

## **D. Risk Factors**

### **Factors Relating to the Company**

*Our financial performance is highly dependent on the performance of our partners under our mining exploration and operating agreements.*

Our participation in joint venture mining exploration projects and mining operations with other experienced mining companies is an integral part of our business strategy. Our partners, co-venturers and other shareholders in these projects generally contribute capital to cover the expenses of the joint venture or provide critical technological, management and organizational expertise. The results of these projects can be highly dependent upon the efforts of our joint venture partners and we rely on them to fulfill their obligations under our agreements. For example, our Yanacocha joint venture with Newmont Mining Corporation, a Delaware corporation, or Newmont Mining, is dependent upon Newmont Peru Limited, Peruvian Branch, or Newmont Peru, to provide management and other expertise to the Yanacocha project. If our counterparts do not carry out their obligations to us or to third parties, or any disputes arise with respect to the parties' respective rights and obligations, the value of our investment in the applicable project could be adversely affected and we could incur significant expense in enforcing our rights or pursuing remedies. There can be no assurance that our current or future partners will fulfill their obligations under our agreements. In addition, we may be unable to exert control over strategic decisions made in respect of such properties. For example, we currently depend on Newmont Peru to conduct operations at Yanacocha and the Conga project, and should Yanacocha be unable to continue with the current development plan at the Conga project, our mining partners in this project may reprioritize and reallocate capital to development alternatives. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Yanacocha" and "Item 4. Information on the Company–Buenaventura–B. Business Overview–Exploration."

*Our financial performance is highly dependent on the prices of gold, silver, copper and other metals.*

Our revenues are derived primarily from the sale of ore concentrates containing gold and silver; the revenues of Yanacocha, in which we have a material equity investment, are derived primarily from the sale of gold and silver; and the revenues of Cerro Verde, in which we have a material equity investment, are derived primarily from copper sales. The prices that we, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde obtain for gold, silver, copper and ore concentrates containing such metals, as applicable, are directly related to world market prices for such metals. Such prices have historically fluctuated widely and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including the overall demand for and worldwide supply of gold, silver, copper and other metals, the availability and price of competing commodities, international economic trends, currency exchange fluctuations, expectations of inflation, actions of commodity markets participants, consumption and demand patterns and political events in major producing countries. We have in the past engaged in hedging activities, such as forward sales and option contracts, to minimize our exposure to fluctuations in the prices of gold, silver and other metals; however, we and our wholly-owned subsidiaries no longer hedge the price at which our gold and silver will be sold. In addition, neither Yanacocha nor Cerro Verde engages in hedging activities. As a result, the prices at which we, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde sell gold, silver, copper and ore concentrates, as applicable, are fully exposed to the effects of changes in prevailing market prices. See "Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and Note 28 to the Financial Statements. For information on gold and silver prices for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2011, see "Item 4. Information on the Company–Buenaventura–B. Business Overview–Sales of Metal Concentrates."

On December 31, 2012, March 31, 2013 and April 24, 2013, the morning fixing price for gold on the London Bullion Market was US\$1,664 per ounce, US\$1,602 per ounce and US\$1,451 per ounce, respectively. On December 31, 2012 and March 31, 2013, the afternoon fixing spot price of silver on the London market, or London Spot, was US\$29.95 per ounce and US\$28.64 per ounce, respectively. On December 31, 2012 and March 31, 2013, the London Metal Exchange Settlement price for copper was US\$7,915, per metric ton and US\$7,582, per metric ton, respectively.

The world market prices of gold, silver and copper have historically fluctuated widely and there is no assurance that the prices for these metals will continue to maintain their current high historical levels. We cannot predict whether metal prices will rise or fall in the future. A decline in the market price of one or more of these metals could adversely impact our revenues, net income and cash flows and adversely affect our ability to meet our financial obligations.

In addition, sustained low gold, silver or copper prices could reduce revenues further through production declines due to cessation of the mining of deposits, or portions of deposits, that have become uneconomic at the then-prevailing market price; reduce or eliminate the profit that we currently expect from reserves; halt or delay the development of new projects; reduce funds available for exploration; and reduce existing reserves by removing ores from reserves that can no longer be economically processed at prevailing prices. Such declines in price and/or reductions in operations could also cause significant volatility in our financial performance and adversely affect the trading prices of our Common Shares and ADSs.

