



KAIVOSVASTUU

**Sustainable Resource Extraction in the Arctic**  
Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining  
Eero Yrjö-Koskinen, Secretary General



KAIVOSVASTUU

## Problem setting: from crisis to cooperation

- Mining boom in early 2000 => strong investments in Finnish mining sector
- The environmental accident in Talvivaara was a turning point in October 2012 => roundtable process launched by the Finnish government in November 2012
- National action plan for sustainable mining published in May 2013
- Contained 35 proposals: two of them pointed out the need for improved dialogue and better monitoring and mitigation of social and environmental impacts
- The Finnish Innovation Fund took the lead in preparing a new platform for cooperation

### Mining in Finland in a nutshell

- long tradition
- geological data and ore potential
- existing infrastructure
- high educational level
- political and social stability
- mining and processing cluster
- security

### Challenges & developing issues

- social licence to operate and reputation
- conflicts in land-use
- investments and financing
- volatile commodity prices
- long throughput time for permits
- discussion around uranium
- perception of foreign-owned companies



KAIVOSVASTUU

## Building blocks and structure: the network

- Established in May 2014, coordinated by the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra) until the end of July 2015.
- **Members:** stakeholders that have signed the Statement of Intent, including the Finnish Mining Association, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, WWF Finland, the Association of Finnish Steel and Metal Producers, the Finnish Metalworkers' Union, the Regional Council of Lapland, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra), Finnish Industry Investment Ltd, and the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK).
- Chairperson: Hannele Pokka (Ministry of the Environment), Secretary General: Eero Yrjö-Koskinen. Host organisation: the Finnish Mining Association. Board: equal representation from the mining sector, ENGOs, other livelihoods and local stakeholders.
- Focus of activities is in **voluntary action and self-regulation**.
- **Produced in cooperation with stakeholders:** a) toolbox for local actions; b) CSR report covering the activities of 19 mining and exploration companies in Finland; c) new sustainability standard for mining based on Canadian TSM initiative; and d) sustainability standard for ore exploration.





KAIVOSVASTUU

# Statement of Intent

We commit to working together within the Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining.

## The aims of the network are to:

- develop an open, balanced and continuous dialogue and co-operation between the mining industry and its stakeholders, and;
- promote the development of more responsible, sustainable and predictable mining practices in Finland.

The network serves as a forum for discussion and co-operation between the mining industry and its stakeholders. It develops and customizes various tools for application in the Finnish operating environment, in order to enable more responsible and sustainable mining practices.

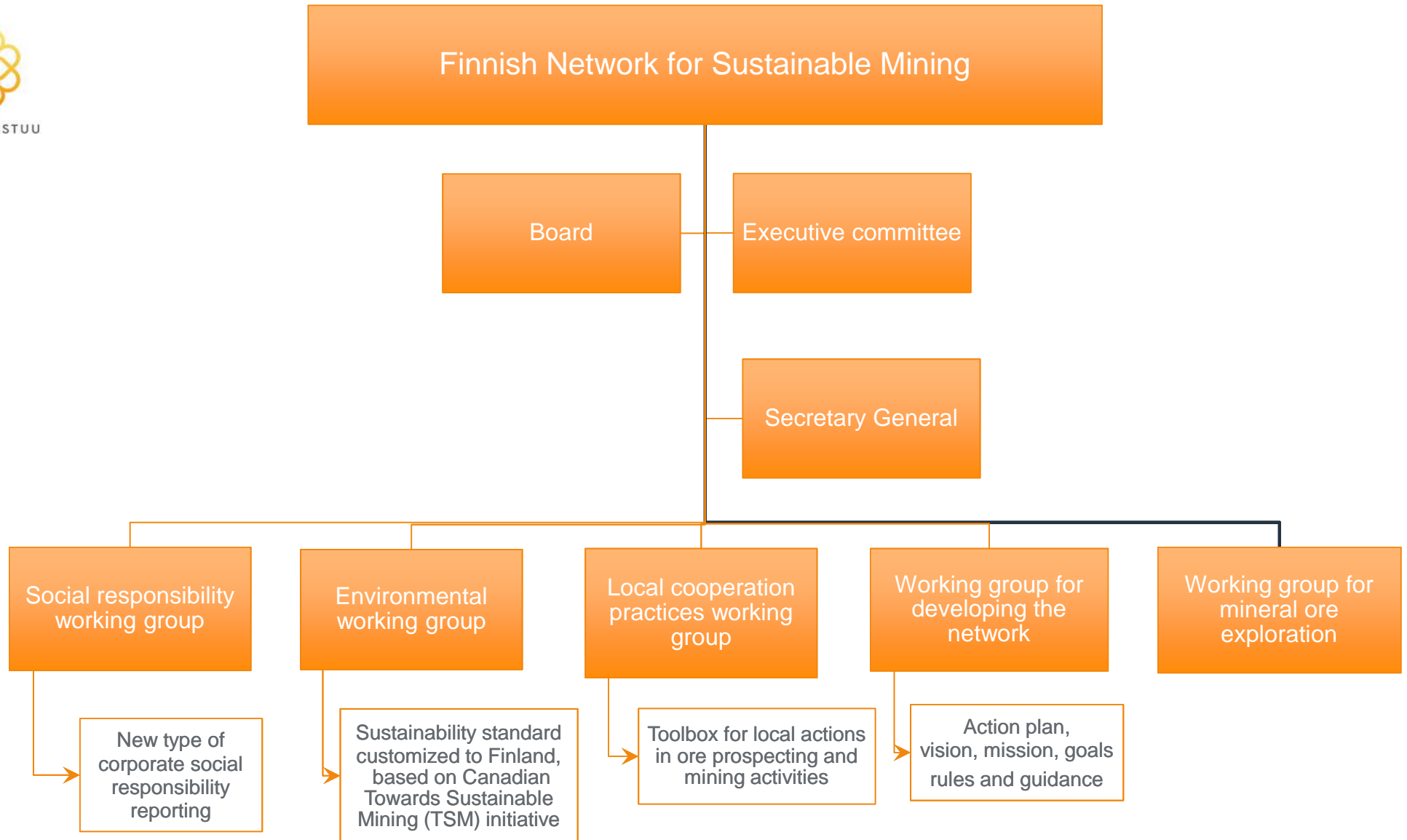
## The network's cooperation activities and operations in general will be based on the following principles, to which we hereby commit:

