ICSG
Information Circular

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002):
Outcomes of Relevance to the Copper Sector

October 2002

Notice: The information contained in this document is intended to provide an overview of the outcomes of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, as it affects the copper industry. This paper is provided for reference purposes only. References to sites, companies, and agencies are for information purposes only.

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World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg 2002
- Outcomes of relevance for the copper sector -

1. Introduction

The purpose of the WSSD is to:
- Evaluate the results achieved over the last ten years
- Identify obstacles to progress
- Provide impetus for specific action towards global sustainability
- Identify concrete steps and quantifiable targets to improve the implementation of Agenda 21 identify new areas for action

Because of the number of issues to be addressed at the Summit, it is rare for any one to be treated in-depth. Instead, issues are captured in a political statement and/or a program or plan of action, setting in motion a process for governments to implement at a later date.

2. The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development

The declaration reaffirms the commitment to sustainable development of the representatives while including, among others, commitments relating to
- Recognition of the collective responsibility to address SD issues
- Recognition of the key objectives “poverty eradication”, “changing consumption and production patterns” and “protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development”
- Promotion of dialogue and cooperation
- Recognition of contribution of the private sector to the evolution of equitable and sustainable communities and societies
- Commitment to the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

3. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

The presented plan of implementation will further build on the achievements made since UNCED and expedite the realization of the remaining goals. To this end, representatives commit themselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio Principles.

Regulatory Environment

Producers

- Social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems
- Reduction of resource degradation, pollution and waste.
- Specific activities, tools, policies, measures and monitoring and assessment mechanisms (including life-cycle analysis and national indicators)
- Dialogue between enterprises, communities and other stakeholders
Financial Institutions

- Encouragement of financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations into their decision-making processes

Regulators

- Integrated SD approach to decision-making at all levels
- Internalization of environmental costs including polluter-pays-principle
- Public procurement policies regarding environmentally sound goods and services
- Capacity-building and training
- Environmental impact assessment procedures

Policies

Access to drinking water

- Halving proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water by 2015

Energy Efficiency

- Integration of energy considerations, including energy efficiency, affordability and accessibility, into socio-economic programmes
- Focus on major energy-consuming sectors and long-lived energy consuming infrastructures

Recycling and End-of-Life Management

- Prevention and minimization of adverse effects on the environment
- Improvement of resource efficiency
- Financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries.
- Priority of waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling
- Production of reusable consumer goods and biodegradable products

Chemicals Management and Hazardous Waste Management

- Sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle
- Minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment
- Transparent science-based risk assessment/management procedures
- Precautionary approach
- Ratification/implementation of international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste
- Globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals
- Prevention of damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes (e.g. Basel Convention)
- National pollutant release and transfer registers
- Announcement of a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities by 2004
- Reduction of risks posed by heavy metals
- Phase out of lead in lead-based paints and other sources of human exposure

**Mining of minerals and metals**

**Exploration (Access to Resources)**

- Initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity
- Development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors;

**Extraction**

- Life cycle approach for minerals and metals
- Transparency and accountability
- Participation of stakeholders throughout the life cycles of mining operations
- Financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded sites.
- Effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks for mining in Africa

**Processing (Tailings Pond Management)**

- Cooperation in risk assessment and disaster management regarding major technological and other disasters
4. Partnerships/Initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21

Partnerships and initiatives to implement Agenda 21 are expected to become one of the major outcomes of the WSSD. These “second type” of outcomes would consist of a series of commitments and action-oriented coalitions focused on deliverables and would contribute in translating political commitments into action. An indicative list of areas for launching partnerships has been presented and Committee and the Summit will lend support to these partnerships and initiatives. Initiatives with particular relevance for copper widely focus on mining activities and include initiatives such as:

- **Global dialogue of Governments on Mining/Metals and Sustainable Development** (Canada, South Africa, Namibia to date): Framework to address SD issues relevant to mining and metals sector, oriented towards dialogue and information exchange
- **Development of ASEAN Mineral Database** aiming at supporting sustainable mining and mineral utilization (ASEAN countries): Capacity-building program providing technical and financial assistance from developed countries to ASEAN member countries regarding mineral resources data, regulations and policies for sustainable mineral production and usage
- **Sustainable Development in Mining Activities** (ASEAN countries): Ministries of ASEAN countries and relevant stakeholders aim at improving environmental performance and management of the mining industry through harmonization of environmental standards within ASEAN countries
- **Sustainable Land Resources Development for the Pacific** (Pacific Island Countries, Australia, New Zealand, Germany): Development of a mineral policy strategy for Pacific Island Countries through national capacity building and development of legislation and policies taking into account the concept of sustainable development
- **Mineral Resources and Sustainable Development in Africa** (France): Institutional capacity building with respect to SD of the mineral resources sector through organising a Forum for concerned African countries
5. Announced Follow-up Actions

