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Draft resolution on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals

**Presentation of the technical note prepared by the UNEP
Secretariat**

unep.org/environmentassembly

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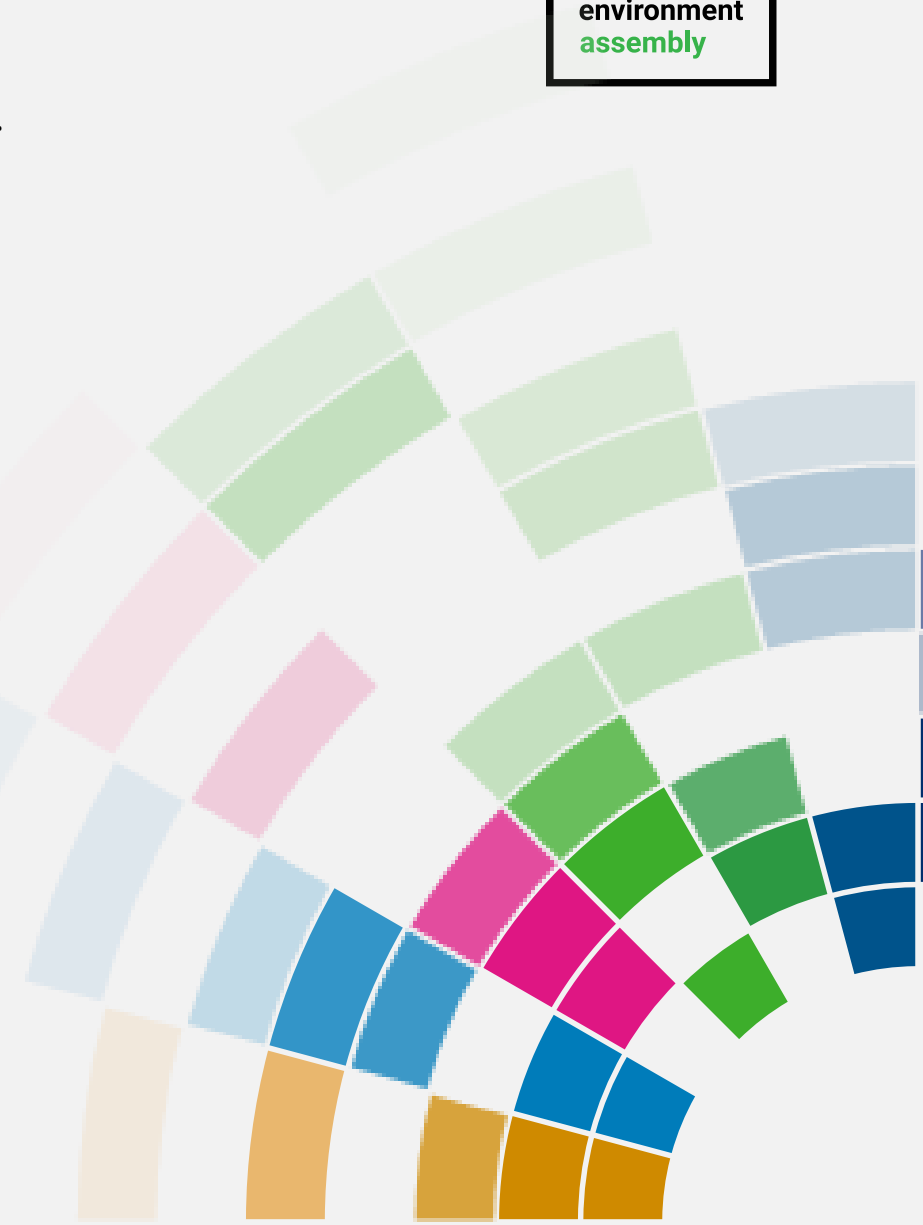
1. Overview of the resolution



This is a follow-up resolution to UNEA 5/12 and 4/19 resolutions.

