

## Tool 2.2: Checklist for First Meetings Between Community-Government

While the actions of authorities in permitting exploration and mining projects are defined by law, their role in the public eye is not only to hold companies and the mining industry accountable and ensure they operate responsibly, but to make this visible to the public and hence provide a real sense of assurance. Increasing the visibility of their role can happen in many ways, but in terms of reassuring communities who may be affected by a project, the following Checklist for Government will provide guidance for authorities aiming to facilitate dialogue with communities.

### Checklist for government:

- Government should propose dates when and where they will be available to meet community members, preferably without the company present (bring coffee and cookies).
- Introduce the permitting procedures and the Administrative departments involved in the process.
- Informally discuss how residents see their community, if they have concerns. If in conjunction with a potential project, ask what they think of government, their role in the process, and perceptions about exploration/mining and the company.
- Establish a formal liaison in the government that community members can call.
- Especially if communities are small, use less formal methods as well such as meeting at the local coffee house.
- For certain stakeholder groups or communities, virtual meetings might be feasible and appropriate. Accessibility is key.
- Seek to be a facilitator between the community and company.
- Ensure there is a grievance mechanism between the community and government.
- Continue the meetings. These should be ongoing so the government knows the sentiment of the people throughout a project.
- When there is an actual project (i.e. an operating mine), ensure companies are complying with reporting requirements. Encourage the companies to send monitoring reports to communities.