*Economic, mining and other regulatory policies of the Peruvian government, as well as political, regulatory and economic developments in Peru, may have an adverse impact on our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's businesses.*

Our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's activities in Peru require us to obtain mining concessions or provisional permits for exploration and processing concessions for the treatment of mining ores from the Peruvian Ministry of Energy and Mines, or MEM. Under Peru's current legal and regulatory regime, these mining and processing rights are maintained by meeting a minimum annual level of production or investment and by the annual payment of a concession fee. A fine is payable for the years in which minimum production or investment requirements are not met. Although we are, and Yanacocha and Cerro Verde have informed us that they are, current in the payment of all amounts due in respect of mining and processing concessions, failure to pay such concession fees, processing fees or related fines for two consecutive years could result in the loss of one or more mining rights and processing concessions, as the case may be.

Mining companies are also required to pay the Peruvian government mining royalties and/or mining taxes. See "Item 4. Information on the Company-Buenaventura-B. Business Overview-Regulatory Framework-Mining Royalties and Taxes." There can be no assurance that the Peruvian government will not impose additional mining royalties or taxes in the future or that such mining royalties or taxes will not have an adverse effect on our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's results of operations or financial condition. Future regulatory changes, changes in the interpretation of existing regulations or stricter enforcement of such regulations, including changes to our concession agreements, may increase our compliance costs and could potentially require us to alter our operations. We cannot assure you that future regulatory changes will not adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

*Environmental and other laws and regulations may increase our costs of doing business, restrict our operations or result in operational delays.*

Our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's exploration, mining and milling activities, as well our and Yanacocha's smelting and refining activities, are subject to a number of Peruvian laws and regulations, including environmental laws and regulations.

Additional matters subject to regulation include, but are not limited to, concession fees, transportation, production, water use and discharges, power use and generation, use and storage of explosives, surface rights, housing and other facilities for workers, reclamation, taxation, labor standards, mine safety and occupational health.

We anticipate additional laws and regulations will be enacted over time with respect to environmental matters. The development of more stringent environmental protection programs in Peru could impose constraints and additional costs on our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's operations and require us, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde to make significant capital expenditures in the future. Although we believe that we are substantially in compliance, and Yanacocha and Cerro Verde have advised us that they are substantially in compliance, with all applicable environmental regulations, there can be no assurance that future legislative or regulatory developments will not have an adverse effect on our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's business or results of operations. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Buenaventura–B. Business Overview–Regulatory Framework–Environmental Matters" and "–Permits" and "Item 4. Information on the Company–Yanacocha–B. Business Overview–Regulation, Permit and Environmental Matters."

Our and Yanacocha's ability to successfully obtain key permits and approvals to explore for, develop and successfully operate mines will likely depend on our and Yanacocha's ability to do so in a manner that is consistent with the creation of social and economic benefits in the surrounding communities. Our and Yanacocha's ability to obtain permits and approvals and to successfully operate in particular communities or to obtain financing may be adversely impacted by real or perceived detrimental events associated with our or Yanacocha's activities or those of other mining companies affecting the environment, human health and safety or the surrounding communities. Delays in obtaining or failure to obtain government permits and approvals may adversely affect our and Yanacocha's operations, including our and Yanacocha's ability to explore or develop properties, commence production or continue operations.

*Our metals exploration efforts are highly speculative in nature and may not be successful.*

Precious metals exploration, particularly gold exploration, is highly speculative in nature, involves many risks and frequently is unsuccessful. There can be no assurance that our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's metals exploration efforts will be successful. Once mineralization is discovered, it may take a number of years from the initial phases of drilling before production is possible, during which time the economic feasibility of production may change. Substantial expenditures are required to establish proven and probable ore reserves through drilling, to determine metallurgical processes to extract the metals from the ore and, in the case of new properties, to construct mining and processing facilities. As a result of these uncertainties, no assurance can be given that our or Yanacocha's exploration programs will result in the expansion or replacement of current production with new proven and probable ore reserves.

Advanced exploration projects have no operating history upon which to base estimates of proven and probable ore reserves and estimates of future cash operating costs. Such estimates are, to a large extent, based upon the interpretation of geologic data obtained from drill holes and other sampling techniques, and feasibility studies which derive estimates of cash operating costs based upon anticipated tonnage and grades of ore to be mined and processed, the configuration of the ore body, expected recovery rates of the mineral from the ore, comparable facility and equipment operating costs, anticipated climatic conditions and other factors. As a result, it is possible that actual cash operating costs and economic returns based upon proven and probable ore reserves may differ significantly from those originally estimated. Moreover, significant decreases in actual over expected prices may mean reserves, once found, will be uneconomical to produce. It is not unusual in new mining operations to experience unexpected problems during the start-up phase. See "Item 4. Information on the Company-Buenaventura-D. Property, Plants and Equipment -Our Properties-Reserves," "-Yanacocha-D. Property, Plants and Equipment-Yanacocha's Properties-Reserves" and "Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects-Cerro Verde-A. Operating Results" for the price per ounce used by us, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde, respectively, to calculate our respective proven and probable reserves.

