

on Safety and Health in Mines, setting comprehensive international standards to improve safety and health for the 25 million workers directly involved in mining.

- International commodity study groups are increasingly addressing risk management issues.

Regional Cooperation and Bilateral Arrangements

Bilateral minerals and metals working groups are one vehicle Canada uses for consultations on sustainable development concerns. Memoranda of understanding provide frameworks for enhanced cooperation.

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a key focus of the sound management of chemicals initiative of the NAFTA Environment Commission has been the development of regional action plans for four substances (DDT, PCBs, chlordane, and mercury) that the parties consider pose the most significant risk to the health of their citizens or their environment. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Expert Group on Minerals and Energy Exploration and Development and the Mines Ministers of the Americas Conferences are examples of where the sustainable development of minerals and metals can be advanced for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

International Workshops

Workshops contribute to the scientific underpinnings of issue identification and solutions. Two examples are illustrative. In 1995, Canada and the European Union cohosted a technical workshop on biodegradation/persistence and bioaccumulation/biomagnification of metals and metal compounds to discuss the application of these factors to the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks for metals and metal compounds in the environment. In November 1995, the International Council on Metals and the Environment, the International Programme for Chemical Safety, and the Canadian and Chilean governments