

# Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA)

---

## June 9, 2015 Member Meeting

### KEY OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

On June 9, 2015, the Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) met for its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Meeting in Washington, DC, to:

- Hear updates from Great Lakes Region and identify opportunities for the PPA to continue supporting responsible minerals sourcing and development;
- Discuss updates and outcomes from PPA Alignment activities and funded projects, and ways the PPA can continue to encourage alignment and actions to bolster the credibility and performance of regional systems;
- Understand status of PPA work for 2015 and inform priorities and resource needs for 2016; brainstorm post-2016 options; and
- Identify next steps and timelines for the PPA

Throughout the day, members:

- Reaffirmed the current grant-making priorities and Alignment activities and expressed support for their continuation;
- Recognized the value and contributions of the PPA to improving and helping build systems, critical relationships, and knowledge to enable responsible sourcing from the Great Lakes Region;
- Noted the value of the issue briefings throughout the meeting and requested that the PPA play a more active role in information sharing among member organizations, such as through periodic webinars and expanded written updates;
- Identified an opportunity for the PPA, by virtue of the market share represented by its membership, to drive harmonization of data collection by identifying meta-data requirements and translating that into requests for upstream supply chain actors;
- Recognized a need for more concerted gathering of information – through collection of stories and images, in addition to meta-data – and to develop joint communications about the significant progress that has been made in the Great Lakes Region and the value of continued responsible sourcing efforts from the region.

### 2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS-AT-A-GLANCE

Since last year's meeting, the PPA:

- Convened 2 "Alignment" sessions with regional and donor governments, ICGLR, OECD, and system operators to highlight and begin to address critical technical and

coordination gaps in GLR minerals due diligence and certification systems. These sessions are consistently recognized by government, civil society, and industry as a unique and critical contribution of the PPA to promoting continuing and collaborative progress on addressing responsible minerals trade and due diligence challenges.

- Drafted terms of reference and a request for applications for the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor, a key and long-missing function needed for full and credible implementation of GLR minerals certification and due diligence systems – in coordination with ICGLR and CBRMT program
- Convened meetings with U.S. Department of State and House Foreign Affairs Committee to highlight opportunities for the U.S. Government to bolster conflict minerals progress and offer PPA assistance. One outcome included a letter from the House Foreign Affairs Committee to the U.S. Department of Commerce regarding the need for an updated global list of approved smelters.
- Commissioned an independent assessment of responsible sourcing initiatives, Solutions for Hope, Conflict Free Tin Initiative, and KEMET Partnership for Social and Economic Sustainability
- Has worked with to-be-grantee Save Act Mine to finalize project scope, terms of a grant agreement, and risk mitigation strategies.
- Drafted and released a June 25 Request for Proposals on: enhanced livelihoods, alternative livelihoods, miner safety, and improved miner representation in 3Ts artisanal production; conflict-free gold sourcing projects; and information exchange and coordination among civil society in the region.

## SUMMARY

### Regional Issues, Pressures, and Implications for Responsible Minerals Sourcing

The meeting began with a discussion of current events in the Great Lakes Region, such as the recent attempted coup in Burundi, and upcoming elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

*Christophe Tocco (USAID)* shared impressions of the current climate in the DRC, and he reminded participants of the country's substantial size (equal to Western Europe) and natural resources. He recounted a discussion with a Congolese person during which the individual said that the DRC "is scandalously rich but scandalously poor."

With local elections to take place in September, USAID's current activities in DRC are focused on voter and civic education, advising the national electoral commission, strengthening of political parties, and efforts to improve peace and stability in the Eastern DRC (where armed conflict is most prevalent). As of Mr. Tocco's presentation, approximately 40 people had died in recent protests responding to a bill which would extend President Kabila's term. The bill was passed by Congress on the eve of a holiday, timing seen by many as an attempt to avoid public consciousness of the change.

Mr. Tocco noted strong engagement by the U.S., including President Obama; former Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Russ Feingold; and Secretary of State, John Kerry. However, the DRC government has been resistant to U.S. encouragement to adhere to the previously established Presidential term.

USAID also continues to support activities by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to participate in validating the conflict status of mine sites. USAID supports – through grants by IOM – this year’s facilitation budget for the PPA, as well as projects by Partnership Africa Canada and International Peace Information Service (IPIS). Mr. Tocco also described the USAID-funded Capacity Building for Responsible Minerals Trade (CBRMT) project awarded to Tetra Tech ARD, which is supporting development of alternative sourcing and verification programs; conflict-free gold sourcing pilots; and efforts by the ICGLR to stand up an ombudsperson’s office (called the “Independent Mineral Chain Auditor” or “IMCA”) to ensure the credibility of ICGLR member-state-issued certificates.