- compliance with the law
- promoting mining practices that are responsible and ecologically, socially and economically sustainable throughout the life cycle of a mine
- transparent information on mining activities
- engagement in genuine dialogue with stakeholders, for example to settle any conflicts of interest in advance and take into account the operational needs of other economic activities
- protection and conservation of biodiversity;
- management of environmental and social impacts
- systematic and comprehensive risk management
- ensuring the well-being of employees and promoting employment
- protecting cultural heritage
- respecting the special rights of reindeer herding and the Sámi people.





KAIVOSVASTUU





## Searching for a new sustainability standard

- Working group representing the mining sector and its key stakeholders
- Commissioned a study on available mining standards in the world, including: Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM), IRMA, Enduring Value, ICMM Sustainable Development Framework, UNE standards, JSE Socially Responsible Index, e3+, ISO 26000, UN Global Compact, Equator Principles, IFC Performance Standards, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, EIT and GRI
- Advantages of Canadian TSM:
  - a) Similar approach as in credit rating: national legislation represents lowest level (C), next steps B, A, AA and AAA
  - b) Companies report on an annual basis on their development and achievements in implementing the standard
  - c) External audit every three years to verify that reported achievements and level of implementation are correct

# Finnish standard for sustainable mining

Eight protocols to enable the evaluation of mining companies operating in Finland

## Biodiversity conservation management

1. Corporate commitment, accountability and communications

2. Planning and implementation

3. Reporting

## Safety and health

1. Policy, commitment and accountability

2. Planning, implementation and operation

3. Training, behaviour and culture

4. Monitoring and reporting

5. Performance

## Tailings management

1. Tailings management policy and commitment

2. Tailings management system

3. Assigned accountability and responsibility for tailings management

4. Annual tailings management review

5. Operation, maintenance and surveillance manual

## Stakeholder involvement and community outreach

1. Stakeholder identification

2. Effective stakeholder engagement and involvement

3. Stakeholder feedback and response mechanism

4. Reporting

## Energy use and GHG emissions management

1. Energy use and GHG emissions management systems

2. Energy use and GHG emissions reporting systems

3. Energy and GHG emissions performance targets

## Crisis management

1. Crisis management preparedness

2. Internal review mechanism

3. Training and practicing

## Closure of operations

1. Closure policy and commitment

2. Planning and implementation system based on life-cycle of the mine

2A. Planning of closure  
2B. Gradual closure and accountability of management  
2C. Closure and post-closure activities

3. Reporting system on the closure of operations

## Water management

1. Water management policy and commitment

2. Risk management and planning of water treatment

3. Water management and water treatment policy

4. Water management and water treatment reporting systems

There is a varying number (3-5) of evaluation criterias for each protocol.  
For each criteria, there are separate levels (C-AAA) according to which the company is classified.



KAIVOSVASTUU

## Latest developments

- Training courses on the implementation of the Finnish TSM held in 2016: four one-day courses, including feedback session, 14 mining companies and three auditing companies participate
- Guiding principles for mining and exploration finalised in February 2017
- All key instruments (mining and exploration standards, toolbox for local actions, CSR report on 19 mining companies and introductory video) translated into English: see [www.kaivosvastuu.fi/in-english/](http://www.kaivosvastuu.fi/in-english/)





## Challenges and successes in design and implementation

### Challenges

- The Sami parliament decided to opt out once the Finnish TSM was finalised
- The tourism industry has a conflict of interest in two ski resorts => never joined
- Maintaining the motivation of stakeholders once preparatory work has been finalised
- Ensuring the application of the Finnish TSM and its eight protocols to cover the lifecycle of mining activities in Finland
- Ensuring the autonomy of the network once funding comes from FinnMin only

### Successes

- Clear motivation to come together and improve sustainability after Talvivaara
- Over 90% of the Finnish mining sector have pledged to implement the new standard
- Extra funding for training courses and for designing new sustainability standard for exploration
- Increasing interest abroad to learn from Finnish experiences
- External support from Sitra to translate all remaining documents into English



KAIVOSVASTUU

## Achievements so far

- Platform for interaction and trust between the mining sector and key stakeholders
- Common approach → cooperation and shared interests
- Tools: CSR report, best practices for local actions, new sustainability standards for mining and ore exploration
- Added-value to mining sector: site-related approach, instrument for risk management and public relations, comparability of actions
- Rating system adds up to the motivation to improve the sustainability of operations





KAIVOSVASTUU

## Further information

Eero Yrjö-Koskinen, Secretary general  
Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining

[eyk@kaivosvastuu.fi](mailto:eyk@kaivosvastuu.fi)

+358 50 3478778

[www.kaivosvastuu.fi](http://www.kaivosvastuu.fi)