



Association for Responsible Mining

Medellín, Colombia, February 26, 2008

UNEP Chemicals
International Environment House
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Chatelaine 1219
Geneva, Switzerland
mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Dear Sirs, Madams,

I am writing on behalf of the Association for Responsible Mining, ARM, as a member of the ASGM partnership. As you all know ARM is a global NGO operating from South America (Colombia) towards the transformation of ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, to facilitate an economically just supply chain and educate the consumers as to their power to directly improve the quality of life of artisanal miners by purchasing fair trade jewelry and minerals.

At present we are in the process of testing Standard Zero for Fair trade Gold and associated silver and platinum with 10 producer organizations in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, in a regional network that also involves 5 support organizations (these may be NGOs, academia, or government programs). We expect to begin pilot testing in Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda sometime in the third quarter of 2008, once we have funding in place.

ARM welcomes the work of this partnership and looks forward to collaborating with the ASGM partnership on the ground and around regulatory framework issues, in finding innovative and effective ways to reduce and mitigate mercury pollution.

Kind regards,

Cristina Echavarria
Secretary General and Standards Coordinator