Summary of input Platinum Roundtable
Brussels 12th December 2007

Anglo Platinum is the biggest platinum producer in South Africa and in many cases sets the standards for other mining corporations. The company reports comprehensively on its mining activities and is prepared to engage in public discussion about the more negative aspects of mining.

The statistics below reflect a national context, as local emission figures are not available and cumulative emission information is hard to come by. There is a lack of capacity by local authorities to monitor the environmental impact of industry.

Indirect emissions: Anglo's indirect emissions of carbon dioxide from imported electricity increased year on year (2005 -6) by 8%. With an increased demand for platinum, the number of smelters going up also increases. Measurements are needed that are site specific and not nationally based.

Direct emissions (from fossil fuels, diesel and coal): Anglo's consumption increased by 15% between 2005 and 2006. This substantial increase is partly related to increased demand for PGM. While Anglo has agreed to remove all polychlorinated biphenyls-dioxins and furans from equipment according to the Stockholm convention, they have not set any time frame, and without independent monitoring and verification this cannot be confirmed.

Sulphur dioxide: Anglo has cut down on SO_2 emissions in wealthier areas but in poorer areas, like the Polokwane smelter, an increase of 63% was recorded between 2005 and 2006, even though this smelter was off line for 3 months. Anglo is silent in their reports on the impact of sulphur dioxide on farmers and surrounding communities.

Particulate emissions: Anglo claims that there has been a decrease of particulate emissions of 31% year on year. What is of concern here is how Anglo's labour polices indirectly contribute to workers' increasing respiratory diseases because of the living out allowance and subcontracting, where workers end up living in informal communities depended on coal and paraffin.

Water resources: The biggest threat is the use and contamination of water courses, pollution of the water table, and the changing flow of water (which leaves farmers destitute and communities without drinking water). This is the result of pumping water out of aquifers and the perforation of dykes. Anglo supports the development of new dams despite opposition from the SA National Parks board, local communities and key NGOs. Of particular concern are eco sensitive areas, and wetlands and biodiversity.

Mine deaths: There has been a rapid increase in mining fatalities in 2007 with over 200 miners killed. We welcome that Anglo has agreed to move away from their high

levels of subcontracting to improving overall awareness through interactive education in an ongoing manner.

Suggested Solutions

Mining CSR programmes should go beyond propaganda and should instead provide for meaningful and sustainable engagements with communities to develop a more environmentally sound relationship. The problems of the environment and that of communities should be viewed as an integrated challenge requiring integrated solutions.

Air

- Communities could be engaged to monitor and report on issues of air quality.
- Unused surface mine land could be used for a variety of intensive crop production, including vegetable, bio-fuel and other income generating plants (*economically profitable trees and shrubs including pomegranates (medical); Jatropha (fuel) and legumes such as the Gwar Bean (mining) and Aloes (medical*).
- The mines should move away from using organic fuels in energy consumption as well as in the smelting processes. The mines can assist communities to move away from wood and coal burning in informal settlements and supporting the production of bio fuel crops.
- Smoke emanating from smelters has seen an 80% increase in respiratory diseases. Mining corporations should study the program and (Swiss) technology adopted by Lafarge Cement in burning waste instead of coal.

Water

- The base of tailings dams from which toxic seepage occurs can be planted with reeds which could be harvested for weaving, furniture manufacturing and thatching. The reeds absorb the dangerous heavy metals and chemicals seeping from dams, cleaning the water that goes back into the surface water system.
- Mines could engage with communities in informal settlements to introduce ablution facilities such as bio-gas pits that generate bio-gas for domestic consumption. This will reduce the dependence on coal, wood and paraffin and reduce respiratory problems in the communities.

Waste Management

- Currently waste management is a huge cost to mines. Mining corporations should investigate turning at least some waste manage costs into income opportunities for both the mine and communities. For example, huge rock waste dumps of partially crushed stone covering potential agricultural land could be used for building materials.

Conclusion

Mining social responsibility programmes must begin to address the actual impact of mining on communities. The suggested strategy represents a community development approach that will accrue in the following benefits:

- **Job creation**: Every project proposed is labour intensive. 40 000ha of Jatropha trees will create in excess of 12 000 jobs and job opportunities beyond mining is created.

- **Economic Diversification**: Investment in bio-fuel production will help diversify the economy.
- **Improved Community Health:** The income status of communities will improve enabling better health care and treatment and improved nutritional levels.

The sustainable use of a mineral resource requires mining corporations to consider issues relating to their operations that go way beyond mining for the sake of profits. Thus environmental impact does not stop at the perimeter fence; but affect communities in the immediate vicinity of the operations and often hundreds of miles beyond.

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