

Third meeting of the ICGLR-OECD-UN GoE Joint Forum on
Implementation of Due Diligence in the tin, tantalum and tungsten supply chains
3-4 May 2012, OECD Conference Centre, Paris France

Closing remarks by Carolyn Ervin, OECD Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
on behalf of ICGLR, UN GoE and OECD

The ICGLR, OECD and UN Group of Experts have jointly convened meetings since May of last year, with the wide participation of OECD and partner countries, industry throughout the 3T supply chains, and local and international civil society. We have had success in bringing people together and in finding consensus-based solutions to complex issues in responsible sourcing of minerals from the Great Lakes region. For the first time, this multi-stakeholder forum also provided the opportunity for the 3T and the gold communities to share experience and foster mutual learning.

The wide participation in the implementation process shows our strength in promoting collaboration and constructive engagement. But we have also realised that we need to explore ways to ensure the smooth and continued successful development of our joint effort and capitalise on what we have collectively achieved so far.

We will be considering options and ideas on the governance structure for this process based on the session held yesterday, and look forward to continuing this discussion through the existing tripartite steering group which is still open for further participants. The steering group will develop options for all of you to consider before the next meeting.

Of course, we were also reminded of the reasons why we meet together, namely to help create the enabling conditions for effective due diligence so that responsible trade will contribute to peace and security in the Great Lakes region. This means understanding expectations across the supply chain and each actor's responsibility.

Host governments and private companies are in the driver's seat to ensure more responsible supply chains of minerals, with a very important role for civil society. However there are limits to what the private sector can do. Donors can help to support host government reform agendas and to assist in overcoming barriers that may limit companies' due diligence efforts.

We reflected on ways to streamline processes, involve more actors in the supply chain and improve our collaboration to deliver better results. One welcome development was the participation of the Chinese industry and their willingness to take the lead in promoting due diligence among their peers and facilitating meetings in China.

After one year of discussion we are beginning to see new partnerships and market-driven initiatives designed to change the dynamics of the conflict economy in the region.

At the same time, host Governments have taken ownership and responsibility at the national and regional levels, conscious that results at one side of the frontier may not work if there is lack of reform and commitment on the other side.

The vision of “win-win” partnerships between producing, processing and consuming countries which motivated us to start this collective endeavour is gradually taking shape.

We have achieved some encouraging results. Now it’s time to scale up.

We look forward to maintaining the momentum in order to drive change and have a positive impact on the ground for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your constructive participation in this week’s meetings, and we look forward to seeing you again in the not distant future and to working very hard in the meantime to continue to build our successful co-operation.