

Workshop
Human Rights and Environmental Aspects in
Mining:
state obligations and business opportunities

organised under project
Human Rights and Environmentally Responsible Business Practices

18 June 2025

Yerevan, Armenia

DoubleTree by Hilton Yerevan City Centre
4/2 Grigor Lusavorich Street

"Milano" Hall



Background and objectives

This workshop is aimed to discuss the role of the mining industry in economy and energy transition with the focus on human rights and environmental aspects.

The discussions will address some concerns related to industry, and existing standards and possible solution for sustainability, responsible business practices and advantages that they provide for business growth and profits. Special focus will be made on the requirements and standards for environmental impact assessment of mining operations with an overview of respective cases of the European Court of Human Rights. Examples of industry standards for responsible mining and frameworks for their assessments will be presented and discussed with focus on the cases of responsible business practices and their competitive advantage that supports sustainability and growth of companies.

Additionally, legal aspects related to mining will be examined, namely private - public partnerships, human rights obligations of state-owned enterprise, foreign investments, and balancing corporate interests reflected in investment treaties with public order.

This event will facilitate dialogue on responsible mining practices, regulatory frameworks, and the competitive advantages of aligning business strategies with sustainability goals.

Target Audience: Business and corporate executives of the mining industry, legal and compliance officers, Corporate social responsibility (CSR) professionals, consulting and advisory service professionals working in the field, respective state authorities.

This event is organised within the framework of a Council of Europe project "[*Human Rights and Environmentally Responsible Business Practices*](#)" funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund.

Draft Programme

09:00 – 09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 – 10:00 Opening Session

Moderator: Mr Tigran Karapetyan, Council of Europe (CoE), Head of Division Transversal Challenges and Multilateral Projects

Welcome Remarks (15 minutes)

- Mr Maxime Longangue, Head of Council of Europe Office in Yerevan
- Representative, [Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI)]
- Representative Grant Thornton

Keynote Address: Responsible Mining – Balancing Economic Growth and Sustainability (15 minutes)

- Speaker: tbd

10:00 – 11:00 Panel 1: Role of the Mining Industry in Economic and Social Development

- **The Role of Mining for Energy Transition and Development**
EU INTPA, tbc
- **Investment and Economic Development: The Global Perspective on Responsible Mining**
Mr Pierre Petit-De Pasquale, Standards Director, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)
- **State of Play in Armenia: National Trends and Policies**
Ministry of Economy – tbc

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:40 Discussion Panel 2: Key Challenges in the Mining Industry

- **Overview of Key Challenges and Risks in the Mining Sector**
- **Environmental and Human Rights Cases before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)**
- **Community Impact and Social Responsibility in Mining**
- **Community Involvement and Stakeholders Engagement**
- **The Role of Mediation Centers in Addressing Environmental and Human Rights Disputes**

Moderator: Mr Arevik Anapiosyan, Partnerships and Development Finance Adviser, United Nations (UN)

Speakers:

- Ms Anaïs Tobalagba, Ph.D., Senior Legal Advisor/ Natural Resources Lead, Beyond Human Rights Compliance
- Ms Natalia Kobylarz, Senior Lawyer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights

- Mr Hasmik Manukyan, National Coordinator and Head of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
- Ms Elise Groulx, International Mediator, OHADAC Regional Arbitration Centre
- Ms Olga Azatyan, Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) representative, United Nations

12:40 – 13:40 Networking Lunch

13:40 – 15:00 Discussion Panel 3: Solutions and Best Practices in Responsible Mining

- **Council of Europe Standards for Human Rights and Environmental Protection in Business**
- **Industry Standards for Responsible Mining**
- **The Role of Consultants in Implementing Sustainability Standards in Business Models**
- **Innovative Solutions for Monitoring, Transparency and Compliance**
- **Business Success Stories in ESG, Human Rights, and Environmental Compliance**

Moderator: Ms Elena Yurkina, Council of Europe, Head of Unit, Innovative Solutions for Human Rights and Justice

Speakers:

- Mr Stephane Brabant, Senior Partner at Trinity International AARPI
- Mr Azat Manukyan, Partner, Advisory services, Grant Thornton
- Mr Pierre Petit-De Pasquale, Standards Director, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)
- Mr Alen Gasparian Amirkhanian, Director of Acopian Center for the Environment, American University of Armenia
- Mr Armen Stapanyan, Director for Sustainable Development, Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine
- Mr Hayk Aloyan, Executive Director, Lydian Armenia

15:00 – 15:20 Coffee Break

15:20 – 17:00 Discussion Panel 4: Investors View on Responsible Mining

- **Private-Public Partnerships in mining: models applied in countries**
- **Human Rights Obligations of State-Owned Enterprises**
- **Investor's representative**
- **Investment Treaties and Balancing Corporate Interests and Public Order: Key Legal Debates**

Moderator: Ms Naira Derdzyan, Partner - Advisory Services, Grant Thornton

Speakers:

- Mr Daniel Pap, Council of Europe, Administrator at the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), (video)
- Enterprise Armenia (tbc)
- Head of Investment Policy Department, Ministry of Economy of Armenia (tbc)
- Mr Artyom Geghamyan, Attorney, lawyer, expert of mining strategy development working group, with regards to investor protection matters
- Mr Liparit Drmeyan, a.i. Head of Office of the Representative on Legal International Matters (the Government Agent), Republic of Armenia
- Ms Mihaela Maria Barnes, CoE expert on State Owned Enterprises
- Ms Narine Tadevosyan, The World Bank, Senior Operations Officer

17:00 Closing Remarks

- Mr Tigran Karapetyan, Council of Europe, Head of Division Transversal Challenges and Multilateral Projects
- GT Executive Director