Mr. Tocco applauded the PPA for its efforts – for example through biannual Alignment meetings – to encourage information-sharing, dialogue, and coordinated action by those implementing systems supporting conflict-free minerals supply chains in the region. He emphasized the need for continued coordination among donors, including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is seeking to marshal further support from the European community for supply chain solutions to minerals sourcing challenges in the GLR.

*Bahati Jacques (Africa Faith and Justice Network)* focused on the link between good governance and business investment. “It is impossible to do business where there is lawlessness,” he said. He emphasized the value of presidential term limits in preventing a “dictatorial mindset” among regional leaders.

Mr. Jacques shared his impressions of the political climate in Burundi, which has been largely stable with little inter-ethnic discord until recent events associated with that president’s effort to extend his term limit. Mr. Jacques warned that similar problems could emerge in Rwanda, where the Parliament is considering a motion to extend the constitutionally allowed tenure of President Kagame.

*Sasha Lezhnev (Enough Project)* shared additional detail about the current climate and events in DRC. He highlighted the progress made toward mine site inspections and validations, with over 160 site visits, resulting in 141 sites validated as “green” or “conflict free.” He remarked on the significant change in the gold sector, which produced approximately \$400M from conflict-free sites last year.

Progress is still needed on other fronts. Mr. Lezhnev noted four issues of concern or continued interest:

- Appropriate distribution of revenues received by the national government for natural resource development with the local provinces in which they were produced;

- Upcoming provincial restructuring, which will evolve the 11 current provinces into 26 provinces;
- Appointment of a new U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, following Russ Feingold's retirement (Note: in the weeks since the meeting, Secretary of State John Kerry has appointed Thomas Perriello to play this role.); and
- Improving safety and health, and providing alternative livelihoods to artisanal miners. Mr. Lezhnev noted that these are a focus of the PPA Request for Proposals, which would be disseminated subsequent to his presentation.

*Fiona Southward (IPIS)* shared additional information on artisanal mining in the DRC. She noted the significant impact that responsible sourcing efforts by the private sector have had in increasing the volume of conflict-free tin, tantalum, and tungsten (3T's) significantly in the last years. Previously, approximately half of such miners were working in mines where armed groups (whether FARDC or army) were present. That amount has decreased by half.

Unfortunately, Ms. Southward reported, many artisanal 3Ts miners have moved to gold mining, which has a significant conflict component – IPIS estimates that 61% of gold mines are currently militarized. Conflict financing through “taxation,” prefinancing of miners, or through trade at mine sites is a significant, and possibly even broader, challenge.

A task for the responsible sourcing community is to identify strategies to address gold as effectively as it did 3Ts, and Ms. Southward highlighted three issues or potential opportunities. First, Northern Katanga has demonstrated political will to support responsible sourcing and may be a good location for pilot sourcing activities. Secondly, there is a need for legal reform on the rights of artisanal miners and their ability to access viable concessions. Finally, mine site validations must continue and accelerate in order to build a viable legal trade in the region.

*Discussion by participants* focused primarily on validations and the need by downstream companies and civil society for additional transparency of the processes and the data they collect, as well as clarification of the link between mine site validations and issuance of conflict-free certificates (ICGLR certificates) by regional governments. It was noted that the ICGLR is pushing to develop its Regional Database, which will collect information on mineral production and trade, validated sites, incident reports, status of implementation of whistleblowing mechanisms, and more. An iTSCi database is also being developed with data from iTSCi sites, and it is currently being piloted in Burundi. (iTSCi also shared other updates on its work, which is captured in a one-pager posted with other materials from this meeting.) Concerns were raised about the interoperability and possible redundancy of these databases, and the consistency and granularity of data they hold. (For instance, iTSCi counts each mining pit as a unique mine site for tagging purposes, but the DRC government may include several nearby pits in a singular mine site, per the ICGLR manual definition. Note that the particular issue of mine site definition was raised at the May 2015 PPA alignment session, and ICGLR offered to convene a discussion to discuss implications and possible next steps.)

It was also suggested that the PPA could convene periodic webinars for its members to receive updates on current events, political climate, and most pressing issues in the region.