*UK Call for Transparency of Tax Payments*

The responsible development of national resources is, for many countries, a crucial route to alleviating poverty and raising living standards. Regrettably, the revenues generated have not always been properly accounted for, preventing their use for the public good. Recognizing this, the British prime minister speaking at the WSSD called for companies in the mining, oil and gas sectors to make public all taxes, fees and other payments that they make to officials in the developing countries where they operate. The initiative is designed to make the system more transparent in order to deter corruption and may help to empower people to hold their governments to account for how revenues are spent. The UK based mining companies Anglo American Rio Tinto and BHP-Billiton welcomed the initiative on transparency of payments. According to a recent CEO statement, the companies “look forward to working with governments, international institutions, NGO’s and other companies to develop a satisfactory framework for reporting in the interests of integrity and sustainable development”.

*Partnership on mining and biodiversity (ICMM, IUCN – World Conversation Union)*

The two organisations have launched a partnership to work together on mining and biodiversity. Recognising that the resolution of the long standing conflict between mining and conservation needs new approaches and efforts from both sides, ICMM offers a platform for communities, corporations, NGOs and governments to engage in a significant process of dialogue that seeks to find the best balance between invaluable ecosystems and biodiversity and the social and economic importance of mining. Preliminary agreed areas of work include the development of informed transparent, inclusive and equitable decision-making processes that integrate biodiversity conservation and mining into broader land use management strategies. The partnership also seeks to address specific issues such as “no-go” areas, existing systems of protected areas, industry performance and especially its contribution to biodiversity conservation.

*Action plan of safe chemicals management in developing countries (International Council of Chemical associations – ICCA)*

The ICCA announced the commitment of the international chemical industry to develop and implement an action plan to improve safety in the handling and use of chemicals with focus on developing countries and using a wide partnership approach. This global capacity building action plan for safe chemical management is being developed by the chemical industry at international and national level. The initiative will eventually build upon the chemical industry’s Responsible Care® initiative. According to ICCA, this industry-led initiative has been the foundation of the industry’s success in improving its environmental, health and safety performance and has also resulted in upgrades in national EH&S standards particularly in developing countries.
6. Conclusions

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development addresses a broad range of copper-specific issues. Outcomes and follow-up activities require the full attention of the copper community. The ICSG Secretariat will monitor the emerging policies and implementation steps and inform members on issues of importance for the copper sector.

At present, the following observations regarding copper can be drawn:

- The shift towards sustainable production and usage asks for technological progress for cleaner production and greater corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability of industry. The use of life cycle assessment, national indicator systems and other tools for assessing and measuring industry performance will demand increased data generation and information delivery of companies and/or associations and governmental agencies.
- The encouragement of financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations into their decision-making processes is already becoming a key issue for Foreign Direct Investment within the context of the Worldbank’s Extractive Industry Review.
- Addressed policy issues regarding access to drinking water and energy efficiency may stimulate increased copper usage in plumbing, winding wire and power cable. Increased energy efficiency considerations may benefit the use of copper in various ways including use in motors and transformers as well as in the power distribution networks inside and outside of buildings.
- The implementation of policies and practices regarding waste prevention, recycling and resource efficiency including financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries may lead to an increase of copper recycling while mutually reducing environmental and health impacts of recycling especially in developing countries.
- The proposed principals for chemicals management and hazardous waste management are widely reflected in the recently established or forthcoming chemical and risk assessment policies within the European Union. Precautionary approach and the reversal of burden of proof are two key issues of concern for many metal producing and fabricating companies.
- The strive for ratification/implementation of international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste and the commitment to establish a globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals until 2008 may need full attention to guarantee that metal-specific properties and characteristics are appropriately considered.
- The promotion of reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment may impact the use of copper-bearing products in various ways. This includes use of copper in plumbing and roofing as well as the use of copper in dissipative uses such as break pads and chemical agents.
- The announced “Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution” may eventually result in water management strategies aiming at reducing copper emissions and dissipative uses. Examples for this kind of approaches are the EU Water Framework Directive and the policies developed by the North Sea Conference.
which call for significant reductions or even zero discharges of metals into the environment.

