**AngloGold Ashanti Response**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues that have been raised by the *Red de Comités Ambientales del Tolima* in respect of alleged threats to environmental activists in Colombia.

**Background**

By way of a brief summary, AngloGold Ashanti has been in Colombia for more than a decade and the company has three major projects – Gramalote, Quebradona and La Colosa. As a company operating in several countries across the world, we welcome engagement with social and environmental activists, not only as vital stakeholders in our industry, but also as key participants in efforts aimed at ensuring modern, responsible mining from social, environmental, and technical standpoints. For example, AngloGold Ashanti Colombia has consulted with Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Colombian Government on the implementation of Due Diligence System on Human Rights in Colombia. Additionally, in 2013 AngloGold Ashanti, with hits partners, developed two new, major gold projects – one in Australia and another in the Democratic Republic of Congo – through working collaboratively with all mining stakeholders, including civil society groups representing environmental and community interests.

AngloGold Ashanti’s environmental standards are in line with those of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the company is an active member of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the Global Compact, and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Specific to the allegations in question, it’s worth noting that two of the three allegations do not directly refer to AngloGold Ashanti.

**Allegation No.1 -**

On the first allegation, we’d like to clarify that AngloGold Ashanti has no connection or dealings with the group that is alleged to have made the threats, and we’d like to distance the Company from any such deplorable acts. Once we learned about the alleged threats, we activated our Human Rights protocol, asking the relevant authorities to conduct investigations into the matter and to put in place protective measures for those at risk.

**Allegation No.2 –**

Likewise, we have no knowledge of the origins of the alleged threats that are said to have been made around June and July this year to members of the Red de Comités Ambientales del Tolima. Equally, we are not aware of the origins of such threats and condemn them unequivocally.

**Allegation No.2 –**

On the third allegation, and in line with the company values and established practice in other mining jurisdictions, we’d like to state categorically that AngloGold Ashanti rejects the stigmatisation of any stakeholder that might be opposed to certain aspects of our Colombian projects. Again, we’d like to place on record that we are not strangers to robust debate and interactions on any issue, and wholeheartedly welcome this sort of engagement. In this regard, the company will co-operate fully with the investigations that are currently underway by the authorities and will respect the outcomes of the criminal proceedings already initiated against a former employee of the company.

**Conclusion**

AngloGold Ashanti Colombia is in an ongoing process of forging mutual understanding and enduring and practical relationships with local authorities, communities, relevant governmental agencies, including social and environmental activists. We are working very hard to ensure that these relationships, particularly those at local level, ensure our co-existence. Whilst we will continue our ongoing efforts to engage with stakeholders about responsible mining and its associated socio-economic benefits, we will remain open to all opposing views as we try and build consensus.

We are open to further engagement should you require clarity on any of the issues under discussion.

**Ends**