Voices from The Mine: Exploring Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) 8 and Decent Work in the Informal Mining Sector

Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2019
Time: 3 to 5:30 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, NY

Partners: UN Department of Global Communications, International Labour Organization, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations and University of Bath

“Voices from the mine – Artisanal diamonds and resource governance in Sierra Leone”
A Film by Roy Maconachie

Summary of the film:
Diamond mining is Sierra Leone’s most lucrative export industry, with an annual production of up to SUS 250 million. Due to the challenges associated with the informal and unregulated nature of the artisanal mining sector, only a fraction of this wealth returns to the areas where diamonds are mined. While international traders reap vast rewards, for those in the mining pits, poverty and hardship remain. This session will begin with the presentation of a new 33-minute documentary film by Roy Maconachie from the University of Bath’s Centre for Development Studies: Voices from the mine: Artisanal diamonds and resource governance in Sierra Leone. Based on two years of fieldwork in the Kono District in Sierra Leone, the film follows the pathway of artisanal diamonds from mine to market, offers an insider’s perspective of the challenges of formalizing the sector, and explores why exploitation continues to persist at the bottom of the chain. Offering testimonies from a wide range of stakeholders both in Sierra Leone and Antwerp, Belgium, one of the world’s oldest and most established diamond trading hubs, the governance challenges in artisanal mining are critically explored.

Session Overview:
This briefing session features a film by Roy Maconachie, “Voices from the mine – Artisanal diamonds and resource governance in Sierra Leone” presents the condition of small-scale miners and the challenges they face from the mines to the market. The session will examine the challenges of achieving SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, through the lens of the artisanal mining sector, in a conversation with the film’s Director, representatives of the United Nations and experts in extractive industries and socio-environmental conflicts, as well as leaders in responsible sourcing. The event is organized by the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Council of Peoples for the United Nations and University of Bath in observance of the Centennial of the International Labour Organization.
Speakers:

1. **Ms. Hawa Diallo**, Chief, Civil Society Unit, Department of Global Communications
2. **Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro**, Deputy Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for the United Nations in New York
3. **Mr. Roy Maconachie**, University researcher and Co-producer of ‘Voices of the mine’
4. Representative from the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to UN (Invited)
5. Speaker on South-South Cooperation (Pending)
6. **Mr. Anthony Bebbington**, Professor, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University
7. **Mr. Mamadou Barry**, Senior Mining Specialist at the Energy and Extractives Global Practice at the World Bank
8. **Mr. Ryan Taylor**, Founder and CEO, Consensas