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9th Alternative Mining Indaba

5-7 February 2018, Cape Town, South Africa

1. **We**, representatives of over 400 members of faith-based organisations, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, Pan-African networks and organisations, labour movements, women movements, human rights activists, media, students from African countries and our international partners met on February 5 – 7, 2018 in Cape Town to share experiences, lessons and deliberate on the role and the impacts of extractives on communities, national economies, the environment and society at large. This marks the ninth year of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI), which has grown from a modest 40 participants to close to 600 delegates from Africa and other parts of the world.
 - 1.1. We meet at a time of a deep-water crisis in Cape Town that could have been prevented and are saddened that whilst corporations in particular businesses and elites in general continue as business as usual, the poor and working people are left to carry the burden of saving water. This continues their vulnerability. We demand water equity and justice;
 - 1.2. We proudly proclaim to all that the days of corporate greed rule that places the value of affluence over human beings are numbered. In the place of the growth -greed model of development, people will take their rightful place at the centre of development living side by side with an environment that is not wasteful of water, plant and animal life. We commit to rebuilding communities, and principles of solidarity and where we choose to elect

leaders to represent us. This must be based on the clear principle that they must be servant leaders, subject to immediate recall if they stray. With these principles, values and programmes of action agreed upon we will see AFRICA truly rising;

2. **Noting this and committing** to implement the previous AMI Resolutions and Recommendations on, **among others**, fiscal regime and revenue management, environment, artisanal & small-scale mining & social protection, linkages, investments and diversification, legal and institutional management;
3. The 9th Alternative Mining Indaba convened under the theme “***Making Natural Resources work for the people: Towards Just legal, policy and institutional reforms***”; and resolved on a number of issues in line with the above:

4. **Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI)**

- 4.1. The AMI is mobilizing towards its 10th anniversary in 2019 and is committed to an organisational renewal strategy that will involve all of its members and partners. A key strategy of this mobilization will be informed by local, district, provincial and national platforms within our region, which will inform the international gathering of AMI. The AMI remains a platform for building radical alternative ideas and voices of the poor and marginalized. These ideas take people as the starting point of human development and not profits.
- 4.2. AMI confirms that public ownership of natural resources guarantees and ensures intergenerational sustainability and equity in the exploitation of resources. That remains our rallying call. Therefore, people become responsible stewards for their resources as co-creators;
- 4.3. In this regard, the AMI aspires to be the space to build organizational and knowledge linkages between all sectors, that is: communities impacted and affected by mining, social movements, women, workers, youths, landless and others resisting injustices;

5. **Policy Reforms**

- 5.1. We note with concern the experiences of local mining communities in Africa and other parts of the developing world where mining regimes are exploitative through the use of the law, force and violence;

- 5.2. These perpetuate unsustainable extraction of resources underpinned by corruption and political collusion of the elites in both public and private sectors for the benefit of international capital at the expense and exclusion of communities;
- 5.3. We therefore demand that the state and the mining companies respect the right of communities to say no to mining;
- 5.4. We also demand inclusion of free prior informed consent, independent problem solving service, majority community beneficiation to be strongly reflected in national mining visions, laws and policies;
- 5.5. We affirm that joint monitoring of implementation of agreed commitments by the communities, governments and mining companies should be part of the foundational basis of natural resources governance framework in our regions;

6. Public Health

- 6.1. We reiterate that public Health rights and the right to life supersede all other claims. They have been won through social struggle and are a source of social power;
- 6.2. We note with concern the rights violations by mining companies relating to health and access to resources and services for health in and around mines. We recognize that health goes beyond voluntary corporate social responsibility and is a matter of legal rights and duties activated from the community;
- 6.3. We therefore commit to ensure they are protected for all living in and around mines in all our countries, including through negotiating harmonised regional and continental standards, national laws and enforcing them at the local level;
- 6.4. We also demand that community based health and social impact assessments are implemented that involve community evidence, including on assessing and planning for impacts after mines close, and for free prior informed consent on these issues to be given before mines are given licenses;
- 6.5. Social services including health, education, water services and infrastructures must be provided before people are resettled;
- 6.6. Measures to be put in place to protect health and prevent disease and injury, during mine operations and after closure;
- 6.7. Workers and communities to build dialogue between them and to be informed and fully participate in decisions on all of these measures;

