

scientific information available and the application of agreed methods of risk assessment.

Multilateral approaches are also needed to ensure the dissemination of scientific research and new technologies and to support continuous improvements in environmental management, corporate stewardship, life-cycle and risk assessment, and management approaches.

As the UN body established by member countries of the United Nations to implement Agenda 21, the blueprint for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century, the CSD has a key role to play in advancing the concept of sustainable development as it relates to metals and minerals. However, despite their essential role in the economic and social development of all societies, minerals and metals and related issues are not specifically addressed in Agenda 21. Instead, minerals and metals are addressed in the context of chemicals management and hazardous waste.

This oversight was partially addressed at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997. In its resolution "Program for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", the UN General Assembly acknowledged that inorganic chemicals, such as minerals and metals, possess roles and behaviour that are distinct from organic chemicals. It also acknowledged the need for integrated management solutions that would, among other things, promote recycling and re-use.

Canada believes that because of their importance to the continued advancement of society, minerals and metals and their uses must be included on the sustainable development agenda.

The discussion of land management at CSD 8 will provide an opportunity to advance the dialogue on the sustainable development of minerals and metals — a dialogue that Canada will seek to broaden when UN member countries meet in 2002 for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

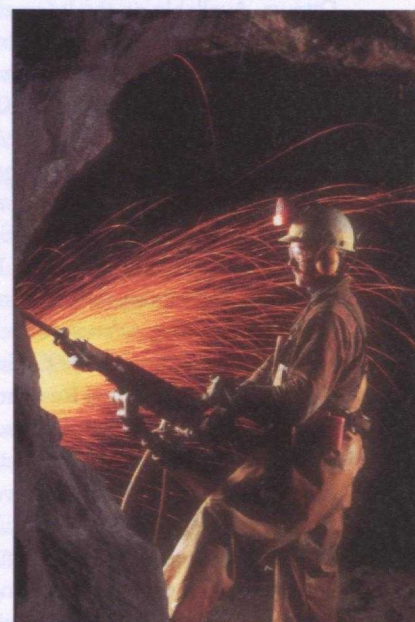


Photo courtesy of the Natural Resources Canada photo library.