



Mission Information

Field	Economic Inequality
Member State:	[South Africa]
Regional Group:	[African Group]
Principal Delegate:	Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Mathu Joyini
Date of Submission:	[03/05/2026]

II. Statement of Purpose

Briefly describe the intent behind this submission

Through observing how the South African government's lack of policy regarding the mining industry leads to economic inequality within communities, we can make policy recommendations that would make life more equitable for local residents and workers. By comparing the mining industry in South Africa to the factory industry

in the Los Angeles area, we can examine the impact of industrial policies on a similar group.

III. Research Question / Inquiry

State the specific research question or core issue that this report seeks to address regarding human rights or policy implementation.

The Member State of [Country Name] seeks to investigate:

To what extent has South Africa's mining policies failed to stop environmental damage, extreme poverty, and unemployment within communities despite being a massive contributor to the wealth of the state?

IV. Executive Abstract-

Provide a concise summary (250–500 words) of the report's findings, including key data points, progress made since the last cycle, and remaining challenges.

Summary of Findings:

[Type your abstract here. Ensure it covers:

- Current domestic landscape
- Data collection methodology
- Primary successes and areas for improvement]

This report explores the Republic of South Africa and its experience with economic inequality that has been embedded within the mining industry. Stemming from colonialism and apartheid with the Natives Land Act in 1913 and continuing onto the modern era where the government has done much to reverse the damage. Data such as mining's contribution to South Africa's gross domestic product, environmental pollution records, and water consumption statistics were used to evaluate the industry's current role and its impact on surrounding communities. The inequality has been fed by the environmental damage from these mines producing mass acid mine drainage and the contaminated water sources. Alongside that the mines consume roughly six percent of the country's water supply, creating more water insecurity in the already dry region. These materials we examined allowed for both historical analysis and an evaluation of contemporary conditions within the mining sector.

Weak enforcement, delayed government action, and legal loopholes allowed mining companies to avoid full responsibility for environmental cleanup and social compensation of the region. As a result, many communities remain dependent on unstable mining employment while

facing long-term environmental hazards and health risks such as exposure to toxic materials found in their water and surrounding area. Without governmental action or accountability of the companies, not much has been done to help these impoverished communities come out of such situations.

Overall, the findings show that while mining continues to generate significant wealth for South Africa, it also reinforces economic inequality and environmental harm. Addressing these challenges will require stronger government oversight, stricter enforcement of environmental regulations, and policies that prioritize the well-being of the communities most affected by mining operations.

V. Proposed Recommendations

List specific, actionable recommendations.

1. **Recommendation 1:** Closure of legal loopholes that allow companies to avoid cleanup costs through liquidation.
 2. **Recommendation 2:** Conduct mandatory annual inspections at all active mining sites, ensuring no site is skipped.
 3. **Recommendation 3:** Publicly release environmental impact and water quality reports online in a central, searchable database.
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