

Information

IRAN FOREIGN INVESTMENT COMPANY'S SHAREHOLDING IN RÖSSING URANIUM LIMITED

4 November 2010

Rössing Uranium Limited is a major player in the Namibian mining industry and has been in operation for more than 30 years, since 1976.

Rio Tinto is the majority shareholder with 69 per cent shares in Rössing Uranium Limited.

The Namibian Government has a 3 per cent shareholding, and it has the majority (51 per cent) when it comes to voting rights on issues of national interest. The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa owns 10 per cent, while local individual shareholders own a combined 3 per cent shareholding.

The Iranian Foreign Investment Company owns 15 per cent, a stake that was acquired during the set-up of the company in the early 1970s, and still holds the shares.

Rössing's primary product is uranium oxide, extracted from tough granite known as Alaskite. Rössing Uranium is the third-largest mine of its kind in the world, and its customers are represented in all the major markets for nuclear power.

UN Resolution 1929

On 9 June 2010 the United Nations affirmed sanctions against the Government of Iran as a result of the Government's failure or refusal to suspend all its uranium enrichment related and processing activities.

The sanctions through [UN Resolution 1929](#) states that Iran shall not acquire an interest in any commercial activity in another country that involves uranium mining, production or use of nuclear materials and technology. The Resolution is directed to Member States who need to ensure compliance with the various clauses.

Rio Tinto's Chairman, CEO, and other senior executives have recently received multiple emails which claim Rio Tinto is in violation of United Nation sanctions against Iran.

The emails are from members of the 'United Against Nuclear Iran' coalition which aims to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to become a regional super power possessing nuclear weapons.

Rio Tinto's position

On this issue, it is Rio Tinto's position that it believes to be complying with the current United Nations requirements.

Rio Tinto has discussed the new United Nation's Resolution 1929, which prohibits UN member countries from allowing Iran to acquire an interest in a commercial activity

involving uranium mining, with the Governments of Namibia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Also, Rio Tinto has been advised that the UN SCR sanctions do not prohibit the Government of Iran from retaining an existing interest in commercial uranium, provided it does not make any further investment, or gain access to any nuclear technology through its investment or have any uranium product off-take rights. IFIC has not made any further investment in Rössing Uranium Limited since UN Security Council Resolution 1929 was passed, nor does it have access to any nuclear technology through its investment, nor does it have any uranium product off-take rights.

The Government of Iran, which acquired its 15 per cent stake in Rössing in 1975, does not gain access to any nuclear technology through its investment and it has no uranium product off-take rights. It has also not received any dividend payments from Rössing for the past three years as these have been frozen.

Rio Tinto has a strong and long-standing policy of compliance with all applicable economic sanctions laws. Rio Tinto intends to take all necessary steps to remain in compliance with those laws, and that we will continue to work cooperatively with relevant governments to ensure that remains the case.