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Information intended for OXFAM
and signatories to the petition

At a time when the mining companies SOMAÏR and COMINAK are in discussions with a view to the renewal of their mining agreements, I am concerned to take issue against each of the accusations raised by OXFAM.

AREVA, as shareholder in the Nigerien mining companies SOMAÏR and COMINAK, has built a longstanding partnership with Niger, the legitimacy and value of which no one can challenge.

Ideology can not be used to deny the reality of the figures and of the facts.

In 2013, 90% of direct revenue from the mines went to the State of Niger (€ 70 million - 45 billion FCFA) and 5% to AREVA (€ 3.8 million - 2.5 billion FCFA). Since the beginning of the mining activities in Niger, 82 % of all revenues have gone to the Nigerien joint shareholder, compared to 15% to AREVA and 3% to the other shareholders.

The mining activities of COMINAK and today represent more than 5,000 jobs. Each year, the mining companies fund € 6 million of investment in local infrastructure, particularly in health, education and development.

OXFAM can not seriously lead people to believe that two uranium mines could alone provide for the economic needs of a country of over 17 million inhabitants. The idea that uranium could be used as a means to support a whole country is a fantasy.

AREVA's sole objective in the discussions over renewal of the mining agreements is to ensure the economic sustainability of the two mines, in full compliance with the law and in a context of low prices on the uranium market.

AREVA has always assumed its responsibilities in Niger and the group will continue to do so.

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