



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Movement on Resolution Copper Project Raises Concerns**

*LAPFF Seeks Assurances that Appropriate Community Engagement is Underway*

London 10.00 (BST) LAPFF has written to both Rio Tinto and BHP upon receiving news that the US Forest Service will issue a final environmental impact statement on 15 January that paves the way for a land swap allowing Resolution Copper, a controversial mine project in Oak Flat, Arizona, to proceed.

The Forum would like to see all environmental and social impact assessments the companies have conducted and will conduct in relation to Resolution Copper made public.

LAPFF would also like confirmation from both companies that representatives of the affected communities have adequate decision-making capacity in respect of this project.

This engagement expectation stems from LAPFF's approach of engaging with affected communities and workers, both as a human rights imperative and as a means of obtaining investment-relevant information that impacts on shareholder value.

**Cllr Doug McMurdo, Chair of Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, said:**

“Over the past couple of years, LAPFF has engaged extensively with communities affected by mining operations in Brazil, Australia, and the US. These engagements have revealed troubling patterns of mining companies failing to incorporate community voice adequately into decision-making processes. In the Forum's view, these failures have contributed to disasters such as the tailings dam collapses at Mariana and Brumadinho in Brazil and the destruction of culturally significant caves at Juukan Gorge in Western Australia. LAPFF is keen to ensure that another such disaster does not occur at Oak Flat.”

**ENDS>**

6 January 2021

**For further information:**

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**About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum:** The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is a voluntary association of 82 public sector pension funds and seven pools based in the UK with combined assets of over £300 billion. It exists to 'promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum @lapfforum <https://lapfforum.org/>