*Increased operating costs could affect our profitability.*

Costs at any particular mining location frequently are subject to variation due to a number of factors, such as changing ore grade, changing metallurgy and revisions to mine plans in response to the physical shape and location of the ore body. In addition, costs are affected by the price of commodities, such as fuel and electricity, as well as by the price of labor. Commodity costs are at times subject to volatile price movements, including increases that could make production at certain operations less profitable. Reported costs may be affected by changes in accounting standards. A material increase in costs at any significant location could have a significant effect on our profitability.

*Our business is capital-intensive and we may not be able to finance necessary capital expenditures required to execute our business plans.*

Precious metals exploration requires substantial capital expenditures for the exploration, extraction, production and processing stages and for machinery, equipment and experienced personnel. Our estimates of the capital required for our projects may be preliminary or based on assumptions we have made about the mineral deposits, equipment, labor, permits and other factors required to complete our projects. If any of these estimates or assumptions change, the actual timing and amount of capital required may vary significantly from our current anticipated costs. In addition, we may require additional funds in the event of unforeseen delays, cost overruns, design changes or other unanticipated expenses. We may also incur debt in future periods or reduce our holdings of cash and cash equivalents in connection with funding future acquisitions, existing operations, capital expenditures or in pursuing other business opportunities. Our ability to meet our payment obligations will depend on our future financial performance, which will be affected by financial, business, economic and other factors, many of which we are unable to control. There can be no assurance that we or Yanacocha will generate sufficient cash flow and/or that we will have access to sufficient external sources of funds in the form of outside investment or loans to continue exploration activities at the same or higher levels than in the past or that we will be able to obtain additional financing, if necessary, on a timely basis and on commercially acceptable terms.

*Estimates of proven and probable reserves are subject to uncertainties and the volume and grade of ore actually recovered may vary from our estimates.*

The proven and probable ore reserve figures presented in this Annual Report are our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's estimates, and there can be no assurance that the estimated levels of recovery of gold, silver, copper and certain other metals will be realized. Such estimates depend on geological interpretation and statistical inferences or assumptions drawn from drilling and sampling analysis, which may prove to be materially inaccurate. Actual mineralization or formations may be different from those predicted. As a result, reserve estimates may require revision based on further exploration development activity or actual production experience, which could materially and adversely affect such estimates. No assurance can be given that our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's mineral resources constitute or will be converted into reserves. Market price fluctuations of gold, silver and other metals, as well as increased production costs or reduced recovery rates, may render proven and probable ore reserves containing relatively lower grades of mineralization uneconomic to exploit and may ultimately result in a restatement of proven and probable ore reserves. Moreover, short-term operating factors relating to the reserves, such as the processing of different types of ore or ore grades, could adversely affect our or Yanacocha's profitability in any particular accounting period. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Buenaventura–D. Property, Plants and Equipment–Our Properties–Reserves" and "Item 4. Information on the Company–D. Property, Plants and Equipment–Yanacocha–Yanacocha's Properties–Reserves."

*We and Yanacocha may be unable to replace reserves as they become depleted by production.*

As we and Yanacocha produce gold, silver, zinc and other metals, we and Yanacocha deplete our respective ore reserves for such metals. To maintain production levels, we and Yanacocha must replace depleted reserves by exploiting known ore bodies and locating new deposits. Exploration for gold, silver and the other metals produced is highly speculative in nature. Our and Yanacocha's exploration projects involve significant risks and are often unsuccessful. Once a site is discovered with mineralization, we and Yanacocha may require several years between initial drilling and mineral production, and the economic feasibility of production may change during such period. Substantial expenditures are required to establish proven and probable reserves and to construct mining and processing facilities. Based on the current recovery rate and estimated gold production levels in 2012, Yanacocha's proven and probable reserves as of December 31, 2012 will be depleted by 2015 unless Yanacocha continues to add to its reserves. As a result, there can be no assurance that current or future exploration projects will be successful and there is a risk that our depletion of reserves will not be offset by new discoveries. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Buenaventura–B. Business Overview–Exploration," "–Yanacocha–B. Business Overview–Exploration," "–D. Property, Plants and Equipment–Reserves," "–Yanacocha's Properties–Reserves" and "Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects–Cerro Verde–A. Operating Results" for a summary of our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's estimated proven and probable reserves as of December 31, 2012.

