

# VOICE OF THE RURAL WORLD

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES  
AND RURAL CONFLICTS

2017/04 No.128



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the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers,

*Greetings from International Secretariat!*

VMR 128 deals the topic of Extractives and Rural conflicts. The extraction of minerals, oil and gas has a long and ambiguous history in development processes – in North America, Europe, Latin America and Australasia. Extraction has yielded wealth, regional identities and in few cases capital for industrialization in some countries. In other cases its main heritages have been social conflict, environmental damage and underperforming national economies. It is evident that the main gifts of extractive industry be ones of conflict, degradation and unequal forms of growth. There are many places in the world today where the extraction of natural resources has either triggered or fueled violent conflict. In 2001, for example, a quarter of all armed conflicts in the world involved the extraction of natural resources. In many cases, these violent conflicts have led to humanitarian disasters, human rights violations, and environmental destruction. Global issues of peace, justice, environment, human rights, and development are tied to resource extraction in both “developing” and “developed” countries.

. In Pakistan and Bolivia, for example, violent protests have broken out over the distribution of water. In the Middle East, disputes over oil fields in Kuwait, among other issues, led to the first Gulf War. In another example, the rebel groups National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (known by its Portuguese acronym UNITA) used revenues derived from diamond mining to fund their rebellions against their respective governments.



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It may be helpful to think of natural resources in terms of how they are used. Some resources, such as water and land, are used locally and may not have much impact beyond the local area. Other resources, such as timber, minerals, and oil, are used to produce revenue. It is these revenue-producing resources that cause the most problems, sometimes called the resource curse—the paradox that countries with abundant natural resources often have less economic growth than those without natural resources.

Extractivism under progressive governments, as it had under neoliberalism, still displaces rural communities, poisons water sources, kills the soil, and undermines indigenous territorial autonomy. Latin America's human rights record has been challenged by the accelerated growth of the extractive industries in the region over the past few decades. Throughout the continent, resistance movements that campaign for alternatives to this hegemonic model continuously suffer violent repression, through the use of force, intimidation and submission to judicial processes. As we will see, contemporary extractive activity usually presents territorial conflicts through the dislodging of the populations that inhabit those territories. The extractive model therefore implicates accumulation by dispossession – a model based on the expansion of capital through the intensive use of the environment, which is interpreted as a commodity.

We are depleting non-renewable resources at a rate never before experienced, and the probability of future conflicts over natural resources seems high. Solutions have to be thought through in collective spaces with social movements, grassroots activists and communities, uniting rural and urban struggles and small-scale and artisanal producers, be more inclusive of the energy and power of the youth and once again find an overwhelming theme that can unite our struggles (e.g. “Our world is not for sale”).

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez  
Secretary General



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# EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND RURAL CONFLICTS



*The mining resources of our planet excite the lusts and are often associated with wars and violations of human rights around the world. Whether in RDC, Peru, Guatemala, the extraction of these precious resources causes conflicts between the prospective miners and the populations, divisions some times within the communities and are often at the origin of group financing arms. We will try here to give some light on this issue, while knowing that this area is often very sensitive and all data's are not always accessible. We recommend you to view more reports of Amnesty international or even excellent researches of Justice and Peace.*

## **What are the main exploited minerals today?**

### **The coltan**

Coltan enters in the manufacture of our modern electronic devices (tablets, mobile phones, smartphones, GPS...). This mineral combines 2 metals, the columbium and tantalum, which is especially used to make aircraft parts, missiles and precision tools. His constant demand and the strategic nature of its use make it a metal more valuable than gold. Global resources are distributed in many countries, such as Brazil, China, Australia, Canada and RDC. Coltan extraction is done on open pit mines or underground mines. In RDC, the coltan is extracted in a craft way with shovel, pick, and pans. These exploitations are governed by no security standard



and accidents are frequent. It is estimated that 2 million children have been killed in accidents in 10 years on these sites in the RDC.

Coltan is also known as a cause of wars, armed groups benefiting from annuities of this exploitation and is used to buy weapons, to exploit human beings and to massacre of primates and elephants. Beyond the war, exploitation of coltan has had disastrous environmental and social consequences.

### **The diamond**

Like many other industries in the world, the diamond industry has become a global community. During the last 10 to 15 years, attention was drawn, with reason, on the alarming reality in some continents where diamonds are exploited.

The term diamonds from conflict (also called conflict diamonds or blood diamonds) refers to diamonds from areas controlled by rebel's groups acting against legitimate Governments. Because of the power used by these groups, the money collected through the sale of diamonds originating from these areas can often be used for the financing of military violence and violations of human rights. This is from this kind of situation that the term 'conflict diamonds' comes.



In the past, most areas of conflict diamonds came from African countries with unstable Governments, such as Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

### **Gold**

Specialized gold mining sector is in trouble, but despite this difficulty there are still hundreds of tons which are extracted each year.