The main elements of the draft resolution are to:

- Scope exclude mineral fuels and includes the full life cycle of minerals and metals.
- Acknowledge the essential role of metals and minerals in the clean energy transition (excluding mineral fuels);
- Recognize the potential adverse contribution of the mineral and metals sector to the climate-nature-pollution triple planetary crisis;
- Align the management of minerals and metals along the full lifecycle with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with other relevant international commitments and agreements; and
- Promote a circular economy approach to reduce environmental impacts and secure mineral supplies.



2. Requests for UNEP



The suggested operative elements in the draft resolution request UNEP to:

OP2: Conduct a **global study and gap analysis** of existing voluntary and legally-binding instruments relating to environmental sustainability of minerals and metals.

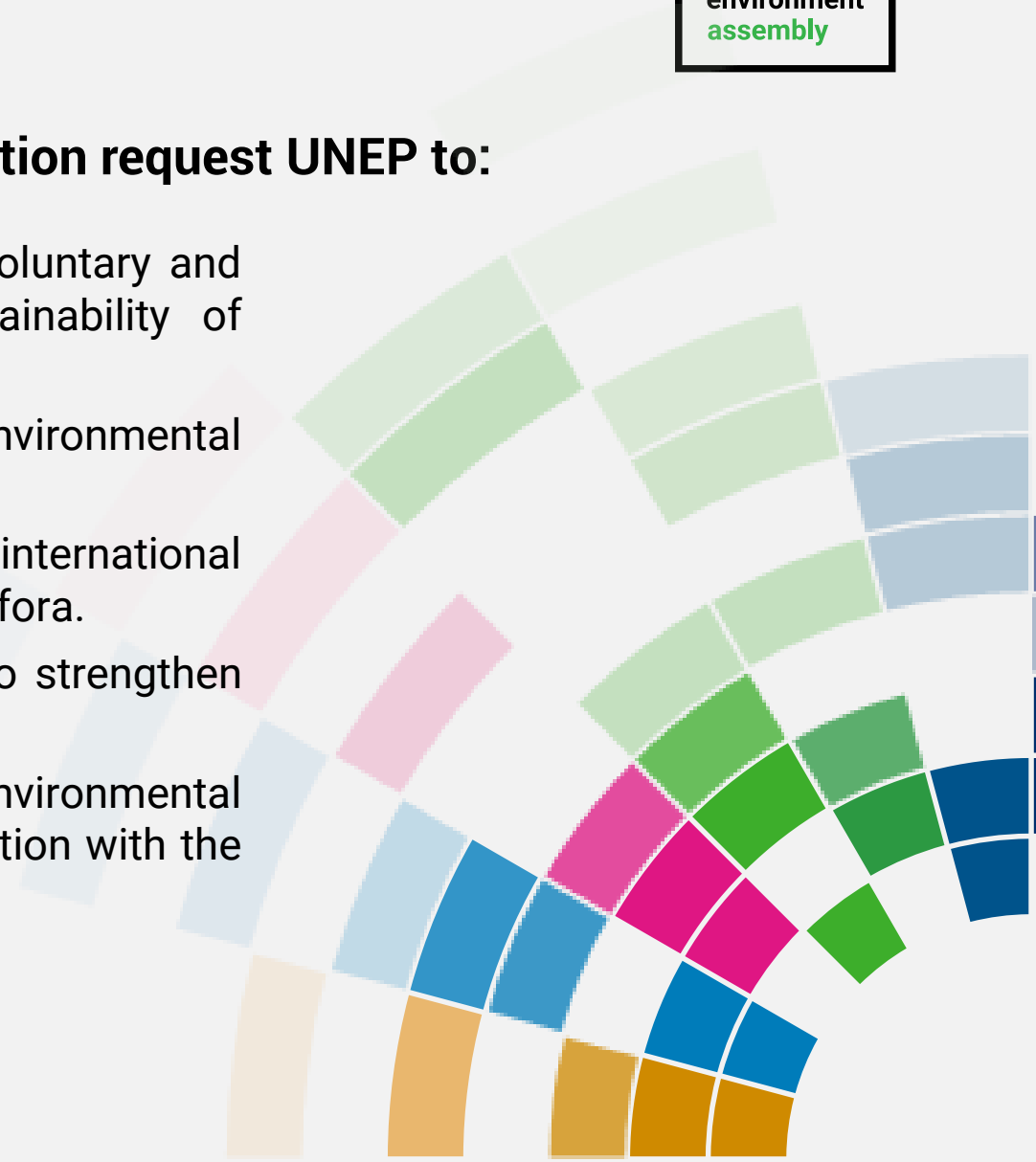
OP3: Support a new **open-ended expert group** on the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals along their full lifecycle.

