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## Six new mines reach Fairmined Certification

Today the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and the Swiss watch and jewelry manufacturer Chopard announce that six new mines in Bolivia and Colombia have reached Fairmined Certification thanks to a joint project between the two partners. As part of their long term CSR strategy "The Journey to Sustainable Luxury", Chopard has financially supported the mining organizations in reaching Fairmined Certification as well as sourcing Fairmined Gold from other Fairmined certified mines.

The Fairmined Certification System was developed by ARM to support the transformation of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) into a social and environmentally responsible activity that creates positive impact in mining communities. By attaining Fairmined certification, the six new mines are proving to the world that responsible artisanal mining is possible and that it provides a genuine opportunity for artisanal mining communities around the world.

*"Thanks to mining, me and my family have a good home and food on the table every day", says Alexander Nina, President of the Cooperative "15 de Agosto" in the Irupana Municipality of La Paz, Bolivia. "My expectations with certification are to improve our mining activities and the place we live. We now have more possibilities to support the community and open a health center."*

15 de Agosto is currently the only Fairmined certified organization in Bolivia. It is ARM's local ally Cumbre del Sajama that has provided the Bolivian cooperative with training in subjects like health and safety and mercury reduction to meet the requirements of the Fairmined Standard.

In Colombia, five micro enterprises of the Coodmilla Cooperative in La Llanada, Nariño are just as proud to be exporters of Fairmined Gold.

*"Fairmined Certification was a goal to achieve to show others that with hard work and dedication we can generate recognition for our work in artisanal mining".* Said Paul Guerrero, one of the five owners of the newly certified mines in La Llanada. For Paul and many others, mining is a family tradition and the fundamental pillar of their economy. The town of La Llanada has a long history of informal mining but the successful certification of the pioneering mines has proven the concept of responsible mining and Fairmined Certification in the region, and generated new enthusiasm both with other miners and with the institutions.

*"We are thrilled to see so many mines of different shapes and sizes certify this year. It proves to me that we have developed a sustainable system that is inclusive to the diversity of ASM organizations and as such can create real change on the global level."* Said Lina Villa, ARM's Executive Director, and continues: *"I want to thank Chopard for their dedication to making a change for these communities. Their commitment to sourcing from ASM and financially supporting organizations to reach Fairmined Certification is an example to the broader gold industry."*

There are now 10 certified Fairmined organizations in Bolivia, Colombia, Mongolia and Peru and over 80 business worldwide that have signed up to use Fairmined Gold in their products.

The collaboration between ARM and Chopard is part of a larger project that ARM is implementing in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru thanks to the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF).

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### **Notes to editors:**

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

[The Alliance for Responsible Mining](https://www.responsiblemines.org) is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative established in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities. ARM works to transform ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity that improves the quality of life of artisanal miners, their families and communities.

Through the Fairmined Standard for Gold and ARM's support, artisanal miners are able to produce Fairmined certified metals and gain access to responsible supply chains. ARM supports miners in making a real change in the way they run their businesses and support their local communities.

The Fairmined Standard and Certification System is in the center of ARM's efforts, to which everything else is related and supported. It is a rigorous, third party certification system that ensures that ASM miners formalize while meeting world-leading standards for responsible practices. The Fairmined Standard includes a set of requirements to guarantee legality of operations, environmental protection, fair labor conditions, social development and to assure the gold is traceable and conflict free.

There are now 10 certified Fairmined organizations in the world: 6 in Colombia, 2 in Peru, 1 in Bolivia y 1 in Mongolia. ARM works with around 20 organizations towards becoming Fairmined certified in Latin America and Africa.

For more information about ARM go to [www.responsiblemines.org](http://www.responsiblemines.org)

For more information on Fairmined go to [www.fairmined.org](http://www.fairmined.org)

For more information on the Fairmined certified organizations go to [www.fairmined.org/community-profiles](http://www.fairmined.org/community-profiles)

### **About the Mining Cooperative 15 de Agosto**

Number of cooperative members: 38 women and 151 men

Number of contracted workers: 4 women and 143 men

Type of mining: Hard rock

High in the sacred Illimani Mountain overlooking the sprawling metropolis of La Paz, Bolivia, the Cooperativa Minera Aurífera 15 de Agosto Ltda. is located in a breathtaking region characterized by high plateaus, glacial valleys and steep escarpments. Nights are cold and rainfall largely comes in the form of snow, but the miners persevere in spite of the difficult weather conditions.



Matching their impressive surroundings, the 15 de Agosto miners are an inspiring group who has done much for the community. In addition to providing local employment, the co-operative invests up to 15% of their profits in community projects. They entirely funded the construction of the local elementary school that is free of charge and offers basic computer training, and they provided housing for teachers. The cooperative also organizes social events and celebrations, such as holiday festivals and soccer tournaments.

### **About the mines of La Llanada and the Coodmilla Cooperative**

Hard rock underground mining

Five microenterprises, in total 7 shareholders and 65 workers

The five micro enterprises are members of the Coodmilla Cooperative who owns the mining title and has operating contracts with each micro enterprise who must follow the rules and regulations laid out by the Colombian government. To be able to work formally and safely, the Coodmilla Cooperative was created in 1977. In 1990 they were given their exploitation licenses, giving only the members of the cooperative, all local inhabitants of La Llanada, the right to explore the mines and create a formal income for their families and other community members of La Llanada - a town that traditionally has extremely high levels of informal mining, mining related diseases, social issues and a general lack of opportunities and access to education. Thanks to the formation of the cooperative, its members have had the possibility to formalize and finally obtain Fairmined Certification assuring a brighter future for their families and the community.