

- Regional Conference, September 2012

Na Chairman, your Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I represent a coalition, whose membership at present includes organized groups and NGOs working on mining, oil and gas, forestry, public sector accountability, policy advocacy, and environmental issues. These include: the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Friends of the Nation, Centre for Public Interest Law, Public Agenda, the Trades Union Congress of Ghana, the National Catholic Secretariat, League of Environmental Journalists, NEWENERGY, and WACAM.

At the turn of the millennium, natural resource dependent countries of the world stood at a threshold that required rethinking of the role of natural resource exploitation in their economic development. This process was largely influenced by the paradox of plenty, a situation many mineral-endowed countries of the developing world found themselves in. I do not need to convince you that the reason most resource-rich communities have been in arms in Africa, Asia, Latin America and beyond, is that, while so much wealth is generated from extractive activities in the communities, the ordinary people become ever more impoverished: livelihoods are lost, environment degraded, and the community's sense of security shattered, often with little or no compensation. {phocadownload view=file|id=133|text=Remarks by Dr. Steve Manteaw on behalf of CSOs|target=s}