OP4: Enhance **international cooperation** between relevant international organisations and processes, and seek synergies with existing fora.

OP5: Establish a **Global Sand Observatory** at GRID-Geneva, to strengthen scientific, technical and policy knowledge with regard to sand.

OP6: Strengthen scientific knowledge with respect to environmental impacts and risks of potential **deep sea mining**, and collaboration with the International Seabed Authority.

OP7: Report to **UNEA 7** on implementation of the resolution.

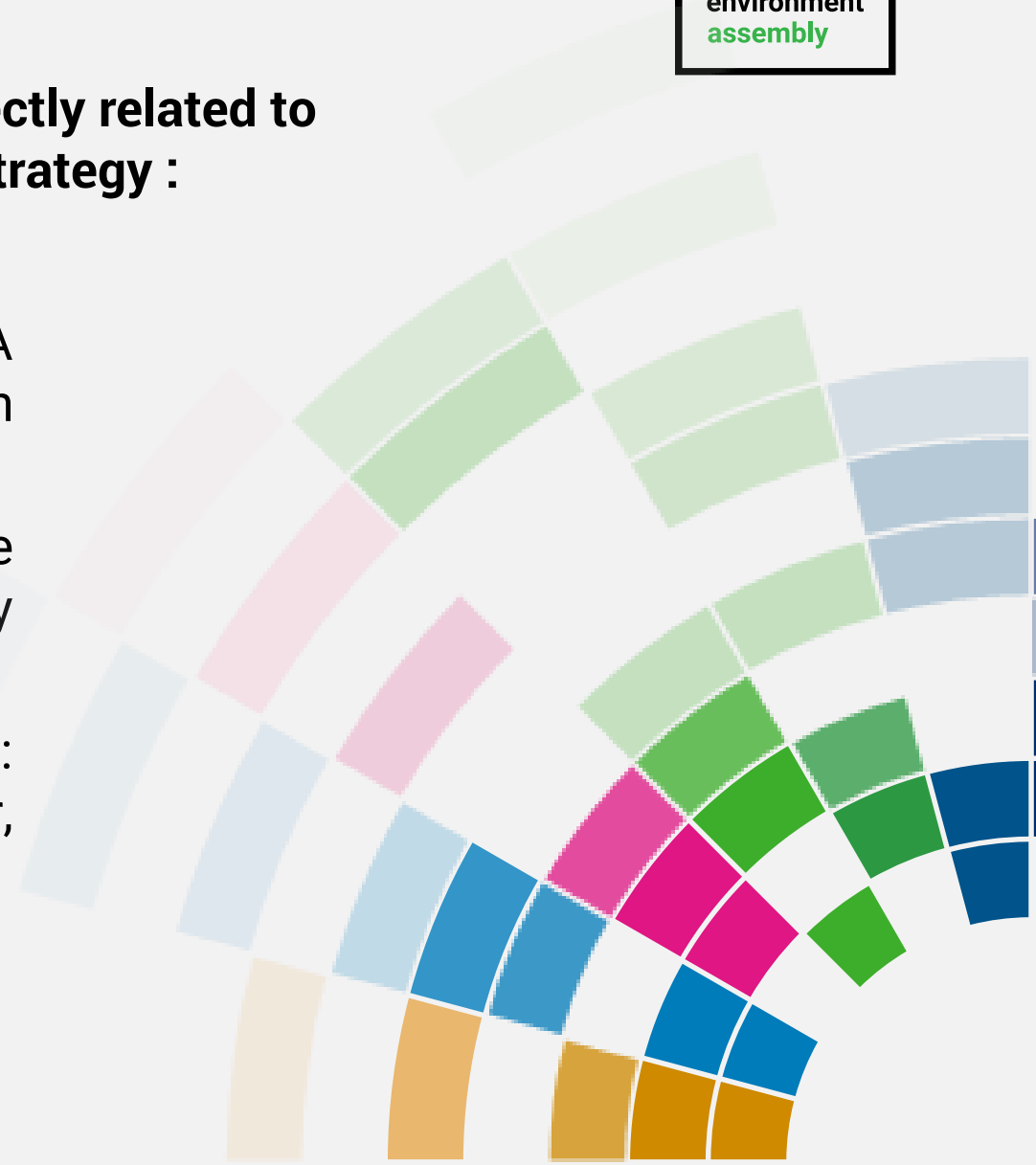


3.1 Relation to UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy



The overall aim and requests of the resolution are directly related to the following components of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy :

- **Climate Stability** strategic objective: Outcome 1A on adoption of decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience pathways.
- **Living in Harmony** strategic objective: Outcome 2A on halting and reversing loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.
- **Pollution Free Planet** strategic objective: Outcome 3C on reducing pollution to air, water, soil and ocean.

