



**Barrick Gold
2023 Independent Assurance Statement**

May 14, 2024

To: The Stakeholders of Barrick Gold Corporation

Introduction

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) was engaged by Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) to provide independent external assurance for Barrick's 2023 Sustainability Report (Report) and conformance with the World Gold Council's (WGC) Responsible Gold Mining Principles (RGMPs) and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Mining Principles. The assurance process also included an assessment of Barrick's performance and progress on a range of sustainability issues.

This assurance statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below. The intended users of the assurance statement are the stakeholders of Barrick. The overall aim of this process is to provide assurance to Barrick's stakeholders on the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of the information included in the Report.

The information that Apex assured and its presentation in the Report are the sole responsibility of the management of Barrick. Apex was not involved in the drafting of the Report. Our sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on its content and other data and statements subject to assurance.

Building on the previous years of assurance we have performed for Barrick, the assurance process is designed to further our understanding of how Barrick identifies material environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and emerging issues in a changing environment, and to assess Barrick's conformance with the WGC RGMPs and ICMM Mining Principles, which Barrick collectively refers to as the RGMP+.

Objectives of the Assurance Process

1. Provide reasonable assurance over the stated content of the 2023 Sustainability Report;
2. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2023 Conflict-Free Gold Report;
3. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2023 Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions inventory and total energy use reported to CDP;
4. Provide limited assurance over the 2023 Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions inventory reported to CDP;
5. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2023 total water withdrawal reported to CDP;
6. Assess Barrick's conformance with WGC's RGMPs and ICMM's Mining Principles and Position Statements, which Barrick collectively refers to as RGMP+; and provide limited assurance on Barrick's conformance; and
7. Propose recommendations for future development (in a separate report to Barrick Management).

Scope of Assurance

The scope of work included assurance of the following “Subject Matter.”

1. Review relevant activities undertaken at Barrick operations over the reporting period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023;
2. Data and report text included in the Barrick’s Sustainability Report for the calendar year 2023;
3. Review the robustness of underlying reporting systems and processes used to collect, analyze, and report relevant information for Barrick operations;
4. Evaluate the 2023 Sustainability Report against the principles of the GRI Reporting Framework as defined in the GRI Standards and Universal Standards;
5. Evaluate evidence provided to support Barrick’s reported conformance with what Barrick refers to as RGMP+ at Barrick operations;
6. Interview employees and external stakeholders with respect to Barrick’s sustainability performance at Barrick operations during the reporting period;
7. Assess implementation of the WGC’s Conflict-Free Gold Standard as described in the Barrick’s 2023 Conflict-Free Gold Report (to be completed);
8. Provide assurance for Barrick’s 2023 total water withdrawal; and
9. Verify Barrick’s 2023 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory.

To conduct the assurance, we undertook the following activities:

- Review of the 2023 Sustainability Report including source verification of performance data and factual information for Barrick’s operations contained within the Report;
- Review of processes for identification and collation of relevant information, report content and performance data from Barrick’s mining operations;
- Interviews and follow-up communication with a selection of corporate and regional functional leads, and with mine managers and staff of two mines;
- Completed in-person visits for interviews and data review to the Veladero Mine in Argentina, and the Lumwana Mine in Zambia;
- Completed remote/virtual data review for a selection of other Barrick mines; and
- Interviews with local external stakeholders in the Argentina and Zambia.

Reporting Criteria

The Subject Matter needs to be read and understood together with the GRI Universal Standards, the GRI Mining and Metals Standards and Barrick’s descriptions as presented in the Sustainability Report.

Limitations and Exclusions:

Excluded from the scope of our work is information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined calendar year 2023 reporting period;
- Boundaries outside those defined in the Sustainability Report;
- Statements of commitment to, or intention to undertake future actions by Barrick;
- Statements of position, opinion, belief and/or aspiration by Barrick; and
- Any financial data or financial value statements.

This assurance engagement relies on a risk-based selected sample of sustainability data and the associated limitations that this entails and should not be relied upon to detect all errors, omissions or misstatements that may exist.