#### **What are the main gold mines?**

Major global gold mines are located in the Group of the 8 first gold producing countries worldwide. The main gold mines are located in:

- China: Shandong region
- Australia: Western Canada (75% of Australian production)
- South Africa: Driefontein
- United States: Nevada (60% of American production)



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- Russia: Ural
  - Peru: mine Yanacocha (North)
  - Canada: mine Hemlo (Ontario)
  - Indonesia: Grasberg mine

It is interesting to note that Grasberg, the second mine that produces the most gold in the world is in fact a copper mine which produces the yellow metal as a by-product of its main activity.

### **Copper**

Copper ore deposits have been discovered 4 700 years back in the Sinai by the Egyptians, on an expedition of the Pharaoh Smerket.

As for many non-ferrous metals, copper extraction is done from deposits increasingly poorer. Today the sources of copper are more discreet and hard to find. Chalcopyrite deposits are exploited intensively in Canada, Zambia, in Katanga (Democratic Republic of Congo), Mali, Mauritania, Poland, Kazakhstan, United States in the states of Arizona, Montana, New Mexico and Utah. One of the biggest mines in the world is located in Chuquibambilla, in the desert of Atacama in Chile. The malachite (a dark green stone) is exploited in the region of Lubumbashi in the East of Congo. Nowadays, the percentage of copper of rich deposits is around 4%. The biggest open sky mine of copper is located on the island of Bougainville but she is actually closed since 1989 after the sabotages organized by the revolutionary army of Bougainville.



We could continue this dossier by citing other minerals such as silver, bauxite, nickel, iron... but we will focus in the second part of this dossier to see how and why the extractions of minerals cause conflicts in rural. Who benefits from these extractions? Do local people have some returns from the exploitation? Or on the contrary are they the first victims of often foreign companies, who don't care about any of the pollution created by the exploitations, the displacement of people, or simply to involve locals in these companies.

### **An example**

The gold fever raging in Latin America has dramatic consequences on the environment. Tropical forests are devastated, and dug mines here and there compete with international mining investment projects. Whether in Peru, Colombia or Bolivia, the gold rush is booming in Latin America.



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Artisanal mines alongside the international mining projects. According to the Inter-American Society of mines, 300 billion dollars of investments are thus planned across the continent by 2020 all metals together. These activities are yet not all welcome, far from it. Indeed, 162 mining conflicts have erupted in the region due to growing opposition from local communities.

They consider that these projects pose a threat to the environment, says the Observatory of mining conflicts in Latin America. But with a price of gold rising steadily (he went from 270 to about 1,700 dollars an ounce) and a price of copper which has never been so high (due to Chinese demand), mines continue to multiply. The local people are exploited, men, women and children being sent to the coal camps where no care centers or schools have their place. These camps are installed everywhere and ravage thousands of acres of rainforest. In Peru, these are about 130,000 people engaged in illegal mining. In this country, gold production, reach 18 tons per year and results in the destruction of 20,000 hectares of tropical forests. In Colombia, thousands of people began to operate former mines in the departments of Antioquia and Choco. In Bolivia, 10,000 people live from informal gold mining operations in extreme conditions. However, several projects were interrupted in Chile, Peru or Argentina. Indeed, in some areas, the Convention 169 of the ILO, which requires prior consultation of the local communities before any mining exploration, has been applied. Thus, a major battle is led by the population of Cajamarca (Peru) against the Conga, the biggest mining investment in the country (\$ 4.7 billion). The project is on hold since years. In the Argentine town of Famatina, the Canadian company Osisko Mining Corp. had to interrupt his proposed open-air gold mining operations while in Chile, the Canadian mining group Goldcorp had put an end to the operation of the mine of El Morro Despite the promising reserves of gold and copper it owns.

In recent years, conflicts caused by mining activities in the Guatemala were very many. Across the country, indigenous peoples and non-Aboriginal communities began to protest against the installation of mines on their land and close to their homes. Fearing pollution and/or negative impact on livelihoods and the enjoyment of their human rights, conflicts and protests against these projects erupted. As a result years of threats and violence, during which people have been injured or killed, as well as a sense of division and resentment within the communities. Community leaders protesting mining activities are often the target of threats, acts of intimidation or attacks. In most cases, the authors have never had to answer for their actions. In Guatemala, the extraction of metals to industrial scale occurs generally in rural areas. For example, mining activities affect more indigenous people, who tend to





live in rural areas, and have more impact on their lands. Historically, indigenous people suffer from discrimination and are over-represented in the poorest layers of the population. Not, they have full access to their rights, including education and health. Often, these people have paid the price of unsuitable land ownership disputes resolution mechanisms. These conflicts are frequent, particularly because of the very uneven distribution of land to the Guatemala. It is essential that human rights are protected in any development project, without exception. This is particularly true for mining projects. In 2013, the Government declared the State of emergency in some areas where hydroelectric or mining projects had triggered protests, measure normally reserved for times of war or natural disaster.



