**Item 3**

**Project Justification**

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Prepared for

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## **Overview**

Cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) demonstrates a critical problem, surrounded by human rights abuses, child labor, and environmental concerns. This project aims to establish the reasonability and necessity of addressing the issue, delving into logical arguments supporting the urgent need for intervention.

## **Problem Statement**

The problem lies in the rampant exploitation of cobalt mining in the DRC. Currently, child labor is prevalent, with miners facing hazardous conditions. The absence of proper regulations and exploitative practices contribute to environmental degradation. The cobalt supply chain is overrun with ethical challenges, posing a severe threat to human rights and the environment.

## **Overall Need**

Addressing the cobalt mining problem in the DRC is imperative for ethical, humanitarian, and environmental reasons. The intended results include eradicating child labor, improving working conditions, and establishing sustainable and ethical mining practices.

## **Target or Beneficiary**

The primary beneficiaries of this problem are the local communities in the DRC, particularly the children engaged in labor. The intended results would be awareness of the problem in the DRC and, hopefully, in the future, eradication of child labor, improved working conditions, and the establishment of sustainable and ethical mining practices.

## **Significance of Project**

### **Potential Societal Impact:**

The impact on society would be monumental, aiming to eliminate child labor, enhance the well-being of mining communities, and foster a more ethical and sustainable mining industry. By dismantling the exploitative practices, the project seeks to empower those not affected to take an active role in aiding the mining communities in the DRC.

### **Potential Technological Impact:**

In Technological terms, this project advocates for sorting alternatives to cobalt, potentially leading to innovations in renewable technologies. It urges industries to explore alternatives and develop technologies that prioritize ethical sourcing, promoting a shift in how minerals are produced for technological advancements.

## **What is New? What is Different? Why is it Important?**

What is new lies in the global awareness and urgency surrounding the ethical sourcing of cobalt? The revelation of exploitative practices in the DRC has sparked a new wave of consciousness among consumers, especially social media users. What is different is that with the rise of social media, especially TikTok, more people worldwide are witnessing the atrocities happening in the DRC. Before. 1st person accounts were not able to be shared instantly around the world. Now with the internet, 1st person accounts can be shared instantly and to a wider audience. It is important because it addresses a long-standing human rights crisis, aligns with evolving ethical standards, and compels industries to reassess their practices.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the cobalt mining problem in the Democratic Republic of COngo demands immediate attention and intervention. By addressing the ethical, societal, and technological facets, this project seeks to bring awareness to exploitative practices, empower local communities, and propel a shift toward responsible and sustainable resource extraction. The significance lies in rectifying the current state of affairs and setting a precedent for ethical practices in the global mining industry.

**References**