

6.2 Institutional Framework: Since the mining industry has traditionally been one of the driving forces of the Bolivian economy, a strong institutional framework has been developed.

The key government entities in the sector are:

***The Secretaría Nacional de Minería** is responsible for the development of the country's mineral policy and the functional guidance of all state bodies in this sector. It includes the Superintendency of Mines, which grants exploration and exploitation concessions.

***The Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería (SERGEOMIN)** is a new state body, recently created, that includes the functions of former institutions like GEOBOL, the Geological Service of Bolivia, and the Instituto de Investigaciones Minero-Metalúrgicas (IMM), dedicated to the functions of prospecting and exploring the mineral resources and the preparation of maps, and the research and improvement of mineral concentration processes, respectively.

***The Corporación Minera de Bolivia (COMIBOL)** is the state mining company. Its current thrust is to become profitable and to act as a holding company for joint ventures with private investors.

The key private sector institutions are:

***The Asociación de Mineros Medianos (Association of Medium Miners)** represents the interests of private companies with specified minimum production levels. Its members in 1995 were: Avicaya Ltda., BAREMSA, Barrosquira Ltda., Bernal Hnos., Cía. La Barca S.A., Cía. Minera "La Rosa", Cía. Minera "La Solución" Ltda., COMCO, COMISAL, COMSUR, EMUSA, Inti Raymi S.A.

***La Cámara Nacional de Minería (The National Chamber of Mining)** includes all of the private companies that do not qualify as medium-size miners.

***La Federación de Cooperativas Mineras (The Federation of Mining Cooperatives)** is the channel used by the cooperatives to deal with the government. It also provides technical assistance to its members using the services of a professional staff.

***La Federación Sindical de Trabajadores Mineros de Bolivia (The Union of Bolivian Mine Workers)** is the labor organization for all public and private sector mining workers in Bolivia.

6.3 The New Mining Code: The New Bolivian Mining Code became law in April 1991. Issued in the form of a series of amendments to the old 1965 Code, it was well received by the industry. While the former Code had generally been viewed