

## ASI MINE CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Approved** by the ASI Standards Committee on 21 May 2026

**Validity:** June 2026 – December 2027. [Phase 1 is expected to run from June – November 2026, but the Working Groups may be extended for subsequent phases if required/ agreed by participants]

#### BACKGROUND:

Under the [ASI Standard Setting and Revision Procedure](#) (and ASI's obligations as a [Code Compliant member of ISEAL](#)), ASI is required to carry out a review of its current standards at least once every five years. The initial part of the review was completed in November 2024, resulting in a recommendation by the ASI Standards Committee for a full standards revision process to commence in March 2025. This recommendation was formally approved by the ASI Board on 4 February 2025.

The scope of the revision includes the current ASI Performance Standard V3 and Chain of Custody Standard V2, as well as the associated claims and assurance framework. The Terms of Reference for this standards revision, including its objectives and expected timeframe, can be found on the [ASI website here](#).

ASI is committed to multi-stakeholder representation throughout the revision process. This additional Working Group will complement the six thematic working groups already set up in 2025 to help feed into the ASI Standard Revision process. These Working Groups cover the following topics:

1. Circularity;
2. Climate Change;
3. Nature;
4. Community Rights and Participation
5. Labour Rights/ Health and Safety
6. Chain of Custody and Claims

#### AIM OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The purpose of the Working Groups (WGs) is to monitor the development of draft standards content through the revision process, and to provide expert feedback from a range of ASI Member perspectives. Input from the Working Groups will complement the work of the [Standards Committee](#), and technical experts who will assist the ASI Secretariat in drafting revisions.

The role of the Working Groups is to:

1. Serve as a 'sounding board' to provide feedback on draft standards criteria and guidance, particularly around *relevance, clarity, and feasibility of implementation* for draft criteria
2. Highlight potential alignment (or gaps) between draft ASI standards content and other key standards/ frameworks
3. Provide broader perspectives from across the aluminium value chain on how ASI Standards can support sustainability impacts and deliver value to Members. This includes identifying longer term risks and opportunities

In addition, Working Groups provide a useful forum to bring together ASI Members from diverse parts of the value chain and broader stakeholders, facilitating peer learning and knowledge transfer.

Given the wide range and complexity of issues within each focus area, the Working Groups will not be the sole source of expertise for standards development, and they do not have a decision-making role in the development of the ASI Strategy, Standards, or Assurance processes. However, input and recommendations from Working Groups are a key source of information that is considered carefully by the ASI Secretariat and Standards Committee in the standards revision process.

## REVISION OBJECTIVES

As set out in the [Terms of Reference](#), the standards revision aims to deliver the following key objectives, which will shape the draft content development and discussion topics across all Working Group areas:

1. Enable greater differentiation; recognising different performance levels and creating pathways for continuous improvement:
2. Further strengthen credibility of the standards and related assurance:
3. Improve the relevance of criteria, focusing effort on the most critical areas:
4. Strengthen focus on priorities for Indigenous Peoples and other traditional communities:
5. Enhance the value through certification:
6. Improve alignment with other standards:
7. Renew focus on impact:

## FOCUS FOR THE MINE CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP

This Working Group will focus on further evolving the draft criteria and requirements related to **mine closure** (modular section 9 for the PS V4) and **progressive rehabilitation of mines** (currently under PS V4 Section 5, Nature). This includes reviewing feedback from the first public consultation process and providing input to the ASI Secretariat and Standards Committee on how to incorporate feedback and further revise/ improve the standard draft and associated guidance.

Discussion topics are likely to include:

1. Mine closure planning, including process, unplanned closure planning and potential contradictions between regulatory requirements, voluntary standards, and priorities of other stakeholders
2. Inclusion of circularity principles into closure planning
3. Engagement and consultation with affected communities (including affected Indigenous Peoples and FPIC requirements, in alignment with Community Rights WG and development)
4. Progressive rehabilitation of mines during active operations, including rehabilitation quantification metrics, minimum monitoring periods and best practice rehabilitation techniques
5. Socio-economic transition planning, including the responsibilities of companies
6. Financial resources for closure planning (including financial provisions/ assurances)
7. Biodiversity and nature-related outcomes for closure planning, including no net loss targets (in alignment with Nature WG discussions on no net loss targets)
8. Identification of leading practices for the topics above
9. Alignment with other standards and frameworks

## SELECTION OF WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. Working Groups are open to representatives of current ASI Members and IPAF participants. Others, such as technical experts may be included based on expertise and capacity.

2. Working Groups will be capped at a maximum of 30 participants to enable sufficient participation; these will be selected based on:
  - o Relevant expertise for the topic
  - o Diversity of Membership perspectives, including: geographical spread, diversity across the value chain, company size, civil society vs industry perspective
3. In general, only one representative per ASI Member will be permitted in a Working Group, unless capacity allows. If groups are oversubscribed, Members may need to be limited to participating in one or two Working Groups to allow a wider range of ASI Members to be represented
4. ASI Secretariat will maintain attendance and participation records of Working Group participants. If participants are unable to attend several sessions, they may be asked to step down if there is a waiting list in place
5. Names of individual participants will not be published except where this is consistent with ASI's Privacy Policy.

### FORMAT AND TIME COMMITMENTS:

1. For Phase 1, the Working Group is expected to carry out 3-4 meetings between June and November 2026 (while the revised draft is under development, incorporating feedback from the first public consultation period).
2. The Working Group may be extended to carry out a second phase of work beyond this, if there is a need and subject to the agreement of participants.
3. All Working Group meetings will be held virtually via videoconference, on average 1.5 hours per call.
4. Most Working Group proceedings will be carried out in English; selected interpretation capacity may be available as required.
5. In between meetings, Working Group members will be expected to spend on average 1 hour reading materials and capturing any feedback, in order to make the most of each call.
6. Total estimated time commitments are set out below:

Activity	Expected minimum time commitment
Virtual Meetings (assume 4 meetings)	4 meetings * 1.5 hours = 6 hours
Preparation between meetings (minimum expectation)	4 meetings * 1 hour = 4 hours
<b>Total minimum time commitment, June – Nov 2026</b>	<b>10 hours</b>

### ANTI-TRUST COMPLIANCE

ASI is committed to complying with all relevant antitrust and competition laws. All participants in ASI governance are required to read, understand and comply with ASI's Antitrust Compliance Policy, available at: <https://aluminium-stewardship.org/policies>