Ericsson takes human rights and environmental risks in mineral supply chains seriously, and works with our suppliers, industry initiatives such as the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), and external stakeholders to strengthen traceability, due diligence and responsible sourcing controls, including for tin. Civil society research and field reporting is an important input to our due diligence, and we welcome any further information that Swedwatch is able to provide so that it can be incorporated in our due diligence process. Unfortunately, sustainability-related risks related to tin extraction in Indonesia are high, as is widely reported. It is information such as this that informs our risk-based due diligence efforts and efforts to increase and use the leverage we have to support positive improvements. Further suggestions for how leverage can be applied in this and similar cases are welcome.

It is important to note that Ericsson does not purchase tin directly and does not have direct purchasing relationships with tin mines, smelters or refiners. Tin nevertheless enters our supply chain through solder and components across multiple tiers of suppliers and processors. Our direct suppliers often cannot provide information on tin sourcing that is specific to our products; therefore, our ability to trace tin in our products to the mine level has limits.

Raw material supply chains are complex and visibility to raw material extraction is complicated for the reasons stated in your outreach. Having said that, Ericsson is enhancing supply-chain visibility and risk assessment, including mapping supplier-reported smelters and refiners and, where feasible, relevant country-of-origin and provenance risk indicators. Further analysis is done through risk-based selection of supply chains for further review, coupled with relevant risk screenings of sub-tier suppliers.

Ericsson's critical minerals due diligence is informed by the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. Ericsson has supplier requirements related to human rights, environment, ethics and occupational health and safety in the Code of Conduct for Business Partners and seeks to ensure that effective due diligence is in place upstream in the supply chain. Our conflict minerals due diligence process includes identifying smelters and refiners potentially connected to our extended supply chain, assessing their alignment with relevant RMI standards, and applying a risk-based approach for supplier, refiner and smelter follow-up and engagement. Company sustainability reporting can be one useful input, but it is not determinative; we also consider supplier-reported smelter data, RMI information, civil society and media reporting, field mission findings and stakeholder input.

Using the information shared by Swedwatch, and as is generally the case for external reporting on human rights or environmental issues, we are reviewing available information via our conflict and critical minerals due diligence process. This includes assessing the status of Indonesian smelters and refiners reported by suppliers in our extended supply chain and engaging with relevant industry mechanisms, including the RMI. We recognise the gravity of the risks reported in Bangka-Belitung. If credible evidence from our further due diligence indicates that a smelter or supplier in Ericsson's supply chain is linked to serious human rights or environmental harm, we will take appropriate action, including engagement with direct suppliers and industry initiatives (e.g. the RMI), and, where necessary, further steps including potential removal from our supply chain. The priority is to strive for positive improvements, while leaving a relationship is a last resort.

We are also engaging on this particular topic through the RMI and with relevant stakeholders to strengthen expectations for Indonesian tin smelters and refiners, including through enhanced due diligence tools such as Supply Chain Due Diligence Plus and the RMI ESG Facility Standard (see more info here). These tools are important, but are one input among others, alongside supplier engagement, civil society and media reporting, field insights, stakeholder input and risk-based follow-up.

We recognize the seriousness and complexity of the issues related to mining and raw material supply chains. This is also why Ericsson works with RMI members and other stakeholders through collective action where we can use shared leverage to address high-risk issues more effectively than any one downstream company could do alone. As part of this approach, Ericsson has participated in recent RMI-led engagement and capacity-building with important Indonesian tin smelters and relevant stakeholders, focused on responsible sourcing expectations and stronger upstream due diligence controls. This engagement is intended to support better understanding of downstream expectations, encourage stronger smelter and refiner management systems, and contribute to practical improvements in how high-risk sourcing contexts are identified and managed.

As for grievance mechanisms, Ericsson’s reporting channels are available to external stakeholders, including suppliers, business partners and other parties who wish to raise concerns related to potential violations of Ericsson’s Code of Business Ethics or related steering documents (such as the Code of Conduct). Concerns can be reported through the Ericsson Compliance Line, which is available 24/7 and operated by an independent third-party provider. Reports can be made anonymously where legally permitted, are handled under Ericsson’s allegation management process, and Ericsson prohibits retaliation against anyone who raises a concern in good faith. RMI also has its own grievance mechanism (see here), which may be easier to access for anyone that does not know the names of downstream entities.

We will continue to work with the RMI, our suppliers and relevant stakeholders to strengthen traceability, due diligence and responsible sourcing controls for tin and other raw materials. We welcome continued dialogue and are grateful for Swedwatch's engagement on these important issues.