



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 55/2025

TITLE:	Support for the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standard
SUBJECT:	Environment, Mining, Rights
MOVED BY:	Melvin Hardy, Proxy, Namaygoosisagagun/Collins First Nation, ON
SECONDED BY:	Chief Jenny Brake, Qalipu First Nation, NL
DECISION:	Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 21(2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of [Indigenous peoples'] economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
 - ii. Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
 - iii. Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
 - iv. Article 29(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of Indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
 - v. Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
 - vi. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources,

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particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

- B. Since time immemorial, First Nation peoples have held rights to our lands and resources, including water and air. Similarly, we also hold sacred responsibilities to govern, care for, and steward our territories and resources. This includes the right to be informed and to participate in decision-making processes that impact upon our rights and responsibilities.
- C. The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) is a global non-governmental organization focused on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards in mining. IRMA is committed to protecting people and the environment directly affected by mining by providing assessment standards that:
 - i) support the creation of conditions in which the mining industry respects the human rights and aspirations of affected communities;
 - ii) provide safe, healthy and supportive workplaces;
 - iii) minimize harm to the environment;
 - and iv) leave positive legacies.
- D. IRMA's membership includes seven auto manufacturers, some of the world's largest mining companies, jewelers, global trade unions, Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and representatives of the investment and finance sectors unified in their vision to develop and use the most robust mining standard in their activities for the energy transition.
- E. The IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining ('IRMA Standard') was developed over more than 10 years, with input from First Nations and numerous other organizations. The IRMA Standard defines best practices for what responsible mining should look like at the industrial scale. It provides the list of expectations that independent auditors will use as the benchmark for responsible mines.
- F. The IRMA Standard requires independent audits to assess social and environmental performance at mine sites globally. These audits are built on transparency, inclusive governance, and thoroughness that speak directly to the fulfilment of ESG requirements and provide audits that are unmatched for reliability in the assessment of all key components of producing mines.
- G. The IRMA Standard requires proponents of new mines to demonstrate their securing of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of First Nation communities, as set out in the UN Declaration.
- H. In 2024, the Chiefs-in-Assembly of three province-wide First Nations organizations in British Columbia (the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs; the First Nations Summit; and the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations) passed resolutions endorsing the IRMA Standard.
- I. On July 22, 2025, IRMA released, for worldwide consultation, a draft update to its mining standard titled, *IRMA Standard for Responsible Exploration, Extraction and Processing of Minerals*, also known as "IRMA Standard V2.0". The consultation period ends October 22, 2025. Revision and finalization of the revised IRMA Standard V2.0 is expected in early-mid 2026.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Encourage dialogue amongst First Nations to review and assess the implications of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standard for Responsible Mining (IRMA Standard) prior to any endorsement by the First Nations-in-Assembly, and call on the Government of Canada to support and adopt the IRMA Standard in collaboration with First Nations.

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2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek funding to engage with Canada in a timely manner to promote consistency between mining laws, related policies, and directives are consistent with the IRMA Standard.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to fully recognize and uphold First Nations' Inherent and constitutionally-protected Aboriginal title and rights, self-determination and governance in all matters related to mining, including the right of free, prior, and informed consent, before any exploration, development, or extractive activities on or near First Nations lands and waters.
4. Direct the AFN to provide a progress report on endorsements of the IRMA Standard by First Nations to the First Nations-in-Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

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