

Canada, May 4/06.

NOTES FOR THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION AT CSD 14 (2006)

Industrial development and sustainable natural resource management

Thursday, May 4th, 15:00 – 18:00 Rm 2

Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian delegation is pleased to have the opportunity to share its experiences in promoting industrial development based on sustainable natural resource management. We believe that natural resources endowment provides a fundamental opportunity for poverty alleviation if production and use of resources are carried out in a manner consistent with sustainable development principles.

Almost all countries, have access to some mineral resources which makes them an important focus for development. In order to maximize the contribution of mineral resources to society, good governance and competitiveness are two key factors in a successful sustainable development strategy. In many countries, poor governance has hindered the contribution of minerals and other natural resources to society.

With good governance, mining investment can spur wider industrial development and sustainable economic growth. It can do so in remote regions that would have little development alternatives. That has been shown in countries like Canada, Australia and Chile among others. Beyond the income generated by mining, development also flows from investment in infrastructure (roads, energy, water, etc), in training and education, in medical care, and the stimulation of private business in local communities. *of workers* *for communities* *SMEs*

As a global leader in mining, Canada has taken initiatives in promoting good governance in the management of mineral resources. It is with this in mind that Canada actively supported the establishment of regional intergovernmental associations like the Africa Mining Partnership and of the Mines Ministries of the Americas.

At the global level, Canada and South Africa co-sponsored the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development. The Forum, created as a partnership at the WSSD, now has 35 member countries, and provides a framework to discuss the opportunities provided by mining, minerals and metals,

and to respond to the challenges they pose. Members meet to share experiences and information, to consider and to provide advice and, where appropriate, make recommendations for consideration by governments, intergovernmental bodies and others. These recommendations will identify best practices in dealing with the challenges mineral resources development pose to sustainable development as well as the development opportunities they provide.

In addition to Canada, the Forum has received the active support from a number of donors that include multilateral agencies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to share some of Canada's experiences in addressing the opportunities and challenges in promoting industrial development in relation to sustainable natural resource management.

Thank you.