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**From:** Keith, Adam E <KeithAE@state.gov>  
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**To:** Keith, Adam E  
**Subject:** Fact Sheet: Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade

Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade

Fact Sheet  
Office of the Spokesperson  
Washington, DC

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Today, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development and a coalition of private sector partners, civil society, and other organizations, launched the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) in Washington, DC. The PPA is part of ongoing U.S. efforts to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other governments in the region break the link between the illicit minerals trade and the ongoing violence and human rights abuses. The U.S. government is working with Congolese partners, the private sector and civil society to help ensure responsible trade in minerals that does not benefit rebel groups or abusive army units.

The PPA combines the financial and technical resources of the U.S. government, companies, trade associations and civil society to assist with the development of pilot supply chain systems that will allow businesses to source minerals from mines that have been audited and certified to be conflict-free. The alliance will provide a platform for coordination among government, industry, and civil society actors seeking to support conflict-free sourcing from the DRC.

The U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will invest approximately \$3.2 million in the PPA, specifically to support conflict-free minerals certification and traceability. More than 25 companies, trade associations, and other organizations have expressed their intention to join the PPA and have already pledged over \$830,000 toward the goal of \$2 million in additional funding by the end of 2012.

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## Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA)

Leaders worldwide are calling for action to address conflict minerals concerns while delivering solutions that benefit those involved in responsible minerals trade in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of Central Africa. The PPA is being launched as a joint effort of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, non-governmental organizations and companies/industry organizations to take on this challenge.

The PPA will be a **hub for those seeking information and ways to take action** on responsible minerals trade and sourcing, **maximizing the efficiency and impact** of participants' time and resources, and generating additional resources to fill key gaps for a verifiable, conflict-free supply chain.

### What will the PPA accomplish?

**Conflict-free Sourcing.** The PPA will demonstrate that it is possible to secure **legitimate, conflict-free minerals** from the DRC and the GLR. While initiatives have shown progress, none has yet produced a fully validated supply chain to meet the needs of companies facing new legislation and international due diligence guidance. The PPA will support pilot programs—with the ultimate goal of producing **scalable, self-sustaining systems**—to demonstrate a fully traced and validated supply chain in a way that is **credible to companies, civil society, and government**.

**Credible Information Resources.** The PPA website will be a **resource for companies with reporting requirements** mandated by section 1502 of the July 2010 Dodd-Frank legislation and other **organizations seeking current, balanced information on conflict minerals**.

**Improved Coordination and Communication.** Through a range of tools, including a website and a multi-stakeholder governance group, the PPA will provide a **platform for coordinated, productive dialogue** among government, industry, and civil society in a non-regulatory setting.

### Why an alliance?

A public-private alliance is a vehicle allowing government, companies, civil society, and others to **harmonize technical and financial resources for a common purpose**. Participants commit funds, technical capacity, and in-kind contributions to support shared goals.

The U.S. Government plans to invest approximately \$3.2 million in the work of the PPA. It is hoped that companies and industry associations will invest \$2 million or more in funding through 2012.

### How will PPA align with other conflict minerals activities?

The PPA will help **coalesce and strengthen existing sourcing mechanisms** rather than create new initiatives, marshaling technical and financial resources to support systems showing early progress (OECD and UN Group of Experts due diligence guidance and implementation, ICGLR certification system, ITRI Supply Chain Initiative, BGR Certified Trading Chains). The PPA will provide **opportunities to interface and coordinate** with governments, supply chain initiatives, and other stakeholders, serving as a focal point for dialogue and problem-solving.

### Who should join? We seek broad participation!

**Companies, industry associations, governments, and bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies** seeking solutions to address the conflict minerals issues, and looking to work with suppliers, government, and civil society may join the PPA and are asked to contribute funding.

**Civil society and other interested organizations** interested in supporting on-the-ground solutions to conflict minerals sourcing and related issues and able to offer time and expertise to the PPA are also encouraged to join.

### PPA Goals

Support development of supply chain systems that enable downstream businesses to source minerals that are validated, certified, and traced to mines that are 'conflict-free,' and monitored and audited using agreed-upon standards and mechanisms, and that lead to **scalable, responsible, self-sustaining minerals trade in the GLR**.

Provide a mechanism for appropriate communication and collaboration in developing common positions vis-à-vis supply chain initiatives (mine to point of sale), to help ensure that systems are harmonized in scope and activity and can be relied on by all Participants.

Consider additional activities supporting the vision of conflict-free minerals extraction and trade in the GLR.

### For More Information

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