UNFSS Flagship Reports’
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

• To cover key issues for UNFSS Stakeholders
• Demand Driven: Topics Guided by Steering Committee and Advisory Panel
• Neutral, informative, forward looking
• Expected to be annual
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

Next steps...

• Identification of key topic(s) for 2014 Flagship Report
• Review of key topics with Steering Committee and Advisory Committee
• Drafting of 2014 Flagship Report...
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

Voluntary Sustainability Standards: Today’s Landscape of Issues and Initiatives to Achieve Public Policy Objectives (June 2013)

Build common platform of knowledge as basis for future discussion

Part 1: Issues, Part 2: Initiatives
Part 1: Public Policy Issues
1. Voluntary sustainability standards and UN declarations on sustainability
2. Different kinds of sustainability standards
3. Voluntary sustainability standards and international trade rules
4. Real or perceived opportunity for sustainable development?
5. Measuring the contribution of VSS to sustainability goals
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

Part 1: Public Policy Issues
6. VSS and price premiums
7. Proliferation: concerns and possible solutions
8. The voluntary nature of standards
9. VSS and the role of governments

Standards Scheme Considerations
i. Conformity assessment
ii. Traceability and claims
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

Part 2

• Governmental and intergovernmental initiatives
• Non-governmental initiatives and partnerships
• Research and resources
• 46 Organizations/ Initiatives
• Description, Focus, Approach, Contact information, Outputs ...
Issues and Concerns

• VSS and UN Declarations on Sustainability:
• Consumers (both States and individuals) bear responsibility for the impact of their consumption
• Social and environmental costs should be internalized
• The private sector should improve its performance

But
• VSS should not be used to create unnecessary barriers to trade
• All countries have a right to determine their own social and environmental regulations
Issues and Concerns

The Role of Governments:

• Require
• Support
• Encourage
• Participate
• Permit
• Discourage
Issues and Concerns

Are all voluntary standards the same?
Legally?
Practically?

What are the impacts of implementation?
Winners and losers
Premiums and profitability
Who pays, who benefits?
The challenges of evaluating effectiveness

Proliferation of standards:
What drives it?
Does it matter?
Should government intervene?
UNFSS Flagship Reports’

• Thank you!

• Report available at our website: unfss.org

• Report written by Matthew Wenban-Smith (mwenbansmith@responsiblemining.net)