

## Council of Europe - Conference of INGOs

### Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges

#### Commission for Human Rights

#### Co-development and the rights of local people, for free and informed Consent.

#### The International NGOs meeting as the Commission for Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global challenges on the 28 January 2014

##### Whereas

1. The significant immigration into Europe of people coming from Africa is, in great measure, due to the considerable difficulties that they encounter their own countries as well as to enable their families to live in decent conditions. They hope that they will find adequate resources in Europe to enable their family to live in Africa, despite significant unemployment in Europe
2. These people will continue to wish to live in Europe, despite the greater and greater difficulties that they encounter, in particular following the initiation of policies aimed at reducing this immigration. In addition their countries of origin do not have the necessary resources to ensure conditions for a decent and dignified standard of living.
3. Many businesses, with their registered office in Europe, invest in Africa through their use of natural resources (oil, mining, wood ...) This creates a significant possibility for development in the countries in which they invest that could contribute to the reduction of migration.
4. Unfortunately the conditions in which this use of resources is conducted and the way in which they are financed do not contribute to the comprehensive development of the countries involved nor that of their populations. Indeed there is a fall rather than an improvement in living standards.

#### Taking note of the United Nations Declaration on the right of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup> and of Convention 169 of the International Work organisation (? name) in respect of indigenous and tribal peoples<sup>2</sup>

5. Approving and supporting the activities undertaken by NGOs in the framework of "**The initiative for Transparency in extractive industries**", in particular the initiative "Publish what you pay,"<sup>3</sup>
6. Invites the members of the INGO Conference concerned to take part in these initiatives
7. Recommending to the member states that they should
  - 7a. be certain that companies active in Africa and the world conform to the same environmental regulations as those that are present in Europe, that they protect the populations concerned and offer their employees proper and decent working conditions
  - 7b that, in conformity with the declaration they should oblige multinational businesses that use natural resources in their country to apply "Free and informed consent as a precondition" (CLIP) that is to say to provide information for local populations about all details of industrial installations that they intend to develop as well as of the consequences for these populations, and that they should not begin their work before obtaining the consent of local populations,
  - 7c to invite businesses working in the countries of Africa and the world to publish information about payment to countries of which they use the resources so as to avoid the diversion of funds that would prejudice the development of these countries.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_fr.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_fr.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms\\_100899.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms_100899.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.publishwhatyoupay.org/> ; <http://survie.org/auteur/publiez-ce-que-vous-payez>