

Armed Conflict and Natural Resources: The Case of the Minerals Sector Jason Switzer, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Policy Recommendations Summary:

- Companies need to address the underlying roots of insecurity and investment risk.
- Firms which develop the capacity to engage in proactive conflict management (seeking to alleviate or resolve the sources of social tension) can maintain a competitive advantage against rivals with higher risk tolerances and lower reputation vulnerability.
- Host governments can reduce miningrelated conflict through a commitment to consistently apply social and environment regulations and reinvest royalties in social programs benefiting the people affected by the mining project.
- The mining company's home country can take action by: briefing company staff on the political situation in the country; working with other governments to set international standards for company conduct abroad; and partner with companies in development cooperation initiatives.
- Negative measures such as sanctions and 'naming and shaming' could be balanced with inducements such as tax incentives for community investment or public praise for exemplary conduct.
- NGOs can monitor and 'sanction' the activities of companies, insurgents and governments; assess conflicts and provide early warning and insight; convene adversaries in dialogue; and build community and company capacity for conflict management.

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From Good Intentions to Good Practice: The G8 and New Conflict Prevention Initiatives for Africa

Policy Recommendations Summary:

 G8 leaders and their respective governments should lead by example and "mainstream" conflict prevention and gender into their domestic, foreign and international trade policies.

Conflict Prevention:

- The G8 should institutionalize the Conflict Prevention Officials' Meetings in order to create a "culture of prevention" that would prevent further conflict from disrupting the G8 Action Plan for Africa.
- The G8 should re-examine the Action Plan for Africa with a conflict prevention lens, taking particular note of the trade and investment sections. Domestically, the G8 governments should lead in applying conflict prevention to their trade and development policies.

Gender

- The G8 members should develop a streamlined monitoring and assessment system capable of generating long-term evaluations from a gender perspective for their development, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction projects and programs.
- G8 members need to overcome the 'cultural' idea that African men can speak for African women. G8 countries need to design projects in consultation with African women to determine their needs, concerns and capabilities.
- G8 members can support gender mainstreaming with national governments particularly in post-conflict societies, by offering assistance to information