

**The Director**

DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS

Mr. German Arce Zapata  
Minister of Mines and Energy  
Calle 43 No. 57 - 31 CAN -  
Bogota D.C.  
Colombia

16 April 2018

Dear Minister,

I am writing to explore with you opportunities for collaboration to advance our shared programme of work on responsible mineral supply chains in Colombia.

The OECD Responsible Business Conduct Unit has developed a fruitful relationship with the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia in the last two years. Using the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains as a framework, the OECD has produced a series of baseline assessment to analyse the gold mining sector in Colombia and the potential to build responsible mineral supply chains. The Colombian government has also actively participated in our Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains since 2015.

In order to continue strengthening our common goals for a responsible, transparent and sustainable mining sector, we are pleased to pursue an exchange of letters specifying the follow up measures that the Government of Colombia is invited to take, in cooperation with the OECD. These measures, as agreed between the Government of Colombia and the OECD, include:

- Encouraging the participation of government officials in capacity building training programmes on the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains organised with the OECD Secretariat for key stakeholders of the Colombian gold supply chain, including relevant government agencies, monitoring organisations, civil society organisations and private sector representatives.
- Cooperation in the development of a mine site monitoring mechanism, including through the sharing of information, to assess risk as foreseen in Annex II of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains in order to facilitate the due diligence exercise by companies sourcing minerals from Colombia.
- Committing to further strengthen of the Registro Único de Comercializadores de Minerales (RUCOM), including through the introduction of background checks aligned with “Know Your Counterparty” recommendation outlined in the Supplement on Gold of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, and evaluate any additional opportunities to reinforce alignment with any requirements for Colombian exporters.

We believe this cooperation would go a long way to helping the Colombian industry meet existing international standards and regulations to improve market access, including the recent Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.



In addition, we are pleased and honoured to host the participation of a representative from the Colombian government to intervene in a session dedicated to Colombia at the 12<sup>th</sup> Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains and look forward to learn from the Colombian experience in terms of supporting and channelling responsible artisanal and small scale gold production towards global markets. This letter and the Colombian response will be exchanged during the session dedicated to Colombia at the upcoming Forum.

Please do not hesitate to liaise directly with Mr. Tyler Gillard ([tyler.gillard@oecd.org](mailto:tyler.gillard@oecd.org) ; +33 1 45 24 90 93), Head of Sector Projects, for further details and follow up. We look forward to cooperating with you to advance our shared goals of turning natural resource extraction into a force for peace and development in line with the OECD's mission to promote 'better policies for better lives'.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Medcraft

CC:

Mr. Carlos Cante Puentes Vice-Minister of Mines  
Ms. María Lorena Gutiérrez, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism  
Ms. Catalina Crane Arango, Special Representative Colombia's OECD Accession Process  
Ms. Tatiana Lorena Aguilar Londoño, Adviser