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“Nokia welcomes the opportunity to respond to DanWatch’s findings, just as we were happy to respond to their detailed survey more than a year ago. As we told DanWatch then, the use of child labour in our supply chain is strictly prohibited in our Supplier Code of Conduct. Should DanWatch have evidence of components used in Nokia products being sourced from companies using child labour, we would ask them to share that evidence so that we can investigate the specific allegations.

The use of gold in electronic devices is very small by comparison to other industries, with the electronics industry using only around 8% of total gold production, and one gold ring containing enough gold for several hundred mobile phones. However, we recognise the importance of sustainability of supply for all elements in our supply chain and continue to focus on identifying further opportunities to ensure this. We are already involved in industry initiatives to implement a smelter audit and validation process to improve the traceability of minerals and validate conflict-free sources.

Specifically for gold, we welcome the efforts of The Conflict Free Smelter Program (CFS), London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) and Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) which have established mutual cross-recognition of gold refiner audits. All three organisations have developed audit and certification programs that aim to increase conflict-related due diligence and responsible practices in the gold supply chain for their respective sectors. The cross-recognition means audit efficiency for gold refiners as well as the industry as a whole.

It is our intention to require suppliers to source gold, tantalum, tin and tungsten only from such validated sources in future and we are investigating how soon this can practically be achieved. We believe that with Ghana supplying, from all sources of production, around 3% of global gold supply, that the likelihood that Nokia products containing gold produced from the sources highlighted in DanWatch’s report is very small.”