7. Gender and legal reform

- 7.1. We note with concern the capture of government institutions, politicians, traditional leaders and other key decision makers by mining companies which is exacerbating rights violations, gender discrimination, corruption and bribery in the mining sector thereby stifling development, peace and unity of communities;

We therefore demand and will engage governments to enact legislation that ensures:

- 7.2. Women have ownership, access and control of resources for their own development;
- 7.3. People-centred policies are formulated and implemented;
- 7.4. Country and specific context issues are taken into perspective;
- 7.5. Diversification of economies beyond mining for wider developmental dividends;
- 7.6. Gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the mining value chain;
- 7.7. Women in Artisanal mining are recognized for their role and participation in the sector and the whole value chain;

8. Mining and Climate Change

- 8.1. The extractive nature of large-scale industrial systems including in mining and agriculture have significant implications on the well-being of people and the ecology. These capitalist modes of production “have exacerbated climate change resulting in drought, floods and erratic weather conditions” as demonstrated by the current water crisis;
- 8.2. Concerned that extractivism and the appropriation and exploitation of natural resources destroys the ecology and local community systems;
- 8.3. And that it causes severe environmental degradation and extreme land and water pollution without restoration plans;

We therefore demand and will engage to ensure:

- 8.4. All parties to strengthen activism on creating and reclaiming politics to shift the power dynamics to resist destruction caused by mining and perverse pricing incentives to exploit water and electricity;
- 8.5. The development and strengthening of evidence by affected communities in engaging in citizen science and participatory decision-making;

9. Independent Problem Solving Service

- 9.1. We therefore demand and will engage to ensure the following:

Government and mining companies

- 9.2. Strengthen their dialogue with and participation of workers and surrounding communities;

African Union, SADC, EAC, CEMAC, ECOWAS and COMESA

- 9.3. Include an Independent Problem Solving Service into the African Mining Vision which will be a mediation of conflict headed by retired Judges, Civil Society, Community Representatives and Representatives of Government and Business;

10. Oversight Role of Parliamentarians in extractives

- 10.3. Observing that the legislation that regulates the extractive sector, among others, is developed and passed by parliaments at the national level;
- 10.4. Encouraged by the fact that parliamentarians are the elected representatives of the constituencies including mining affected and impacted communities;
- 10.5. Noting the oversight role of parliamentarians on the executive, we therefore demand and will engage them to:
 - I. Recognize the people power as the key lever to push for reforms within the extractive sector which can benefit the people;
 - II. Expedite the mobilization of their constituencies to demand and protect the rights of the communities;

- III. Ensure capacity building to chiefs, MPs and ordinary citizens to bridge the knowledge gap on pertinent issues on extractives for them to enhance their engagement with the government;

11. Faith and Extractives

- 11.3. We call on the faith community to mobilise and rally support for communities on issues related to social justice including extractives and benefit sharing through dialogue with state and extractive industry;

12. Conclusion

- 12.3. We will as movements, NGOs and those communities adversely affected and impacted by the extractives sector in general unite through the building of collective action during village, ward, district, provincial and national Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) processes;
- 12.4. We have learned the lesson of history that power concedes nothing without a demand and commit ourselves to work together with all who cherish the values of freedom, solidarity and liberation. The flame of liberation will triumph over the system of accumulation that is destroying the planet, livelihoods, the environment and animal life.

Felix Ngosa

Rev. Malcolm Damon

AMI Chairperson

AMI Secretariat

On behalf of the 600 members of the Alternative Mining Indaba
