



## INTRODUCTION

Created in 2014, the Colombian Mining Association (ACM, its acronym in Spanish) has as its fundamental objective is that mining sector be recognized as an ally of Colombian sustainable development on regions and communities of influence areas. In addition, this association counts with an institutional framework (rule of games) stable and competitive, which help for it to sustainably develop and expand on the different stages of the mining cycle (prospection, exploration, construction and mounting, production and mining closure). In this regard, it is directed towards good positioning and a better understanding of formal mining, for which reason it is associated with state institutions and Colombian public opinion.

The companies currently linked to the ACM Association are committed to the country's economic and social development and in particular that of the communities located in places where their mining operations take place.

They exercise and promote respect for human rights, social well-being, and good environmental and natural resource management in carrying out their activities. In this respect, the national and international companies affiliated with the Association seek to incorporate internationally recognized best practices within the framework of responsible and sustainable mining.

The ACM Association promotes the adoption of good practices and affirms the value of the multiple efforts of the various associations, entities, and persons in Colombia's mining sector through transparent and constructive dialogue with the aim of strengthening responsible and competitive mining activity as an ally of the country's sustainable and equitable development.

Beyond adherence to the law, it is imperative for progress towards achieving these objectives for there to be specific and steadfast proof of the importance and priority that the sector places on enhancing the conduct of companies as responsible miners.

Companies that belong to the Association are at different stages of mining activity, including the prospecting, exploration, development, and production stages. For this reason, the incorporation of policies and standards for conduct is heterogeneous and gradual. In this regard, persuaded of the usefulness of all the companies moving ahead jointly towards good operational practices, they have agreed to formally endorse the self-regulation commitments set forth below.

"Commitment" is understood to mean the purpose of implementing the continuous improvement actions needed to adopt practices consistent with responsible mining, the foregoing taking into account the company's circumstances and the specific situation of each mining project. "Self-regulation" is understood to mean the entirely voluntary nature of this declaration.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Conscious of the responsibility of mining companies towards communities, workers, and natural resources for the future generations of Colombia, we:

- a) Expressly state the interest and willingness to support state-led efforts to attain better standards of living for all residents of the country, contributing to improved formal employment levels and poverty reduction;
- b) Recognize the need to constantly progress in the implementation of the best international standards;



- c) Note the multiple, positive impacts of the operations of mining companies in terms of formal employment, social development, boosting the economy and finances, and we are conscious of the responsibility to identify, foresee, and establish measures to mitigate, restore, or compensate for the unfavourable effects directly associated with conducting the operations' activities;
- d) Support programs that provide incentives for the adoption of good practices by
  - 1. other actors in the mining sector, particularly in areas subject to these self-regulation commitments;
- e) Affirm the importance of defending, respecting, and promoting human rights in conducting mining activity;
- f) Recognize the need to promote environmental management that makes the sustainable use of natural resources for the development of current generations compatible with the preservation of the country's biodiversity and natural resources needed for future generations;
- g) Act with criteria of transparency and ethics, respecting and complying with the duties and rights recognized by current legislation;
- h) Share values and principles of the international community as recognized and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the other international agreements incorporated into Colombian legislation;
- i) Value the applicable international guidelines and standards and best practice guides in our operations as regards corporate social responsibility and especially those applicable in the areas of:
  - I. Industrial safety and occupational health;
  - II. Environmental management;
  - III. Community relations and socio-economic impact;
  - IV. Human rights; and
  - V. Ethics and transparency in mining activity.

Based on the aforementioned considerations, member companies of the SGME Association endorse and undertake the following:

## **SELF-REGULATION COMMITMENTS**

### **1. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

The signatory companies commit to ensure the implementation of good international practices with regard to industrial safety and occupational health that preserve the life and integrity of their workers.

In order to guarantee the fulfilment of this commitment, they will place special emphasis on:

- 1.1. Adopting operational policies and practices that are beneficial for the safety and health of workers of the company and contractors, in accordance with national legislation and internationally recognized standards and good practices.
- 1.2. Promoting the incorporation of companies' policies and their industrial safety and occupational health codes of conduct in contractual relations with contractors and providers, ensuring they are complied with.
- 1.3. Maintaining regular information systems on industrial safety and occupational health.

