



## FAIRMINED STANDARD COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

May 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
9:00-11:10 am COT / 04:00-6:10pm CEST  
Online meeting using *Zoom*

### SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

Fairmined Standard Specific ToR  
Fairmined Standard Revision ToR  
Presentation slides

### WELCOME

The meeting officially starts at 9:05am COT. Marcin Persiak, ARM's executive director, welcomes all the participants in the call and acknowledges the member's expertise to help the Fairmined Standard and its assurance system to evolve and remain relevant.

Marcin explains the role of the committee is to be the governance and maintenance body for the Fairmined standard revision. The group is integrated by a total of 31 people: **12** members of the ARM **board of directors** and **20 external** members, including representatives of the gold supply and demand side and experts, and the ARM director.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Presentation of the members and objectives of the Committee
3. Objectives and priorities of the revision
4. Timeline
5. Fairmined Update
6. Approval of the Standard Revision ToR
7. Chair and Vice-chair Nomination
8. Next steps and additional comments.

## 1. WELCOME

### Fairmined Committee rules

- The meetings are ruled by **the Chatham House rule**:  
*When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*
- Two languages in the Committee:
  - **English will be the primary language** and interpretation in Spanish will be available.
- **Meetings are recorded** to facilitate taking minutes.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

At 9:30, Natalia Uribe, Standards Coordinator explains the methodology for this section. Two groups are created to facilitate the explanation in English and Spanish.

Conny Havel makes the presentation in English and Natalia Uribe in Spanish. After 1 minute-presentation in each member's group, they explain the following content in the parallel groups:

### Committee members

Marcin introduces every member's name and provides a short profile. He explains the Committee by presenting the three groups in which the Committee is represented:

- ASM representatives and experts
- Representatives from the supply chain and demand
- Formalization and thematic experts, civil society Minerals, Academy, Responsible supply chain experts

The ARM team supporting the process is also presented.

## 3. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE REVISION

Marcin explains the objective of the Fairmined committee is to **create version 3.0 of the Fairmined Standard complying with the specific terms of reference of the standard**. He also introduces the rules to reach decisions democratically in the committee, and the expected goals for the revision process.

## 4. TIMELINE

During the meeting, it was explaining the following Fairmined revision process timeline proposed by the ARM team.

- Pre-consultation: 2019
- Committee Formation: Mar-Apr 2020
- Priority Agreements: May 2020
- Structure and content development: May-Jul 2020
- Implement changes and discussions: Jul-Aug 2020
- Public consultation: Sept-Oct 2020
- Comments review: Nov 2020
- Publication pilot version: Dec 2020

## 5. FAIRMINED UPDATE

The ARM team shows the evolution of the Fairmined Standard since 2006 and the main impacts archived during the last 5 years, when the current version was released.

For more information, please see the meeting slides available as an attached file.

Then the Committee is split in two groups to continue with the presentation of the ToR, the update of Fairmined and to start a discussion of the priorities for the revision.

### Group discussion brainstorming:

Each group discusses the question: **How do you perceive the positioning of Fairmined in your specific area of expertise and what are its main opportunities and challenges to be addressed in this standard revision?**

#### English group:

1. Boukje Theeuwes
2. Cristina Echavarria
3. Emmanuel Yirenkyi Antwi
4. Florian Harkort
5. Kwaku Treveh (Koku)
6. Maria Laura Barreto
7. Mathew Chambers
8. Muriel Côte
9. Patrick Schein
10. Peter Dawkins
11. Robert Donofrio
12. Rosanna Tufo
13. Toby Pomeroy
14. Urica Primus
15. Marcin Persiak
16. Conny Havel
17. Ana María Orjuela



**Formalization.** Should formalization requirements be the key corner of Fairmined? Formalization has different meanings in different countries and does not always mean that it is responsible and that miners work properly.

**Fairmined needs to be a successful business model for the market.** It needs to be more cost-effective and easier to engage. Relationship with mines, auditing, assurance is all complex and complicated and is a barrier for many to engage, suppliers as well as licensed brands.

**Cost of Fairmined Gold.** The cost of Fairmined gold is difficult to be assumed by the market. Buying small quantities, the price, the premium, logistic, transportation and export costs for small volumes, separate refining, traceability, handling of small batches all adds up to the costs. This causes a barrier to market uptake, limits demand and limits upscaling in the territories. The consumer wants the certified gold with traceability guarantee, but is not keen to pay the extra price.

**Fairmined Premium.** There were different comments on the premium. The premium adds significant extra costs for the market. The question is being raised why miners should be paid extra for doing what they simply should do. On the other hand, for the miners the premium is crucial for transformation in ASM. Discussions about premium must be facilitated between miners and markets to reach a consensus.

**Transparency.** The standard itself needs to be transparent, but also the participating members regarding their compliance with standard requirements. Confidentiality is necessary, but buyers that engage with a mine should be able to understand levels of compliances and non-compliances to mitigate risks for their companies and brands.

**Challenge of access to the mines.** Managing relationships and communicating with ASM often proves to be difficult. Capacities in marketing, communications and good business practices should be promoted in certified mines to facilitate engagement between markets and territories.

**Narrative and communications.** We need to create a narrative that goes beyond what's defined as "responsible gold" in the market at the moment. The industry at the moment throws everything into one pot, while Fairmined is considered to be more than responsible gold, creating social and environmental positive impact.

