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‘Mineralogy 2022’: a worldwide celebration of mineralogy to highlight its importance in our everyday lives

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Figure 1:

Mineralogy 2022 (Min2022) belongs to the ‘International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development’ (IYBSSD2022) initiative **approved by UNESCO**. Major aims of Min2022 are i) to generate **public interest** in the science of matter and how it underpins most innovations and developments in our modern society, ii) attract **young people** to science through **fascination with natural crystals**, iii) illustrate the **universality of science**, iv) support the emergence of **mineralogical societies in developing countries**, especially those where natural resources are exploited, v) foster international collaboration between scientists worldwide, vi) promote education and research in **mineralogy, crystallography** and their links to other sciences, and vii) increase **public awareness** of the importance of **natural resources**.

Mineralogy is a **very active and rapidly evolving field** with a tremendous impact on many facets our society. Besides being the basis of **geology**, mineralogy is closely related to **crystallography**, which applies the fundamental principles of **crystal symmetry** to mineral crystal structures. The **mineral diversity and evolution** are indicators of planetary evolution including the beginning of **life on the Earth**. Mineral occurrence is therefore a key factor in planetary sciences including the remote search for life in exoplanets. Mineralogy is also essential in searching for new **sustainable resources** (strategic metals, critical raw materials, etc.) either from natural deposits or human-made products including wastes. There is growing interest in understanding the interaction between the mineral world and the **biosphere**, which often involves major implications for human health. The search for solutions to the global **climate change** due to CO₂ release in the atmosphere relies upon the promising approach for carbon capture and storage by minerals. **Mineral-inspired new materials** are designed to help with control of **environmental pollution** and recovery of treated resources.

The main event will be a series of public lectures held during the General Meeting of the **International Mineralogical Association** (IMA) in Lyon during mid-July [1]. A dedicated website [2] and Twitter [3] are available to promote the events organized by the 39 national societies belonging to IMA, including the **Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia** (SIMP) [4] and its **Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia** (GNM) [5].

[1] www.ima2022.fr

[2] www.min2022.org

[3] [#Mineralogy2022](https://twitter.com/Mineralogy2022)

[4] www.socminpet.it

[5] www.socminpet.it/SIMP/GNM/

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