

## THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE MEDAL SHINES BRIGHT WITH COLOMBIAN FAIRMINED GOLD

***The Nobel Peace Prize medal 2016, which will be awarded to Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos tomorrow 10 December in Oslo, is made of Fairmined Gold from two Colombian artisanal and small-scale mining organizations certified under the Standard of the Alliance for Responsible Mining.***



The Nobel Peace Prize 2016 is a double win for Colombia. Not only its president Juan Manuel Santos is awarded with the Prize, but the gold used for the medal comes from two Colombian artisanal and small-scale mining organizations which hold the Fairmined Certification, developed by the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM).

This has a special symbolic value for the miners and the country, where the mining sector is characterized by widespread informality and where illegal armed groups have used the mining business to finance conflict and launder money. Now the country is facing a post-conflict reconstruction process where responsible artisanal and small-scale mining will play a key role to attain inclusive and long lasting peace, by providing a decent livelihood alternative while contributing to local economies. Supporting the formalization of artisanal mining and providing tools to achieve responsible mining is a peace-building opportunity for Colombian society and the State.

The initiative to produce the Nobel Peace Prize medal in Fairmined Gold was taken by the Mint of Norway - the producer of the medal since 1901 - and ARM, to raise awareness on the challenges artisanal and small-scale mining is facing worldwide and to show how these can be overcome and positively contribute to sustainable development.

*“The initiative and collaboration with ARM is more than just the Peace Prize medal or our own business. We want a harder look to be taken at what gold is used by the coin and medal industry and encourage more and more players to make use of Fairmined certified gold from small mines. In this way, the working conditions can gradually be improved for the miners and the environment can be properly managed”* says Ole Bjørn Fausa, the CEO of Samlerhuset and owner of the Norwegian Mint.

Those miners who provided the gold for this year’s Nobel Peace Prize are role models for artisanal and small-scale miners in Colombia and around the world as they are not just formalized but comply with the rigorous requirements of the Fairmined Standard, which aims at responsible environmental, labor, social and organizational practices and traceability of the gold from the mine to the end product.

Some of the gold used to produce the Nobel Peace Prize comes from a group of miners of the Coodmilla Cooperative, a mining organization located in La Llanada, in the department of Nariño, an area hard hit by the armed conflict. It is very symbolic that they are a part of this historic moment



as their community and many of the miners have been directly affected by the violent past of the region.

*"We are very happy that this year's Nobel Peace Prize is made of our Fairmined certified gold. It is a recognition of the hard but decent work we are doing in traditional and community mining to assure our family's livelihoods and the development of our communities. Every day we endanger our lives in the depths of the mountains, furthermore it is a challenge to live in a conflict country – we, the miners, are longing for peace." Harbi Guerrero, artisanal miner and member of the Coodmilla Cooperative.*

Some of the gold comes from the Cooperativa Agrominera de Íquira, located in the department of Huila. They are a pioneering example of best practice for responsible mining in Colombia. In 2015 their Fairmined certified gold was used to make both the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Certified mining organizations like Coodmilla and Íquira demonstrate that artisanal and small-scale mining can be done in a socially responsible and environmentally respectful manner while creating favorable working conditions that contribute to rural development.

#### **About the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)**

The Alliance for Responsible Mining, originated in 2004, is a global initiative with the aim of transforming artisanal and small-scale mining into a socially and environmentally responsible activity to improve the quality of life of the artisanal and small-scale miners, their families and communities. The Fairmined Standard was developed by ARM to give the responsible miners access to fair supply chains. Today, thanks to the support of the IDB-MIF, Swiss watch and jewelry manufacturer Chopard and many others - eleven mining organizations from four different countries have obtained Fairmined Certification and more than 120 companies from 21 countries have joined ARM to work with Fairmined Gold and add value to their products.

#### **About the Nobel Peace Prize**

The Nobel Peace Prize was established by the Swedish inventor and industrialist Alfred Nobel, who took an interest in science, literature and social issues, including those raised by the international peace movement at the time. The Nobel Peace Prize medal has been produced at the Mint of Norway, earlier state mint, now owned by the Norwegian coin distributor Samlerhuset, all the way since it was established in 1901. More information on: <http://samlerhuset.com/nobel-peace-prize-made-out-of-fairmined-gold/>

For more information on ARM visit: <http://www.responsiblemines.org/>

For more information on Fairmined: <http://www.fairmined.org/>

For interview requests or pictures contact: [patriciamontano@responsiblemines.org](mailto:patriciamontano@responsiblemines.org), +57 (4) 332 47 1