

Conflict-free Equipment Purchases¹

Whereas armed militia conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has claimed nearly 6 million civilian lives since 1994; and

Whereas the DRC is one of the leading producers of tantalum which is found in 60% of computers and other electronics worldwide, and up to 30% of the global supply of tantalum is mined in the DRC; and

Whereas 50% of the DRC mines are controlled by militias who fund their conflict by selling illicitly obtained minerals to world suppliers, exploiting the land and devastating local populations; and

Whereas the conflict mineral funds contribute directly to the approximately 45,000 deaths per month due to violence inflicted by armed militias in order to maintain control of the mines and resources; and

Whereas the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act of 2010 mandates that, if companies use minerals from the DRC, they must file a report with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (S.E.C.) describing what they have done to ensure the source of the minerals; and

Whereas *Enough Project*, a campaign to end genocide, has reviewed the major electronics companies' S.E.C. reports and rated them based on their proactive steps to trace and audit their supply chains, leadership in industry-wide efforts, and actions to help the DRC develop a clean minerals trade; and

Whereas, since the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) office and congregations purchase computers, printers, copiers, and phones made with tantalum, they can reduce the funding of DRC militias by supporting companies that implement responsible supply-chain policies and practices, and

Whereas, to help resolve the conflict in the DRC, resolution and action by the MAS will add to the voices of concerned people for conflict-free products and further the social responsibility of electronics vendors; therefore be it

Resolved that the MAS office purchase all future electronics from companies at 70 points or higher on the most current *Enough Project* Conflict Minerals Company Rankings², and provide MAS congregations with training on how to find conflict-free electronic products with Enough Project guidance; and be it further

Resolved that MAS congregations and members be encouraged to purchase all future electronics from companies at 70 points or higher on the most current Enough Project Conflict Minerals Company Rankings.

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¹ Information based on materials from Enough Project, www.enoughproject.org, and World Without Genocide, <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/advocacy/conflict-free-campus-initiative>

² See https://enoughproject.org/demandthesupply?utm_source=PR&utm_campaign=Rankings2017