**Spanish group:**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Luz Mery Sánchez  | 8. Jhonatan Jaramillo  |
| 2. Anny Jaramillo    | 9. Felix Hruschka      |
| 3. Manuel Reinoso    | 10. Sergio Molina      |
| 4. Uriel Rony Molina | 11. Maria Jose Murillo |
| 5. Gabriela Florez   | 12. Yves Bertran       |
| 6. Anny Jaramillo    | 13. Lorena Botero      |
| 7. Ana Maria Sierra  | 14. Natalia Uribe      |



**Integrate initiatives from other parts of the world: Nicaraguan case.** The Nicaraguan model involves artisanal miners who are licensed by the government and they work in collision with the private industry. This enables levels of cooperation in which miners can meet with local authorities and government entities to work together towards the same purpose.

Integrate **bigger companies to buy gold from mines**, not just small ones. Explore collaboration opportunities with local traders, processing plants and medium and large scale mining companies.

The **premium should support miners while being attractive to the demand.**

**Systematize experiences in order to create more support for the sector.** If the experiences and all the work that have been done is collected and shown, it can prove that we are making a difference, and this can be transformed in public policies that support the sector.

**The time between audits is too short for miners.** It is only one-year time and this period is too short. It may happen that only one or two exports are accomplished on one year. It is a lot of effort for the miners to keep the certification scheme. Also, it would be great if the focus is not only on external actors but local refiners and consumers.

**Territorial support.** More support should be given to territories. We should be able to offer a local network that can bring support to certified mining organizations.

**Increase competitiveness for refiners.** More actors should join the initiative Fairmined. If only few actors are refiners, this can increase the price. There is a need of more people involved as refiners.

**Educate the end consumer in Fairmined conscious purchasing.**

### Group discussion-plenary

At 10:50 the entire group is unified again and the conclusions in each group are shared.

A member points out that by looking at the answers and comments from the two groups, it looks like two different parts of the chain are represented by language and this is not beneficial for the discussions. This comment is supported by other participants and it is suggested to the organizers to find another way to facilitate the discussions guaranteeing participation of different profiles.

Marcin thanks and explain the groups are important to maintain the meetings short and allow everyone to express themselves. The ARM team will propose a solution for this in the coming meetings.

## 6. APPROVAL OF THE STANDARD REVISION TERMS OF REFERENCE

At 11:10, Natalia Uribe explains that [the Specific Fairmined Standard Committee Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) and [the Fairmined Update ToR](#) are designed based on ARM Standards-Setting Procedures and Generic ToR Standards Committee.

Natalia asks for the official approval of both ToRs. Anybody in the meeting has any objection. Some participants say YES on the chat room, others speak and others voted with the YES button as shown in the screenshots:

As anyone disagreed, **Natalia states the ToRs are approved.**

## 7. CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR NOMINATION

Natalia explains that members can postulate by email to be the Chair and Vice-Chair until May 22, 2020. The member needs to indicate the reason to assume this position in the email. Additionally, the members can also recommend other members to assume these positions.

## 8. NEXT STEPS AND OTHER COMMENTS

Natalia invites the members to revise the priorities for the content revision of the Standard that are in the last slide. The team will invite to discuss strategic or content issues in the next meetings.

### ATTENDANCE LIST

Total participants: 33

#### ASM representatives and experts

1. Anny Jaramillo- Mina Chede
2. Emmanuel Yirenkyi Antwi- ARM's board of directors. GNASM
3. Harbi Guerrero Morillo- ARM's board of directors
4. Manuel Reinoso- ARM's board of directors
5. Urica Primus- ARM's board of directors. Guyana Women Miners Org
6. Uriel Rony Molina Zuñiga- Cecomip

#### Representatives from the supply chain and demand

7. Ana María Sierra- Moda Elan
8. Florian Harkort- Fairever GmbH
9. Luz Mery Sánchez Giraldo- CI Anexpo SAS
10. Patrick Schein- ARM's board of directors. Gold by Gold
11. Robert Donofrio- Futura Jewelry

## Formalization and thematic experts, civil society

12. Boukje Theeuwes- Solidaridad
13. César Augusto Ipenza Peralta- MINAM
14. Cristina Echavarría- ARM's board of directors
15. Jhonatan Jaramillo- Solidaridad Perú
16. Kwaku Treveh (Koku)- ASMAN
17. Maria Laura Barreto- ARM's board of directors
18. Peter Dawkins- RJC

## Minerals, Academy, Responsible supply chain experts

19. Felix Hruschka- ARM's board of directors. Technisches Büro für Bergwesen Hruschka
20. Gabriela Flores- IIED
21. María José Murillo- ARM's board of directors
22. Mathew Chambers- ARM's board of directors. Chambers Federation
23. Muriel Côte- University of Lund
24. Rosanna Tufo- Levin Sources
25. Sergio Ríos Molina- CAMINIC
26. Toby Pomeroy- ARM's board of directors. Mercury Free Mining Challenge

## ARM Team

27. Marcin Persiak ARMs executive Director
28. Yves Bertran, Executive director ARM Europe
29. Conny Havel- Head of Supply chains and market
30. Natalia Uribe- Head of Standards and Certification
31. Ana María Orjuela- Fairmined Standard Specialist
32. Lorena Botero – Standards and Certification officer

## Observer

33. Lina Villa- Director of Reflejarse

## Apologies

1. César Mosquera Leyva-Independent expert
2. Fabio de Jesús Moreno- ASOMICARS
3. Hélène Grassin- Paulette à Bicyclette
4. Jose Aristarco Mosquera- ASOCASAN
5. Ana Gabriela Factor- ARM's board of directors. CIG