

Melbourne, 22 June 2020

Ms Christen Dobson, Senior Project Lead & Researcher
Ms Marti Flacks, Deputy Director, North America
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

By email: dobson@business-humanrights.org

Dear Ms Dobson and Ms Flacks

Thank you for your email dated 15 June 2020 inviting Newcrest to provide a response to the report entitled '*Voices from the Ground: How the global mining industry is profiting from the COVID-19 pandemic*'.

Newcrest strongly denies the allegations made in the report about Newcrest's involvement in public health, environmental and human rights abuses and notes that there are a number of substantial factual inaccuracies in the report which should be corrected.

Our [Code of Conduct](#) sets out our blueprint for the way we do business. It details what we stand for, how we interact with our stakeholders and what they can expect from us.

Newcrest respects the Human Rights of all stakeholders and the laws of the countries in which we operate. We seek to prevent or mitigate any negative impacts of our activities, and maximise our positive impacts, including in relation to Human Rights, and to ensure that our operations do not contribute to conflict. Our Human Rights Policy sets out our commitment to human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Newcrest is a signatory to and participates in a number of voluntary initiatives that incorporate commitments in relation to Human Rights, including the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative and the World Gold Council's Conflict Free Gold Standard.

Newcrest is a member of the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) and applies the ICMM's ten guiding principles that define the good practice environmental, social and governance requirements that, in turn, will support progress towards the global targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Newcrest has in place an overarching sustainability framework, which sets out a long-term approach to sustainability across the business. Under the framework, policies on sustainability, environment, climate change, biodiversity, and water have been issued and embedded into assets and operational planning cycles.

These policies are complemented by a Sustainability Standard and twelve environment standards that include requirements for environmental risk assessments and development and implementation of management plans in accordance with regulatory permits and monitoring requirements. A Safety and Sustainability sub-committee of the Board provides oversight of company-wide environmental aspects.

Newcrest's membership of the ICMM included an external assurance process on environmental performance and Newcrest contributed to the development of the Responsible Gold Mining Principles as a member of the World Gold Council. Newcrest is also a member of the Cyanide Code and maintains external certification to the Code for each of our sites (Red Chris integration in progress following acquisition).

Newcrest sites maintain water management plans aligned with regional and local regulatory requirements and the company Water Stewardship Policy and Water Standard that is audited regularly. Newcrest publicly reports on environmental performance and material environmental aspects in our annual Sustainability Report.

Our sustainability-related policies, along with our annual Sustainability Report can be found on our website at www.newcrest.com.

In relation to the specific references to Newcrest in the *'Voices from the Ground'* report, following are our comments in relation to correcting the factual inaccuracies in the report and our previous detailed responses to specific allegations regarding Newcrest:

1. Newcrest does not operate or own the Fruta del Norte operation in Ecuador. Fruta del Norte is 100 per cent owned, managed and operated by Lundin Gold Inc. Newcrest is a shareholder in Lundin Gold Inc.
2. Newcrest does not own or manage the Cascabel project in Ecuador. Newcrest is a shareholder in SolGold Plc, which is the majority owner of the Cascabel project.
3. Newcrest divested its 89.89% interest in the Bonikro mine in Côte d'Ivoire on 28 March 2018. The potential impacts on groundwater and potable water from artisanal mining near the township of Hiré in the Ivory Coast were recognised by the government and a regional initiative was established to engage with artisanal miners on the safety hazards and potential environmental impacts of using mercury (and in some cases cyanide) for gold recovery during unlicensed artisanal mining activities. Locally held engagement forums at Hiré were facilitated by government representatives to raise awareness and improve the understanding of hazards from artisanal mining and reduce the uncontrolled use of mercury (or cyanide) in artisanal mining. During ownership by Newcrest the Bonikro mine progressed implementation of the global Cyanide Code in

accordance with leading practice industry guidance. At the time of divestment Bonikro was preparing for external certification of the Cyanide Code.

4. Newcrest has previously addressed in detail the claims relating to the Lihir Gold operation in Papua New Guinea. Our letter to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand & Pacific dated 11 February 2019 is attached for your reference.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Ali
Chief People and Sustainability Officer