



12th Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains

Concluding remarks by Guus Houttuin

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A word of thanks to all participants. Together we are taking due diligence forward. A special word of thanks to the MSG, the OECD team and the interpreters.

Without prejudice to the many productive discussions and progress in many areas during this Forum, let me share a number of 'takeaways' with you:

At the opening of the Forum, the London Metals Exchange announced that it would adopt requirements for all brand-listed traders to comply with the OECD Guidance for all metals traded on the LME – and this includes metals such as cobalt and copper. I look forward to the LME's white paper.

The meeting on responsible cobalt supply chains for the first time brought together the full range of actors to clarify the applicability of the OECD Guidance and to identify action points for 2018.

Also a first, the World Diamond Council (WDC) participated in the Forum. The WDC expressed its support for the OECD Guidance. As MSG Chair, I obviously expect this support to translate into promotion and implementation of the Guidance by the diamond sector.

It was good to hear from the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) about the revision process for the Regional Certification Mechanism and about the work on a regional due diligence strategy for artisanal gold. But as civil society rightly reminded us including during the two last sessions in this hall, many challenges remain when it comes to artisanal gold.

With an exchange of letters at the Forum, the government of Colombia, represented by Vice-Minister of Mines Carlos Cante, committed to take stronger action to implement the guidance.

On the first day of the Forum, we saw the release of the OECD pilot alignment assessment of the five major industry programmes against the Guidance. Together, these programmes account for over 90% of gold refining, 95% of tantalum production and 85% of tin

production. Important work as the final alignment assessment methodology will feed into the European Commission delegated act on the recognition of supply chain due diligence schemes.

Monitoring of the uptake of the Guidance by industry and of the impact of the Guidance on the ground remains crucial. I welcome the decision of Apple to measure the human rights impact on the ground of its due diligence programme.

The Responsible Jewellery Council reminded us of the vital role that local governments and civil society play when it comes to implementation on the ground, as exemplified in the session on diamonds by the Chief of the DRC's certification division Maurice Miema and the executive director of the GRPIE Michel Yaboue.

I could and should have mentioned many more people and initiatives, but I do not want to stand between you and the beautiful Paris weather.

With the usual caveats: the date for the 13th Forum is tentatively scheduled for 23-26 April 2019.

The 12th Forum is closed.