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Workshop on the Plunder of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Natural Resources

**Centre Lasallien de Kintambo
Kinshasa, August 5-7, 2002**

Conclusions and recommendations

INTRODUCTION

On August 5-7, 2002, the Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire (CENADEP), in collaboration with Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), organised at the Centre Lasallien de Kintambo, Kinshasa, a workshop on "*Diamonds and the Plunder of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Natural Resources: where to find the resources for reconstruction and the fight against poverty?*"

The workshop had several objectives:

- contribute to the search for a sustainable peace by fighting against illegal and criminal practices, particularly in the mineral extraction economy, so that the wealth created can support reconstruction and the fight against poverty in the RDC;
- create and strengthen broad national support so that government and civil society become active in the fight against the plunder of our country's resources;
- develop civil society strategies to lobby for a reduction in the illegal practices in the mining sector;
- propose recommendations for collaborative action in this vital sector as well as in follow up advocacy work;
- encourage companies and national and international partners to respect our laws and halt illegal practices;
- encourage the Government to adopt appropriate legislation to control fraud and increase transparency in the mining sector;

- disseminate widely information on fraudulent practices in the mining sector, especially with diamonds and coltan, so that appropriate measures will be taken at the national and international level;

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

A. NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING STRATEGIES

1. Set up a National Natural Resource Management Network for the DRC, with its focal point at CENADEP, to coordinate all activities in relation to the plunder of the country's natural resources. Activities will include:
 - Fighting against the plunder of Congo's natural resources.
 - Promoting good and up-to-date data collection with respect to natural resources.
 - Encouraging a rational and sustainable usage of the country's natural resources.
2. Identify the players, organizations and resource people according to their expertise and programmes.
3. Establish action groups at a provincial level and strengthen their capacities to intervene locally by offering targeted support.
4. Clearly define the network's objectives by determining the scope and duration of activities.
5. Ensure a permanent dialogue between civil society, the government (public authorities) and the private sector (businesses) in order to solidify the partnership when dealing with issues relevant to the plunder of the DRC's natural resources.
6. Undertake campaigns to raise awareness and lobby nationally and internationally against the plunder of Congo's natural resources.
7. Develop public advocacy initiatives addressed at government and national and international partners.
8. Encourage research and publications in specific fields by associating researchers and specialists with the network's programme of work.
9. Mobilize resources to support development at the grassroots by establishing contacts with regional and international organizations.
10. Involve the network in the follow-up and in the extension of the (Kimberley) certification process to other resources.
11. Participate in the popularization of the Mining Code and of other laws regarding the country's natural resources.
12. Promote public awareness of the DRC's numerous natural resources through press conferences, press releases, radio and television programmes and other publications.

**B. RESOLUTIONS DESTINED FOR INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS
(especially for the September 19-19, 2002, Brussels conference)**

1. Support the peace process so that the Democratic Republic of Congo can regain its territorial integrity.
2. Support the DRC's civil society campaigns to discourage northern companies from trading in conflict diamonds and other minerals and from collaborating with countries that have attacked Congo, so as to encourage them to work directly through the Congolese State.
3. Support the request for an embargo on natural resources coming from the eastern regions where conflict is occurring.
4. Participants at the Brussels conference should do everything possible to demand that the Security Council set up an international tribunal in the DRC to try economic crimes.
5. Support the DRC's civil society in their appeal to transit and trading countries to no longer allow diamond transactions which are not certified by the country of origin and to support the application of control mechanisms as contained in the Kimberley Process.
6. Support civil society in its appeal that all products that do not hold a certificate of origin should be seized wherever they are being sold, and that these products should then be sold for the benefit of the countries in which the plunder occurred.
7. Exert pressure on Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi to stop plundering the DRC's natural resources.
8. Support the recommendations made by civil society on the importance of establishing a Marshal Plan in order to rebuild the DRC, following the reestablishment of a bilateral and multilateral structural cooperation.
9. Strengthen the national legal system so that it can instigate proceedings against offenders world wide.
10. Support the actions taken by the DRC's National Network of Natural Resource Management.

**C. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP ON THE
PLUNDER OF THE DRC'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

I. TO THE GOVERNMENT

1. Accelerate the peace process and the country's reunification.
2. Foster the rapid growth of a state that is constitutional and democratic.
3. Ensure follow-up on the work done by the National Experts Group on the plunder of natural resources (minerals, lumber, animals, agricultural products etc.) and offer

support for their participation in all stages of the process, including the drafting of resolutions by the United Nations Security Council and the publication of the (UN Expert Panel's) next report.

4. Make available the list of those exploiting natural resources in the DRC in order to identify those who are operating illegally.
5. Meet the deadlines established in the application of all administrative acts with the mineral, lumber and agricultural companies, so they can be used against all parties.
6. Accelerate the national certification process for diamonds and support training and recycling for the Congolese valuers of precious stones.
7. Establish a policy of incentives for private initiatives which would add value by creating local diamond cutting enterprises.
8. Promote financial support to local and national businesses in order to encourage them to become involved in mining and other sectors, areas which attract plunderers and which lose enormous resources to Congo.
9. Institutionalize debates on the plunder of the DRC's resources by the launching of a national forum and by setting up provincial meetings to discuss the issue.
10. Establish a support fund for community development in mining and forest exploitation zones, the management of which would involve government, civil society and the private sector.
11. The CEEC (Kinshasa) should publish a monthly statistical publication on mining production.
12. Popularize the mining code and watch for its strict application.
13. Increase the salaries of government agents who play several roles in the field of mining exploitation.
14. Improve diplomatic relations with other states and international organizations.
15. Demand reparations for losses through the courts.

II. TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: USA, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, South Africa, European Union, SADC, United Nations, African Union, etc.

1. Exert pressure on transit and trading countries dealing in our natural resources in order to stop the plunder of these resources.
2. Impose an embargo of Congolese natural resources plundered by Rwanda and Uganda, including the companies operating illegally in the eastern part of the DRC, as well as the multinationals that are connected to these companies.

3. Request that the Security Council establish an international criminal court for the DRC to try war crimes and economic crimes in order to put an end to impunity.
4. Ensure that the conventions and control mechanisms on natural resources are respected.

III. TO INTERNATIONAL NGO PARTNERS

1. Support the work done by the network on the plunder of resources.
2. Help identify networks that support plunder, crimes and wars in the sub-region of the Great Lakes.
3. Support the campaign for reparations for losses incurred by the DRC.
4. Exert pressure to set up certification processes for other resources (coltan, gold, lumber etc.) in accordance with the Kimberley Process.

IV. TO CONGOLESE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Establish a national network on the plunder of Congo's resources in order to create awareness among the public and to conduct a strong, targeted and convincing lobby in the sub-region and internationally.
2. Reinforce internal and external information networks to promote dialogue with the institutional players.
3. Form working groups linked to the different plundered minerals, e.g. coltan, diamonds and gold.
4. Participate in the Kimberley Process.
5. Encourage national structures to obtain consultative status in regional and international organizations in order to state the opinion of the Congolese people on the plunder of its natural resources.
6. Encourage the government to show active diplomacy, especially with countries that support the countries that have attacked the Congo, by offering in particular investment guarantees.
7. Encourage civic education of the population.
8. Participate in the identification of criminal networks and of those who buy plundered resources.

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