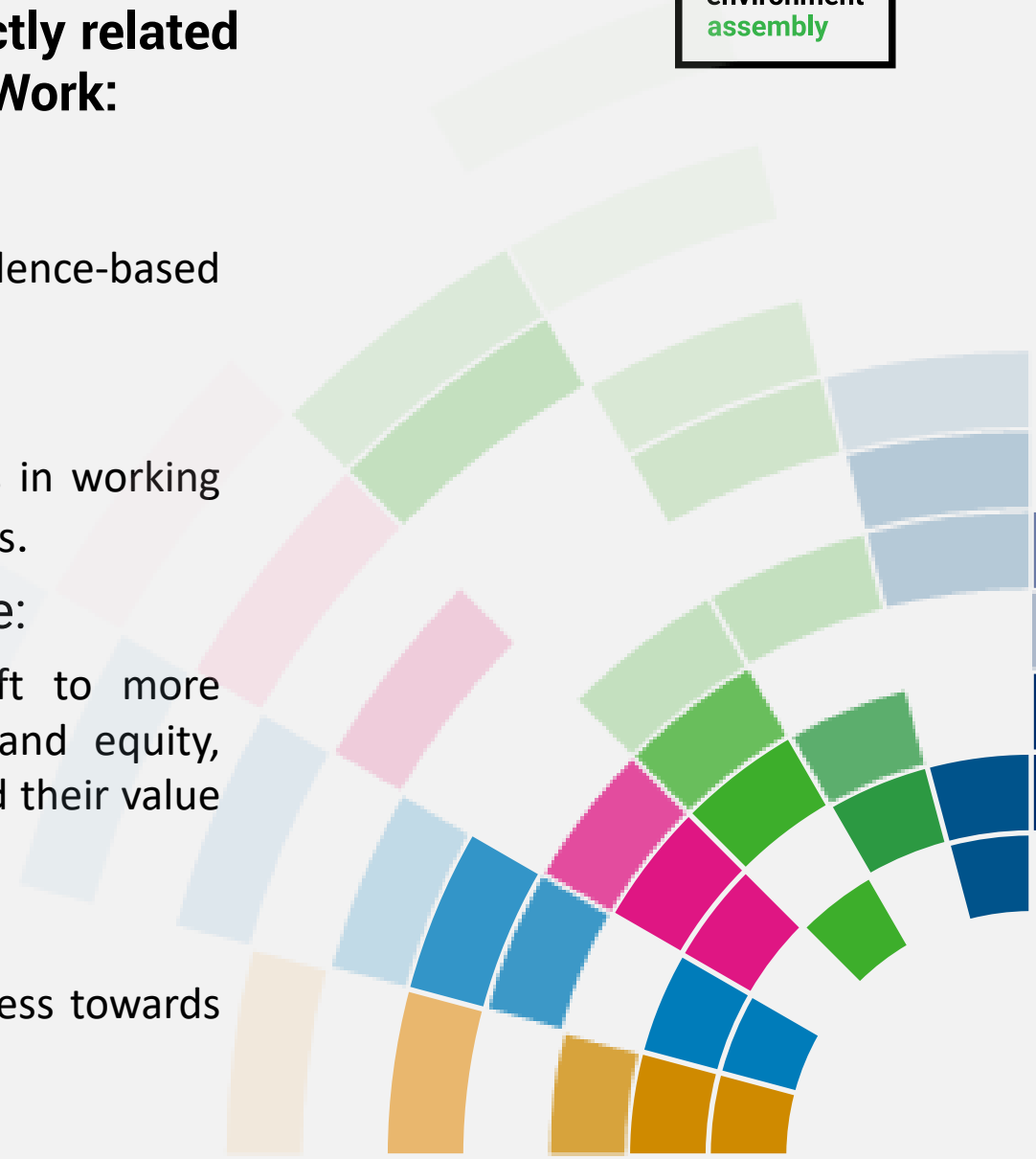


3.2 Relation to UNEP's Programme of Work



The overall aim and requests of the resolution are directly related to the following components of UNEP's Programme of Work:

- **Science-Policy Subprogramme:**
Empower Governments and other stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions through environmental assessments.
- **Environmental Governance Subprogramme:**
Support initiatives with MEAs secretariats, and Support countries in working together with effective environmental law and governance solutions.
- **Finance and Economic Transformations Subprogramme:**
Support transformed economic policies to accelerate the shift to more sustainable patterns of consumption, production, investment, and equity, while supporting principles and standards that enable business and their value chains to improve environmental sustainability.
- **Digital Transformation Subprogramme:**
Leverage environmental digital public goods and accelerate progress towards internationally agreed environmental goals and a circular economy.



