



# COALITION OF ANTI-SLAVERY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

## COSCAE asbl

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### *DECLARATION OF COSCAE ON REPEAL OF THE DODD-FRANK ACT BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION*

The Coalition of Anti-Slavery Civil Society Organizations is a network of eleven Congolese civil society organizations committed to fight against all forms of modern slavery which is headquartered in Goma, the North Kivu Province, DRC. Since its inception, COSCAE has welcomed the U.S. Government's leadership for having passed the Dodd-Frank Act. This tool has been an effective support for the network's advocacy and monitoring. This law involved the establishment of responsible sourcing of minerals in the DRC. All the Congolese communities and specifically those of the mining areas of the Kivus already enjoyed certain advantages offered by this law including:

- Reduction in mining-related crimes. The activism of the armed groups in the mining sites decreased significantly, so did their ability to do harm;
- Consequently the children used by armed groups have left in mass mining sites;
- Only qualified and approved sites have official authorization to operate;
- The responsible sourcing of minerals from the DRC (trace minerals) prohibiting the exploitation and marketing of minerals by the DRC Armed Forces of the armed groups;
- Minerals produced in the eastern DRC are declared peace minerals or conflict-free minerals;
- The Congolese State already has the ability to control the financial flows from taxes and regular taxes on minerals;
- Opportunities that mining companies should be accountable to local communities by contributing to their development plans.

Great is our surprise today to learn that the same American Government decided to repeal this law for reasons that remain unknown by the Congolese people.

Unfortunately it is a fact that the repeal of this law is an implicit support to areas of conflict in the world, Africa and more specifically in the African Great Lakes with all the corollary misery of the Congolese people.

Considering the issues mentioned above, the COSCAE recommends the U.S. Government the following:

- Reverse its decision by considering the main interest of the Congolese people and security in the African Great Lakes region;
- The U.S. Government should rather strengthen the enforcement mechanisms of this law;
- Put pressure on mining companies to be effectively accountable to local communities by contributing to their development plans.