Assurance Standards

Our work was planned and executed in a manner designed to provide a sound basis for our conclusions, and to produce a reasonable level of assurance over most data and a limited level of assurance over conformance to the RGMP+. Our assurance process is aligned with and informed by the following international protocols:

- ICMM Sustainable Development Framework – Assurance Procedure
- WGC's *Assurance Framework for the Responsible Gold Mining Principles*
- WGC's *Guidance on Implementing and Assuring the RGMPs: supplement to the Assurance Framework*
- WGC's *Conflict Free Gold Standard – Guidance for Assurance Providers* (WGC, 2012)
- GRI Universal Standards
- International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 Revised, *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* (effective for assurance reports dated on or after Dec. 15, 2015), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.
- ISO 14064-3: Second edition 2019-04: Greenhouse gases -- Part 3: Specification with Guidance for the Verification and Validation of Greenhouse Gas Statements

OUR FINDINGS

2023 Sustainability Report

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, we provide reasonable assurance that:

- The 2023 Sustainability Report (Report) provides clear and straightforward presentations of Barrick's material issues and their underlying management systems and controls.
- The assured information and data (Subject Matter) in the Report is accurate, reliable, and free from material misstatements. Information in the Report is clearly presented and understandable.
- Material issues have been appropriately identified through a materiality assessment process that is described in the Report.
- The Report provides a fair representation of Barrick's 2023 sustainability performance and provides readers with a balanced perspective of its material issues and operations.
- The Report advances Barrick's public communication about its operations, environmental and social impacts, and related programs to manage these impacts.

- Barrick has appropriate systems in place for the collection, aggregation and analysis of relevant information and has implemented adequate internal data quality and assurance practices.
- The corporate senior leadership team and site leadership teams support a company-wide commitment to sustainable mining practices at operations, projects, and exploration sites.

GRI Standard Sustainability Reporting Standards

The 2023 Sustainability Report has been prepared with reference to and in accordance with GRI Universal Standards and GRI Mining and Metals Standards, including appropriate consideration of the Reporting Principles, profile disclosures, management approach disclosures and performance indicators.

WGC Responsible Gold Mining Principles and ICMM Mining Principles (RGMP+) Conformance

Our assurance activities consisted of: interviews with Barrick corporate, regional and mine level staff and management personnel to gain an understanding of the data collection systems, processes and risk management protocols in place; a review of RGMP+ self-assessments from a sample of Barrick's mines; in-person visits to the Veladero mine and Lumwana mine with associated interviews and data review and sampling with personnel responsible for preparation of disclosures related to RGMP+ and the RGMP+ self-assessments, and a review of policies, procedures and internal controls Barrick has in place to conform with the RGMP+.

Based on our assurance activities and the evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention to indicate that Barrick's conformance with the RGMP+, as described in Barrick's 2023 Sustainability Report and as presented on the associated conformance matrix, is not fairly stated in all material respects.

In addition, based on our assurance activities, we provide assurance that Barrick has maintained its alignment with the requirements of ICMM's eight Position Statements: Climate Change; Mining Partnerships for Development; Water Stewardship; Transparency of Mineral Revenues; Tailings Governance; Mercury Risk Management; Indigenous Peoples and Mining; and Mining and Protected Areas.

GHG Emissions and Total Water Withdrawal

Barrick's Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions inventory for its 2023 operations was verified to be correct and complete within the bounds of materiality ($\pm 5\%$). Select categories of Scope 3 emissions were also verified to be correct and complete within the bounds of materiality ($\pm 5\%$). Separate GHG emissions verification opinion declarations for Scope 1 and 2 emissions and Scope 3 emissions have been issued for submittal to CDP and other public disclosures.

Barrick's company-wide total water withdrawal assertion for its 2023 operations was assured to be correct and complete within the bounds of materiality ($\pm 5\%$). A separate water withdrawal assurance statement has been issued for submittal to CDP and other public disclosures.

WGC Conflict-Free Gold Standard

Barrick will be preparing and presenting a Conflict-Free Gold Report for 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Conflict-Free Gold Standard. Following Barrick's completion of the Conflict-Free Gold Report, Apex we will review the report and associated data and documentation and provide conclusions in the form of an independent assurance statement. The submittal of the Conflict-Free Gold Report and associated data is currently pending.

Conclusions

Based on our methodology and assurance activities described above, the Subject Matter presented in Barrick's 2023 Sustainability Report has been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

It is our opinion that Barrick has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation, and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data presented in the 2023 Sustainability report.

Statement by Apex of Independence, Integrity, and Competence

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including 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 of this assignment. Our assurance team is not involved in any other Barrick projects outside those of the independent assurance scope of work. We conducted this assurance independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest.

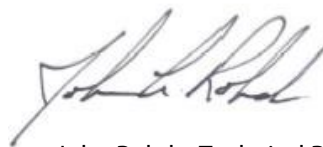
Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, security, safety, health and ethical information, systems, and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of standard methodologies for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports and associated data.

Attestation:



David Reilly, Lead Assurer
ESG Principal Consultant
Apex Companies, LLC



John Rohde, Technical Reviewer
ESG Principal Consultant
Apex Companies, LLC

May 14, 2024

This assurance statement, including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Barrick and is solely for the benefit of Barrick in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this statement to the public or other organizations, but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this statement.

