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Sources of potential disagreement or conflict

Many of the factors that may give rise to conflict between indigenous groups and mining companies can be a source of conflict with non-indigenous communities as well. These include, for example:

- establishing a mine in the absence of broad community support or, where required, their FPIC
- inadequate engagement or decision-making processes
- inadequate or inequitable compensation for land
- inequitable distribution of benefits
- broken promises and unmet expectations of benefits (including employment and procurement opportunities)
- failing to generate opportunities for employment, training, supply or community development
- failure to follow through on commitments in a timely fashion (eg HR not employing locals as promised, finance/procurement divisions taking too long in paying local suppliers for goods and services provided, etc)
- environmental degradation
- disruption to amenity and lifestyle
- loss of livelihood
- inappropriate mine employee or contractor behaviour
- violation of human rights
- social dislocation
- historical grievances not being adequately addressed.

In addition, however, there are some contextual factors that have particular salience for Indigenous Peoples and their relations with mining companies. For example, a lack of respect (perceived or actual) for indigenous customary rights of the indigenous community, or for Indigenous Peoples' culture, history and spirituality, is likely to trigger a strong reaction. Similarly, issues around access to and control of land are very important for many Indigenous Peoples and can lead to serious conflict if they are not handled sensitively and with due respect for the rights of affected groups.

“OF THE LAND WE
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MOTHER WE ARE
FORMED. OF THE
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BORN. BEFORE LIGHT
EXISTED, THE SEED
WAS ALREADY SOWED
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OF THE EARTH, IN
THE MOIST AND
WARM HEART OF
OUR PEOPLES.”

Don Juan Chávez Alonso
Indigenous Purépecha Representative of the National Indigenous
Congress, Michoacán, Mexico

