

**Statement of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group at the
Ministerial Round Table on "Managing Mining For Sustainable
Development"**

independent monitoring structures to present and disseminate in a transparent manner more information on the serious issues concerning mining extraction.

5. Madam Chair, it is important to differentiate within the general theme of mining. All mining has lasting negative impacts. Some mining produced materials that are essential to vital production. Others do not. Some have environmental impacts which could be significantly reduced while for others, like uranium, this may be impossible. Many think mostly of large scale corporate mining but millions of people work in small-scale mining. Among indigenous peoples, we have peoples who have traditions of small-scale mining that sustain their cultures yet their rights are often not respected.
6. Reductions in the size of the global mining industry would contribute positively to sustainable development especially when combined with increased substitution, recycling and reuse of metals already in existence. In reducing mining, we should particularly target mining activities including uranium, gold, coal, and oil sands which have impacts on health, community and environment that far outweigh any benefit they may claim. We need strategies to reduce or halt such mines and reduce all mining.
7. Indigenous peoples and others deeply affected by mining have raised their complaints in many arenas, Still there is a limited capacity to respond to such complaints. We need improved international mechanisms through which indigenous Peoples and others can raise their concerns and seek redress for violations of their rights and damage to their economies. We believe the existence of such mechanisms would speed the introduction of improved practice.

Thank you Madam Chair.