

# Human Rights Impact Assessment Marlin Mine

## On Common Ground's Statement on Ethical Principles

On Common Ground (OCG) will be guided in the undertaking of the Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) of Montana Exploradora de Guatemala's Marlin Mine by the following guiding principles, cognizant that the wide-ranging of relationships it will engage with imposes a special obligation to respect the fundamental rights of the different actors in diverse situations.

**Principle of Transparency:** OCG will provide stakeholders with relevant, adequate, and reliable information about the characteristics, procedures, mechanisms, phases and processes of the HRIA as well as its findings and recommendations, ensuring that it is understood by all, especially in the Mayan languages spoken in the area of influence of the Marlin mine.

**Principle of Independence:** OCG's work will not be compromised by the economic arrangements and payment entered into with the Steering Committee and the company and that these arrangements will not affect its objectivity in the performance of the assessment. OCG's consultant services for the impact assessment will not be subjected to the company's or any other party's control. OCG will be responsible for the findings of the assessment.

**Principle of Inclusion:** OCG will ensure that the process will be open to all groups that self-identify as stakeholders and those individuals and groups who claim violations of or impacts to their human rights. OCG abides by the right of individual or collective subjects approached by OCG to decide voluntarily to participate or not in the assessment, without fear of negative consequences or repercussions. OCG recognizes the right to fair and equal treatment of all stakeholders regardless of their positions or decision to participate in the assessment, and the treatment of all with respect and truthfulness.

**Principle of Confidentiality:** OCG will respect the right to anonymity and privacy in the handling of the information shared by the interviewees with OCG as an integral part of this principle.

**Principle of Informed Consent:** OCG will provide in advance information pertaining to the assessment process to the individuals, groups or institutions to be interviewed such that they are able to make a reasoned decision concerning their participation or not in the assessment. Stakeholders will receive information about findings from an objective perspective.

In addition to these principles, there will be a Peer Review process in which International Alert (IA) will supervise and ensure that the process complies with these principles. IA's comments and observations will also be ruled by the transparency and independence principles throughout the assessment process.