IRMA Principles of Engagement

The following Board-approved principles are the basis for participation in initiatives or projects that flow out of IRMA:

1. We are committed to and recognize the value of a multi-sector process and solutions with the participation of all sectors.

2. We acknowledge that we must develop strategies and systems that add value for all sectors, recognizing that different sectors define value differently.

3. We recognize that while we may not always agree, and that sometimes our disagreements may be aired in public, we see value in finding solutions where we are able to find agreement. We are therefore committed to dialogue despite these disagreements or differences of opinion.

4. We are committed to a process aimed at improving and promoting best practices and standards in respect of human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. We will seek to learn from and build upon current examples of site-based good practice as well as broader initiatives that are underway.

6. We will seek to identify and recognize progress and improvements at existing operations, understanding that there could be, in some cases, inherent limits as to what can be achieved at these sites. We recognize that in certain cases sites with complex and challenging issues could implement improvements that could lead to certification.

7. We recognize that in certain cases, whether or not there is governmental approval, due to potential impacts or other values or benefits, no mining could be the best option. We seek to advance methodologies that allow such decisions to be made within a sustainable development context. We also recognize that we must pursue solutions that avoid simply leaving the mining of such sites to less responsible operators.

8. We will ground our standard setting and verification process in sound science with regard to all stages of mine development through closure, considering identified risks, while recognizing that scientific uncertainty is not a reason for inaction, and respecting traditional knowledge, custom and values.

9. We agree that efficiency is essential. We seek to develop and advance criteria, targets, benchmarks and processes that integrate, whenever possible, existing tools, processes and resources, such as current reporting or auditing. We seek to build on existing knowledge and systems where applicable.

10. We recognize that it is essential to develop a system that enables mutually acceptable, credible, independent, third-party verification of compliance with standards, thresholds or performance targets. Accordingly, we seek to create a system that offers public recognition for such compliance and a mechanism to ensure that these commitments are being met in practice on an ongoing basis.