

Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations condemn Copper Mark for upgrading certification status of Indonesia's PT AMNT to fully meet its criteria amidst ongoing complaint by affected communities

25 November 2025, Sumbawa Besar, Indonesia

Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) Sumbawa, Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE), and the undersigned endorsing Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations strongly condemn the recent decision of the Copper Mark to upgrade the compliance status of PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara (AMNT) to "fully meet" all its 32 applicable criteria, including on human rights, Indigenous Peoples rights, cultural heritage, and stakeholder engagement.

The upgrading of the compliance status of PT AMNT reveals a profound contradiction within the Copper Mark's assurance process. The status was upgraded while the Copper Mark is undertaking its process into a formal grievance filed by the Indigenous Cek Bocek/Selesek Reen Sury communities (recognized as Berco Tribe) against PT AMNT in August for severe violations of the criteria of the leading assurance framework for the copper value chain.

The grievance details the company's systematic failure to respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, encroachment upon their customary lands and cultural sites, and disregard for their right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Accordingly, the communities have demanded immediate suspension of PT AMNT's Copper Mark certification and a full and independent investigation into the grievance.

Earlier, the Copper Mark had concluded that PT AMNT "partially meets" its criteria, notably on human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultural heritage, and stakeholder engagement. However, the report of the follow-up assessment completed in September—which is the basis for upgrading PT AMNT's status to "fully meet all applicable criteria"—demonstrates that The Copper Mark accepted the company's procedural compliance as a substantive resolution.

The assessment of the Copper Mark and the subsequent upgrading of PT AMNT's status have effectively legitimized conflict avoidance. For example, PT AMNT was initially rated as partially meeting the criterion on Indigenous Peoples' Rights not due to the unresolved conflict with the affected Indigenous communities itself, but because PT AMNT lacked a "clear implementation" of its standards for engaging "communities with self-determined claims".

To remedy this gap and achieve a "fully meets" rating, AMNT was not required to resolve the land rights dispute. Instead, AMNT merely "developed a new procedure" and submitted evidence categorized as "Studies of cultural aspects, Cek Bocek indigenous claimants". This is evident of a process that prioritizes superficial formality over substantive resolution. The assessment has provided a shallow validation to AMNT for "studying" the community with which it is in conflict, rather than for resolving that conflict. The Cek Bocek Indigenous Peoples have accordingly been reduced from rights-holders to passive "claimants", who are objects of corporate study and risk management.

A similar flaw is evident in the criterion on Stakeholder Engagement, under which PT AMNT achieved a "fully meets" rating also based on procedural fixes such as "purpose-made database software" and

new standard operating procedures. This ignores the clearest evidence of the system's failure – the Indigenous Cek Bocek communities' choice to bypass the company's internal mechanism and file their grievance directly with The Copper Mark is the highest vote of no-confidence, proving the mechanism ineffective for the most critically impacted stakeholders.

The status upgrade exposes a deep systemic contradiction in the Copper Mark's grievance redress process. A certification body cannot credibly award a "Fully Meets" rating to a participant while its own Grievance Mechanism is simultaneously investigating serious human rights allegations against the same company. This duality severely undermines the entire credibility of the assurance process.

Therefore, we reiterate our following demands to the Copper Mark:

- 1. Immediately suspend the Copper Mark certification of PT AMNT pending the outcome of the ongoing formal grievance process.**
- 2. Declare the follow-up assessment completed in September as invalid and immediately undertake an independent and substantive assessment focused on the rights of the affected Indigenous Cek Bocek communities.**
- 3. Expedite the process in the grievance filed by the Indigenous Cek Bocek communities to the Copper Mark Grievance Mechanism for effective resolution of their concerns.**

We also urge the companies buying copper from PT AMNT, particularly those based in Europe, to immediately conduct in-depth human rights due diligence and ensure accountability for their supply chains with PT AMNT. Those companies reportedly include Glencore International AG (Switzerland), Anglo American Marketing Ltd and Alfred H Knight International Ltd (UK), Hartree Metals Sàrl (Switzerland), and Bachelet Laboratories (Belgium).

In September, PT AMNT reportedly received the Business and Human Rights Risk Assessment System (PRISMA) Award – a government-designed instrument encouraging businesses to align with international frameworks while strengthening national investment competitiveness – from the Indonesian Ministry of Human Rights. In line with the subsequent concerns raised by AMAN Sumbawa, including at a formal audience with the Ministry in November, we challenge the validity of the award granted to the PT AMNT while the company is embroiled in a land dispute with the affected Indigenous communities.

In meeting with AMAN Sumbawa witnessed by a PT AMNT representative, the Ministry acknowledged the limitations of the current PRISMA methodology, particularly regarding its reliance on corporate self-assessment, and committed to reforming the policy to strengthen public participation. While the Ministry declined to immediately revoke the award citing procedural constraints, this official commitment to policy improvement confirms that the current assessment framework is insufficient to fully capture the reality of human rights impacts on the ground. The Copper Mark should not credibly rely on national awards like PRISMA as evidence to justify its decision to upgrade the status of PT AMNT to "fully meet" its criteria. Continued validation of PT AMNT's performance by the Copper Mark in light of these facts would amount to complicity in "greenwashing".