4. Relation to existing UNEA or Governing Council resolutions/decisions

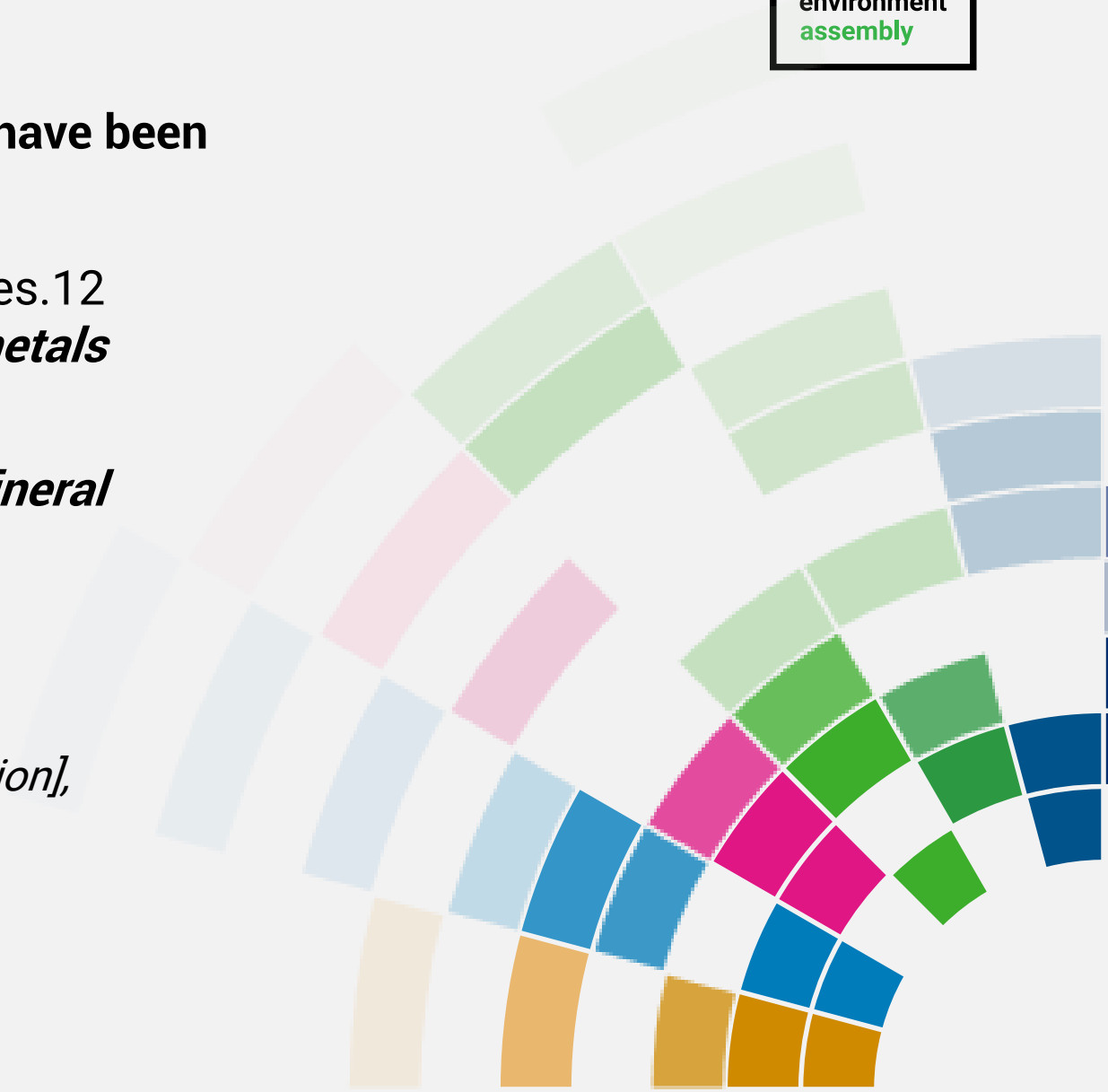


Environmental aspects of minerals and metals have been discussed in two previous resolutions:

- UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.12 "*Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management*".
- UNEA resolution UNEP/EA. 4/Res.19 "*Mineral resource governance*".

Links with other UNEA resolutions include:

- **Res. 3/2** [*Pollution Mitigation*],
- **Res. 4/1** [*Sustainable Consumption and Production*],
- **Res. 4/5** [*Sustainable Infrastructure*],
- **Res. 4/21** [*Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*] and
- **Res. 5/11** [*Enhancing Circular Economy*].