*Our operations are subject to risks, many of which are not insurable.*

The business of mining, smelting and refining gold, silver, copper and other metals is generally subject to a number of risks and hazards, including industrial accidents, labor disputes, unavailability of materials and equipment, unusual or unexpected geological conditions, changes in the regulatory environment, environmental hazards and weather and other natural phenomena such as earthquakes, most of which are beyond our control. Such occurrences could result in damage to, or destruction of, mining properties or production facilities, personal injury or death, environmental damage, delays in mining, monetary losses and possible legal liability. We, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde each maintain insurance against risks that are typical in the mining industry in Peru and in amounts that we and Yanacocha believe to be adequate but which may not provide adequate coverage in certain circumstances. No assurance can be given that such insurance will continue to be available at economically feasible premiums or at all. Insurance against certain risks (including certain liabilities for environmental pollution or other hazards as a result of exploration and production) is not generally available to us or Yanacocha or to other companies within the industry.

*Increases in equipment costs, energy costs and other production costs, disruptions in energy supply and shortages in equipment and skilled labor may adversely affect our results of operations.*

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in mining activity worldwide in response to increased demand and significant increases in prices of natural resources. The opening of new mines and expansion of existing mines has led to increased demand for, and increased costs and shortages of, equipment, supplies and experienced personnel. These cost increases have significantly increased overall operating and capital budgets of companies like ours, and continuing shortages could affect the timing and feasibility of expansion projects.

Energy represents a significant portion of our production costs. Our principal energy sources are electricity, purchased petroleum products, natural gas and coal. An inability to procure sufficient energy at reasonable prices or disruptions in energy supply could adversely affect our profits, cash flow and growth opportunities. Our production costs are also affected by the prices of commodities we consume or use in our operations, such as sulfuric acid, grinding media, steel, reagents, liners, explosives and diluents. The prices of such commodities are influenced by supply and demand trends affecting the mining industry in general and other factors outside our control and such prices are at times subject to volatile movements. Increases in the cost of these commodities or disruptions in energy supply could make our operations less profitable, even in an environment of relatively high copper prices. Increases in the costs of commodities that we consume or use may also significantly affect the capital costs of new projects.

*We may be adversely affected by labor disputes.*

Our ability to achieve our goals and objectives is dependent, in part, on maintaining good relations with our employees. A prolonged labor disruption at any of our material properties could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations. We, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde have all experienced strikes or other labor-related work stoppages in the past. Most recently, we experienced a 15-day work stoppage at our Orcopampa mine due to strikes in May and June and a further 9-day work stoppage at Orcopampa due to strikes in October 2012. As of December 31, 2012, unions represented approximately 54 percent of our permanent employees. Although we consider our relations with our employees to be positive, there can be no assurance that we will not experience strikes or other labor-related work stoppages that could have a material adverse effect on our operations and/or operating results in the future.

*Our and Yanacocha's operations are subject to political and social risks.*

Our and Yanacocha's exploration and production activities are potentially subject to political and social risks. Over the past several years, we and Yanacocha have been the target of local political protests. In recent years, certain areas in the south and northern highlands of Peru with significant mining developments have experienced strikes and protests related to the environmental impact of mining activities. Such strikes and protests have resulted in commercial disruptions and a climate of uncertainty with respect to future mining projects. There can be no assurance that these incidents will not continue or that similar incidents will not occur in areas in which we and Yanacocha operate, or that the continuation or intensification of community protests will not adversely affect our or Yanacocha's exploration and production activities or our or Yanacocha's results of operations or financial condition.

