

## **INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

### **To the Governance Board and Stakeholders of Randgold Resources**

*Environmental & Sustainability Solutions (ESS)* was commissioned by Randgold Resources to provide independent third party assurance over selected sustainability information in the 2017 Sustainability Report (SR), covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2017. The assurance team comprised of Mr Seakle Godschalk and Dr Maryna Möhr-Swart, both executive directors of ESS, licensed by AccountAbility to provide assurance in accordance with the AA1000AS standard and certified training providers on sustainability reporting by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), with sustainability reporting experience in South Africa, Zambia, Mauritania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mali, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, and Botswana.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF RANDGOLD RESOURCES AND ESS

Randgold Resources was responsible for collating data and preparing the SR. ESS was responsible for providing independent assurance over selected sustainability information in the SR.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY AA1000AS (REVISED, 2008)

This assurance engagement has been conducted in accordance with the AccountAbility AA1000AS (2008) assurance standard.

#### INDEPENDENCE

ESS was not involved in the development or writing of the SR. ESS has not undertaken any other commissions for Randgold Resources in the reporting period. Therefore, ESS's ability to conduct independent assurance over the SR was not compromised.

#### ASSURANCE OBJECTIVES

The assurance was performed to meet the requirements of an AA1000AS Type 2 (moderate level) assurance. The objective of the assurance engagement was to provide Randgold Resources' board and stakeholders with independent third party assurance on whether the sustainability information contained in the SR meets the AccountAbility principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness, whether the SR meets the requirements of a GRI Standards Core report, and whether the identified sustainability information in the report is a fair representation of the performance of Randgold Resources.

#### SCOPE OF WORK PERFORMED

The scope of the assurance engagement included the following aspects:

- Compliance with the AccountAbility principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness
- Requirements for a GRI Standards In Accordance Core report
- The following sustainability information:
  - Value added statement
  - Total payments to host governments
  - Payments to suppliers in countries of operation
  - Number of class 1 and 2 environmental incidents
  - Energy consumption and efficiency
  - Emissions intensity

- Water consumed, recycled and efficiency
- Number of mines that are ISO 14 001 certified
- Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)
- Number of workplace fatalities
- Number of mines certified under OHSAS
- Employee malaria incidence rate
- Employee HIV prevalence rate
- Number of Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV
- Percentage of employees and contractors who are nationals in the country of operation
- Proportion of grievances resolved by the end of the reporting period

#### CRITERIA USED

The GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards were used as criteria for reviewing the identified sustainability information as well as the application of the In Accordance option. The AA1000APS standard was used as criteria for reviewing compliance with the AccountAbility principles.

#### ASSURANCE APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Our approach to this assurance engagement included the following:

- Interview with management in respect of their approach to stakeholder engagement and determining material issues
- Interviews with relevant subject matter experts regarding the recording and collation of data
- Review of the relevant information in the draft SR
- Review of evidence relating to the identified information
- Review of documentation underlying subject matter included in the assurance engagement
- Sample testing of selected calculations
- A site visit to the Kibali mine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to review data recording and collation practices at mine level

There were no limitations applicable to this assurance assignment, except that the assurance of the emissions related parameter was based on information before formal verification.

#### FINDINGS

Based on our review of the SR and the processes used to record and collate information contained in the SR, we find that:

- the principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness are adequately complied with;
- the SR fulfils the requirements for a GRI Standards *In Accordance Core* report; and
- taking into account the aspect mentioned below, the information on the selected sustainability indicators is disclosed adequately although there is room for improvement in respect of certain indicators.

We raise some matter for further attention in future:

- The basis for reporting (control based, equity based or investment based) sometimes differs between data sets. This approach could be confusing to stakeholders.

In addition, we want to make the following observations:

- Following our recommendation during last year's assurance engagement, the link between material issues identified at the beginning of the reporting period and the report is now clear.
- The new initiative to link sustainability parameters also to the Sustainable Development Goals is commendable.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The management of and disclosure on some parameters and indicators can be improved in future reports. Recommendations have been made to management regarding improvements that can be made in respect of data collection, calculations and disclosure of various indicators, particularly in view of the fact that Randgold Resources currently does not have an integrated information system between its various operations.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the information reviewed *Environmental & Sustainability Solutions* is confident that this report presents a balanced and comprehensive account of the sustainability performance of Randgold Resources. Although improvements can be made as indicated above, we are satisfied that the information disclosed reasonably represents the sustainability performance of the organisation, and that some forward strides have been made. Moreover, the report complies with the requirements for a GRI Standards In Accordance Core report. Finally, the principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness are adequately implemented and reported.



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