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The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro and Commissioners
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chairman Schapiro and Commissioners,

The Catholic Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CENCO) welcomes the proposed rules the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) published to implement Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in File S7-40-10, 75 Fed. Reg. 80948 (Dec. 23, 2010). As faith leaders of the Congolese people, we know very well what suffering the illegal plundering of our country's natural resources has caused them. Our parishes and dioceses have witnessed the sexual violence many vulnerable women and children—especially girls—have been subjected to, the displacement the fighting by different factions has wrought, and inhuman conditions under which many of our people are forced to work in illicit mines. For more than 10 years, CENCO has incessantly pointed out in its statements and messages the relationship between the wars and recurring conflicts in the Congo and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. We write to ask you to implement the mandate Congress gave the SEC by requiring commercial enterprises to fulfill the commitment to transparency through comprehensive reporting on conflict mineral sourcing and assuring that the full reporting requirements take effect when the rules are published.

We closely followed the design of the U.S. legislation on Congo conflict minerals, and we advocated for the passage of strong legislation. The passage of the legislation has raised the hopes of our Congolese brothers and sisters that life in our country could be better. But we know that the legislation passed can be strengthened or weakened by the rules meant to implement it. Mindful of legitimate business needs but also of ethics, we ask you to also be mindful of the interests of our suffering and vulnerable people in your final deliberations on the rules' content by ensuring that those rules effectively serve their intended purpose, provide guidelines for appropriate due diligence on sourcing, open no loopholes, and make the information provided by companies easily available to the public, as well as by ensuring that the suffering of the Congolese people is not prolonged by delays in full implementation of reporting requirements.

We write as Pastors giving our people hope and seeking ways to protect them from the tyranny of violence, poverty, and suffering. Every day that the reporting

requirements are not fully and vigorously implemented means one more day our people are subject to suffering and violence.

The Congo minerals provision of the Dodd-Frank Act is important, and the rules have moral as well as economic impact. They are, for us and our brothers and sisters, a matter of life.

Sincerely yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolas Djomo Lola".

Nicolas Djomo Lola
Bishop of Tshumbe
President, Catholic Episcopal
Conference of the Democratic
Republic of the Congo

cc: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Catholic Relief Services