

The Hague, November 19th 2015

Dear Sir, Madam,

We would like to draw your attention to the new report 'Gold from children's hands. Use of child-mined gold in the electronics sector'. The fact that gold is used in electronics is of course known to your company. However, what might be unknown to you is the fact that it is very probable that gold mined by children ends up in the products your company produces and sells.

The issue of child labour in gold mining and the link with the electronics sector is researched in detail by the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) commissioned by the Stop Child Labour Coalition. The conclusion of the research report leaves little room for doubts: "Artisanal gold produced with the involvement of children ends up in the electronics supply chain. Although child labour is rampant in gold mining, and despite the fact that the working conditions can be very harmful to children, the electronics industry currently has no mechanisms to ensure child labour does not occur in the mining phase of their supply chain."

Stop Child Labour calls on companies in the electronics industry, including yours, to ensure effective action against child labour and other labour rights violations in the full supply chain, including at the level of (artisanal) gold mining, and to provide openness about the origin of the gold used in electronic devices.

Stop Child Labour believes that besides individual due diligence on this issue, joint efforts with other companies and relevant stakeholders, including local NGO's and trade unions, are crucial. Combating child labour in the mining of gold might be quite a challenge, but it is certainly not impossible if both individual and joint action is taken.

Therefore we would like to invite you to the Round Table that will be organised by the GoodElectronics Network and the Stop Child Labour Coalition in Amsterdam on Friday April 1st, 2016. This is a good opportunity for all to discuss what can be done to ensure that there is no child labour involved in the mining of gold and other minerals used in electronic devices. Please save the date, more information will follow.

In the coming months SOMO will continue the research and focus on the policies and practices of individual electronics companies. We welcome your feedback on the research report and request your cooperation in the follow up phase. We look forward to start a constructive dialogue and collaboration on tackling the issue of child labour.

You can find the research report including recommendations for electronics companies on our website: www.stopchildlabour.org

Yours sincerely,

Sofie Ovaa
Programme Manager Stop Child Labour
Hivos

'Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work' (SCL) is a coalition coordinated by Hivos. The coalition consists of the Algemene Onderwijsbond (AOB), FNV Mondiaal, Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (ICN), Kerk in Actie & ICCO Cooperation and Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland.

The manual entitled 'Action Plan for Companies to Combat Child Labour' (see: www.stopchildlabour.org) may well be of assistance to you. Stop Child Labour sets out a number of recommendations in this guide to eliminate child labour from the production process. These recommendations are based on the UN Guidelines for Human Rights and Business and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which are endorsed and recommended by the Dutch government.

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