA and other development partners have developed a Draft Business Plan for the establishment of African Mineral Development Center (AMDC).

This conference is expected to discuss, among other issues, the following aspects of the AMDC: structure, mandates, ownership, governance, financing, roles of the stakeholders and the final form of the AMDC. In addition, the Third Session of African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development will identify priority areas for Africa to fast track the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision.

## **II. Theme of the Conference**

The Conference has become the premier forum on the continent for African Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources to address issues related to the development of the mineral resources in the continent. This year's session will be held under the theme: “Leveraging the Africa Mining Vision for Africa's Renaissance towards broader ownership”. There will also be a subtheme on “Mineral Resources Governance and community Engagement”. The theme has been deliberately chosen to deepen the participation by member States and their institutions in the implementation of the AMV.

## **III. Objective of the Conference**

The purpose of this Ministerial Conference is to bring together AU Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, African experts in mining and natural resources development to brainstorm together on how African countries could design and implement effective strategies and policies of Mineral Resources through the African Mining Vision. Such policies and strategies include for example the promotion of value addition and economic transformation, and reduce dependence on commodity exports, thus promoting sustainable long-term growth. This will ensure that the benefits of such growth are widely shared in order to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living for all Africans.

The specific objectives of the Third AU conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development will include:

- Propose to African leaders approaches and policy options on the execution of the Action Plan for AMV with the aim to promote sustainable development in Africa in line with 2015 Development Agenda and 2063 Africa's agenda;
- Reflect on the adequacy, relevancy and gaps in the Business Plan for the AMDC as an institutional framework which seeks to support the implementation of the AMV;
- Enhance ownership and participation of Member States and Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of the Action Plan for AMV and enhance the understanding of its implications on Africa's mineral development; and
- Launch the African Mineral Development Centre as a project
- Consider modalities to strengthen forward planning and information exchange on the Action Plan for AMV among Member states and stakeholders;

The Experts in their official session will prepare and adopt a concise report on the main recommendations, Declaration and decision of their meeting, and submit it to the Conference for adoption.

#### **IV. Date and Venue**

The Third AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 in Maputo-Mozambique.

#### **V. Programme**

The draft agenda of the Third Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development is attached here to as annex I.

#### **VI. Organizer**

The Second AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development is being jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), Republic of Mozambique and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

#### **VII. Participation**

The Conference will be attended by African Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for mineral resources development, AUC and RECs' officials. Participants will also be drawn from a broad spectrum of stakeholders including, Economic Partners, representatives of UN agencies, African private sector, chambers of mines and industry, NGOs and CSOs, AfDB, and the World Bank.

All participants/delegations are required to send their confirmations not later than 18 November, 2013 to the Conference organizer using the contact details provided below. To facilitate communication and correspondence, the following details of participants should be provided:- full names, titles, positions, organizations and contact addresses including telephone, fax and e-mail.

### **VIII. Format of the Conference**

The Two days' senior official meeting will be organized in plenary sessions. All thematic issues will be discussed in the plenary sessions. To deepen discussions, presentations will highlight challenges, expected outcomes and policy recommendations on the items indicated in the draft agenda.

The two-day Ministerial Session will consider the work of the Senior Officials and take appropriate decisions that will provide the necessary political guidance on the way forward in the implementation of the Action Plan for AMV, among others

A number of background documents will assist the Conference in its deliberations. These include the Africa Mining Vision AMV, the Action Plan for the Implementation of Africa Mining Vision, the Business Plan for African Mineral Resources Development AMDC, and the "Strategic Programme of the AU Commission 2014-2017. The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will serve as inputs for the preparation of a Draft Declaration and Plan of Action for the management of Africa's mineral resources.

### **IX. Financial Arrangements**

Expenses related to travel, accommodation, medical, insurance, hospitalization, loss/damage to personal property and other expenses incurred by participants will be borne by their respective country or organization.

### **X. Travel Arrangements**

All participants will be responsible for their own travel and visa arrangements. It is advisable that all participants make their travel and visa arrangements latest by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **XI. Hotel Arrangements**

All Conference delegates, apart from Ministers should make their own accommodation arrangement. All the hotels around Maputo are notified of the Conference. A list of hotels together with contact numbers is attached. Each participant should inform the organizers of his/her flight details, including expected time of arrival in Mozambique. The organizers will provide transport (shuttle) for the delegates, to and from their respective hotels during the duration of the Conference.

## **XII. Contact Persons**

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