The situation is complex: if the affected communities are strongly opposed to mining activities, others are in favor and consider that these activities are at the heart of economic development. Opponents are concerned about the possible negative impacts of these activities, including: environmental pollution; risks to agriculture and, by ricochet, feeding effect and the means of subsistence; restrictions on access

to the traditional territories of indigenous peoples; presence of security forces around the mine sites. One of the most cited causes of conflict is the absence of real consultation of the communities on mining projects. According to the population and local NGOs, these protests are due to several factors: the lack of consultation prior to the start of mining activities, disagreement over the acquisition of land and the inaction of the company facing the risks associated with its activity.

This example illustrates perfectly all the risks incurred by people, in short, environmental threats, threats to the health of populations, loss of land, river pollution, threats to the community cohesion and migration of the populations.

### **Some progress**

The Convention 169 of the ILO adopted in 1989 which requires prior consultation of the local communities before any exploration mining. 20 countries have signed this convention. Article 7 of the convention no. 169 stipulates that indigenous



and tribal peoples have the right to “decide their own priorities regarding the development process insofar as it has an impact on their lives, their beliefs, their institutions and spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or use in another way, and to exercise control over their economic, social and cultural development”. This was interpreted by the control bodies of the ILO as an essential consideration when consultations with indigenous peoples take place.

### **The Kimberley process (KCPS)**

In 2000, the World Diamond Council was established in Antwerp. In collaboration with the United Nations, this Council has developed what is known as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KCPS) from the name of a famous diamond mine in South Africa.

The KCPS sets an international identification system which is intended to discourage the sale of conflict diamonds. Certified diamonds in this way provide buyer the warranty that the stones do not come from a region that could use the money to finance military violence or human rights violations. At present, the KCPS is recognized by 75 countries.

### **Proposal of action**

- Encourage Governments to pay attention in mining extractions and apply the legal instruments for the protection of populations.
- Prevent that the money generated by these operations finance armed groups
- Respect indigenous communities who consulted refuse extraction mines
- Continue the research in technology and development to find alternatives to these precious minerals
- Make reasonable use of the material and technology (GSM, Portable...)
- Denounce all violations of the human rights related to extraction





## CALL FOR ACTION

### WORLD FOOD DAY

*“Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development”*

#### **World Food Day is a day of action against hunger**

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On October 16, this year again the people around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate hunger in our lifetime. Because it is not acceptable that millions go to bed with empty stomachs every day. First established in 1979, World Food Day has since then been observed in almost every country by millions of people. The global message for World Food Day 2017 is “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to address migration by investing for in sustainable food systems and rural development

The world is on the move. More people have been forced to flee their homes than at any time since the Second World War due to increased conflict and political instability. But hunger, poverty, and an increase in extreme weather events linked to climate change are other important factors contributing to the migration challenge. Large movements of people today are presenting complex challenges, which call for global action. Many migrants arrive in developing countries, creating tensions where resources are already scarce, but the majority, about 763 million, move within their own countries rather than abroad. Three-quarters of the extreme poor base their livelihoods on agriculture or other rural activities. Creating conditions that allow rural people, especially youth, to stay at home when they feel it is safe to do so, and to have more resilient livelihoods, is a crucial component of any plan to tackle the migration challenge.

Rural development can address factors that compel people to move by creating business opportunities and jobs for young people that are not only crop-based (such as small dairy or poultry production, food processing or horticulture enterprises). It can also lead to increased food security, more resilient livelihoods, better access to social protection, and reduced conflict over natural resources and solutions to environmental degradation and climate change.

By investing in rural development, the international community can also harness migration’s potential to support development and build the resilience of displaced and host communities, thereby laying the ground for long-term recovery and inclusive and sustainable growth.

Migration is part of the process of development as economies undergo structural transformation and people search for better employment opportunities within and



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across countries. The challenge is to address the structural drivers of large movements of people to make migration safe, orderly and regular.

### **Fast Facts (According to FAO)**

- In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants, 40% more than in 2000.
- People who move within national borders were estimated at 763 million in 2013, meaning that there are more internal migrants than international migrants.
- About one-third of all international migrants are aged 15-34. Nearly half are women.
- In 2015, migrants sent over USD600 billion in remittances to their countries of birth. Of that, developing countries received about USD441 billion, nearly three times the amount of official development assistance.
- A large share of migrants come from rural areas where more than 75% of the world's poor and food insecure depend on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods.
- Most migrants, whether international or internal, originate in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- In 2015, 65.3 million people around the world were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million IDPs.
- A quarter of global refugees reside in only three countries (Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon).
- In 2015, more than 19 million people were internally displaced because of natural disasters. Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26.4 million people were displaced annually by climate or weather-related disasters.