### Themes and Outcomes from May 2015 PPA Alignment Meeting

*Joanne Lebert (Partnership Africa Canada) and Mike Loch (Motorola Solutions)* shared key points from the 7<sup>th</sup> PPA Alignment Meeting, hosted by the PPA in early May and involving the ICGLR, member state governments, donor governments, Governance Committee members, and in-region sourcing programs. That meeting summary, including the points shared by Mr. Loch and Ms. Lebert, is available [on the PPA website](#).

Governance Committee members reflected on the value and trust that has been established through these biannual meetings. The ICGLR has expressed that it finds great value in the access to stakeholders, such as buyers, NGOs, and donor governments, enabled by these forums. The sense of collaboration, rather than criticism, in these meetings, along with the PPA's tri-partite nature, has enabled the PPA to offer constructive encouragement and assistance to ICGLR member states to address critical issues. The frank level of conversation is the "answer to a professional diplomat's prayers," according to one donor government representative.

A particular success was the role of these meetings in initiating conversations and coordination between Rwanda and DRC on the technical issues associated with the RCM. Members noted that while DRC and Rwanda have participated regularly, and Burundi has more recently begun to engage, the PPA has encountered challenges securing the participation of Tanzania and Uganda. Recruiting additional member states who are beginning to implement the Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) will be a focus for the November 2015 alignment meeting preparation.

Members returned to the topic of the Regional Database, discussed in the earlier panel. Given the ICGLR's focus on launching the database this year, now is a good time for PPA members to provide guidance on the kinds of metrics and other information that downstream companies will require for the database to be a useful due diligence tool. It was agreed that the PPA will convene a discussion on this topic in the coming months, with the goal of sharing conclusions with the ICGLR at the November Alignment meeting.

### Status of the PPA and 2015 Objectives

*Taylor Kennedy (RESOLVE)* provided an update on the PPA's 2015 objectives, progress, and financial status. She noted that the PPA continues to:

- Support alignment of systems implemented in the GLR through Alignment meetings;
- Communicate externally about the PPA's activities/funded projects and responsible sourcing issues; and
- Conduct additional fundraising and support for proposals and projects in the Great Lakes Region.

Ms. Kennedy noted continued interest from new members, with 5 new members (Free the Slaves, Google, Heartland Alliance, Save Act Mine, and Solidaridad) joining in the last year. (To see the full list of members, please visit the [PPA website](#).) This brings total membership to 51 organizations, with \$1.3 million raised through member contributions.

*Kim Thompson (USAID)* gave a brief description of another \$5.8 million from USAID that has been directed toward “parallel funding” to support infrastructure and traceability efforts. As discussed in Mr. Tocco’s presentation earlier in the day, USAID’s efforts focus specifically on mine site validation, security monitoring, training for Ministry of Mines personnel, and the strengthening of ASM cooperatives. Ms. Thompson elaborated that capacity building efforts are aimed at supporting the DRC Ministry of Mines’ ability to effectively monitor and manage supply chains within the country, including through monitoring of security and prevention of contamination of minerals from mine to export. Ms. Thompson also noted that, in line with a Whole of Government approach, these efforts are completed in coordination with U.S. Department of State’s departments on International Narcotics and Law, and Human Rights and Labor Rights.

Ms. Thompson also reiterated Mr. Tocco’s support for the PPA and indicated USAID’s pleasure at being able to support the PPA’s 2015 facilitation budget through a grant via IOM.

In returning to the general PPA update, Ms. Kennedy noted that, to date, the PPA has funded two on-the-ground projects, with commissioned research currently underway, and additional on-the-ground projects to be implemented later this year. These include:

- An independent assessment of pre-determined supply chain (or “closed pipe”) sourcing programs, which will be released in August (for early findings, please see notes from presentation by Mike Loch and Kelly Katynski, below);
- A grant (in final stages of contracting) to Congolese NGO Save Act Mine to support: 1) a telephone hotline to receive and verify reports of suspected smuggling of 3Ts in North and South Kivu, and 2) the translation and distribution of a comic book or graphic manual to educate upstream actors, including those with limited literacy, on due diligence risks;
- Collaborative funding (with USAID) for the first year of operational costs of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor’s (IMCA) office within the ICGLR, which will serve an ombuds function for the overall Regional Certification Mechanism. [Note: a Request for Applications was distributed on July 10, and selection is anticipated by October.]; and
- Projects, still to be determined, in response to the PPA’s Request for proposals on:
  - o Enhanced livelihoods, alternative livelihoods, miner safety, and improved miner representation in 3Ts artisanal production;
  - o Conflict-free gold sourcing projects; and
  - o Information exchange and coordination among civil society in the region.

