Introduction

The West African Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 is a regional conference that aims to build upon the success of the previous year's conference and continue the dialogue on enhancing natural resource management for the sustainability of extractive host communities. This year's focus will be on insecurity and its effect on mining host communities in West Africa. The conference will bring together key stakeholders, including mining host communities, civil society organizations, government representatives, industry experts, and international organizations, to discuss challenges, share experiences, and propose solutions for the sustainable development of mining host communities. It will also offer the opportunity to review countries’ efforts in domesticating the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and draw lessons from the countries in the African region that have developed the NAP-BHR.

Theme

The West Africa Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 theme is "Insecurity and Minerals Governance in West Africa: Building Mechanisms for the Protection of Mining Host Communities". The conference will explore the realities, opportunities and challenges mineral governance and security presents and how it affects mining host communities in West Africa. The aim is to identify strategies that ensure a secure environment for these communities and promote their socio-economic development.

Objectives

The objectives of the Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 are as follows:

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a. To explore the connections between mining activities and security issues, particularly in relation to insurgency, conflicts, and illicit activities in the sub-region.
b. To raise awareness and understanding of the security challenges faced by mining host communities in West Africa.
c. To facilitate dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to develop effective strategies for mitigating security risks and promoting sustainable development in mining host communities.

d. To showcase best practices, innovative approaches, and successful case studies in addressing security challenges in mining host communities.

e. To strengthen partnerships between the mining industry, government, community representatives, and civil society organizations to foster sustainable and inclusive development.

Participants

The Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 will bring together a diverse range of participants, including:

i. Mining host community representatives and leaders.

ii. Civil society organizations working on natural resource governance and community development.

iii. Government officials and policymakers responsible for mining and energy.

iv. International organizations and development agencies.

v. Academics, researchers, and experts in the field of energy transition and natural resource management.

vi. Mining industry representatives and associations.

vii. Indigenous and marginalized community representatives.

viii. Media representatives and journalists.

Conference Activities

The Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 will feature a variety of activities to facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. These may include:

a. Plenary sessions: Keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations by experts on relevant topics.

b. Workshops and training sessions: Interactive sessions to build capacity and skills in areas such as community engagement, advocacy, and sustainable development planning.

c. Case studies and best practices: Presentations and discussions on successful initiatives and projects related to energy transition and mining host communities.

d. Networking sessions: Opportunities for participants to connect, share experiences, and forge partnerships.

e. Exhibition space: Showcasing innovative solutions, technologies, and projects relevant to the theme of the conference.

Outcomes

The Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 aims to achieve the following outcomes:

a. Enhanced understanding of the security challenges faced by mining host communities in West Africa.
b. Identification of best practices and innovative approaches to address security issues and promote sustainable development.

c. Development of actionable recommendations for policymakers, mining companies, and communities to mitigate security risks and foster inclusive growth.

d. Strengthened partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders to support sustainable mining practices and community development.

e. Increased awareness among the public and media about the importance of addressing security challenges in mining host communities.

Conclusion

The Mining Host Communities INDABA 2023 will be hosted as a collaboration between Global Rights and Africa Coalition on Corporate Accountability (ACCA). The conference will serve as a vital platform for stakeholders to address the complex issues surrounding insecurity and its relationship with mining. By fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and promoting collaborative solutions, the conference will contribute to the sustainable development and well-being of mining host communities in West Africa. Through collective efforts, we can strive towards a just and inclusive energy transition that leaves no community behind.

Participants will be encouraged to actively engage in the discussions, contribute their expertise, and commit to concrete actions to address the security challenges in West African mining host communities. The event will emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, responsible mining practices, and inclusive development to achieve lasting solutions.

Date and Venue

The 3 days conference will hold from Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 November, 2023 in Abuja Nigeria.