In addition, during 2011, Peru enacted Law No. 29785, the Law of Prior Consultation for Indigenous and Native Communities (*Ley del Derecho a la Consulta Previa a los Pueblos Indigenas y Originarios, Reconocido en el Convenio 169 de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo*). Implementing regulations thereunder were approved by Supreme Decree No. 001-2012-MC, which became effective on April 2, 2012. This law establishes a prior consultation procedure that the Peruvian government must undertake in concert with local indigenous communities whose collective rights may be directly affected by new legislative or administrative measures, including the granting of new mining concessions. The implementing regulations specify the form and circumstances of the required consultation and the manner in which agreements will be formalized, and cap the consultation process at 120 calendar days. Under the law, the Peruvian governmental body responsible for issuing or approving the administrative measure or decree in question, rather than the affected local indigenous community, retains the right to approve or reject the relevant legislative or administrative matter following such consultation. However, to the extent that any future projects operated by us, Yanacocha or Cerro Verde require legislative or administrative measures that impact local indigenous communities, the required prior consultation procedure may result in delays, additional expenses or failure to obtain approval for such new project.

*We could face geotechnical challenges, which could adversely impact our production and profitability.*

No assurances can be given that unanticipated adverse geotechnical and hydrological conditions, such as landslides and pit wall failures, will not occur in the future or that such events will be detected in advance. Geotechnical instabilities can be difficult to predict and are often affected by risks and hazards outside of our control, such as severe weather and considerable rainfall, which may lead to periodic floods, mudslides, wall instability and seismic activity, which may result in slippage of material.

Geotechnical failures could result in limited or restricted access to mine sites, suspension of operations, government investigations, increased monitoring costs, remediation costs, loss of ore and other impacts, which could cause one or more of our projects to be less profitable than currently anticipated and could result in a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position.

*We rely on contractors to conduct a significant portion of our operations and mine development projects.*

A significant portion of our operations and mine development projects are currently conducted by contractors. As a result, our operations are subject to a number of risks, some of which are outside our control, including:

- failure of a contractor to perform under its agreement;
- interruption of operations or increased costs in the event that a contractor ceases its business due to insolvency or other unforeseen events;
- failure of a contractor to comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, to the extent it is responsible for such compliance; and
- problems of a contractor with managing its workforce, labor unrest or other employment issues.

In addition, we may incur liability to third parties as a result of the actions of our contractors. The occurrence of one or more of these risks could adversely affect our results of operations and financial position.

*We are not, and do not intend to become, regulated as an investment company under the U.S. Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act, and if we were deemed an “investment company” under the Investment Company Act, applicable restrictions could make it impractical for us to operate as contemplated.*

As of December 31, 2012, we owned a 43.65 percent partnership interest in Yanacocha and a 19.58 percent equity interest in Cerro Verde. These interests may constitute “investment securities” for purposes of the Investment Company Act.

Under the Investment Company Act, an investment company is defined in relevant part to include (i) any company that is or holds itself out as being engaged primarily, or proposes to engage primarily, in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities and (ii) any company that owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40 percent of such company's total assets (exclusive of certain items) on an unconsolidated basis. Issuers that are investment companies within the meaning of the Investment Company Act, and which do not qualify for an exemption from the provisions of such act, are required to register with the SEC and are subject to substantial regulations with respect to capital structure, operations, transactions with affiliates and other matters. If we were deemed to be an investment company and did not qualify for an exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act, we would be required to register with the SEC and would be subject to such regulations, which would be unduly burdensome and costly for us and possibly adversely impact us.

We received an order from the SEC on April 19, 1996 declaring us to be primarily engaged in a business other than that of an investment company and, therefore, not an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act. We intend to conduct our operations and maintain our investments in a manner, and will take appropriate actions as necessary, to ensure we will not be deemed to be an investment company in the future. The SEC, however, upon its motion or upon application, may find that the circumstances that gave rise to the issuance of the order no longer exist, and as a result may revoke such order. There can be no assurance that such order will not be revoked.

*Our or Yanacocha's inability to maintain positive relationships with the communities in which we operate may affect our or Yanacocha's reputation and financial condition.*

Our and Yanacocha's relationships with the communities in which we operate are critical to ensuring the future success of our existing operations and the construction and development of our projects. Adverse publicity generated by non-governmental organizations or local communities related to extractive industries generally, or our or Yanacocha's operations specifically, could have an adverse effect on our reputations or financial condition and may impact our relationships with the communities in which we operate. In addition, following the enactment of Law No. 29785, the Law of Prior Consultation for Indigenous and Native Communities in 2011, the Peruvian government must undertake a prior consultation procedure in concert with local indigenous communities whose collective rights may be directly affected by new legislative or administrative measures, including the granting of new mining concessions. Implementing regulations under Law No. 29785 were approved by Supreme Decree No. 001-2012-MC, which became effective on April 2, 2012. The implementing regulations specify the form and circumstances of the required consultation and the manner in which agreements will be formalized, and cap the consultation process at 120 calendar days. Our and Yanacocha's national reputation for maintaining positive relationships with the communities in which we operate may affect the outcome of any such prior consultation process involving approvals that we or Yanacocha seek for new projects. While we and Yanacocha are committed to operating in a socially responsible manner, there is no guarantee that our efforts in this regard will mitigate this potential risk. We and Yanacocha have implemented extensive community relations and security and safety initiatives to anticipate and manage social issues that may arise at our operations. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—Yanacocha—B. Business Overview—Social Development."

