

# MINING WATCH AFGHANISTAN NETWORK CALLS FOR SERIOUS AMENDMENTS IN THE MINERAL LAW TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE SECTOR

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Tuesday, December 29, 2015 – Kabul: Members of the Mining Watch Afghanistan Network met with Minister of Mines and Petroleum and presented him a set of recommendations for amendment of the mining law. Member of the network urged Minister Saba to consider civil society recommendations while amending the mineral law. The set of recommendations include:

- Make contract publication a condition for validity
- Require publication of project-level production and payment data
- Require publication of beneficial ownership
- Strengthen rules for a transparent and fair bidding process
- Create a single, transparent account for all natural resource payments
- Require the use of model contracts
- Enable community monitoring and require fair mechanisms for dispute resolution
- Ensure communities receive and equitable benefit from mining and their rights are respected

In response to a request from civil society by President Ghani, the Mining Watch Afghanistan as an active network of civil society working on mining issues, proposed a set of specific amendments that could address some of the most serious flaws in the existing mining law. In a collaboration with a broad group of high-level Afghan and international experts, including Columbia University and Radon Law, the network has developed legal language which it believes will greatly strengthen the Law, increase the attractiveness of the mining sector to legitimate investors, and boost government revenues. The network has aimed to make these proposals as simple as possible to implement, and to avoid complex mechanisms that would require major increases in the capacity of relevant Ministries.

Instead of helping the country, right now Afghanistan's mines are a major source of conflict and corruption, and benefit armed groups who carry out horrific violence on the Afghan people rather than supporting development and contributing to government income. In these circumstances the members of Mining Watch Afghanistan Network are extremely concerned that the Mining Law is missing the basic protections which should be Afghanistan's first line of defence. The network believes that addressing civil society concerns in the mineral law would help the government translate the commitments it has made to fight corruption and safeguard the natural resources which are the birth right of all Afghans.

 For more information, please download the proposed amendments by Mining Watch Afghanistan here.

About Mining Watch Afghanistan:

Mining Watch Afghanistan is a network of civil society organizations committed to transparency and good governance of the mining sector in Afghanistan. The network draws its membership from local, national, and international organizations working in the mining sector. Integrity Watch Afghanistan currently facilitates coordination of the network activities.

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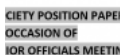
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