

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC HEARING

This responds to your request for further information regarding points raised in the May 28, 2008 public hearing to discuss the collection of information to assist in the development of a list of goods from countries produced by forced labor.

As noted in the hearing, we are not currently conducting independent or field research on the referenced commodities. We direct your attention to the reports we have referenced, and the conclusions of the reports' authors. We do participate in efforts to better understand the situation in West Africa as a member of the Board of the International Cocoa Initiative, and an active participant in discussions and activities related to the initiative.

Free the Slaves relies on a variety of published sources for information about slavery, forced labor and child labor:

U.S. Department of State: Annual report on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt>

U.S. Department of State: Annual country human rights report:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt>

U.S. Department of Labor: Annual report on implementation of commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor:

<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft>

International Labor Organization: 2005 Report: A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/manila/mtgevents/flglobal.htm>

UNICEF: Data on child labor and school attendance from household surveys:

http://www.childinfo.org/files/Child_labor_school/FHuebler_2008.pdf

UN Office of Drugs and Crime: Report: Trafficking in Persons, Global Patterns:

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en/pdf>

In addition to these sources, the following sources may be helpful:

Forced labor in cotton/Uzbekistan:

Environmental Justice Foundation and International Crisis Group reports can be found on their websites.

Coltan and other minerals/Democratic Republic of Congo:

United Nations reports S/2002/1146 (16 October 2002); S/2003/1027 (23 October 2003), S/ 2008/43 (13 February 2008)

Flora and Fauna International: Coltan Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Karen Hayes and Richard Burge (2003)

Brazil:

Dirty list:

Government website: http://www.mte.gov.br/trab_escravo/cadastro_trab_escravo.asp

Reporter Brasil website (in English):

<http://www.reporterbrasil.org.br/listasuja/index.php?lingua=en>

National Pact:

National Pact website: <http://www.reporterbrasil.org.br/pacto/>

List of companies that signed the pact: <http://www.reporterbrasil.com.br/pacto/signatarios>

Slave labor

Reporter Brasil website (information about Mobile Inspection Unit slave labor operations): www.reporterbrasil.org.br

Charcoal Citizenship Institute

<http://www.carvaocidadao.org.br/>

West Africa: The International Cocoa Initiative website includes the reports and research to date by various groups: www.cocoainitiative.org/ici/reference-documents.