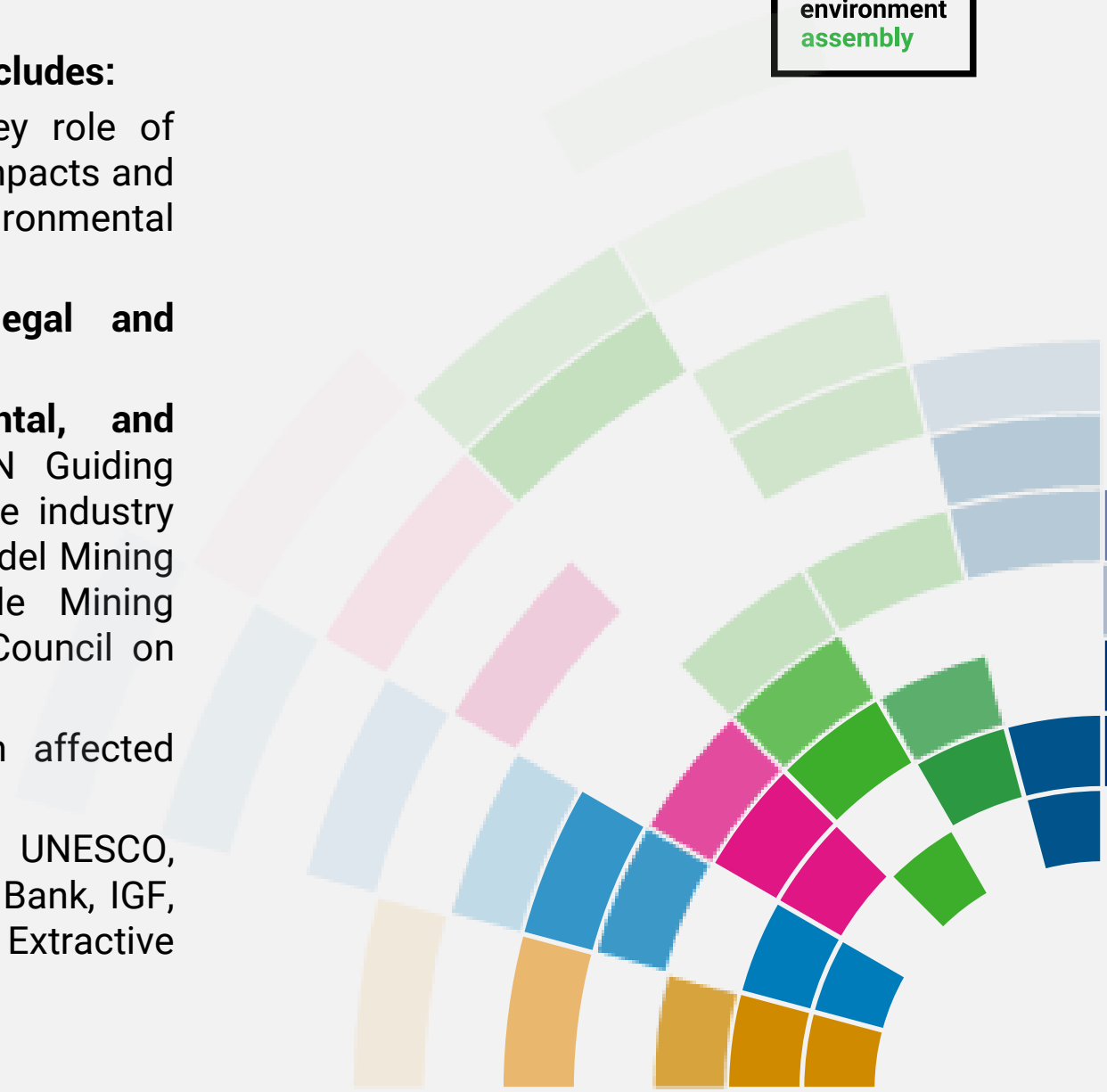


5. Initial legal assessment



The legal context within which the draft Resolution operates includes:

- **International Resource Panel** recognition of the key role of mineral resource governance for mitigating adverse impacts and enhancing positive economic, social and environmental outcomes of mining.
- Various **domestic, regional, and international legal and regulatory frameworks**.
- Other existing **intergovernmental, nongovernmental, and industry initiatives** (e.g. Africa Mining Vision, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Extractive industry Transparency Initiative, Global Reporting Initiative, Model Mining Development Agreement, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance, Natural Resource Charter, International Council on Mining and Metals).
- **Human rights**, including labour rights, impacts on affected communities, and Indigenous rights.
- Other **UN and IGO initiatives** (e.g. FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICO, Regional Economic Commissions, ISA, World Bank, IGF, OECD, UN SG's Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development).



6 .Preliminary budget implications outlined for implementing the draft



The implementation, monitoring and reporting of the draft resolution would require the following resources:

Estimated resource requirements – summary in USD

Budget Category	Financial requirements	PSC rate @ 13%	Sub-total	Existing Resources	Net Requirement
Staff	1,357,710.00	176,502.30	1,534,212.30	451,360.00	1,082,852.30
Non staff	1,357,672.00	176,497.36	1,534,169.36	200,000.00	1,334,169.36
Total	2,715,382.00	352,999.66	3,068,381.66	651,360.00	2,417,021.66

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Thank you

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