



European Semiconductor Industry Association

## **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE WORLD SEMICONDUCTOR COUNCIL (WSC)**

**MAY 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**San Diego, California, USA**

[...]

### **VI. Conflict Minerals**

The WSC adopted at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2013 a Conflict-Free Supply Chain Policy in order to support the global progress in addressing the sourcing of conflict minerals from conflict zones, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and surrounding countries <sup>2</sup>. The global semiconductor industry is a recognized leader in addressing conflict minerals. The semiconductor industry has been involved in the development of compliance tools (such as the OECD due diligence guidance framework) that have been readily adopted by other key industry sectors and has implemented state of the art programs to track progress.

In 2018 to reflect the current status of the conflict minerals topic and its broad geographical scope, the WSC has agreed to update its policy statement of 2013. This update of the conflict-free supply chain policy references the deep concerns about the sources of minerals from ‘conflict-affected and high risk areas’ which goes beyond the original focus of the policy statement on the ‘Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and surrounding countries’ and again underlines that the global semiconductor industry is committed to using ‘responsibly sourced’

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<sup>2</sup> “surrounding countries” as defined under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act 2012 (Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, Zambia, Angola, The Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda)

*ESIA is an Industry Association of:*

**EECA** : European Electronic Component Manufacturers' Association

Rue de la Duchesse 11/13, B-1150 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 290 36 60 · Fax: +32 2 290 36 65 · E-mail: [secretariat@eusemiconductors.eu](mailto:secretariat@eusemiconductors.eu) · Web: [www.eusemiconductors.eu](http://www.eusemiconductors.eu)

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minerals in their semiconductor products. This update emphasizes the importance of supply chains acting responsibly to source minerals and agrees that the WSC will promote the 'OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas' among its members to do this. The OECD guidance serves as a common reference for all stakeholders in the mineral supply chain in order to clarify expectations concerning the nature of responsible supply chain management of minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The 2018 updated WSC policy statement now reads:

*There are increased societal concerns with the mining of certain minerals used in the semiconductor industry. The WSC shares the deep concern about sources of minerals from these conflict-affected and high-risk areas.*

*WSC members are committed to use responsibly sourced minerals in their products. To meet this objective, the WSC underlines the importance of a comprehensive due-diligence process aligned with other initiatives within the global industry to achieve a responsible supply chain. The WSC will promote the use of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas<sup>3</sup>, common tools, methods and standards among WSC member associations on this issue.*

The WSC also welcomes the certification of more global smelters and refiners through the Responsible Minerals Initiative Assurance Process as a positive development. The WSC would recommend that if GAMS members are considering new conflict minerals type 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 industry-wide compliance tools (such as the OECD due diligence guidance framework) and initiatives (such as (Responsible Minerals Initiative) and be based on voluntary principles.

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<sup>3</sup>Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas' as outlined in the OECD (2016), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Third Edition.