



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et européennes

Le Ministre de la Coopération et
de l'Action humanitaire

Luxembourg,

Subject: Letter – “Statement of civil society organisations to the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg regarding the land conflict between indigenous communities in Cambodia and a Luxembourg-based transnational company” dated on 16 May 2023

Dear all,

As one of the financial donors of the MRLG project, I would like to echo the key aspects of this case that were already highlighted by Germany and Switzerland.

To the best of my knowledge, and recalling that Luxembourg's development cooperation was not directly involved in the implementation of the project, the MRLG project has so far invested more than 500,000 USD to support the mediation process between the interested parties, which was conducted with the best intentions in order to resolve this longstanding conflict. It did certainly not intend to worsen the situation of the local communities concerned.

I understand that MRLG has commissioned the “Australian Disputes Centre” to conduct an independent assessment of the mediation process, which included the concerned communities, who have rated the process as rather positive. However, the evaluation has rightly pointed out that the implementation of the agreements has not fully been complied with, partly because no timeline for compliance had been defined within the mediation process.

As far as the definition and implementation of immediate compensation measures is concerned, it is rather difficult for the MRLG project to intervene at this level, as these compensation measures are defined by the government of Cambodia.

Setting up a conflict resolution and reparation mechanism could indeed be an element to consider that would need to be discussed and analysed by the project team, in consultation with the other donors, as well as with the national stakeholders, i.e. the Cambodian public authorities and indigenous communities.

I have urged Socfin to agree to disclose all mediation documents but, since all parties have signed a confidentiality agreement, I am not sure if Socfin will respond favorably.

Finally, I would like to express my support to efforts undertaken to organise meetings and to facilitate exchanges in order to find a solution on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Franz Fayot

Copy to: FIAN Switzerland, BIPA Cambodia, SOS Faim Luxembourg, Action Solidarité Tiers Monde-ASTM Luxembourg, FIAN Germany, FIAN Belgium, HEKS Switzerland, Solidar Suisse, Suisse Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Interdepartmental Committee on Human Rights, Luxembourg.