In November 2011, construction activities at the Conga project were suspended at the request of Peru's central government following increasing protests in Cajamarca by anti-mining activists led by the regional president. At the request of the Peruvian central government, the environmental impact assessment, or EIA, prepared in connection with the project, which was previously approved by the central government in October 2010, was reviewed by independent experts in an effort to resolve allegations surrounding the environmental viability of the Conga project. Construction was suspended for the duration of the review, except for sediment control work conducted in the project area. The report was released in April 2012. As of the date of this Annual Report, Yanacocha is evaluating the report's findings. Progress continues on engineering and procurement work.



The Conga project is located within close proximity of existing operations at Yanacocha. Due to local political and community protests, construction and development activities at the Conga project were largely suspended in November 2011. The results of the Peruvian central government-initiated EIA independent review, announced on April 20, 2012, confirmed that Yanacocha's initial EIA met Peruvian and international standards. The review made recommendations to provide additional water capacity and social funds, which Yanacocha has largely accepted. Yanacocha announced its decision to move the project forward on a "water first" basis on June 22, 2012, which consists of building the originally planned community water reservoirs prior to resuming any mine development. As a result, during 2013, the project will be focused on building water reservoirs, completing the remaining engineering activities, and accepting delivery of the main equipment purchases. Should Yanacocha be unable to continue with the current development plan at Conga, we or our mining partners in this project may reprioritize and reallocate capital to development alternatives, which may result in a potential accounting impairment. See "Item 4. Information on the Company-Yanacocha-B. Business Overview-Exploration."

#### **Factors Relating to Peru**

*Peruvian political conditions may have an adverse impact on our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's business.*

All of our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's operations are conducted in Peru. Accordingly, our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's business, financial condition or results of operations could be affected by changes in economic or other policies of the Peruvian government or other political, regulatory or economic developments in Peru.

During the past several decades, Peru has had a history of political instability that has included military coups and a succession of regimes with differing policies and programs. Past governments have frequently played an interventionist role in the nation's economy and social structure. Among other things, past governments have imposed controls on prices, exchange rates and local and foreign investment as well as limitations on imports, restricted the ability of companies to dismiss employees, expropriated private sector assets (including mining companies) and prohibited the remittance of profits to foreign investors.

In the second quarter of 2011, Presidential and Congressional elections resulted in a change in government in Peru. During the third quarter of 2011, the new government enacted four new tax laws. During 2012, the new administration, under President Ollanta Humala, largely supported mining as a driver for the continued growth and future development of Peru. However, we are unable to predict whether the central government will continue to take similar positions in the future. Furthermore, the regional government in Cajamarca actively opposed the Conga project in 2012 and continues to reject the viability of its development. We cannot predict the future positions of either the central government or regional governments on foreign investment, mining concessions, land tenure or other regulation. Any change in government positions or laws on these issues could adversely affect the assets and operations of us, Yanacocha or Conga, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial position. Regulatory changes may include increased labor regulations, environmental and other regulatory requirements, and additional taxes and royalties, and we may experience future protests, community demands and road blockages. Additionally, any inability to continue to develop the Conga project or operate at Yanacocha could have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations and financial position if Yanacocha is not able to replace its expected production.

*Inflation, reduced economic growth and fluctuations in the Nuevo Sol exchange rate may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.*

Over the past several decades, Peru has experienced periods of high inflation, slow or negative economic growth and substantial currency devaluation. The inflation rate in Peru, as measured by the *Indice de Precios al Consumidor*, or IPC, and published by Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática, or INEI, has fallen from a high of 7,649.7 percent in 1990 to 2.6 percent in 2012. The Peruvian currency has been devalued numerous times during the last 20 years. The devaluation rate has decreased from a high of 4,019.3 percent in 1990 to a revaluation of 5.5 percent in 2012. Our revenues and operating expenses are primarily denominated in U.S. Dollars. If inflation in Peru were to increase without a corresponding devaluation of the Nuevo Sol relative to the U.S. Dollar, our financial position and results of operations, and the market price of our Common Shares and ADSs, could be affected. Although the Peruvian government's stabilization plan has significantly reduced inflation, and the Peruvian economy has experienced strong growth in recent years, there can be no assurance that inflation will not increase from its current level or that such growth will continue in the future at similar rates or at all.