### **THE ROOT CAUSES OF RURAL MIGRATION**

- Rural poverty and food insecurity: More than 75% of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas, mostly depending on agricultural production for their subsistence. The rural poor, and especially smallholder family farmers, face considerable difficulties in accessing credit, services, technologies and markets that would allow them to improve the productivity of their natural resources and labour. This forces the rural people to migrate in search of livelihoods.
- Lack of employment and income generating opportunities: Most available jobs in agriculture are associated with low and unstable incomes, poor safety and health conditions, gender inequality in pay and opportunities, and limited social protection. Due to restricted access to training, financial and extension services and processing facilities, more attractive prospects are limited in rural areas.



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- Rural -Urban Inequality: Rural and Urban Inequality: Rural areas lack better employment opportunities and improved access to health, education, and basic services
  - Limited access to social protection: About 73% of the world population have no adequate access to social protection. The majority live in the rural areas of developing countries, where they face difficulties in managing social, economic and environmental risks.
  - Climate change: Smallholder family farmers, small-scale fishers, forest-dependent communities and pastoralists are hardest hit by weather related disasters, which are increasing in frequency and intensity. Droughts and related food price volatility increase poverty and hunger, and the need to find viable options elsewhere.
  - Depletion of natural resources due to environmental degradation and climate change: Land degradation and desertification affect around one-third of the land used for agriculture and about 1.5 billion people worldwide, undermining farmers' productivity and resilience. Climate change and the use of inappropriate farming techniques further exacerbate these challenges.

## **POTENTIAL OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Agriculture and rural development can make a strong contribution to meeting the global challenge of addressing large scale migration. Scaling-up the support to smallholder family farmers and creating alternative and sustainable livelihood options in rural areas, with a special focus on women and youth, is fundamental to addressing the root causes of rural distress migration. This requires :

- Public policies targeting smallholder family farmers and promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Diversification to off-farm activities, effective rural services and investments in value chains linked to sustainable agriculture.
- Rural education and vocational training that match labour market needs.
- Sustainable agricultural practices to limit the impact of climate change, promote sound natural resource management and increase productivity.
- Inclusive social protection systems that cover rural populations and financial inclusion in rural areas, especially for women and youth.

Everyone has a role to play in dealing migration issues in our own countries. Countries need to invest in smallholder farmers and in sustainable food production and more over in sustainable rural development .By strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, we can guarantee food security for the planet's increasingly hungry global population This World Food Day is an occasion to focus the world's attention on the



increasing implications of internal and external migrations all over the world. Run up to the World Food day 2017, I would like to call upon all our member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in your movements in relation to the theme of the year. I thank all the movements that were involved in various actions last year.

Some proposal of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2017 are mentioned below but each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Organise discussion forums on the impact of migration in own locality
- Organise debates on the negative effect of migration in rural areas
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand support for small scale business and rural projects with a view to resist the forced migrations.
- Organise migration help desks at local level
- Organise Corner meetings, press conference, press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Organise one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world
- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Organise forums to share the experience of internal and external migrants
- Organise Territorial analysis to identify the potentials in rural areas with a view to implement sustainable livelihood projects

During this world food day of 2017, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions to raise the debate in all over the world on the theme of the year “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development” and to Lobby for the policies that support local and national food security and sustainable rural development .We urge all the members to organise a common action day to raise awareness on this topic and send us the news about your activities.

Wish you all the best. Let us continue our efforts to build lively rural areas and to create a dignified rural life.

**George Dixon Fernandez**  
*Secretary General*

ASSESE, 05/09/2017

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## FIMARC NEWS

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATIONS WITH UNESCO AND ELECTION OF NGO LIAISON COMMITTEE**

International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in relations with UNESCO took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) from 12 to 14 December 2016. Jean Claude Germon, Treasurer of FIMARC participated in the meeting.

### **CHAPLAINS MEETING OF MIACS-DECEMBER 2016**

During the session at Sassone ,Rome (29-30 april 2016), the catholic social action movements decided to create a space for theological reflection and accompaniment. A first session of such a reflection meeting was organised on thursday 13 december in Paris at the

secrétariat of ACI (MIAMSI) .Chaplains + 1 member from the Secretariat of all the catholic social action movements were invited. Jean Claude Germon (FIMARC Treasurer) participated in this meeting along with the chaplain of CMR, France.

### **FIMARC EUROPE KICK OFF MEETING FOR ERASMUS PLUS ACTIVITIES - BAD HONEF BONN, NOVEMBER 2016**

FIMARC Europe Worked on European Erasmus plus project with objective of better networking between movements- Family Farming, Food Sovereignty, organisational development, Communication etc. are the elements of this proposed project. Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Belgium + Slovaky, Bulgaria and Romania are partners of this project of 2 years.





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