



VIA E-MAIL

Friday, October 27, 2017

Ms. Felicitas Weber
KnowTheChain Project Lead
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
www.business-humanrights.org

Re: KnowTheChain I Benchmark update & Request for additional disclosure

Dear Ms. Weber:

I am responding on behalf of Microsoft to your letter received on October 3. Thank you for contacting us regarding the KnowTheChain's 2018 ICT benchmark.

Please see our response below to your request:

KnowTheChain Question: Where relevant, please indicate your level of membership with the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC).

Microsoft Response: Microsoft is a current member of [Responsible Business Alliance](#) (formerly EICC), and an active participant in the following workgroups including, but not limited to the following: [Responsible Business Alliance](#) (RLI), [Responsible Mineral Alliance](#) (formerly CSFI/RRMI), [Validated Audit Process](#) (VAP) and [Chemical Management](#).

KnowTheChain Question: Please also indicate your membership in other industry and multi-stakeholder associations relevant to addressing forced labor in the supply chain.

Microsoft Response: Microsoft is committed to protect human rights as defined in following declaration and covenants: [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#); [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) and [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#). Our strategy and approach are also informed by the human rights guidelines described in the following documents: [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), [International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#), and [Children's Rights and Business Principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#).

Microsoft believes in collaborative and constructive partnerships with cross industry groups and multi-stakeholder organizations/initiatives who share our commitment to uphold human rights and address forced labor in our supply chain. Among these partnerships include: [Global Network Initiative](#), [Women's Empowerment Principle](#), [United Nations Global Compact](#), [Pact](#), [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance \(IRMA\)](#), [Alliance for Responsible Mining \(ARM\)](#), [Responsible Business Alliance](#) (formerly EICC), [Responsible Minerals Initiative \(RMI formerly CFSI and RMMI\)](#), and [Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking \(gBCAT\)](#).

For example to demonstrate our commitment to address forced labor in the farther reaches of our supply chain, we partnered with Pact on the [Watoto Inje ya Mungoti](#) (Children Out of Mining) project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to further reduce child labor in mining. To continue and expand this work, we recently announced a new [partnership with Pact](#) directly focused on cobalt mining in the DRC to continue this work over the next three years, as it is evident that this proven strategy does not cause harm to the livelihood of already impoverished workers in artisanal cobalt mines. More information is found in our [blog](#) and Devices Social and Environmental Accountability Program (SEA) [FY17 report](#).

In addition, the [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) and Microsoft announced a landmark 5-year partnership this year. This partnership will focus on the development and use of advanced technology designed to better predict, analyze and respond to critical human rights situations. One example is *Rights View*, an information "dashboard" that will allow UN human rights staff to aggregate large quantities of internal and external data on specific countries and types of rights violations in real time. *Rights View* powered by cloud computing and big data analysis will help facilitate analysis, ensure early warning of emerging critical issues and provide data to guide responses. Microsoft will also provide support to raise awareness of the role that companies can and should play in driving and promoting responsible business, and respect for human rights. This includes supporting the work of the UN Human Rights Office in the areas of freedom of expression, data protection and privacy, and inclusion. More information found in our [blog](#) and [website](#).

Thank you for contacting Microsoft and providing us the opportunity to respond to your questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Banaynal", written in a cursive style.

Ephi Banaynal dela Cruz
Senior Director, Social and Environmental Accountability & Audit
Microsoft