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SOLIDARIDAD AND MINERALS COMMISSION INAUGURATE NATIONAL PARTNERS FORUM TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR IN GHANA'S GOLD SECTOR

Accra, 19 November 2024 — Solidaridad and the Minerals Commission of Ghana inaugurated a National Partners Forum today, to eradicate child labour in the mining sector.

The Forum is a high-level platform designed for stakeholders to convene, collaborate, and advocate for policy reforms and resource mobilization in support of implementing the Child Labour Eradication Framework (CLEF) in Ghana. The Framework provides strategies and guidelines for eliminating child labour in the mining sector.

The formation of the National Partners Forum is a key recommendation from the CLEF, which was validated by stakeholders last year. The framework indicates that eliminating the worst forms of child labour in the mining sector requires a collaborative approach to ensure that all efforts align towards a common goal and to learn from various initiatives.. It also emphasized that the lack of strategic linkages among partnerships addressing child labour in mining leads to fragmentation and limits the potential for scaling up efforts.

The National Partners Forum will, therefore, serve as an inclusive, consultative platform connecting policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders engaged in eradicating child labour in mining communities.. It will leverage the collective expertise of its members to showcase results and strengthen partnerships to achieve the strategic objectives of the Child Labour Eradication Framework. Specifically, it will improve efficiency in service delivery, enhance the quality of interventions, and reduce duplication of efforts.

Victor Astu Amekor, Assistant Manager for Small-scale and Industrial mining at the Minerals Commission, emphasised the importance of a collaborative approach to eradicate child labour.

“Minerals Commission believes that addressing the menace of child labour in the mining sector requires sustained and collaborative efforts from all stakeholders. As a result, the commission remains committed to providing stewardship towards promoting good corporate governance that involves the interest of all actors, strengthening institutional and community capacity for the eradication of child labour in mining,” said Victor.

The National Partners Forum comprises eleven (11) representatives from government agencies, civil society organizations, affected communities, academia, technical experts, and enforcement agencies.

Rosemary Addico, Programme Manager for Gold Programmes at Solidaridad, described the establishment of the forum as pivotal to Solidaridad’s mission.

“Child labour not only robs children of their right to education and a safe childhood but also perpetuates cycles of poverty and exploitation within mining communities. At Solidaridad, we are committed to promoting responsible mining practices that are free from child labour, and this



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forum will play a vital role in bringing together stakeholders to address these critical issues collaboratively,” Rosemary indicated.

For his part, Eric Amoako Agyare, Acting Country Representative for Solidaridad Ghana, said Solidaridad, under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, has been working towards an inclusive and responsible global gold value chain by advocating for improved and optimized formalization process in Ghana, where fair value distribution, safe working conditions, child labour, and deforestation and pollution are central to the agenda of policy-makers.

“It is essential that we forge this strategic partnership to effectively address child labour in the mining sector.” He remarked

The RECLAIM Sustainability! programme is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and implemented by Solidaridad West Africa and TrustAfrica in Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone.

Composition of the National Partners Forum

The National Partners Forum membership includes representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Minerals Commission, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations/Child Labour Unit, Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (specifically from the Department of Children or Human Trafficking Secretariat), Project Coordination Unit (Ghana Land Restoration and Sustainable Management Project), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ghana Chamber of Mines, non-governmental organizations with expertise in child rights and labour issues, law enforcement agencies, Ministry of Education/Ghana Education Service, Ghana National Association Of Small-Scale Miners (GNASSM), Center for Social Policy Studies, Office of the Head of Local Government, International Labour Organization (ILO), Attorney General’s Office, and National House of Chiefs.

ABOUT SOLIDARIDAD

Solidaridad is an international civil society organization with over fifty years of experience in developing solutions to make underprivileged communities more resilient. We currently work in over 40 countries, on five continents, through eight independently supervised regional offices.

Our **vision** is an economy that works for all: a world in which all we produce, and all we consume can sustain us while respecting the planet, each other, and the next generations.

Our **mission** is to enable farmers and workers to earn a decent income, shape their own future, and produce in balance with nature by working throughout the supply chain to make sustainability the norm.



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