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(by e-mail)

23 June 2020

Dear Ms Matthews & Mr Lazala

Response to Mining Watch's Voices from the Ground Report on Mining Companies Response to COVID-19

We would like to acknowledge and thank you for the opportunity to respond to the concerns raised in your forthcoming Weekly Update. This document addresses matters raised in relation to Anglo American's operations in Brazil and Peru, as well as our overall approach to human rights and response to COVID-19. Allegations raised regarding Cerrejón coal mine in Colombia (in which Anglo American holds a minority share) are being addressed directly by Cerrejón's management team.

Our Global Response to COVID-19

As a Purpose-led organisation, Anglo American continues to put the safety, health and wellbeing of our people and all those who interact with our business first.

Our approach to Covid-19 is structured in three concurrent phases: **Prevent – Respond – Recover**. As we would in our normal course of business, we have aligned our actions with the needs and perspectives of our key stakeholders, ensuring that the rationale for our decisions is clearly understood.

By keeping our business open in a safe way, we can sustain badly needed economic activity up and down our value chain and continue to provide many essential community services.

In addition to our 'business as usual' provision of many essential and other services, we are working with the communities local to our operations to better understand how their

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needs have changed during the pandemic. Each of the geographies in which we operate is facing unique challenges and we are working to ensure continuity of critical supplies and other services based on local needs.

In order to achieve this, each operation has designed and is implementing a context-specific Community Response Plan (CRP) to support host communities. The CRPs have been developed in conjunction with local stakeholders to ensure that we provide the right support at the right time, both during the pandemic and into the recovery phase. Our guidance on developing CRPs is publicly available for other companies to use ([click here](#)).

Our Response to COVID-19 in Brazil

In the *Voices from the Ground* Report a claim is made that we continued to operate at our Minas Rio mine in Conceição do Mato Dentro, despite a local municipal decree calling for all essential activities to stop. In addition, the report states that we “went on to justify the continued activity at this mine in Minas Gerais State on the basis of Federal decree No. 10,329 issued a month after the municipal order”.

We wish to correct this claim. The municipal decree issued by Conceição do Mato Dentro’s City Hall prohibits the operation of shopping centres, shops, nightclubs, cinemas, clubs, gyms, among other economic activities, but does not cite mining activities. It also states that those activities not prohibited, should operate with control measures, in line with those established by health authorities.

Anglo American in Brazil has been monitoring municipal, state and federal decrees and adapting our operations to comply with all current legislation. We have implemented extensive prevention measures, are rolling out a testing programme for all our workforce and maintaining regular contact with local authorities.

We are in constant dialogue with the Government to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in a transparent way. Anglo American in Brazil has invested 20 million BRL in this regard including the donation of medical equipment (such as respirators, PPEs and COVID-19 tests) to assist local communities. We have been supporting local production of masks by providing resources to, and procuring from, community manufacturers thereby contributing to the local economy and ensuring the availability of masks at our operations.

Our response to COVID-19 is additional to our extensive and long-standing work on local socio-economic development as part of the Anglo American Sustainable Mining Plan.

Our Cooperation with the Government in Peru

As mentioned previously, Anglo American is signatory to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) and implements the principles globally, including in Peru.

On page 21 of the report it is claimed that we are “providing emergency support to state military and police forces in countries like Peru, where these forces have previously been employed to violently shut down legitimate anti-mining protests”.

In December 2017, the National Police of Peru (NPP) and Anglo American Peru signed an agreement to cooperate and improve police services within the Quellaveco area.

In August 2019, Anglo American Peru signed an addendum for further cooperation. As expressly required by us, an appendix was added to this agreement stating that, prior to deployment to site, police personnel shall be informed about our adherence to the VPs, as well as company-specific ethical behaviour guidelines through the Group’s Code of Conduct. Anglo American Peru provides training on these guidelines during the induction process. The purpose is to increase and improve police services across the project for the mutual benefit of the communities and the project.

As part of our long-standing agreement with police in Peru and due to the remote location of the Quellaveco project, Anglo American has provided police personnel with individual rooms with beds and bedding, communication equipment (cell phone or radio equipment), food, transportation, personal protective equipment and capacity development. This support does not include uniforms or weapons.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have provided the police and army forces with over 10,000 masks to protect them and communities from infection. This forms part of our commitment to support emergency services in host communities as they respond to the health and social challenges posed by COVID-19.

Our Performance in the Responsible Mining Index (RMI)

Voices from the Ground claims that we are “a company that fails to meet minimum societal expectations in every area of its operations according to the 2020 Responsible Mining Index”. We would like to correct this claim.

In the 2020 RMI, Anglo American showed the strongest results among all six thematic areas assessed by the RMI (that is, the indicators that assess Group-level performance) with improvements in all areas when compared with our performance in 2018. While we are proud of this progress, we are aware that a) our group-level performance still needs work and b) we did not perform as well at a site-level. We believe that a lack of operational transparency on our part is largely to blame for the poor operational scores.



To further improve our Group-level result we are significantly improving our approach to human rights due diligence and protecting human rights defenders. To address operational transparency, we are working on developing “transparency portals” to support external disclosure of additional information and help us understand performance gaps.

Anglo American Group’s Procedures, Policies and Related Activities on Human Rights

At Anglo American, we have a strong commitment to human rights. Respect for human rights is stated explicitly in our Code of Conduct and reflected in our core values of safety, care and respect, integrity and accountability. Our approach to human rights is led by our Group Human Rights Policy and a Responsible Sourcing Standard (RSS) for our suppliers. Our commitment to human rights is further expressed through our being a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) and implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Guiding Principles).

We are part of the Business Network on Civic Freedoms and Human Rights (the Business Network). As part of our commitment to the Business Network, Anglo American is a signatory of the Business Network Statement on Supporting Civic Freedoms, Human Rights Defenders and the Rule of Law. Our commitment to this statement aligns with our core values of safety, care and respect, integrity and accountability. To read the full statement to which we are a signatory, **[click here](#)**.

We have integrated the Guiding Principles and VPs into our policies and standards, including the most recent version of the Anglo American Social Way. Social Way 3.0 defines our governing framework for social performance. Human rights have been embedded throughout the new Social Way policy, toolkit and assurance framework. The policy is underpinned by core human rights principles and based on international reference standards. The toolkit includes procedures, guidelines, and standards required to implement our human rights approach as it relates to social and security risks. The assurance framework, through which compliance is assessed annually, is used to (a) show progress against human rights targets; and (b) helps to identify gaps for additional training support.

Going Forward

Anglo American has in every respect sought to align our response to COVID-19 with our values. We welcome constructive challenges on our approach to COVID-19 and business activities more broadly and are pleased to respond to queries.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further concerns about these matters or any others. We would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss in person or via phone call.



Yours Sincerely,

Hermien Botes

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