Among the economic circumstances that could lead to a devaluation would be the decline of Peruvian foreign reserves to inadequate levels. Peru's foreign reserves at December 31, 2012 were US\$64.0 billion as compared to US\$48.8 billion at December 31, 2011. Although actual foreign reserves must be maintained at levels that will allow the succeeding government the ability to manage the Peruvian economy and to assure monetary stability in the near future, there can be no assurance that Peru will be able to maintain adequate foreign reserves to meet its foreign currency denominated obligations, or that Peru will not devalue its currency should its foreign reserves decline. See "Item 3. Key Information—A. Selected Financial Data—Exchange Rates."

Peru's current account deficit is being funded partially by foreign direct investment. There can be no assurance that foreign direct investment will continue at current levels, particularly if adverse political or economic developments in Peru arise, a development that may also contribute to devaluation pressure.

*Deterioration in economic and market conditions in Latin America, Peru and other emerging market countries could affect the prices of our Common Shares and American Depositary Receipts.*

The market for securities issued by Peruvian companies is influenced by economic and market conditions in Peru and, to varying degrees, market conditions in other Latin American and emerging market countries. Within Peru, news of Ollanta Humala's June 5, 2011 victory in the presidential election was followed by a 12 percent decline in both the Lima stock exchange (*Bolsa de Valores de Lima*, or BVL) and BVL's mining sub-index the following day. The price of our American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs, fell 15 percent. A number of banking analysts lowered their recommendations on Peruvian mining companies following the election as a result of concerns of higher taxes and delays in mining projects.

Although economic conditions are different in each country, the reaction of investors to developments in one country is likely to cause the capital markets in other countries to fluctuate. For example, political and economic events, such as the crises in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina, have influenced investors' perceptions of risk with regard to Peru. The negative investor reaction to developments in our neighboring countries may adversely affect the market for securities issued by countries in the region, cause foreign investors to decrease the flow of capital into Latin America and introduce uncertainty about plans for further integration of regional economies.

*Peruvian exchange and investment control policies could affect dividends paid to holders of Common Shares and ADRs.*

Peruvian law currently imposes no restrictions on the ability of companies operating in Peru to transfer foreign currency from Peru to other countries, to convert Peruvian currency into foreign currency or foreign currency into Peruvian currency or to remit dividends abroad, or on the ability of foreign investors to liquidate their investment and repatriate their capital. Prior to 1991, Peru had restrictive exchange controls and exchange rates. During the latter part of the 1980s, exchange restrictions prevented payment of dividends to our shareholders in the United States in U.S. Dollars. Accordingly, should such or similar controls be instituted, dividends paid to holders of Common Shares and, consequently, holders of ADRs, could be affected. There can be no assurance that the Peruvian government will continue to permit such transfers, remittances or conversion without restriction. See “Item 10. Additional Information–D. Exchange Controls.”

*U.S. securities laws do not require us to disclose as much information to investors as a U.S. issuer is required to disclose, and you may receive less information about us than you might otherwise receive from a comparable U.S. company.*

The corporate disclosure requirements applicable to us may not be equivalent to the requirements applicable to a U.S. company and, as a result, you may receive less information about us than you might otherwise receive in connection with a comparable U.S. company. We are subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, that apply to “foreign private issuers.” The periodic disclosure required of foreign private issuers under the Exchange Act is more limited than the periodic disclosure required of U.S. issuers.

*Holders of our securities may find it difficult to enforce judgments against us outside of Peru.*

We are organized under the laws of Peru. A significant majority of our directors and officers reside outside the United States (principally in Peru). All or a substantial portion of our assets or the assets of such persons are located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for investors to effect service of process within the United States upon us or upon such persons or to enforce against them in federal or state courts in the United States judgments predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States. We have been advised by our Peruvian counsel that there is uncertainty as to the enforceability, in original actions in Peruvian courts, of liabilities predicated solely under the United States federal securities laws and as to the enforceability in Peruvian courts of judgments of United States courts obtained in actions predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the United States federal securities laws.

