Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Considerations and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Contributions in the Minerals Industry

A Complementary Perspective

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ESG in the Minerals Industry – Challenges and Opportunities

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Glenburn Lodge and Spa

ESGs, SDGs and Minerals Industry

- Mining impacts on society, environment and corporate governance
- Mining and disclosure impacts (positive and negative)
- Mining and sustainable development
- United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (
- ESGs and SDGs – is there a relationship?
- Yes but the link not explicit enough and adequately demonstrated
- ESGs and SDGs not dichotomies

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ESGs, SDGs and Minerals Industry

- ESGs and SDGs matter a great deal for Minerals Industry, locally and internationally
- Sustainability and responsibility of mining will be judged by its impacts and contributions on ESGs and SDGs
- Linking ESG and SDG complementary relationship crucial for shared value creation, responsible mining and sustainable development
- Content analysis of listed mining companies integrated annual reports ESGs and SDGs matter a great deal for Minerals Industry, locally and internationally
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Mining Company Integrated Annual Report (2020/21) Content Analysis Findings

- Mining companies increasingly required to disclose and account for their ESG impacts through various standards and frameworks
- Some companies are relating their ESG impact reporting to SDG contributions as well
- SA mining company impact on 17 SDGs varies
- Most SDG impact on social and economic related goals – consistent with findings on European mining companies

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Mining Company Integrated Annual Report (2020/21) Content Analysis Findings

Social and Economic Related SDG Impacts:

- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)
- SDG 1 (No Poverty),
- SDG 4 (Quality Education)
- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)
- SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

Mining Company Integrated Annual Report (2020/21) Content Analysis Findings

Environmental and Governance SDG Impacts:

- SDG 13 (Climate Change)
- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
- SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)
- SDG 15 (Life on Land),
- SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals)

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Concluding Remarks

- Encouraging voluntary SDG impact reporting by SA minerals industry
- Need to review, depict and align performance impact of mining companies on SDGs
- Fragmented reporting standards and frameworks on sustainability performance reports
- Linking ESG considerations to SDGs to measure financial and non-financial impacts of mining on well-being of society, environment, economy and people
- Data collection, quantitative and qualitative, key to demonstrate business impact on SDGs – their past, current and future societal, environmental and economic contributions
- Sustainability reports reveal varied levels of mining companies’ diverse geographical contributions
- Much more localised and holistic SDG impacts needed as mining companies integrate and report their responsible and sustainable practices in host communities and countries
- This will lead to identification of pockets of excellence, best practices, leading practices and learnings for peer learning, share value creation, responsible mining and sustainable development

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Thank you!