

Intervention in the Thematic Area of Mining

CSD-18

Distinguished Chair,

Thank you Chair for allowing me to present my delegation's views on the issue of mining. We fully appreciate and value the Report brought out by the Secretary General on the subject.

We have a broad based mining Industry in India which has made significant contribution to the livelihood of millions and fuelled our economic growth and development. Secretary General's report mentions that mining activities in a number of cases have generated few or limited benefits to producing countries in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction; our experience, Mr. Chairman has been somewhat different. True, we do have socio-economic issues to address which have sprung up due to non-sustainable and intensive mining practices. We are working to establish greater forward linkages with indigenous mineral and metal industry to make mining a sustainable activity.

We agree with the assertion in the Report that the legacy of abandoned mining sites and quarries bears witness to the unsatisfactory environmental performance of the industry in the past. To our understanding, this problem needs to be tackled right at the point when environmental clearances are being granted for mining projects. India has successfully evolved a robust system of environmental clearance with effective checks and balances including for mining in forested areas. We do, however, recognize that the implementation of the monitoring conditions stipulated in these clearances require greater efforts. Since mining activities are mostly carried out in remote and far-flung areas, institutional

innovation and creation of empowered monitoring authorities along with a system of quick judicial redressal has to be evolved to take care of issues at hand.

We are aware that reclamation and restoration of land after mine closure remains a challenge. Capacity building of mining companies along with greater adoption of corporate social responsibility and technology application would be helpful in rectifying the situation. We have seen the efficacy of GIS/GPS based monitoring mechanisms for effective regulation in such projects.

Thank you.