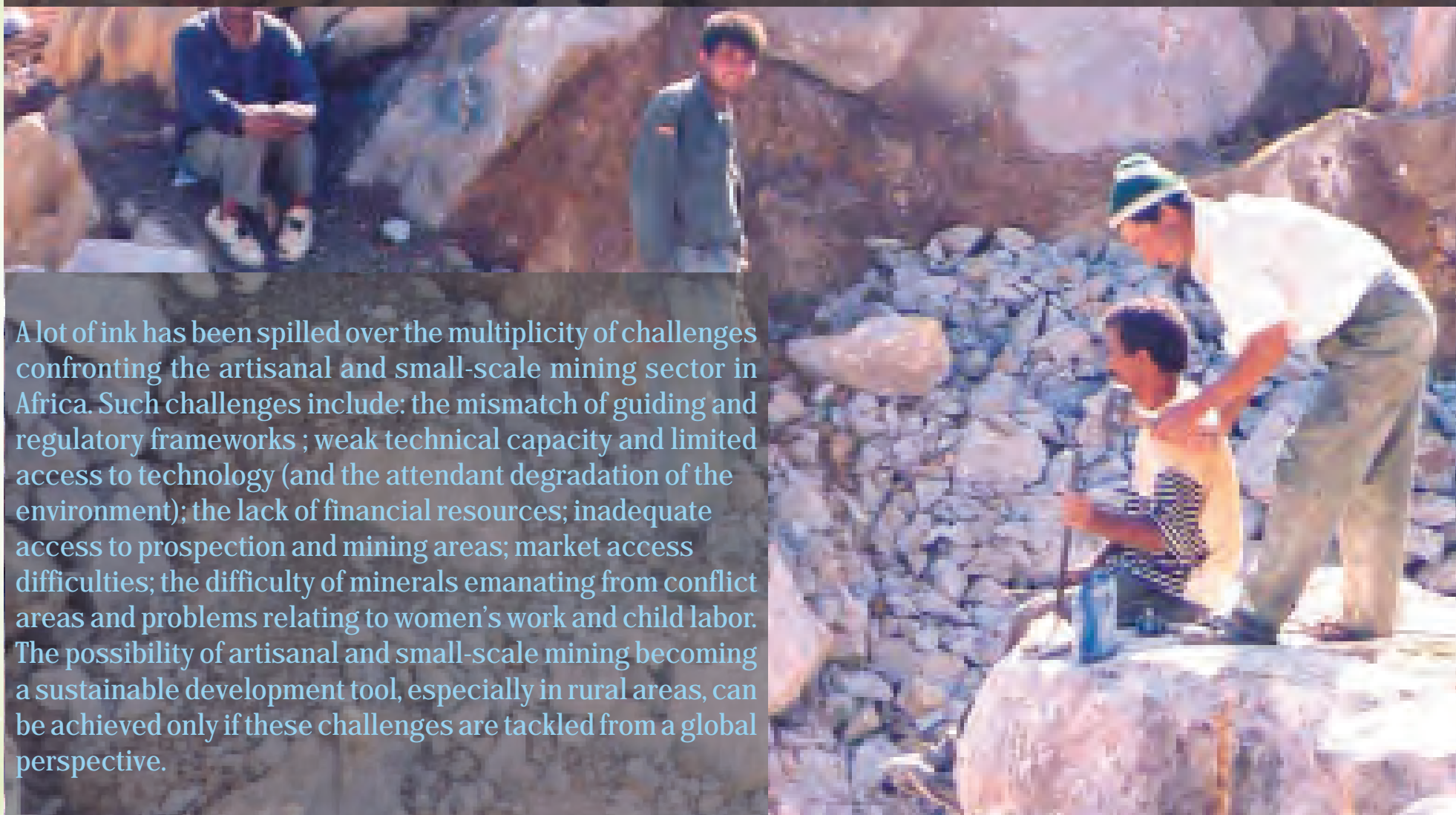


Artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa: challenges (b)



A lot of ink has been spilled over the multiplicity of challenges confronting the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Africa. Such challenges include: the mismatch of guiding and regulatory frameworks ; weak technical capacity and limited access to technology (and the attendant degradation of the environment); the lack of financial resources; inadequate access to prospection and mining areas; market access difficulties; the difficulty of minerals emanating from conflict areas and problems relating to women's work and child labor. The possibility of artisanal and small-scale mining becoming a sustainable development tool, especially in rural areas, can be achieved only if these challenges are tackled from a global perspective.