

The African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES) holds its 13th Annual Strategy Meeting in Harare

The African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES), a pan-African network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) engaged in extractive sector advocacy, in particular mining and development issues held its 13th annual strategy meeting from June 21-24th, 2011 in Harare, Zimbabwe under the theme: **The African Mining Reform Agenda and Regional Harmonisation: mobilising for developmental impacts.** The Annual Strategy Meeting was hosted by the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA).

The meeting involved fifty participants from around 20 strategic mining countries. These were drawn from the academia, civil society and policy officials from such institutions as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Parliament of the Zimbabwe.

The annual strategy and planning meeting allowed members of the Network to share experiences and to analyze and assess the most pressing issues of concerns in the mining sector which resulted in improved and common understanding and mapping of advocacy strategies for promoting policies that ensure the optimum developmental impact of mining in Africa without abuse to the environment and human rights.

The theme of the 13th annual strategy meeting flowed from the evolution of policy debates and processes for the reform of African mining regimes taking place at the continental and regional levels, a position which AIMES has been calling for over the years. Flowing from the theme, the meeting discussed the prospects and challenges of the reforms, analysed arenas of advocacy, in particular the climate change negotiation process and Rio+20 among others and resulted in the adoption of a number of advocacy positions and agenda.