

13 October 2010

To: MakeITFair

Re: *Voices from the Inside: Local views on mining reform in Eastern DR Congo*

The Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) and the Global eSustainability Initiative (GeSI) appreciate the opportunity to review your recent report, *Voices from the Inside: Local views on mining reform in Eastern DR Congo*. We acknowledge your work in bringing additional awareness to conflict mining issues. Additionally, we would like to take the opportunity to elaborate on our work that is mentioned in *Voices from the Inside*.

We have been addressing issues in minerals extraction since 2008 with the launch of the joint EICC-GeSI Extractives Working Group (WG). The WG's charter is to enhance members' understanding of social and environmental conditions in the extractives supply chain (from original equipment manufacturer to the mining level), and to determine how we can act, collectively and individually, to improve these conditions.

The WG's charter includes research, programmatic, and stakeholder activities relating to addressing conflict minerals. The EICC and GeSI believe that mining activities that fuel conflict are unacceptable. In order to enable companies to source conflict-free minerals, the EICC and GeSI are taking action through:

- Engaging with stakeholders on conflict minerals. For example, representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Ministry of Mines, the United Nations Group of Experts, the World Bank, and Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) participated in our first tin supply chain workshop. Additionally, we are participating in sessions with the OECD on due diligence requirements in conflict regions.
- Providing support to ITRI's Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi), including a recent visit to the DRC to gather on-the-ground feedback on the iTSCi process.
- Developing the Smelter Verification Program (SVP).

The SVP, an audit process designed to enable responsible sourcing of conflict-free minerals, is the culmination of a multi-stakeholder project started in September 2009. The EICC, GeSI, members of the tantalum and tin supply chains, nongovernmental organizations, and government representatives all contributed to the development of the SVP.

Through the SVP, an independent third party will evaluate a smelter's sourcing activities to determine if the smelter demonstrates that all the materials they source are conflict-free. This due diligence will enable mineral buyers and those further downstream in the supply chain to better understand the origin of the materials in their products. The SVP will enable companies to conduct supply chain due diligence recommended in *Voices from the Inside* and ultimately required by the U.S. legislation, H.R. 4173 *Dodd-*



Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The SVP auditors are scheduled to complete the first audits in the fourth quarter of this year.

In closing, the EICC and GeSI believe that supporting activities that enable the ongoing sourcing of conflict-free material, such as the SVP and iTSCi, is important and contributes to addressing the issues surrounding conflict minerals. We are confident that the partnerships developed as part of our work in minerals extraction inform and enhance our work, increasing the likelihood of successful programs. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the EICC-GeSI activities referenced in *Voices from the Inside*.

Best regards,

Mike Loch
GeSI Board Member
Extractives Work Group Co-Lead

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EICC
Extractives Work Group Co-Lead

About GeSI (Global e-Sustainability Initiative)

The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) is uniquely dedicated to information and communication technologies (ICT) sustainability through innovation. GeSI brings together leading ICT companies – including telecommunications service providers and manufacturers as well as industry associations – and non-governmental organisations committed to achieving sustainability objectives through innovative technology. In June 2008, GeSI became a legal independent entity, an international non-profit association (AISBL) with an office near the EU institutions in Brussels, Belgium. For more information, see www.gesi.org.

About the EICC (Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition)

The EICC was established in 2004 to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions in the global electronic supply chain through use of a standardized code of conduct. The EICC was incorporated in 2007 as an association to ensure greater awareness of the EICC Code of Conduct, and to expand the Code's adoption across the industry. The EICC includes over 50 global electronics companies. For more information or to view the EICC Code of Conduct, see www.eicc.info.