

## **AGILIS STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE**

31 January 2024

We have received a request to comment on a post entitled “Uganda: Targeting community land and environmental defenders with criminal offenses” from August 30, 2023.

### **Agilis is not involved in the arrests of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).**

The post mentioned does not state that Agilis is involved in the alleged arrests of Human Rights Defenders. The accusations seem to be based on our geographic proximity to other actors being accused. This follows the same modus operandi used to raise allegations of violent eviction against Agilis in the first place, regardless of the evidence. Agilis condemns violence against HRDs and remains committed to upholding the highest business standards as stipulated in the IFC Performance Standards. We have engaged with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to detail our resettlement process and livelihood restoration plan, seeking their input for a collaborative approach. Agilis has never, directly or indirectly, threatened HRDs, lawyers or others seeking to advocate on behalf of residents of our community or people impacted by our operations.

### **We are committed to transparency and active collaboration with Civil Society.**

Agilis takes the initiative to clarify our position among the companies facing accusations. This commitment is evident in our proactive engagement with mainstream media platforms, where we consistently share our standpoint, and various reviews of our resettlement process carried out by international investors, embassies, and corporate partners. This transparency extends to our responses to requests from Business and Human Rights, demonstrating our dedication to addressing concerns and ensuring an accurate representation of our actions. You can find a link to a previous response clarifying our position on the accusations of violent evictions [Here](#). We have also responded to a previous request regarding the issue of HRDs and here is a [Link](#).

### **Agilis denies accusations of violent evictions in Kiryandongo.**

Agilis denies all accusations of its participation in violent evictions in Kiryandongo. Agilis has implemented a resettlement process that follows the laws of Uganda and best international standards. As undeniable evidence to our resettlement process, nine (9) households remained on the property from early 2018 until March 2023 when another Project-Affected Person (PAP) was compensated, leading to her voluntary departure. To date, she continues to express gratitude to our community relations department for assisting her in resettling onto her own land, where she now lives happily with her family. Livelihood restoration and monitoring for PAPs remaining in our proximity are ongoing, as dictated by International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 5. As of now, eight (8) households persist on our property, and we have refrained from any eviction attempts. A grievance mechanism and an environmental and social risk management system has been implemented to ensure harmony between the PAPs and our company.