

STATEMENT BY THE FLEURETTE GROUP TO GLOBAL WITNESS:

"Last month's Global Witness report was disappointing and without basis in fact. It repeated old and unsubstantiated allegations, all of which we had clearly rebutted with very detailed written explanations. However, Global Witness chose to ignore or disbelieve our statements. We question Global Witness's motives and agenda as well as that of their funders or donors. Their claim to be looking out for the interests of the people of the DRC is hard to believe whilst they are calling for international aid to Congo to be cut, whilst they are funded by current or previous competitors of Fleurette Group and its partners in the DRC, such as Glencore and ENRC, and whilst they continue to ignore, disbelieve or overlook facts which rebut the story they wish to tell.

Fleurette is aware that Global Witness intends to publish a second report in time for ENRC's Annual General Meeting tomorrow. Global Witness asked Fleurette a set of questions in advance of their second report. Although Fleurette, as a private company, has no duty of disclosure and was wrongly mistreated by Global Witness previously, it offered to cooperate with Global Witness to find a way to work together to establish once and for all whether there is any substance to the Global Witness allegations. Its only pre-condition for answering the new questions was to first work through the issues arising from Global Witness's previous report. Fleurette offered an independent audit of its companies in order to establish the true beneficiaries of Fleurette and its subsidiaries (up to the ultimate beneficial owners). This would have proven, as Fleurette have continually stated, that the only beneficiaries are the Gertler Family Trust for the Gertler family members.

Rather than pursue this unprecedented opportunity and claim a significant coup for its campaign for transparency Global Witness have chosen to proceed with its new report of unfounded allegations and innuendo with the aim of maximising publicity for its fundraising efforts. Global Witness rejected our offer because it would have rebutted their key allegation of corruption in the DRC.

Over the past 15 years Dan Gertler, through the Fleurette Group of companies, has made a substantial contribution to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its people, having contributed over \$2bn of investment into the mining sector and an additional \$5bn of indirect investments through its partners, created over 10,000 jobs and together with the Gertler Family Foundation has contributed over \$150m in community support and environmental programmes in the country.

While we have not had sight of the report to be published by Global Witness, Fleurette has every confidence that it will again be made up of unsubstantiated and unreferenced allegations.

- Ends -

Further information:

Please contact The PR Office

Shimon Cohen

scohen@theproffice.com

+44 (0)20 7284 6969