### **2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

The signatory companies agree to promote and continue developing the use of international standards to prevent, mitigate, and compensate for potential unfavourable impacts and maximize the positive ones on the environment in their area of operation.



In order to guarantee the fulfilment of this commitment, they will place special emphasis on:

- 2.1. Conducting rigorous environmental impact studies, apply measures anticipated in environmental management plans, and maintain constant monitoring on possible environmental impacts of our operations.
- 2.2. Promoting biodiversity and natural resource protection as an integral part of environmental management in the area of influence through conservation, compensation, and sustainable development programs.
- 2.3. Developing and maintaining, as an integral part of the environmental management system, dialogue with communities and those that consider themselves affected by mining operations.
- 2.4. Developing plans from the outset of the mining operation aimed at defining the actions required for mine closure.
- 2.5. Promoting training programs in environmental management aimed at strengthening company personnel, associates, and communities in the companies' areas of influence.

### **3. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The signatory companies agree to maintain relations with the populations in their areas of influence based on respect, inclusion, multiculturalism, and contribution to the development of the regions, based on a sustainable and equitable development focus, taking into account territorial development plans and the national development plan. In order to guarantee the fulfilment of this commitment, they will place special emphasis on:

- 3.1. Identifying, evaluating, preventing, mitigating, and/or compensating for social impacts that may arise from the companies' operations.
- 3.2. Providing within the operation's plans for the management of social impacts, relations with communities, and the management of the profits that companies' operations may generate.
- 3.3. Boosting training of local human resources in those areas other than the mining project where job opportunities are identified.
- 3.4. Establishing hiring policies through which employing local labour is prioritized, in accordance with existing opportunities.
- 3.5. Ensuring the contracting of goods and services from local providers that meet the company's requirements.

### **4. HUMAN RIGHTS**

The signatory companies agree to continue respecting human rights in all their areas of action. Corporate policies will reflect this commitment on the part of each of the companies and their employees, in accordance with international standards in the area. In order to guarantee the fulfilment of this commitment, they will place special emphasis on:

- 4.1. Establishing and averting impacts on human rights associated with operations.
- 4.2. Advocating and promoting respect for prevailing labour legislation in Colombia and international human rights standards by staff, contractors, and providers.
- 4.3. Advising the relevant authorities of possible human rights abuses of which the companies are aware and collaborating in their investigations.



- 4.4. Establishing easily accessible complaint and claim mechanisms for those believing themselves to be affected by the companies' activities without prejudice to the legal recourses available to that end.
- 4.5. Ensuring adherence to the prevailing international laws and standards on child labour and forced labour.

## 5. ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

The signatory companies reiterate the commitment to act in an ethical and transparent manner in carrying out their operations and in relations with the State, companies, and communities. In order to guarantee the fulfilment of this commitment, they will place special emphasis on:

- 5.1. Maintaining a transparent relationship with the public authorities, national and regional political representatives, and the community.
- 5.2. Disseminating information on the tax payments and royalty generation for projects via public information tools.
- 5.3. Promoting initiatives that strengthen the skills of the authorities to effectively manage royalty resources.
- 5.4. Not offering, giving, receiving, or accepting illicit payments or benefits for any company activities.
- 5.5. Incorporating these commitments in all operational phases.

## 6. MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP OF COMMITMENTS

Monitoring the process of implementation and fulfilment of commitments assumed herein will initially be the responsibility of each of the companies endorsing them through periodic reports. To this end, they may carry them out through internal audits or may implement external auditing processes using independent entities. The ACM Association will consolidate the findings of these reports and present a status report to the Board of the Association at the end year. The Board will at that time assess the need to apply a future developments clause, which is established below.

## 7. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS CLAUSE

The companies signing this document may broaden the commitments assigned herein at any time with the common purpose of increasing the levels of self-regulation as well as the standards initially agreed.

## 8. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This declaration and the endorsement of these self-regulation commitments express the will of the member companies of the Large-Scale Mining Sector Association to improve their performance and their willingness to see the strengthening of responsible, equitable, and competitive mining in Colombia that is aligned with the development of Colombians.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective owners adopt this Declaration. Made in \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and signature**  
**Legal Representative**