

RESOLUTION IX – COLOMBIA

THEME : 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONCERN : ILLEGAL GOLD MINING AND POLLUTION FROM MERCURY AND HEAVY METALS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Recalling that according to the ILO and WHO, there are between 10 and 20 million artisanal gold miners worldwide, particularly in Africa, for example in Ghana with Galamsey (Gather them and sell), in South America, for example in the Brazil-Venezuela-Colombia triple border region, and in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia,

Noting that in Colombia more than 70% of the country's 200,000 gold miners work in illegal or informal conditions, generating more than €2.4 billion per year in illicit revenue, and that these illegal activities lead to massive deforestation, with tens to hundreds of thousands of hectares of tropical forests and wooded savannas being destroyed, leading to soil erosion and species extinction,

Emphasizing that these illegal activities cause severe mercury pollution, not only in rivers and ecosystems but also in the oceans, as mercury reaches the high seas from rivers via ocean currents,

Fully alarmed by the highly dangerous working conditions, the exploitation of child labor in certain areas, conflicts with local communities and indigenous peoples, and the development of networks

Recognizing that this problem transcends borders as it is linked to the global demand for gold, particularly in the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, and India, due to the dynamics of supply and demand,

Calls for Member States to strengthen import regulations, invest in research into mercury-free techniques and/or offer alternative sources of income for populations, and strengthen international cooperation with initiatives such as Interpol's Environmental Security Program and/or the creation of an international traceability and certification system for gold, inspired by the Kimberley Process for conflict diamonds.

The english text is binding.