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Rio Tinto Coal Mozambique attended a roundtable meeting organised by Human Rights Watch in Maputo after the launch of the report in May 2013. Information in this response was shared with stakeholders at the roundtable.

Human Rights Watch Report – Roundtable

Rio Tinto recognizes the importance of this report and the value of its recommendations to improve the resettlement quality in terms of respect for human rights and to serve as a lessons learned document for future resettlements. It raises significant and valid issues and challenges that we are aware of and are working together with government and communities to overcome.

Rio Tinto recognizes that best practice land acquisition and resettlement is essential in building, operating and securing Rio Tinto's long-life mining and operations. All resettlement programs must be governed by The way we work, our global code of business conduct; our Communities Policy and Standard; our Resettlement Guidance Note; and the IFC's land acquisition and resettlement guidelines appropriate to the jurisdictional context. Our Human Rights Policy also informs all resettlement programs.

As such since its acquisition of Riversdale Mining in April 2011, Rio Tinto has applied significant resources and our Group-wide experience and expertise to bringing resettlement associated with the Rio Tinto Coal Mozambique project up to standard.

In particular, appreciating existing challenges relating to resettlement and referred to in this report as livelihood restoration and economic development, a series of assessments, gap analyses and diagnosis have been undertaken to identify the areas requiring attention and improvement.

Moreover, Rio Tinto would like to reassure communities and other stakeholders that it remains committed to stimulating productive economic projects in resettled communities to ensure sustainable livelihoods of the people.

Recognizing concerns around food production and agricultural livelihood we are providing access to training in new farming techniques to improve the fertility and efficiency of the land at Mualadzi. At present, soil studies are being conducted and agricultural extension programmes were established which offer technical assistance. To this end, an agricultural extension unit was established in the Mualadzi area. Model farming fields were set up to demonstrating improved and appropriate technologies. We are also working with the local community and local government as well as other partners to introduce income generating enterprises such as nurseries, chicken, pig and goat breeding programmes.

Some of the issues raised by the report have already been addressed. Communities have good access to potable water, including by hand pumps in the direct vicinity of their houses. Basic public infrastructure is fully operational, including a primary school and health centre fully equipped and staffed and managed by the Government.

We are open to all contributions and debates around strategies and mechanisms to further improve resettlement to secure long term sustainability to communities.

The HRW report makes important points about communication and the need for better clarity on, and alignment between, expectations and practice. We would like to reaffirm our commitment to continue working in close coordination with government, communities, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to improve communication, including adequate complains and grievance processes.

We would like to invite HRW and other interested stakeholders to visit Mualadzi at this moment that we are finalizing the resettlement.