Ms. Kennedy reported that approximately \$343,000 remains in the PPA’s funding pool to support grants to the IMCA and projects identified through the current call for proposals.

As discussed earlier, the PPA recently held its 7<sup>th</sup> alignment meeting with ICGLR member states and the ICGLR secretariat, in-region organizations that are supporting implementation (e.g., iTSCi and Pact, Better Sourcing Program, CFSI), and members of the PPA Governance Committee.

The PPA has also continued to meet with key partners who are working in the region. The day prior to this meeting, Governance Committee members met with Andrew Keller, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. Discussion with DAS Keller covered:

- Harmonization with EU legislation & Chinese development of their own DDG, based on OECD, to avoid making compliance too burdensome, especially for upstream actors;
- Upcoming elections & ongoing stability to preserve progress and allow continued trade;
- Diplomatic efforts to encourage commitment by ICGLR member states to implement the RCM; and
- Support for filling the Special Envoy office (previously held by Russ Feingold).

DAS Keller committed to the State Department's continued support of PPA through participation, as well as through diplomatic outreach in the ICGLR, UAE, China, and India. He articulated his appreciation for the PPA's activities – particularly the progress pushed by the PPA's alignment activities – as well as its tripartite nature.

Ms. Kennedy described opportunities for member involvement, including through:

- Participation in the In-Region Work Group, which oversees all PPA-funded projects, and which will review and evaluate proposals to the PPA;
- Participation in the Communications and Membership Work Group, which oversees the development of PPA statements and produces resources on responsible sourcing of minerals from the GLR;
- Support of the PPA through supplemental contributions to the funding pool;
- Participation in ad hoc activities, such as a discussion currently being initiated to offer guidance to the European Commission on avoiding unintended consequences while implementing new reporting requirements on minerals sourced from high risk and conflict affected areas; and
- Participation in the Governance Committee, whose current term concludes in December 2015. The Committee comprises 4 seats for supply chain actors, 4 for civil society, and 4 for U.S. and ICGLR government representatives.

Please contact Taylor ([tkennedy@resolv.org](mailto:tkennedy@resolv.org)) with any questions or interest in the above opportunities.

## Developments on Gold

*Olivier Demierre (PAMP)* gave an overview of discussions on artisanal gold from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) 9<sup>th</sup> Forum for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, which was held in Paris on May 4-6, 2015. He also discussed



opportunities for gold refiners to add value to responsible sourcing efforts for gold through various alternatives.

Mr. Demierre noted that GLR governments and donors have historically focused primarily on responsible sourcing of tin, tantalum, and tungsten (3Ts). However, with significant progress on 3Ts, attention is now shifting to gold, and it was a major focus of the most recent OECD forum. *Joanne Lebert (Partnership Africa Canada or PAC)* noted the PPA's role in helping to draw attention to needs relating to gold, through its sponsorship and support of a pilot by PAC attempting to establish a conflict free gold supply chain. While that pilot did not result in legally exported gold, it provided many useful lessons, which the PPA has helped to disseminate and which are framing current discussions and strategy planning.

Mr. Demierre referenced the IPIS studies described earlier in the day by Ms. Southward, which demonstrate that many artisanal miners have transitioned from 3Ts to gold mining. While links between gold and conflict have substantially reduced, artisanal gold is still a major source of funding for criminal networks. Although it has secured intense attention from the international community, responsible sourcing of artisanal gold poses different challenges than 3Ts.

Ms. Lebert elaborated on many of these differences and challenges. Because gold can be more easily refined into a valuable and usable form, more individuals are able to engage in its trade. 3Ts raw production must proceed to smelters, creating natural "choke points" at a limited number of international destinations. Gold, on the other hand, is traded to a vast and diversified web of buyers.

Because most 3Ts smelters are concerned with US legal compliance, validated, conflict-free 3Ts material is more valuable (and thus more profitable for miners) than non-compliant material. However, a smaller portion of gold purchasers are concerned with such compliance, and as such, there is no price advantage associated with validated conflict-free gold. Further, profit margins along the gold supply chain are low, and it is difficult to find opportunities to capture and pass along value as an incentive for upstream compliance without creating additional costs for downstream buyers.

In addition to the links to conflict, high taxation rates within the DRC in comparison to neighboring states creates a strong incentive for smuggling, and the vast majority of artisanal gold produced in the DRC is smuggled out of the country.

