AWNR
African Women for Natural Resources

WEBINAR REPORT

WOMEN AND THE MANAGEMENT OF MINING REVENUES IN THE DRC: CHALLENGES AND SHARING OF EXPERIENCES.

Date and Time: Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM GTM+1kinshasa
Organizer: African Women for Natural Resources (AWNR)
Participant(s): 53
Location and Registration Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-QcjxaU0Fk
Logistics partner : Afrewatch

I. Background and objectives

The extractive sector represents a strategic lever for the economic development of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly through the revenues generated by mining. According to the DRC 2023 EITI report and Standard & Poor's (S&P), the DRC's mining sector has generated several billion dollars. However, the sustainable development of mineral resources relies on governance mechanisms that focus on transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and equity.

According to some studies on the mining sector in the DRC, women make up at least 40% of the artisanal and small-scale workforce, about 13% of the industrial workforce, and 21% of the actors involved in subnational revenue management, including mining endowments. They are also present in other mechanisms for generating mining revenues. Despite their presence, women remain largely underrepresented, less autonomous and insufficiently included in the sector's decision-making sphere and in the management of these revenues, compared to men.

This under-representation of women, despite their significant contribution, is an obstacle to fair and sustainable mining governance. Those working in the craft sector are particularly affected, with limited access to training and generally receive lower incomes than men, despite the arduousness of their tasks. In the industrial sector, wage inequalities still persist and increasingly reinforce inequalities between local and expatriate workers. In addition, they are also under-represented in institutions that manage mining revenues for local development, such as in specialized bodies in charge of managing the mining endowment (DOT), which severely limits their influence on decisions on the allocation and monitoring of resources allocated to local development.

Their limited access to governance and management bodies for mining revenues allocated to local development hinders their participation and compromises, or even their empowerment within society.

In this context, African Women for Natural Resources (AWNR) works to promote increased participation of women in mining governance and the management of revenues from the extractive sector for local development.

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org

This webinar provided us with a framework for exchanges aimed at strengthening local strategies, encouraging women's resilience and making recommendations for more inclusive mining governance in the DRC, which could also serve as a model and source of inspiration for other African countries facing similar challenges.

II. Objective

AWNR, through this webinar, aims to contribute to a better understanding of the issues (challenges and opportunities) related to women's participation in the management of mining revenues, in particular those intended for local development, with a view to making recommendations for a more inclusive governance of these revenues in the DRC.

III. Webinar schedule

The webinar was structured around two sequences. The first, devoted to the issues (challenges and opportunities) related to income from mining resources for women, benefited from the interventions of:

- **Marthyns Masunguna, Inclusive Governance Expert at UN Women** ;

He stressed that, despite the symbolic presence of women in the institutions responsible for the management of mining revenues, their participation in decision-making processes remains limited. According to him, public policies, in particular the Mining Code, remain insufficiently sensitive to the gender approach. Hence this lack of articulation between national and local frameworks on this issue reinforces existing inequalities. This gap limits women's participation in governance bodies and in the management of mining revenues, thus reducing their access to the benefits that flow from them as well as to decision-making processes.

- **Johanna Kamala, AWNR Country Director;**

According to Mrs. KAMALA, who based her intervention on the data presented in the Analysis Note on the involvement of women in the management of the endowment of 0.3% of the turnover of mining companies in the DRC, published by AWNR. She deplores the fact that the proportion of women in SOs , although increased from 10% in 2022 to 21% in 2024 according to the analysis, is still insufficient.
While encouraging, these data are still limited, as women still participate very little in community consultations and local organizations, which reduces their influence on decisions on the allocation, management and monitoring of these resources for local development. She also recalled the recommendations made by AWNR in its analysis note, which advocate an effective integration of the gender dimension within the institutions making up the Specialized Agencies (SOs).

In view of their roles in society, women take better account of the social needs within the beneficiary communities and must be included in the governance of these resources.

- **Jean-Pierre Okenda, Executive Director of Sentinel DRC**

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org

According to him, the DRC faces a deficit of gender-sensitive sectoral policies as well as a lack of reliable data to assess women's participation in the governance of mining revenues. In a general context, he stressed the need for more precise data on women's participation, not only within Specialized Agencies (SOs) as AWNR has done, but also in the processes of drawing up and monitoring specifications, as well as within the institutions that benefit from and manage the shares of the mining royalties intended for local development (provinces, ETDs and Fomin). According to him, the availability of such data would not only make it possible to better assess the level of women's involvement in the governance of mining revenues, but also to promote, like the initiatives carried out by AWNR, an approach based on local content and gender-sensitive. This would help to establish mechanisms that would strengthen women's participation in decision-making processes and in the allocation and monitoring of resources for local development.

