

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

T.I.C. supports stakeholder statement on implementing gender-responsive due diligence and ensuring the human rights of women in mineral supply chains

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The T.I.C. (Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center) is proud to endorse the stakeholder statement by Women's Rights and Mining (WRM) on implementing gender-responsive due diligence and ensuring the human rights of women in mineral supply chains. Other signatories include representatives from the German, Canadian, Dutch and British governments, industry groups and civil society.

Since 2017 WRM has developed guidance materials and organized policy-influencing events, including at the OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains in 2017, 2018 and 2019, at which T.I.C. was also present. WRM, together with the OECD secretariat, has prepared the "Stakeholder Statement on implementing gender-responsive due diligence and ensuring the human rights of women in mineral supply chains". The full document is available at <https://womenandmining.org/stakeholder-statement/>.

The statement was launched in April 2019 during the OECD Minerals Forum held in Paris. It includes 13 commitments on how governments, the private sector and civil society can work together to prevent gender inequalities along mineral supply chains. WRM used the annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) in October 2019 to further promote the Statement. During the upcoming OECD Forum in April 2020 WRM plans to discuss uptake and implementation of the commitments by the various organizations.

Dr. Daniel Persico, President of the T.I.C., stated that "The tantalum industry is proud of its track record in the area of verifiable compliance programs for ethical minerals extraction in central Africa. This stakeholder statement is consistent with the types of social responsibility efforts undertaken by the T.I.C. and its members to ensure social sustainability in the mining of tantalum in central Africa".

Roland Chavasse

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About the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)

Since its inception, the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C. or the Association) has grown and developed to encompass the changing nature of the tantalum and niobium industries and will continue in the same spirit in facing future challenges. After initially focusing on just tantalum, in 1986 niobium joined the association and today our membership represents every aspect of the global tantalum and niobium industries.

The Association:

- An international, non-profit association founded in 1974 under Belgian law.
- Around 90 member companies from over 25 countries involved with all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain (including mining, trading, processing, recycling, metal fabrication, capacitor manufacturing, medical...).
- The Association is run by its Executive Committee. This Committee reflects the range of activities of the members and covers the geographic spread of the membership, too. Presidents have been drawn from all sectors of the industry and from many parts of the world. Elections are held annually.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and promote the remarkable properties of tantalum and niobium in all their forms.
- Disseminate information on any matter affecting that industry, excluding price and related information and any other proprietary information.
- Address major issues and challenges facing its industry such as conflict minerals legislation, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), and the transport of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM).
- Organize a General Assembly of the membership in October each year for business and technical presentations. Typically, this includes a field trip to a member company or associated industrial facility.
- Publish a quarterly Bulletin newsletter containing interesting and informative articles about the T.I.C. and the global tantalum and niobium industries.
- Collect statistics from member companies (via an independent company to ensure confidentiality) on tantalum and niobium production, shipments and consumption. Participating members receive quarterly statistics updates.

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