



Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note verbale dated 3 August 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and consistent with paragraph 20 of resolution 1952 (2010) calling on States to report to the Committee on actions taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 and recommended in paragraph 8, the United Kingdom reports as follows:

All United Kingdom exporters must apply for an export control licence if they intend exporting arms or related materiel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Licence applications are assessed against the relevant criteria and take into account the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1807 (2008) and the exemptions in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5. Where applicable, the United Kingdom ensures that notification is given to the committee prior to any shipment of arms or related materiel. None have been made this year.

The United Kingdom has put in place necessary measures to prevent individuals designated by the Sanctions Committee under the Democratic Republic of the Congo regime from obtaining a visa to travel to the United Kingdom. The Asset Freezing Unit in Her Majesty's Treasury is responsible for the implementation and administration of international financial sanctions in effect in the United Kingdom and licensing exemptions to financial sanctions. Advice on the Democratic Republic of the Congo regime can be viewed at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_congo.htm.

The United Kingdom is committed to promoting responsible corporate behaviour among British companies. We commend that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Group of Experts work to develop due diligence guidelines for the minerals supply chain in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and have sought to encourage adherence by companies looking to trade in cassiterite, wolframite, coltan and gold (conflict minerals) originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



New pages have been added to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website to help businesses trading in minerals sourced from conflict-affected areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or whose products include components that contain such minerals, ensure that their activities do not contribute to conflict and understand their role in improving oversight and management of the sector. They can be found at www.fco.gov.uk/conflictminerals. This online resource identifies key legislative and legally binding processes that may apply to companies trading in conflict minerals. It also provides useful summaries on due diligence guidance and certification mechanisms that are available to help mitigate the risk of supply chain contamination, and provides links to sources where companies can obtain further information, including a dedicated e-mail address (conflict.minerals@fco.gov.uk).

In March of this year, the Minister for Africa, Mr. Henry Bellingham MP, hosted an event designed to raise awareness among British businesses potentially trading in Congolese mineral products of the new due diligence guidelines. A wide range of domestic and international experts on business and human rights, conflict and natural resources were on hand to answer questions of United Kingdom companies on issues relating to extractive transparency and Democratic Republic of the Congo conflict minerals.
