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**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**REPORT ON THE STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE  
AFRICAN MINERALS GEOSCIENCE INITIATIVE (AMGI)**

**JULY 2014**

## **Introduction**

The Stakeholders Consultative meeting on AMGI which was hosted and Chaired by H.E Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner Department of Trade and Industry of AUC followed the Expert Group Meeting that was held on 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July convened by AUC and AMDC.

During the Expert Group Meeting in which AMGI was also discussed widely, Mr. Paulo de Sa presented the AMGI Technical Report and updated the participants on the status of the project, stressing that AMGI was not a World Bank project per se, but rather it is an African initiative that will be housed in Africa by African Institutions. It was noted that the World Bank has supported many projects on geological information however these have generally not been successful when it comes to imparting long term improvements in GSOs. Most GSOs would return to pre project levels of capacity and activity once funds ran out. Furthermore much of the data remains in storage and is not necessarily available for potential users.

It was noted that Africa is underexplored; there is a general lack of capacity along with other exacerbating factors that undermine filling these gaps. The production of mineral information is rarely a priority for most governments or countries with the exceptions of Australia and Canada. There is a need to link minerals with other economic dimensions of priorities. This could include geotechnical data for infrastructure development, geohazards data to reduce impacts of geological events such as earthquakes, groundwater data to support agriculture and improved urban freshwater supplies. The World Bank has the aim of improving geo data and the availability of this data not only to improve the attractiveness of minerals investment in countries, but also to support other development objectives, related to economic diversifications, the generation of jobs and increases in investment.

The World Bank gave a detailed AMGI project technical dimensions presentation, including the recovery and repatriation of colonial era data, the management of data and ensuring interoperability between datasets. It was noted that AMGI aims to build on the work done already, for example WAXI and AEGOS. The World Bank believes it would be best to work through Regional Economic Communities (RECs) when coordinating at the regional level. The World Bank stressed that it aimed to see value added applications of data coming out of AMGI, for example through the involvement of public and private sectors, as well as researchers, civil society and others.

During the discussions a number of issues and comments were raised and it was agreed that the World Bank would amend the AMGI technical Report before submission to AU member States for discussion. And further submission to AU Policy Organs for consideration

## **Attendance**

The following attended the meeting; Kenya, Mozambique, The World Bank Group, African Legal Facility, COMESA, EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, SEAMIC, AMDC, UNDP, Geological Society of Africa and AUC/DTI.

## **Welcome Remarks**

The Commissioner for Trade and Industry H.E Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl welcomed the participants and highlighted a few points on the position of the AUC on the design and implementation of AMGI. The Commissioner introduced the purpose of the consultation which is to discuss on the history to date of AMGI and come up with a common understanding on how to implement it in the future and beyond. She noted that there is a need for the AUC to have a mandate as set out by the AU Policy Organs to have a full understanding AMGI and spearhead steadfastly towards its successful implementation such that minerals play a key role in the economy of African states to benefit the poor. It is along this perspective that the Commissioner views AMGI and thus stressed the need for a thorough consultation by all stakeholders to ensure that AMGI is fully understood by Member States before being submitted to AU Heads of State and Government for adoption and subsequent implementation.

## **Discussion**

In the discussions that ensued, participants made several observations regarding the design and implementation of AMGI in particular and about the implementation of the African Mining Vision and AUC collaboration as a whole.

The following were the key issues raised:

- It was noted that there were too many initiatives in Africa that are not being implemented in full. It was emphasised that there was a need to ensure implementation working with all key stakeholders starting with the experts including the RECs, senior officials and then to policy organs
- The role of the RECs in the implementation of the AUC initiatives and the AMV in particular was underscored by the AUC
- The role of other key Stakeholders such as the Geology Society of Africa (GSAf) and their participation in technical meetings was also stressed.
- It was noted that the manufacturing sector is declining (as a percentage or in total value) and that the Expert Group meeting and the AMGI consultative meeting had been very valuable in terms of looking at the basics, such as what minerals potential there is and where these minerals are from. Upon this basis it is important to build value addition.
- It was also noted that geological data collection, processing and dissemination is now a priority, including geophysical data. There are a range of questions around policies and the link with development. Furthermore it was noted that if data are not available or used then stakeholders do not get the benefit. The objective of implementing the Africa Mining Vision provides a common focus for stakeholders.
- Mozambique supports the AMV and has attended all the meetings related to the AMV. The participant noted that the discussion was very important as it helped set out how countries in Africa can benefit from their mineral resources. Mozambique acknowledged the benefit of World Bank support previously and the growth of minerals and oil and gas industries. He also noted that need to improve mapping, database and other systems to ensure information are stored , available and disseminated.
- The Legal Support Facility noted the African Development Banks support of the AMV. He also noted that the Legal Support Facility is engaged in implementing in the area of contract negotiations. He highlighted the need to ensure there is progress. In this regard the meeting was successful in

allocating responsibilities to each of the partners and it is very important to enhance the areas of collaboration among the different parties. Very importantly with many actors providing support in the exercise for geoscience data collection, processing and dissemination which is a key to minerals development in the continent, it is still critical that the data should be interoperable, be user friendly for use by policy-makers, development agencies, private sector actors, geoscientific communities and civil society with an ultimate objective of promoting and strengthening sustainable use of georesources in Africa.

- The need to ensure that there is knowledge of the AMV was stressed and that the popularisation and promoting of the AMV was a responsibility of everyone concerned in their capacities need to help ensure the AMV is more widely known. Beyond this it is important to know which actors are active in what areas, so that as activities are engaged in, the appropriate actors can be brought into initiatives.
- There is a need to align RECs activities on Minerals sector development in Africa such that the Strategies and Frameworks to be followed by ECOWAS and COMESA compliment that of the AMV. ECOWAS informed the meeting that it had developed a framework and was in the process of developing a mining code and other policy recommendations

Key issues that were raised included the following:

**Ownership of the project and the data:** It was noted that ownership, accessibility and custodianship of data by African Countries was very important not only for attracting investment but also for providing evidence based policy development and implementation.

**Sustainability:** it was expressed that sustainability of the project beyond the donor funding was key. The World Bank informed the meeting that one of the proposed ways to ensure sustainability was to establish a Minerals Development Fund and gave an example of Columbia where the fund is financed by a proportion from royalties.

The following recommendations were agreed upon:

1. The comments from the Consultative Meeting as well as from the Expert Group meeting should be incorporated into the African Minerals Geoscience Initiative (aka Billion Dollar Map) report and the updated report should be shared within two weeks
2. The Consultative Meeting report should be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bureau Meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of African Union Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resource Development (CAMRMRD) scheduled to 11 – 13 August in Luanda, Angola
3. Following the outcomes of the Bureau meeting, the AMGI report should also be presented for discussion to the RECs and then the AU Member States for comments and then subsequently to the Extra-ordinary CAMRMRD scheduled later in the year (October/November) for discussion and further

submission to the AU Summit for endorsement. The RECs would provide contacts of key stakeholders to be involved in the further consultative meetings.

4. Establishment of an AUC Technical Working (Advisory) Group in the implementation of the AMV was suggested and it was recommended that the participants of the Consultative Meeting form the Working Group.
5. It was agreed that the ToRs for the AU Technical Working Group be developed
6. Mr. Paulo De Sa offered to send information on other AMV related projects being implemented or being developed by the World bank Group. The Contract Negotiation project was one of the key projects highlighted where AUC had no information even though it is being implemented by the World Bank.