As the global community gathers in Geneva this month for the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, we present the case of PT AMNT and The Copper Mark as a stark warning. This case exemplifies how voluntary certification schemes and procedural national assessments can be

weaponized to obscure actual human rights harms, directly contradicting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

Following up on the information submitted by the Indigenous Cek Bocek communities to the UN Working Group and other Special Procedures in August, we recall the request of the communities to the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other Special Procedures to urgently communicate with the Indonesian government, PT AMNT, and The Copper Mark regarding these grievances and the failure of national validation mechanisms.

Endorsed by:

SN	Organization name	Country based in
1	Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) Sumbawa	Indonesia
2	Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE)	Philippines
3	Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ)	Nepal
4	Solidaritas Anak Merdeka Foundation - Flores	Indonesia
5	Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA)	Indonesia
6	Tharu women upliftment center	Nepal
7	Alternative Law Collective (ALC)	Pakistan
8	Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)	Philippines
9	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Denmark
10	Oyu Tolgoi Watch	Mongolia
11	Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders	Philippines
12	Yayasan Anak Dusun Papua (YADUPA)	Indonesia
13	Women Development Program	Bangladesh
14	Association For Promotion Sustainable Development	India
15	Vikas Adhyayan Kendra	India
16	Youth for Green Communities	Uganda
17	Turkana Indigenous People Action for Development (TIPD)	Kenya
18	Feminist Dalit Organization	Nepal
19	PA "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"	Kyrgyzstan
20	Asociación ProPurús	Peru
21	Rivers & Rights	Thailand
22	Resister - Berdaya Pulih	Indonesia
23	Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO)	Uganda
24	National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal	Nepal
25	Cordillera Peoples Allianxe	Philippines
26	Rural Development Organization	Pakistan
27	Pastoralists Alliance for Resilience and Adaptation Across Nations (PARAAN)	Kenya
28	Indigenous Women's Forum of North East India	India
29	Jaringan Advokasi Tambang (JATAM)	Indonesia
30	CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Vietnam
31	Idara Baraye Taleeem wa Taraqi (IBT)	Pakistan

32	MiningWatch Canada	Canada
33	Sikola Mombine Foundation	Indonesia
34	PLUME National Indigenous Women's Institute and Alliance	United States
35	Borok Indigenous Tipra Peoples' Development Centre (BITPDC) and Borok Peoples' Human Rights Organisation (BPHRO)	India
36	National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF)	Nepal
37	ALTSEAN-Burma	Thailand
38	Women Protection Organisation WOPO)	Nigeria
39	Amnesty Canada (Climate Justice Advocacy Team)	Canada
40	TRIPPINZ CARE INC	United States
41	Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)	Philippines
42	Peace Point Development Foundation- PPDF	Nigeria
43	Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	Pakistan
44	Jamaa Resource Initiatives	Kenya
45	Manushya Foundation	Thailand
46	Green Advocates International	Liberia
47	The Descendants Projec	United States
48	Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)	Mexico
49	Anti-Jindal & Anti-POSCO Movement (JPPSS)	India
50	Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociale et Environnementale, OEARSE en sigle	Congo (Republic of the)
51	Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI)	Philippines
52	Corporate Justice Coalition	United Kingdom
53	Inclusive Development International	United States
54	Accountability Counsel	United States
55	Protection International	Belgium
56	Timuay Justice and Governance TJG	Philippines
57	Sikola Mombine Faundation	Indonesia
58	Kapaeeng Foundation	Bangladesh
59	Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia	Indonesia
60	The Association of Defenders of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (PPMAN)	Indonesia
61	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)	Thailand
62	Lembaga Bentang Alam Hijau (LemBAH)	Indonesia
63	PACOS Trust	Malaysia
64	Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Sports Foundation	India
65	Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organziation	Cambodia
66	Alternative Law Collective (ALC)	Pakistan
67	KTNC Watch	South Korea

Individual endorsements:

SN	Individual	Country based in
1	Shreya Parajuli	Austria

2	Khokon Suiten Murmu	Bangladesh
3	Nhek Sarin	Cambodia
4	Keshia Lawrence	Canada
5	Rejimon Kuttappan	India
6	Ririn Sefsani	Indonesia
7	Harmawanto	Indonesia
8	Vanessa C Masoleh	Indonesia
9	Samuel Leivy Opa	Indonesia
10	ESTHER HALUK	Indonesia
11	Hironimus Gesu	Indonesia
12	Norman Jiwan	Indonesia
13	Alessandro Ramazzotti	Italy
14	Victoria Antai Anak Belayong	Malaysia
15	Saw Eh Khu Dah	Myanmar
16	Priyanka Chaudhary	Nepal
17	Chandra Singh Kulung	Nepal
18	Caroline Louise Novak	New Zealand
19	Veronika Kanem	New Zealand
20	ELEANOR DICTAAN	Philippines
21	Gwendolyn Gay Gaongen	Philippines
22	Mary Tehekeni	Solomon Islands
23	Deborah Ewing	South Africa
24	Isabel Abrams	Spain
25	Pedro Martin Heras	Spain
26	Anggita Indari	Thailand

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