Mr. Demierre reiterated that these issues have garnered the attention of donors such as the EU, US, and the OECD. The OECD forum featured several related announcements, such as:

- The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and Commodity Exchange (COMEX) are fully conflict free, as of 2015;
- Istanbul Borsa gold exchange has reached 98% verifiably conflict free;
- China's Chamber of Commerce of Minerals Metals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters (CCCCMC) is now developing guidance for Chinese companies, consistent with



OECD due diligence guidance and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (expected to be complete at the end of 2015); and

- The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is planning an initiative for conflict free gold in the GLR (to mirror their leadership in developing the Conflict Free Tin Initiative in 2011).

Mr. Demierre also reported on opportunities for gold refiners to add value in responsible sourcing efforts for gold and for buyers to actively manage their corresponding CSR profiles for criteria beyond conflict-free. Using PAMP's Beyond Precious program as an example, he described the various criteria and issues that refineries can screen for by applying various standards, such as conflict status, links to conflict and terror financing, human rights, health and safety, social, and environmental issues. He shared a chart (see slide 17 of his presentation) indicating four standards (LBMA, SA8000, Responsible Jewellery Council's Code of Practice, and RJC's Chain of Custody) and their ability to screen for these issues.

Ms. Lebert described a PAC project entitled "Just Gold" ("Or Juste" in French), which builds on the aforementioned artisanal gold pilot supported in part by PPA in 2012-2014. The project is currently funded by USAID via IOM, along with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development. The Just Gold project is seeking to create a traceable conflict-free mineral chain for artisanal gold from the Eastern DRC. The project is based on the premise that miners will participate in legal supply chains in exchange for access to better mining tools, such as improved sluices, and therefore better yields. Although – and primarily due to taxes – legal sales generate a smaller price per volume for miners than illegal sales (see discussion of smuggling incentives above), PAC's earlier pilot found that introducing basic technological assistance improved miners' yields by 30%, and the higher yields more than made up for the lower price per volume.

While this clear incentive for miner participation was identified, the early pilot struggled to find a similar motivation for large traders and exporters. Taxes impose too much of a cost; "selling legally is too expensive." Ms. Lebert shared a chart of the export, negotiant, and production taxes (slide 21) in four DRC provinces, with tax loads as high as 16.25% prior to any illegal "taxation" such as by chiefs or other local authorities or through road barriers. When compared to much smaller tax burdens in Burundi and Uganda (as low as .5%), the incentive to smuggle is clear. Ms. Lebert mentioned that the ICGLR will sponsor a meeting this year on tax harmonization in an effort to address some of these issues.

Because traders and exporters typically pre-finance miners, breaking this chain will require finding a replacement pre-financer. In the Just Gold project, PAC is also looking for opportunities to improve sustainability of the efforts through community beneficiation. The project will test the development of a tripartite gold trading house which would capture and reinvest proceeds back into the community. PAC is currently negotiating with the national and provincial governments to reduce tax levels in a pilot to demonstrate that reduced taxation would actually increase government income (by reducing incentives to smuggle.)

Following the presentations, there was some discussion of the opportunity to charge a downstream price premium for conflict-free gold from the DRC in order to create incentives for compliance by traders and exporters. Ms. Lebert cited studies by global jewelers finding that they could not charge a premium and still remain competitive. Rather, gold from the DRC (even conflict-free gold) must compete at global market prices. However, it was noted that some buyers may pay extra for specific on-the-ground impacts (perhaps not directly related to conflict status but instead pertaining to other corporate social responsibility issues like environmental or community beneficiation.)

### Findings from Independent Assessment of “Closed Pipe” Sourcing Programs

*Mike Loch (Motorola Solutions)* and *Kelly Katynski (Ford Motor Company)* shared preliminary findings from an independent assessment of three “closed pipe” sourcing programs – Solutions for Hope (tantalum), Conflict Free Tin Initiative, and KEMET’s Partnership for Social and Economic Sustainability (tantalum). The PPA commissioned Estelle Levin, Ltd. (ELL) to evaluate the projects against their goals and to explore opportunities to expand positive impact in the future. All three initiatives had produced anecdotes and observations of positive impacts, but the PPA was seeking a more systematic examination of benefits and challenges, with the goal of informing current and future projects supporting responsible sourcing from the Great Lakes Region.

The assessment examined the degree to which each program achieved its stated goals; the competitiveness and scalability of each program’s business model; local social and environmental benefits; and gaps, lessons, or opportunities to enhance positive impacts.

