Responsible Minerals Sourcing

The global semiconductor industry through the WSC is committed to using 'responsibly sourced' minerals in their semiconductor products. In 2018, the WSC broadened its original Conflict-Free Supply Chain Policy of 2013 to a responsible sourcing of minerals policy and referenced the deep concerns about the sources of minerals from 'conflict-affected and high-risk areas' (CAHRA). This update emphasized the importance of supply chains acting responsibly to source minerals and noted the guidance from 'OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas', which clarifies expectations concerning the nature of responsible supply chain management of minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

The previous 2020 survey of WSC members on the state of progress of implementation of responsible minerals sourcing policy across the industry indicated that the industry's activities have now clearly broadened with significant due diligence efforts beyond the original 3TG and the DRC. The global semiconductor industry is a recognized leader in addressing the issues related to the sourcing of minerals. The semiconductor industry has been involved in the development of compliance tools and has implemented state of the art programs to track progress. The WSC would recommend that if GAMS members are considering new responsible minerals sourcing type of legislation, that the legislation should be globally aligned to ensure that such legislations promote the harmonization of global efforts for creating responsible supply chain management of minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas and should utilize existing internationally-recognized compliance tools and initiatives.