

# EXPLORING RESPONSIBLE MINING

## TOWARD NEW EXTRACTIVES MODELS RESPECTFUL OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**FIRST MEETING: MARCH 21ST 2014 IN MARSEILLE**

**What is the leverage options civil societies worldwide have to raise awareness among citizens and to involve them in the technological, economical and political choices made by or for mineral industry?**

### **1. Context**

Since its creation in 2010, ISF SystExt (Engineers Without Borders – Extractives Systems and environments) questions extractive industries, particularly mining industries. The association focuses on their human, social, environmental, economic and political impacts.

ISF SystExt wants to support the development of new mining models respectful of people and the environment. To address this issue, a transformation of the mining sector, from metal extraction to the purchase of manufactured products, is obligatory. According to the association, such a development can begin by fundamental changes in both the upstream and downstream areas of the value chain. Aware of the difficulties experienced to call to mind producers of mineral raw materials, ISF SystExt wants to introduce these changes by alerting consumers. In other words, civil societies, and citizens who compose it, must have access to a transparent, accessible and approachable information which allows them to master the technological, economic and political choices made by or for mining industry. A real mobilization could then influence the upstream of the sector towards good extractive practices.

This approach requires civil societies representatives, who are already calling into question the existing extractive model, to joint effort internationally. This meeting would be the first milestone set to aim the goal previously mentioned.

### **2. Meeting objectives**

ISF SystExt invites to come together for this first meeting various representatives of civil societies. The day will focus on education for sustainable development and citizenship regarding mining systems.

The day aims at creating a framework through which various parties of civil societies will be able to meet and get to know each other. Over time, ISF SystExt wants these meetings to be the sharing place for thoughts and advocacy activities carried out by the organizations represented, by confronting them to other participant's points of view. Thereafter, collective actions, common positions or simultaneous mobilisation could be considered. More broadly speaking, the meeting falls within an approach of re-examination of mining systems and of struggle against the opacity and the inertia of the sector. As an engineers association, ISF SystExt wants to take advantage of this process to improve its activities of awareness-raising among engineers and to share its reflections about engineers responsibility concerning development issues.

This meeting will open the discussion on three topics, allowing participants to exchange their outlooks, their practices and their experiences. The three topics have been chosen in order to take on the main steps and the various degrees of responsiveness of general public toward mining issues: knowing and understanding, becoming aware and taking action.

### **3. Organisations represented**

Only nine organisations have been invited in order to allow free discussions despite the brevity of the meeting. The participants list has been established so that the main professions implied in education for development will be represented. Thus, the day will bring together professionals dedicated to inform general public, experts ready to put their knowledge at the service of civil society and NGOs willing to raise awareness or to lead advocacy. The diversity of their countries of origin and of their approaches should promote rich and inspiring debates.

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Will be represented:

- the French independent media **Basta!** by Simon Gouin
- the Chilean foundation **Casa de la Paz** by Kristina Samudio
- the Belgium association **CATAPA** by Charlotte Christiaens
- the **Commission Episcopale des Ressources Naturelles** from Democratic Republic of Congo by Father Alfred Ndrabu Bujū
- the US association **Earthworks – No Dirty Gold** by Payal Sampat
- the British association **Fairtrade UK** by Amy Ross
- the Spanish association **Ingeniería sin Fronteras** by Sílvia Formentí Sabater
- the French association **Ingénieurs sans frontières – SystExt** by Christophe Alliot
- the British alliance **London Mining Network** by Andrew Whitmore

### 4. Outline of the day

The day will be divided into five 90 minutes-long workshops: an introductory session, three sessions dedicated to debate and a conclusive session.

Time	Workshop
9.00 am	Introduction
10.30 am	Break
10.45 am	Knowing and understanding
12.15 am	Lunch break
1.45 pm	Becoming aware
3.15 pm	Taking action
4.45 pm	Break
5.15 pm	Conclusions

#### 4.1. Introduction workshop

The first workshop will be dedicated to introduce every participating organization. Each representative will be given 10 minutes to present his/her organisation activities regarding the mining issues, their objectives and the means implemented to reach them.

We will send you a few questions about your organization activities in the mining field in the upcoming week. We will ask you to send your answers back before March 5<sup>th</sup> in order to communicate them to the other participants. The goal is to allow you to identify who is doing what before the meeting and to save time during this workshop.

#### 4.2. Debating workshops

The three following sessions will be dedicated to share and debate the actions and the working contexts of each organization in order to raise awareness. Their objective will be to identify methods to allow the citizens of our countries to **know and understand** the mining sector, **to become aware** of its impacts and its links with our consumption models and finally, **to take action**.

Each workshop will be itself divided into 5 debating times devoted to pre-defined questions and regulated by a moderator.

#### 4.3. Conclusive workshop

During the last workshop, we will go around the table to gather feedbacks on the day and to discuss the possibilities emerging from this meeting.

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### 5. Workshops content

#### 5.1. Introduction

- ❖ What does your organization do on the mining systems topic?
- ❖ Which goals did you set in this context?
- ❖ What are the means used to reach these goals?

#### 5.2. First debating workshop : KNOWING and UNDERSTANDING

- ❖ In your country, which have been (or which are) the main actions carried out by civil society actors so that general public know and understand the issues linked with mining systems?
- ❖ Facing mining systems complexity (ubiquitous technical requirements, large number of stakeholders...), how to offer an easy to reach information? Considering the opacity of this industry and its central role in our development model, how to guarantee a neutral information?
- ❖ Which topics should be treated when informing general public about mining systems issues?
- ❖ *Is there some specific audience to target? (if time available)*
- ❖ In your country, do you identify ways of improvement so that general public know and understand the issues linked with mining systems?

#### 5.3. Second debating workshop : BECOMING AWARE

- ❖ In your country, which have been (or which are) the main actions carried out by civil society actors so that the general public become aware of the issues linked with mining systems?
- ❖ What is the purpose of raising awareness among the public about the most serious impacts of mining systems?
- ❖ Technological developments take away consumers from mineral raw materials and reinforce the geostrategic character of these materials. In this context, wouldn't it be more relevant to give priority to advocacy aimed at decision makers instead of awareness-raising among consumers?
- ❖ *Today, should we target uppermost the young public in our actions to raise awareness about mining issues? (if time available)*
- ❖ In your country, do you identify ways of improvement so that the public become aware of the issues linked with mining systems?

#### 5.4. Third debating workshop : TAKING ACTION

- ❖ In your country, which have been (or which are) the main actions carried out by civil society actors so that general public take action to inflect the dominant mining model?
- ❖ Is the purchase of a certified product a type of commitment action?
- ❖ Is local mobilisation more effective than global mobilisation when it comes to struggle against the most serious impacts of mining systems?
- ❖ *Is an expert intervention necessary for general public to commit in calling into question of the current mining model? (if time available)*
- ❖ In your country, do you identify ways of improvement so that the public take action to inflect the dominant mining model?