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**RESOLUTION OF THE
MSBA TO SUPPORT “THE CONFLICT-FREE INITIATIVE”
TO STOP FINANCING GENOCIDE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO¹**

Whereas, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (“DRC”) has claimed nearly 6 million civilian lives since 1994, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II;

Whereas, 50% of the mines in the eastern DRC, the conflict’s center, are controlled by armed militia groups who use control over the country's rich mineral deposits as a source of funding;

Whereas, the militias in the DRC compete for access to these minerals, exploiting the land and devastating local populations;

Whereas, the DRC is one of the leading producers of tantalum (coltan) which is found in 60% of computers and other electronic applications worldwide;

Whereas, up to 30% of the global supply of tantalum is mined in the DRC;

Whereas, the DRC militias sell coltan and other illicitly obtained minerals to world suppliers;

Whereas, the funding from the minerals contributes directly to the approximately 45,000 deaths per month from violence inflicted by armed groups in order to maintain control of the mines and resources;

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 describing what they have done to ensure the source of the minerals;

Whereas, The Enough Project, a campaign to end genocide and crimes against humanity, has rated major electronics companies based on their proactive steps to trace and audit their supply chains, exercise leadership in industry-wide efforts, and help the DNC develop a clean minerals trade;

Whereas, the MSBA regularly purchases computers, printers, copiers, and phones;

Whereas, the MSBA along with other institutions can reduce the funding of DNC militias by encouraging companies to implement supply-chain responsibility policies and practices;

Whereas, resolution and action by the MSBA will add to the voice of concerned people for conflict-free products and social responsibility of vendors to help resolve the conflict in the DRC;

Therefore, be it resolved that the MSBA support the efforts of companies to purchase conflict-free minerals and support transparent supply chains in the DRC;

Be it also resolved that the MSBA will purchase, and encourage MSBA members to purchase, electronics products from the high ranking companies noted in the Enough Project’s Conflict Minerals Company Rankings.²

Approved by the MSBA Human Rights Committee on January 13, 2014.

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

² <http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/content/conflict-minerals-company-rankings>