***Factors Relating to the Common Shares and ADSs***

*The concentration of our capital stock ownership with the Benavides Family will limit our stockholders’ ability to influence corporate matters.*

The aggregate percentage of the economic interest of our outstanding share capital controlled by Alberto Benavides de la Quintana, our former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and held by certain members of his immediate and extended family and their spouses, or the Benavides Family, as of March 31, 2013 was 27.22 percent (including outstanding Common Shares and Investment Shares). Because of the significant ownership interest the Benavides Family holds in common shares and because the Investment Shares held by others do not have voting rights, the Benavides Family has the power to elect a significant number of the outstanding directors and has significant influence over the outcome of substantially all matters to be decided by a vote of shareholders.

In addition, under the terms of the Amended and Restated Deposit Agreement dated May 3, 2002, as further amended and restated as of November 12, 2003, among us, The Bank of New York Mellon (formerly The Bank of New York), as depositary, or the Depositary, and the owners and beneficial owners of ADSs, or the Amended and Restated Deposit Agreement, relating to our ADSs, if holders of ADSs do not provide the Depositary with timely instructions for the voting of Common Shares represented by such ADRs, the Depositary will be deemed to be instructed to give a person designated by us, which will likely be Alberto Benavides de la Quintana, a discretionary proxy to vote such shares, unless we inform the Depositary that we do not wish such proxy to be given.

*Shareholders' rights under Peruvian law may be fewer and less well-defined than shareholders' rights in other countries, including the United States.*

Our shareholders have fewer and less well-defined rights under applicable Peruvian law than they might have as shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a jurisdiction of the United States or certain other countries. For example, Peruvian law does not provide for proceedings by which non-controlling shareholders may file class action lawsuits or shareholder derivative actions against controlling shareholders or officers and directors, and the procedural requirements to file shareholder actions in Peru differ from those of the United States. As a result, holders of our shares may face difficulty enforcing their rights.

*A sale of a substantial number of shares by the Benavides Family could have an adverse impact on the price of our Common Shares and ADSs.*

Sales of a substantial number of our shares by members of the Benavides Family, or a market perception of the intention of members of the Benavides Family to sell a substantial number of shares, could materially and adversely affect prevailing market prices for the Common Shares and ADSs. There is no contractual restriction on the disposition of shares of our share capital by our shareholders, including the Benavides Family. Furthermore, under the *Ley General de Sociedades Peruana*, or Peruvian Companies Law, any restriction on the free sale of shares in a *sociedad anónima abierta* (open stock company) such as we are, is null and void.

*Holders of ADSs may be unable to exercise preemptive rights and accretion rights available to the Common Shares underlying the ADSs.*

Holders of the ADSs are, under Peruvian law, entitled to exercise preemptive rights and accretion rights on the Common Shares underlying the ADSs in the event of any future capital increase by us unless (x) the increase is approved, expressly stating that the shareholders have no preemptive rights to subscribe and pay for the Shares to be issued in such increase, by holders of Common Shares holding at least 40 percent of the Common Shares at a properly called meeting with a proper quorum and (y) the increase is not designed to improve directly or indirectly the shareholding of any shareholder. However, United States holders of ADSs may not be able to exercise through the Depositary for the ADSs the preemptive rights and accretion rights for Common Shares underlying their ADSs unless a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, is effective with respect to such rights or an exemption from the registration requirement thereunder is available. Any such rights offering would have a dilutive effect upon shareholders who are unable or unwilling to exercise their rights. We intend to evaluate, at the time of any rights offering, the costs and potential liabilities associated with any registration statement as well as the associated benefits of enabling the holders of ADSs to exercise such rights and will then make a decision as to whether to file such a registration statement. Therefore, no assurance can be given that we will file any such registration statement. To the extent that holders of ADSs are unable to exercise such rights because a registration statement has not been filed and no exemption from such registration statement under the Securities Act is available, the Depositary will, to the extent practicable, sell such holders' preemptive rights or accretion rights and distribute the net proceeds thereof, if any, to the holders of ADSs, and such holders' equity interest in us will be diluted proportionately. The Depositary has discretion to make rights available to holders of ADSs or to dispose of such rights and to make any net proceeds available to such holders. If, by the terms of any rights offering or for any other reason, the Depositary is not able to make such rights or such net proceeds available to any holder of ADSs, the Depositary may allow the rights to lapse.