



## INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

### Introduction and objectives of work

Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. (Bureau Veritas) was engaged by Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) to conduct an independent assurance of its 2016 Beyond the Mine Sustainability Report (the Report). This Assurance Statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below. The intended users of the assurance statement are the stakeholders of Newmont. The overall aim of this process is to provide assurance to Newmont's stakeholders on the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of the information included in the Report. The assurance process also evaluated Newmont's management of sustainability in accordance with the principles of inclusivity, materiality and responsiveness.

The information that was assured and its presentation in the Report are the sole responsibility of the management of Newmont. Bureau Veritas was not involved in the drafting of the Report. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on its content.

### Scope of work

Newmont requested Bureau Veritas to include in its independent assurance the following:

- Data and report text included in the Report for the calendar year 2016 reporting period;
- Appropriateness and robustness of underlying reporting systems and processes, used to collect, analyze and review the information reported;
- Evaluation of the Report against the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Sustainable Development (SD) Framework Assurance Procedure;
- Evaluation of the Report in accordance with the Assurance Standard AA1000AS (2008)<sup>1</sup> Type 2 assurance; and
- Evaluation of the Report against the principles of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Reporting Framework as defined in the GRI G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.

Excluded from the scope of our work is any assurance of information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined assurance period;
- Positional statements (expressions of opinion, belief, aim or future intention) by Newmont;
- Statements of future commitment; and
- Any financial data previously audited by an external third party.

### Methodology

Bureau Veritas undertook the following activities:

1. Interviews with relevant personnel of Newmont (including executives, managers and staff members at the corporate, regional and site level);
2. Interviews with selected external stakeholders of Newmont;
3. Review of internal and external documentary evidence produced by Newmont;

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<sup>1</sup> Published by AccountAbility: The Institute of Social and Ethical Accountability

4. Audit of performance data presented in the Report including a detailed review of a sample of data;
5. Site visit to the Newmont Golden Ridge Limited (NGRL) Akyem mine site located in the Biiim North District of the Eastern Region, Ghana.
6. Visit to Newmont's regional business unit office in Accra, Ghana.
7. Visit to Newmont's headquarters located in Greenwood Village, Colorado; and
8. Review of Newmont data and information systems for collection, aggregation, analysis and internal verification and review.

The work was planned and carried out to provide a high level of assurance, and we believe it provides a sound basis for our conclusions.

## **Our findings**

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, it is our opinion that:

- The information and data included in the Report are accurate, reliable and free from significant error, material mistakes or misstatements.
- The Report provides a fair representation of Newmont's activities over the reporting period.
- The information is presented in a clear and understandable manner, and allows readers to form a balanced opinion regarding Newmont's performance and position during the 2016 reporting period.
- The Report presents information that adequately demonstrates alignment with the ICMM SD Framework, including the 10 Sustainable Development principles and the applicable mandatory requirements set out in the ICMM position statements.
- The Report adequately reflects the organization's alignment to, and implementation of the AA1000AS (2008) principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness in its operations (further detail is provided below).
- The Report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI G4 Guidelines and the Mining and Metals Sector Disclosures and includes appropriate consideration of the profile disclosures, management approach disclosures and performance indicators to meet the requirements of GRI G4 Core Requirements.
- Newmont has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of relevant information, and has implemented underlying internal assurance practices that provide a reasonable degree of confidence that such information is complete and accurate.
- Newmont has processes in place for consulting and engaging with its key stakeholders in a structured and systematic manner.
- Newmont's executive management team supports the development of processes for embedding sustainable management concepts and practices in the company.

## **Adherence to the principles of AA1000AS**

As required by the AA1000AS (2008) standard, outlined below are our observations relating to Newmont's adherence to the principles of inclusivity, materiality and responsiveness.

### **Inclusivity**

Newmont's Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement Policy outlines the company's commitments regarding communities, stakeholders and external engagement. Newmont's global Stakeholder Relationship Management Standard provides the minimum requirements for sites to identify and engage with groups and individuals who may be impacted by company activities. In addition, internal stakeholders have been engaged through development of employee-led business resource groups (BRGs) at the mine sites, regional offices and the corporate office. Bureau Veritas observed the implementation of external and

internal stakeholder engagement during our discussions with external stakeholders and Newmont employees. Newmont's approach to stakeholder engagement and a description of key stakeholders are described in the Stakeholder Engagement and Our Workplace sections of the Report.

### **Materiality**

Newmont commissioned a materiality assessment during 2016 that included assessing material aspects based on both industry research as well as feedback from internal and external stakeholders. The materiality assessment provided information regarding the aspects and disclosures that were most important to include in the Report based on the information gathered during the process. The Report aligns with the material aspects identified.