ELL found that the three initiatives achieved their goals of: 1) finding ways for industry to resume and/or reinvigorate sourcing from the DRC; 2) sourcing conflict free minerals from the region; and 3) designing systems to encourage and sustain a market for legitimate mineral flows.

The pilots played an important role in helping to demonstrate the feasibility of responsible sourcing from the DRC. They served as incubators that helped to prove the concept that legitimate artisanal minerals trade from the Great Lakes Region was possible. While the exported volumes were small, the programs produced a critical signal in the midst of a *de facto embargo* from the region, and they fostered downstream confidence, acceptance, and awareness. Additionally, they played a role in reinvigorating businesses and livelihoods in their respective regions.

A challenge described in the assessment relates to the lack of baseline information for any of the programs. This resulted in a necessary reliance on subjective recollections of program participants and community members. It was suggested that the PPA could identify meta-indicators that should be measured prior to the beginning of projects (whether financed by PPA or other donors) to enable more definitive impact assessments and to help donors better track contributions to progress within the region.

More detail and preliminary takeaways from the Governance Committee appear in the posted slides, and the Governance Committee will release a statement alongside the final ELL report in mid August, which will be distributed to all PPA members.

### **PPA Reflections and Planning for the Remainder of 2015, 2016, and Beyond**

In the final session of the day, participants reflected on priorities for the remainder of the year, as well as the next couple of years.

Feedback and suggestions primarily fell under the themes of 1) information sharing *within* the PPA; 2) harmonization of in-region data requirements; 3) external communications about progress and opportunities in the GLR; 4) outreach to and coordination with others sharing the PPA's objectives; and 5) continued Alignment and grantmaking activities.

#### *Information Sharing within the PPA*

As noted in earlier discussions, members expressed interest in sharing and receiving information about developments and activities within the GLR, even those not directly related to the PPA's work. Periodic webinars could be arranged to provide background information or updates on topics of interest, including:

- Status updates on ICGLR countries and their implementation of components of the Regional Certification Mechanism;
- Update on progress and activities relating to conflict-free gold; and
- Periodic member updates – not to serve as “commercials” but to share information from recent reports, field visits, diplomatic missions, etc.

Additionally, RESOLVE could include short written updates on the above in its periodic emails to members about PPA activities and developments.

#### *Harmonization of Data Requirements*

Members noted that more consistent metrics and information collection in region would provide objective data points to assess and demonstrate progress in the region. Coordination to identify meta-data requirements and to translate that into requests for upstream supply chain actors (as well as PPA grantees) could improve due diligence performance across the board in addition to producing compatible data in current or planned systems (e.g., the ICGLR regional database).

#### *External Communications about Progress and Opportunities in the GLR*

Discussion throughout the day demonstrated frustration with the recent spate of news articles suggesting that the GLR has seen no progress in recent years despite the Dodd Frank Act and numerous responsible sourcing efforts. These articles point to continued challenges relating to livelihoods of artisanal miners, health and safety, and other issues, but they do not acknowledge the improvements in security and governance that have taken place in recent

years, and especially miss the positive efforts and value of downstream company engagement in enhancing responsible trade. Participants noted that the message of encouraging responsible sourcing from the region is still not reaching many downstream companies. Members discussed activities the PPA could undertake, including:

- Gathering of stories and photos documenting the change that is taking place;
- Coordination on messaging; and
- A concerted effort, via an op-ed or joint statement, to articulate progress with a united voice

### *Outreach to and Coordination with Those Sharing PPA Objectives*

As information, strategies, and materials are developed relating to data collection and progress in the GLR, this information could be shared with associations who may be able distribute it to their own membership. It was suggested that the PPA reach out to and seek to coordinate with a number of organizations, including Conflict Free Smelter Initiative (CFSI), Automotive Industry Association Group (AIAG), Heavy Equipment Industry Association; National Association of Manufacturers Conflict Minerals Working Group; Aerospace Industry Association; Manufacturers' Alliance for Productivity and Innovation; and the Corporate Council on Africa.

### *Continued Alignment and Grantmaking Activities*

Additionally, members expressed support for the PPA's continued activities to support alignment among organizations implementing components of the RCM. The next Alignment meeting will be held in November alongside the OECD's 10<sup>th</sup> Forum for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains, which will either be held in Washington, DC, or Beijing, China.

Discussions also demonstrated support for grantmaking plans described in the Status of the PPA and 2015 Objectives session earlier in the day. RESOLVE will continue to update members as the IMCA and Save Act Mine grants proceed, and all members will receive a funding recommendation from the Governance Committee following review of proposals received in response to the PPA's current RfP.