- On the one hand, the proposed phase out of lead in lead-based paints and other sources of human exposure may impact certain copper-lead alloys in plumbing. On the other hand, implementation of this strategy may ask for the replacement of lead pipes eventually leading to an increased use of copper plumbing material.

- The initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity as well as the promotion of the development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors bear the potential to significantly impact exploration and access to copper deposits especially in remote and undeveloped areas.

- Recognising the current market pressure and competitiveness in copper mining, the call for more sustainable mining practice may lead to further economic burdens for copper mining operations eventually leading to the closure of some less competitive mining operations.
Annex:
Copper-Relevant Paragraphs in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
(http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)

Regulatory Environment

14. Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste.

(a) Identify specific activities, tools, policies, measures and monitoring and assessment mechanisms, including, where appropriate, life-cycle analysis and national indicators for measuring progress, bearing in mind that standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries;
(b) Encourage dialogue between enterprises and the communities in which they operate and other stakeholders;
(c) Encourage financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development considerations into their decision-making processes;
(d) Develop workplace-based partnerships and programmes, including training and education programmes.

18. Encourage relevant authorities at all levels to take sustainable development considerations into account in decision-making, including on national and local development planning, investment in infrastructure, business development and public procurement. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide support for the development of sustainable development strategies and programmes, including in decision-making on investment in infrastructure and business development;
(b) Continue to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the costs of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment;
(c) Promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services;
(d) Provide capacity-building and training to assist relevant authorities with regard to the implementation of the initiatives listed in the present paragraph;
(e) Use environmental impact assessment procedures.

Policies

Access to safe drinking water

7. The provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the
year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.

**Energy Efficiency**

19. (b) Integrate energy considerations, including energy efficiency, affordability and accessibility, into socio-economic programmes, especially into policies of major energy-consuming sectors, and into the planning, operation and maintenance of long-lived energy consuming infrastructures, such as the public sector, transport, industry, agriculture, urban land use, tourism and construction sectors;

(h) Establish domestic programmes for energy efficiency, including, as appropriate, by accelerating the deployment of energy efficiency technologies, with the necessary support of the international community;

(i) Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

**Recycling and End-of-Life Management**

21. Prevent and minimize waste and maximize reuse, recycling and use of environmentally friendly alternative materials, with the participation of government authorities and all stakeholders, in order to minimize adverse effects on the environment and improve resource efficiency, with financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Develop waste management systems, with highest priorities placed on waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling, and environmentally sound disposal facilities, including technology to recapture the energy contained in waste, and encourage small-scale waste-recycling initiatives that support urban and rural waste management and provide income-generating opportunities, with international support for developing countries;

(b) Promote waste prevention and minimization by encouraging production of reusable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required.

**Chemicals Management and Hazardous Waste Management**

22. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance. This would include actions at all levels to:
(a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;

(b) Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) by 2005, and urge that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), IFCS, other international organizations dealing with chemical management, and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;

(c) Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

(d) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste, and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data;

(e) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

(f) Encourage development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers;

(g) Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the UNEP global assessment of mercury and its compounds.

32. Advance implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with particular emphasis in the period 2002-2006 on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrients, by actions at all levels

50. Phase out lead in lead-based paints and other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children’s exposure to lead, and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.

**Mining of Minerals and Metals**

42. Biodiversity (Access to Resources)

(g) To effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, promote and support initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity and
promote the development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors;

Mining

44. Mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries. Minerals are essential for modern living. Enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers’ health and safety, and use a range of partnerships, furthering existing activities at the national and international levels, among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers, and other stakeholders, to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development;

(b) Enhance the participation of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and women, to play an active role in minerals, metals and mining development throughout the life cycles of mining operations, including after closure for rehabilitation purposes, in accordance with national regulations and taking into account significant transboundary impacts;

(c) Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information, and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites.

56. Sustainable Development for Africa

(g) Enhance the contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting the development of effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks and value addition, broad-based participation, social and environmental responsibility and increased market access in order to create an attractive and conducive environment for investment;

Processing (Tailings Pond Management)

35. Risk Assessment and Disaster Management

(j) Promote cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations.