

TO: Beatriz Balbin, Chief, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR

REF AL OTH 189/2021

[registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)

21 April, 2021

Dear Ms Balbin,

Greenland Minerals Ltd is pleased to confirm receipt of joint communication of 19 April 2021 sent by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

While Greenland Minerals Ltd will provide substantive answers to the five issues listed in the joint communication within the deadline, we would like to take this opportunity to address two initial matters.

Firstly, it is important to note that Greenland has its own Government, elected by the Greenlandic public, which enjoys a large degree of autonomy. This secures a high degree of protection of the rights of indigenous Greenlandic people.

The area of natural resources has been taken over by Greenland, and the Mineral Resources Act of 2009 is a Greenlandic statute enacted by the Greenlandic Parliament (Inatsisartut) and administered by the Greenlandic Government (Naalakkersuisut).

As it is important that the Greenlandic people maintains trust in the procedures laid down in the Mineral Resources Act, you may consider also to approach the competent, Greenlandic Government in relation to these matters.

According to section 1(2), the Mineral Resources Act “aims to ensure that activities falling within the scope of the Act are carried out in a sound manner as regards safety, health, the environment, resource exploitation and social sustainability as well as appropriately and in accordance with acknowledged best international practices under similar conditions”.

Secondly, and prior to any exploitation licence being granted, the Mineral Resources Act requires public consultation on the basis of an Environmental Impact Assessment, together with a Social Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with official Guidelines. The purpose of public consultation is precisely to collect observations and concerns such as those reflected in the joint communication so that they form part of the decision-making process within the Greenlandic Government. The current round of public consultations opened on 18 December 2020 and will close on 1 June 2021, after which a White Paper addressing all comments will be prepared and published.

Please note that the current EIA is the result of studies and assessments commenced in 2011 and expanded and refined over the years in close cooperation with the Greenlandic Government and its independent scientific advisors appointed in accordance with section 3(a)(4) of the Mineral Resources Act.

In relation to Greenland Minerals' project, the Danish Centre for Environment and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources act as independent scientific advisors to the Greenlandic Government. On 26 January 2021, they concluded that the project would likely not involve more severe environmental impact than accounted for in the Environmental Impact Assessment assuming the use of Best Available Technology and Best Environmental Practice. While it is correct that further studies are foreseen, it has also been agreed that these may wait until an exploitation licence has been granted as no exploitation will start until plans for development and closure have also been approved by the Greenlandic Government in accordance with the Mineral Resources Act.

Greenland Minerals values the important work carried out by the Special Procedures, and precisely for this reason the company would appreciate and expect that no conclusions or public statements are made until after the company's substantive answers to the issues have been received and considered.

Yours sincerely,

John Mair

Managing Director