

**STATEMENT BY THE CONGOLESE CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE DECISION OF THE  
CUSTOMS AUTHORITY BORDER PROTECTION OF THE USA ON ARTISANAL  
AND SMALL SCALE EXPLOITATION GOLD FROM THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Civil society actors working on the governance of the mining sector in eastern DRC met in Goma in a workshop organized by the “*Observatoire de la Société Civile Congolaise pour les Minerais de Paix (OSCMP)*”, in collaboration with IMPACT-DRC and the Southern African Resource Watch (SARW), from 11-13 November 2019 to analyze the international context about the exploitation and commercialization of gold from artisanal mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These meetings were attended by delegates from the provinces of Bas-Uélé, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, the provincial city of Kinshasa, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Tshopo. The representatives of the North Kivu Mining Administration, the private sector and the Technical and Financial Partners also took part.

As a result of the decision of the United States Customs and Border Protection Authority (CBP) that any publicly traded US Corporation and any companies trading in artisanally mined gold from the DRC should prove that this gold was not extracted under conditions of forced labor.

Given the willingness of the Government of the DRC to continue efforts to clean up the artisanal gold mining sector, actors of the Congolese Civil Society point out that this measure is biased and discriminatory as far as the DRC is concerned. DRC has domesticated and implemented all regional and international instruments relevant to the integrity of the minerals supply chain.

The Congolese Civil Society regrets that instead of supporting DRC's efforts to clean up its mining sector, the decision of the US Customs and Border Protection will not only discourage efforts to establish responsible gold supply chains, but also lead to a de facto embargo that will inevitably deprive local communities of livelihoods on one hand, and exacerbate cross-border smuggling on the other.

Therefore, the Congolese Civil Society demands the outright lifting of the US Customs and Border Protection decision.

The Congolese Civil Society reaffirms its commitment to support the DRC government's efforts to eradicate forced labor in the artisanal gold mining sector so that it contributes significantly to stability, development of local communities and to the economic growth of the DRC.

Done at Goma on 12/11/2019

The participants

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