The second part of the webinar focused on sharing the experiences of women from West African countries, with the interventions of:

- **Professor Hadjaratu Wahka Haidara, Executive Director of Partner West Africa Senegal**

The professor highlighted the resilience of women in mining areas, despite their exclusion from formal governance and management mechanisms. Deprived of direct access to decision-making mechanisms, they develop alternative strategies for survival and influence through three main dynamics: informal economic activities to ensure their autonomy, the diversification of revenues beyond the mining sector, and social mediation actions carried out in particular by civil society organizations in order to prevent conflicts between mining companies and communities. These initiatives, although they exist, have very little support from States, contribute significantly to social cohesion and the prevention of tensions, in line with the spirit of United Nations Resolution 1325 on the role of women in peace and security.

She also illustrated these issues through the example of Senegal, where the 2016 Mining Code provides for a mechanism for the redistribution of 0.5% of the turnover of mining companies to local communities, with possibilities to support women's empowerment. However, despite its potential, this mechanism has remained non-operational for a very long time, resulting in an estimated loss of 32 billion CFA francs for communities, according to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and thus limiting the sector's impact on local development.

Finally, she hammered during the discussions on the importance of the effective participation of women in decision-making bodies, a presence that transforms development priorities in favor of a better consideration of social needs. Despite this, their exclusion remains persistent, in contradiction with existing legal frameworks and without a policy that really integrates them. It is therefore essential to recognize, support and formalize women's resilience initiatives in order to strengthen their inclusion in the governance of mining resources and to ensure a more equitable and sustainable management of their revenues.

- **Mrs. Mariama Mame Barry, Coordinator of the NGO Lab Terre Durable Guinée.**

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org

For her part, Ms. Barry presented the mechanisms put in place in Guinea to ensure a better redistribution of revenues from mining for the benefit of local communities. She cited, among these mechanisms, the Local Economic Development Fund (FODEL), financed by a contribution of 0.5% of the turnover of mining companies. Some of these resources come from one of the country's most important mining projects, including Simandou. These funds are used to finance community projects in the areas of infrastructure, education, health, access to water and income-generating activities.

However, she noted the low involvement of women in the management of these resources. Despite the efforts of civil society, in particular through the organization of focus groups aimed at collecting their needs and opinions in order to promote their participation, this remains limited due to the weight of socio-cultural constraints and the weak anchoring of gender-sensitive mechanisms. This situation means that they are under-represented in decision-making bodies and in the management of Community funds. Ms. Barry called for the strengthening of inclusive governance mechanisms to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of women in the management of mining revenues.

IV. Summary of the discussions on the inclusive governance of mining revenues for local development

These discussions highlighted the persistence of the exclusion of women from the spheres of governance and management of mining revenues intended for local development, despite the existence of legal frameworks and redistribution mechanisms provided for in the legislation in force. Socio-cultural norms, lack of information and capacity, and insufficient gender-sensitive mechanisms limit their participation in decision-making processes and concentrate resource management among a few, often male, actors.

This situation leads to insufficient consideration of the needs of communities, especially those of women, girls and the most vulnerable groups, thus significantly reducing the impact of revenues from the mining sector on improving the living conditions of these populations. In addition, the lack of transparency and accountability with a gender sensitivity weakens citizen control and opens the way to the risks of poor governance. Nevertheless, civil society initiatives contribute to strengthening inclusive community participation, even if they remain insufficiently supported.

In conclusion, mining revenues cannot produce inclusive development without participatory, transparent and gender-responsive governance, integrating women into decision-making and management bodies.

IV. Recommendations

To the Congolese Government:

1. Make effective and binding the integration of gender in the mechanisms for supporting local content in the mining sector, through the revision of regulatory frameworks, procedures manuals and governance instruments, in order to ensure its effective

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org

application in all development policies, programmes and projects financed by extractive sector revenues.

2. Guarantee the effective participation of women in the governance of mining revenues, in particular through the establishment of a minimum quota of 40% in all decision-making bodies, with real power of influence and decision-making beyond simple symbolic representation.

3. Make mandatory the production, collection, analysis, and publication of sex-disaggregated data in reports related to the governance, management, and redistribution of mining revenues, to inform public policies and strengthen accountability.

To Civil Society Organizations, Technical and Financial Partners:

4. Establish independent awareness-raising, advocacy, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to promote women's participation, remove socio-cultural barriers, and ensure compliance with gender equality commitments in the governance of subnational mining revenues and specifications.

5. Institutionalize and sustainably finance women's resilience, capacity-building and leadership mechanisms, as well as women's organizations, to promote their inclusion in the governance of mineral resources and the management of revenues derived from them.

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org