

Mines Ministries Forum brought government decision makers together with representatives from industry, nongovernmental organizations, and academia to share information on four main themes: mining and the community, sustainable mineral development, geological surveys in the information age, and the competitiveness of nations.

Other International Fora

Various aspects of minerals and metals and their impact on human health and the environment are captured in a range of international fora, including the following.

The **United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development** (CSD) was created in 1992 to ensure effective follow-up to the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It meets annually to examine different themes based on Agenda 21, and its current program of work was adopted at the 1997 Special Session of the General Assembly. Progress will be reviewed in 2002.

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP), together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), sponsored a Round Table on Mining and the Environment in November 1999 to review draft guidelines for mining and sustainable development. UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development cosponsor the Mineral Resources Forum, a Web site to encourage interaction among a diverse set of users and to promote an integrated interdisciplinary approach to mineral issues and policies.

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) provides an important forum for member governments to address common problems, encourage cooperation, and promote the integration of economic, social, and environmental policies. Through programs dealing with chemical management, pollution prevention and control, and waste management, among others, the OECD develops recommendations that affect national and international policies related to the treatment of minerals and metals.

The **World Health Organization** (WHO) and the **International Labour Organization** (ILO) address social policy issues related to minerals and metals. An ILO Convention (176) and Recommendation (183) on Safety and Health in Mines were adopted in 1995.

The ILO has also paid particular attention to the iron and steel industry, adopting more than 100 conclusions and resolutions since 1946. In 1996, the focus was expanded to include "basic metal