

IRMA Expert Working Group Participant Agreement

IRMA's 2023-2024 Expert Working Groups are being convened to bring together participants from diverse sectors and backgrounds who have expertise on topics addressed the IRMA Standard. The discussions that will take place within the working groups will help to inform revisions to the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining and Mineral Processing.

Participants have been selected based on either nominations from IRMA's Board of Directors or self-nomination accompanied by evidence of knowledge and expertise on particular topics.

By checking the boxes and signing this Participant Agreement, Expert Working Group participants agree to the following:

- I agree that I have read and will adhere to IRMA's Principles of Engagement (found in Annex A).
- I agree that I will abide by IRMA's Communications and Claims requirements for participants in IRMA's Expert Working groups (found in Annex B).
- I agree that IRMA may publish my name and affiliation (if any) as a participant in IRMA's Expert Working Group process.

Name (Printed)

Affiliation you would like listed (if any)

Signature

Date

IRMA Principles of Engagement for Expert Working Groups

The following principles have been adapted from those developed by IRMA Founding Members as a basis for participation in IRMA and/or 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, 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 that seeks to improve and advance best practices and standards.
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 ways to enable IRMA to 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 will seek to identify best practices for existing sites with complex and challenging issues that, if implemented, could enable those sites to achieve 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 suggestions related to standard setting and verification in sound science with regard to all stages of mine development through closure, giving careful consideration to 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 propose best practice solutions that can be verified through a process that includes direct observation and interviews by independent, third-party auditors with mine staff, workers and affected stakeholders.

IRMA Communications and Claims requirements for Expert Working Groups

Expert Working Groups participants are expected to abide by the following Communications and Claims requirements:

1. Expert Working Group participants may state publicly that they are participating in a particular Expert Working Group or Groups (if applicable);
2. Expert Working Group participants may not state or imply that the IRMA organization or Board has endorsed their participation or credentials;
3. Participants may use the sample language below (e.g., in a LinkedIn post or other social media) to acknowledge their participation in an IRMA Expert Working Group. If participants wish to publish text that varies significantly from the example, please send proposed language to Alan Septoff (aseptoff@responsiblemining.net) for approval before publishing.

SAMPLE TEXT:

I'm pleased to participate in the IRMA Initiative for Responsible Mining Expert Working Group on * _____ to inform updates to the [IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining](#). IRMA's multi-stakeholder working groups bring together voices from diverse sectors to exchange perspectives, explore innovative strategies, and identify best practices.

* Working Groups are as follows:

Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (for all exploration, mining and processing)

Indigenous Peoples and Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Land Acquisition, Displacement, and Resettlement

Planning and Financing Reclamation and Closure

Responsible Sourcing (specific to Mineral Processing Operations)

Mine Waste and Tailings Management