

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

To United Nations Global Compact

### MMTA Communication on Engagement

The MMTA's primary roles are

- To raise awareness of the activities of its Member companies;
- To raise awareness of the importance of minor metals as an integral part of the development of the modern world, and as part of the solution to a range of global challenges;
- To inform on new developments impacting the minor metals sector – technological, regulatory, etc;
- To develop and facilitate the global minor metals trade;

Today's MMTA has around 130 producers, consumers, traders, and service companies, such as laboratories, warehouses, legal firms, and insurers, who are engaged in the global minor metals industry in all its forms.

It is in response to the role of raising awareness of the importance of minor metals as part of the solution to global challenges that the MMTA supports the Global Compact and is committed to its principles.

The world's population is growing rapidly. Raw material demand is expected to increase 3-fold by 2050. Government and business need to face these challenges head on to ensure a plentiful supply of resources for all. Metals will be central to any strategy to make a sustainable future. Minor metals are used in renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles and other sustainable technologies. These metals are often described by governments as 'strategic' or 'critical' because of their exceptional characteristics. Minor metals are part of the innovative solutions which will ensure a sustainable future. In addition, steel, nickel, aluminium and other base metals also rely on minor metals as alloying elements to give them their mechanical properties, deformability, corrosion resistance and other essential performance characteristics.

Many minor metals already have recycling loops of high economic value. Examples where MMTA Members are leaders in their field include:

- Rhenium and precious metal recovery from spent catalysts
- Tantalum recovery from used capacitors
- Indium metal recovery from ITO and sputtering production waste
- Tungsten recovery from cemented carbide scrap
- Recovery of molybdenum, tungsten and niobium from used sputtering targets
- Recycling of cobalt and titanium-based superalloys

In support of the Global Compact's aims, the MMTA has produced a range of sector specific guidelines on the role of minor metals in addressing key sustainability issues. We encourage members to use these

guides as tools to help them identify where they are addressing sustainability issues, to identify and promote best practice, and help members start on (or continue) their sustainability journey.

To assist members in this journey, the MMTA has produced a simple guide to getting started with sustainability reporting, particularly aimed at SMEs. We have also produced a similar guide to Responsible Sourcing reporting, also aimed at those with little experience. These guides follow a step-by-step approach, showing members how they can quantify and track their sustainability journey.

The MMTA takes every opportunity to engage with policy makers and other key stakeholders to demonstrate how the minor metals industry can be a trusted partner and can be part of the solution to the global challenges being grappled with. We take the opportunity to speak to the business community, to policy makers and to the research community, not only to highlight where the minor metals sector is doing good work in the sustainability field, but also to learn how we can do more; and these learnings are then disseminated to members and to the wider minor metals industry through our regular conferences, training events, magazine and website.

We also encourage members to speak in their local communities on what the minor metals sector involves, and how it contributes to society. It is easy to simply see the dirty side of metals, without understanding how the world around us could not function without them. We aim to spread knowledge as widely as possible demonstrating how minor metals are an integral part of medical advances, renewable energy and other technologies that surround us.

We advocate the safe management of these metals by ensuring member companies are aware of their regulatory compliance responsibilities in the areas of chemicals management, as well as responsible sourcing. We use our publications, presentations and events to highlight and debate the issues.

Finally, as an association, the MMTA continues to support its founded charity – Friends of Mufulira (FOM) – to support a metals town in Zambia. Mufulira grew up because of mining and is sustained by it. FOM arises out of The Minor Metals Trade Association’s wish to publicly recognize the communities in developing countries upon which we all depend for the supply of metals. Mufulira, on the Copperbelt in Zambia, offered itself via the personal links that some members of the MMTA had with this town. Other regions and places could have been chosen, but in Mufulira we were able to build on links already established in the mind of our community and it was also felt that concentrating resources on one place would have the greatest beneficial impact. Mufulira is therefore a symbol for all mining towns that lie at the start of the long supply chain that brings metals out of the ground to start their long journey towards their final and, sometimes astonishing, applications.

The *Friends of Mufulira* Charity was thus formed to give structure and impetus to the work that was already naturally evolving. By means of the charity we wanted to ensure that charitable monies donated by members would be transparently segregated and managed separately from MMTA funds. Secondly, it assisted us to better define our charitable goals, which are, via objects or actions, to promote the education and health of people in the Mufulira community.

So, in summary, Friends of Mufulira is a charity whose purpose relates directly to the trade with which our members are involved, and which should also inform the way that our members operate in other parts of the world. Our Trustees include the Chairman of the MMTA, as well as other members with an interest in Zambia.

Yours faithfully



Simon Boon,  
MMTA Chairman



Eva Model,  
MMTA General Manager