### **Responsiveness**

Newmont has developed minimum requirements and systems to respond to stakeholder issues in their complaints and grievances (C&G) process. The Stakeholder Relationship Management Standard requires sites to maintain a commitment register and a C&G register, and to monitor the status on a regular basis. Newmont developed a public target for resolution of C&Gs within 30 days and reported on performance against this target in the Report. Sites met the target of resolving at least 90 percent of tier 1 C&Gs within 30 days. At NGRL, manned offices are located in the adjacent communities to receive C&Gs and meet with external stakeholders.

### **Alignment with ICMM Sustainable Development Requirements**

Newmont has demonstrated that it is implementing the five ICMM Subject Matters in their business and has reported on these areas as described below.

*Subject Matter 1. The alignment of Newmont's sustainability policies and procedures to ICMM's 10 Sustainable Development (SD) Principles and any mandatory requirements set out in ICMM position statements.*

Newmont has committed to implementing ICMM's 10 principles for sustainable development (SD). Evidence of the company's commitment to implementing the 10 SD principles and the mandatory requirements of position statements were observed during Bureau Veritas' assurance process.

*Subject Matter 2. Newmont's material sustainable development risks and opportunities based on its own review of the business and the views and expectations of its stakeholders.*

As discussed under the principles of the AA1000AS above, material risks and opportunities have been identified through an internal assessment and consideration of stakeholder expectations. A materiality assessment was conducted in 2016. The company also has a robust risk assessment process.

*Subject Matter 3. The existence and status of implementation of systems that Newmont is using to manage the identified material sustainable development risks and opportunities.*

The Report includes a description of the company's sustainability framework that is designed to manage the identified material sustainable development risks and opportunities. The company has a Risk Management Standard that requires regions and sites to use a common risk assessment framework. Implementation of the standard was observed during the assurance process.

*Subject Matter 4. Newmont's performance during the given reporting period for the identified material sustainable development risks and opportunities.*

The company's performance in areas of material risks and opportunities pertaining to ethics and governance; economic and social development; environmental stewardship; health and safety; the workplace; and workforce rights are described in the Report. The narrative is supported by detailed metrics and illustrative case studies. The company is also now reporting progress against public targets in several key areas.

## Subject Matter 5. *Newmont's self-declared application level of the G4 Guidelines.*

Newmont has prepared their 2016 report based on the core option of the GRI G4 reporting requirements and also has addressed indicators included in the Metals and Mining Sector Disclosures. The Report's GRI Index indicates how each indicator is addressed and references the section of the report with relevant information.

### **Key Observations and Recommendations**

- Newmont showed continued improvement in safety performance. This is evident based on lagging indicators such as the total recordable injury frequency rate as well as leading indicators such as safety interactions, which were extended to include various groups within the company including administrative functions. Fatality Risk Management Plans were also completed to address risks and opportunities with respect to those risks.
- Newmont's commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance was evident from development of targets for water consumption. Decommissioning of the Gidji roaster at KCGM provided significant reductions in mercury and SO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Evaluations are conducted to find methods to reduce environmental impacts, for example, evaluating improved methods for dust suppression that increase tire life, resulting in decreased water consumption and reduced waste volumes.
- Newmont was an early adopter of the Reporting Framework for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. They report under the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and have been active in training employees, contractors and government law enforcement personnel regarding security using the principles.
- Newmont has provided internship and training programs for local and indigenous peoples near the mines. When full-time positions are available, the students may be hired; however, the skills learned may also be useful for other employment.
- Newmont has implemented ethics, human rights, and environmental standards and has focused on checking that they are being followed in the supply chain. Newmont has also supported local supplier development to increase the quantity and quality of goods and services procured from local sources.
- Systems for collecting and compiling data for the Report continue to improve with less manual collection and handling of data. During the visit to the NGRL, we observed the use of remote electronic data collection methods that were uploaded to data compilation systems. Development of site-specific written documentation for data collection methods at the operating sites would help ensure continued consistent data management in the future.
- Performance data related to internal and public targets are tracked and reported internally at least quarterly at the corporate level and more frequently at regional levels. Environmental, social and related SD metrics are reported against targets to executive leadership to track progress.

### **Statement of independence, impartiality and competence**

Bureau Veritas is an independent professional services company that specializes in Quality, Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management with over 180 years history in providing independent assurance services, and an annual 2015 revenue of 4.6 Billion Euros.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Newmont, its Directors or Managers beyond that of verification and assurance of sustainability data and reporting. We have conducted this verification independently and we believe there to have been no conflict of interest. Bureau Veritas has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Bureau Veritas standard methodology for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports.

**Attestation:**



Lisa S. Barnes, Lead Verifier  
Practice Line Leader  
Sustainability and Climate Change Services



Trevor A. Donagh, Technical Reviewer  
Technical Director  
Climate Change Services



**Bureau Veritas North America, Inc.**  
**Denver, Colorado**

**March 31, 2017**

