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REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA

## Pillars of Colombia's Mining Policy:

### 1. Mine Resources Management

The Ministry of Mine and Energy seeks to improve the mining institutional effectiveness, in order to be perceived as a stronger and more responsible institution.

### 2. Improvement in the productivity and competitiveness of the Mining Sector

—Small local scale Mining—. The Ministry of Mine and Energy, aims for a more profitable, organize and safe mining development. It is working for the harmony and balance of the mining development with nearby communities to the operation area, including ethnic groups. Also, working hand by hand with the environmental authorities inspires the mining development to prevent and minimize the environmental impact.

### 3. Advertisement of the Mining Country

The Ministry of Mine and Energy, searches to strengthen the bonds of trust with companies, investors and the international and national banks, to facilitate the dialogue with experts on international mining knowledge and create new opportunities for the development of the mining industry in Colombia.

## Promotion of Responsible Mining Mechanisms and strategies for development

Responsible mining; linked to the social and economic growth of nearby communities, the use of proven technology and fulfillment of the highest safety standards in terms of labor, the environment and human resources is a tactic to strengthen the efficiency of mining development.

*Barrick, South America Brochure*

In 2006, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), through the Board of Mines, began a serious and consistent strengthening in order to achieve one of its main proposals: the responsible development of mining in Colombia. According to Director of Mines, Beatriz Duque Montoya, the aim is "to achieve a mining industry that incorporates social, environmental and economic aspects, and policies that entail exploration and exploitation governed by the criteria for sustainable development. It is a national proposal to which all entrepreneurs must be committed."

Nevertheless, in order that entrepreneurs and the mining industry achieve optimum performance, a process requiring the strengthening of different fronts must exist. This is why the MME, the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Regional Development, Ingeominas, mining delegations, and Regional Autonomous Corporations, are working towards achieving standards that will raise standards already achieved today. For this reason, it has been necessary for the Colombian State (according to established laws) has abandoned its role as mining entrepreneur in order to become, instead, an agent to generate access to underground resources, which are the State property. This new direction means that mining companies and associated organizations, previously considered to be users through an administrative process, will now be treated as clients that the State must find and attract.

Practice has shown that the investment and activities of entrepreneurs can only generate better resources for the State and more income for the nation when they adopt the principals of responsible development. Today the main players — those who determine development in the mining industry — are the investors or project operators and the public in general. These have become participants in making decisions on planning processes and territorial organization, a role that drives municipal administration. These players act as managers and overseers that demand of mining companies, environmental control in terms of quality, more information on their activities, good working conditions and support for the integrated development of the area.

## Testimonies on Social Responsibility

*Cerrejón*

*"Since 1984, the company has successfully developed these policies, through the Fundación Cerrejón. Today the effort has increased fourfold and is now focused on priority problems in La Guajira, thus conforming with a System of Foundations made up of organizations launched to achieve an improvement in the development of social management, through which it is sought to promote and support projects directed towards the development of sustainable development in La Guajira. This is being brought about by using the resources of companies and from other sources, both national and international and may be used for various regional development programs. During the year 2007, Carbones del Cerrejón invested more than five million dollars in taking responsible social action. Today, the local economy of La Guajira depends, for a great part, on coal exports. This is reflected in the company proposal to contribute to the creation of ways and means and of alternative projects that allow the people of the region to take advantage of resources generated through their mining wealth and to prepare for the future."*

*Catalina Rincón, spokesperson responsible for questions of social responsibility, Cerrejón.*

*Cerromatoso*

*According to Alan Pangbourne's presentation to the Colombo—Japanese Chamber of Commerce in 2007, regarding the topic of social responsibility: "We are convinced that in order to prevent,*

*“One of the sectors in Colombia that attracts more foreign investment is the mining sector”*

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development of the zone.

These days mining companies are toeing the line regarding national procedures in terms of responsible development. However, mining companies are more aware of the importance of investing in areas sensitive to the nation, such as the social fabric, training and sustainability in vulnerable communities, respect for human rights, the struggle against corruption, environmental protection and improvements in health and education. Due to this, the mining sector is attracting a greater number of foreign investors and public motivation in general.

Indicators regarding social responsibility, in which the mining industry, among other national industries, has played a role, can be seen in the following table.

Strategy	Mining Companies	Other Companies
Human Rights Activities	87,5%	55%
Environmental Protection Programs	55%	50%
Corruption Prevention	91%	50%
Collective Bargaining With Workers	71%	31%

Source: Logbook Number 25, Chapter 5: Fedesarrollo, 25th April, 2008

According to the above, responsible development has brought about improvements in such Colombian mining operations as Cerrejón, Cerro Matoso and Mineros S.A., where the promotion and support of sustainable development in local communities are the axis of policy development. In the case of Cerrejón, “there has been an improvement in labor relations, environmental management, human rights issues and measures to prevent corruption. (The company has issued directives regarding its policies on health, safety, and on communities under its auspices as well as having participated in eleven negotiations with trades' unions.) Mineros S.A. has focused on environmental protection, the improvement of basic sanitation and health—and—educational training. Finally, Cerro Matoso, with its strategies for responsible development, is contributing towards local economic growth, the improvement of competition, environmental awareness and the strengthening of health and education.” See. *Mining in Colombia: the Socio—economic and Fiscal Impact, April 2008, pp.112—114*

This is why mining companies and entrepreneurs are adopting, to greater or lesser degrees, criteria of social responsibility, contributing to community welfare implemented in favor of community development and of responsible mining that is efficient and commercially attractive. In this way mining development is bringing benefits to all those involved.

*minimize, or compensate for, the significant impact that may occur to the environment and energy use, due to our operations, let us find success and acceptance for all parties interested in our business. This is why we must inform local communities on the question of socio—environmental management, according to the standards laid out in the policy.”*

[See link](#)

#### **Mineros S.A**

*Mineros S.A. focuses on its social responsibility for local development through the collective participation of communities and governments in making decisions and taking action to find efficient and thorough solutions to the problems stemming from poverty, the lack of fairness, employment, governability and environmental sustainability.*

[For more information, see link](#)



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