



KEY OUTCOMES OF THE ICGLR-OECD JOINT CONSULTATION ON RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS OF MINERALS FROM CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND HIGH-RISK AREAS AND ICGLR MINISTERIAL MEETING (NAIROBI, 29-30 SEPTEMBER AND 1 OCTOBER 2010)

On 29-30 September, OECD countries and members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), a regional organisation of 11 central African countries, held a joint meeting on responsible supply chains of minerals from conflict areas. High-level officials from OECD and ICGLR countries, as well as Brazil, Malaysia and South Africa attended the meeting with key industry players and civil society.

Key outcomes include:

- **ICGLR ministers of the minerals sector recommend the adoption of the OECD Due Diligence for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas by the ICGLR Heads of State Summit to be held in Kinshasa on November 19th.** The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region at ministerial level recommended that the Heads of State adopt guidance developed by the OECD for companies to avoid funding conflict through the trade of minerals. The final statement of the Ministers also recommended that the ICGLR and the OECD enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to further strengthen cooperation.
- **Industry participants in the meeting agreed to incorporate the guidance into their own policies and management systems and implement the guidance.** Members of the ITRI, the global tin industry association, the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC), the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) as well as companies such as Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad, Thailand Smelting and Refining, Ford, Intel and Motorola noted that the guidance offers a “practical tool for responsible sourcing” and that they already willing “to put the standards and processes of the OECD due diligence guidance into action through incorporation of recommended policies into management systems and contracts.”
- **ICGLR countries and industry call on the US Securities and Exchange Commission to rely on OECD Guidance in drafting new mineral supply chain due diligence reporting regulations.** As part of new rules tacked onto the US financial overhaul bill, companies using minerals from the DRC or neighbouring countries will have to disclose in their annual reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission the due diligence measures they take to prevent financing armed groups. The SEC is currently drafting new regulations elaborating upon these reporting requirements. ICGLR Countries, EICC, GeSI and Ford Motor Company called on the SEC to rely on the OECD guidance for determining reliable due diligence measures, noting that “the Guidance provides the framework necessary for the US SEC to use in their rule making process.”
- **Active support from South Africa and engagement from Brazil and Malaysia.** South African Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region and former Ambassador to the UN said “the OECD guidance offers a concrete response for on-going corporate engagement in the region, provided that companies put in place measures which eliminate egregious abuses in the supply chain and work with local institutions and international organisations to improve the situation on the ground”, adding that “the OECD guidance and the regional initiative of the ICGLR together provide a real opportunity for the Africa’s Great Lakes Region to benefit from the mineral sector.” Brazil and Malaysia expressed appreciation for the outcomes of the consultation.