



Independent Assurance Statement

Barrick Gold

2022 Conflict-Free Gold Report

September 2023

To: Stakeholders of Barrick Gold Corporation

Summary:

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) was engaged by Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) to provide reasonable assurance over their Conflict-Free Gold (CFG) report for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Nothing has come to our attention that would lead us to believe that Barrick's CFG report was not, in all material aspects, prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the World Gold Council CFG Standard (October 2012). It is our opinion that, based on the evidence presented, Barrick does not produce gold from conflict-affected or high-risk areas as defined by the CFG Standard. The supporting evidence provided by Barrick addressed the relevant elements (A, D and E) of the CFG Standard. Because Barrick does not produce gold from or transport gold while in its custody through conflict-affected or high-risk areas as defined by the CFG Standard, it is not required to report under sections B and C of the CFG Standard.

Scope of Work:

The assurance scope consists of Barrick's CFG Report, dated September 2023

Barrick has stated, in its Conflict-Free Gold Policy, their commitment to producing gold in a manner that does not cause, support, or benefit unlawful armed conflict or contribute to serious human rights abuses or breaches of international law. The CFG policy is available on Barrick's website (www.barrick.com).

Responsibilities:

The management of Barrick is solely responsible for the preparation and presentation of the CFG Report in accordance with the CFG Standard. This responsibility includes establishing appropriate risk management and internal controls from which the reported information is derived.

Our responsibility is to carry out the assurance engagement and to express a conclusion based on the work performed. Our independent assurance procedures are informed by the World Gold Council's *CFG Standard Guidance for Assurance Providers* (October 2012) and the *International Standard on Assurance Engagements ISAE 3000: Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* (2015) issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

This assurance statement has been prepared for Barrick for the purpose of reporting to Barrick whether we believe the company has complied with the requirements of the CFG Standard. This assurance statement is provided for Barrick in accordance with the terms of our engagement. We are solely responsible to Barrick for our work and for the conclusions we have stated in our assurance statement.

Assurance Procedures:

We planned and performed the assurance engagement to obtain the evidence, information and explanations considered necessary in relation to the assurance scope. These procedures included:

- Enquiries of management to gain an understanding of Barrick's processes and risk management protocols in place,
- Enquiries of relevant corporate staff responsible for the preparation of the CFG Report,
- A review of the Heidelberg Conflict Barometer for 2021 and 2022,
- Assessment of the suitability of the policies, procedures, and internal controls that Barrick has in place to establish conformance with the CFG Standard,
- A review of all the supporting documentation known as the Evidence Pack, and
- Testing a selection of the underlying processes and controls which support the information in the CFG Report.

Inherent Limitations:

Non-financial information, such as that included in the CFG Report, is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the more qualitative characteristics of the subject matter and the methods used for determining such information.

Independence and competency:

In conducting this engagement, we confirm that we satisfy the criteria for assurance providers as set out in the CFG Standard to carry out the assurance engagement. Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in water resources, health and safety, environmental management and compliance and assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services. No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Barrick, its Directors or Managers beyond that required for assurance services. We conducted this assurance assignment independently and, to our knowledge, there has been no conflict of interest. Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Reilly'.

David Reilly
Principal Consultant, Lead Assuror
Apex Companies, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Rohde'.

John Rohde
Principal Consultant, Technical Reviewer
Apex Companies, LLC

September 2023