



**Communiqué by participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> ICGLR-OECD-UN GoE Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains – 26-28 May 2014**

*Prepared by the Multi-stakeholder Steering Group of the OECD implementation programme –  
Approved by Forum participants on 28 May 2014*

In 2011, OECD and non-OECD countries adopted the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas<sup>1</sup> (“OECD Due Diligence Guidance”) and committed to actively promote the observance of the Guidance, with the aim of ensuring that companies operating in or from their jurisdictions source minerals responsibly. ICGLR<sup>2</sup> member states also endorsed the OECD Due Diligence Guidance in the Lusaka Declaration,<sup>3</sup> and incorporated it into the ICGLR’s Regional Certification Mechanism as an integral part of its Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. Since the launch of these instruments and initiatives, significant progress has been made by governments, industry and civil society in implementing due diligence and supporting responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Steps have been taken to develop and implement common approaches to responsible sourcing, and multiple programmes have been launched, notably by several OECD countries, the European Union, ICGLR Member States and the tin, tantalum and gold industries, to support the operationalization of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance.<sup>4</sup>

These efforts should be supported through the continued willingness by all stakeholders to engage in the complex operating environments of conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Undertaking due diligence on mineral supply chains can enable responsible sourcing from such areas to continue, whilst cutting off harmful parts of the trade. On-the-ground due diligence efforts in conflict-affected and high-risk mineral producing regions that implement the OECD Due Diligence Guidance should be supported by all concerned parties, including governments, intergovernmental organisations, companies, industry associations and civil society organisations.

*- We call on all concerned parties, and companies in particular, to engage responsibly in Africa’s Great Lakes region and other conflict-affected and high-risk areas across the world by carrying out or supporting due diligence in accordance with the OECD Due Diligence*

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation on Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected or High-Risk Areas [C/MIN(2011)12/FINAL]. For the full text of the Due Diligence Guidance in English or French, please refer to [mneguidelines.oecd.org/mining.htm](http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/mining.htm)

<sup>2</sup> International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

<sup>3</sup> Lusaka Declaration of the ICGLR Special Summit to Fight Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region, 15 December 2010

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the wide range of implementation work of the Due Diligence Guidance, please refer to [www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/implementingtheguidance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/implementingtheguidance.htm)

*Guidance, and to avoid policies or practices that are likely to exclude responsible producers from global supply chains.*

Responsible investment in the extraction, processing and trade of minerals has the potential to generate growth, prosperity and development opportunities, and thereby to contribute to stabilisation in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Large-scale industrial mining can drive change by generating government revenues, infrastructure development, direct and indirect jobs, supply chain opportunities, and other skills and capacity-development. Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) can also play an important role by providing much-needed employment and income to support the livelihoods of many artisanal and small-scale miners, their families and communities.

- *We call upon host governments to take the lead in promoting the formalisation of ASM as outlined in the Appendix of the Supplement on Gold to the OECD Due Diligence Guidance<sup>5</sup> and as envisaged in the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.<sup>6</sup> We also call upon other stakeholders to support these government efforts.*

Due diligence, when carried out rigorously, may reveal risks of fraud, human rights abuses (including worst forms of child labour), contamination in the supply chain or even risks of contributing to conflict and organised crime. Companies and industry associations engaged in responsible mineral sourcing should seek to address these problems constructively, practically and jointly with government, civil society and affected stakeholders.

- *We call on companies to be transparent about the challenges encountered by publicly reporting on due diligence in accordance with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance.*

A robust level of transparency will help build credibility in the due diligence systems and in all actors in the supply chain. Attempts to ignore, or worse, cover up problems will erode trust and ultimately undermine the efforts of all actors.

- *Recognising the potential benefits of increased responsible investment and trade in the mineral sector in Africa and elsewhere, participants in the ICGLR-OECD-UN Group of Experts Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains encourage more companies to engage responsibly in conflict-affected and high-risk regions by implementing the OECD Due Diligence Guidance thereby promoting peace and development in Africa's Great Lakes region and elsewhere. We also call on governments to create an enabling environment for companies' due diligence efforts, and to support further transparency, accountability and other good practices in the mineral sector.*

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<sup>5</sup> OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, Supplement on Gold, Appendix 'Suggested measures to create economic and development opportunities for artisanal and small-scale miners', Second Edition November 2012

<sup>6</sup> Formalisation of ASM is one of the six tools of the ICGLR RINR.

## **About the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas and the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism**

The OECD Due Diligence Guidance provides detailed recommendations to help companies respect human rights and avoid contributing to conflict through their mineral purchasing decisions and practices. The Due Diligence Guidance is for use by any company potentially sourcing minerals or metals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The Guidance was developed through a multi-stakeholder process with in-depth engagement from OECD and African countries, industry and civil society, as well as the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Guidance is a practical approach to due diligence implementation with an emphasis on collaborative, constructive solutions to complex challenges. Specific minerals present unique challenges for supply chain due diligence. The Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten Supplement was developed at the same time as the Due Diligence Guidance in 2011. The Gold Supplement was developed subsequently and became an integral part of the Due Diligence Guidance in July 2012.

The ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) is a regional standard for certification of conflict-free minerals sourced from the Great Lakes region. The RCM allows businesses to source minerals responsibly in compliance with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance. ICGLR regional certificates ensure that certified mineral export shipments were sourced from clean mine sites (free from any form of armed conflicts and child labour, caring for working conditions, environmental conditions, formality transparency and community development), and then transported, processed and exported according to ICGLR and OECD standards.

The OECD, the ICGLR and the UN Group of Experts on the DRC are working together to implement responsible sourcing in Africa's Great Lakes region as well as other parts of the world. Work is underway to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and its active use by companies throughout the mineral supply chain, industry associations, financial institutions, and civil society organisations. Considerable progress has been made in regional implementation and harmonisation of legal instruments with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and the RCM across the Great Lakes region.

For more information, please visit [mneguidelines.oecd.org/mining.htm](https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/mining.htm) or contact Tyler Gillard, Head of Project and Legal Adviser, OECD Investment Division ([tyler.gillard@oecd.org](mailto:tyler.gillard@oecd.org); +33 1 45 24 90 93).



***Supported by the Instrument for Stability of the European Union<sup>7</sup>***

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*A new Regulation succeeding the Instrument for Stability entitled "the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace" (IcSP) was adopted on 11th March 2014*