

D. Risk Factors

Factors Relating to the Company

Our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's financial performance is highly dependent on our partners under our mining exploration agreements.

An integral part of our operations is the participation in mining exploration projects with experienced mining companies. Such projects benefit us by providing a source of outside funds for exploration of mining rights, giving us access to the holdings of outside parties without the risks and costs of outright acquisition. They also enable us to expand the scope of knowledge and experience of our senior management, geologists and engineers through increased contact with their counterparts from other organizations. We can be highly dependent upon our partners, co-venturers or other shareholders in a joint mining exploration project carrying out their obligations under the applicable joint mining exploration agreement or mining operating agreement. Such partners, co-venturers and other shareholders in a joint mining exploration venture may contribute capital to cover the expenses of the joint venture project or provide critical technological expertise and/or management and organizational expertise. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Yanacocha–Business Overview" for a description of how we and Newmont Mining Corporation, a Delaware corporation, or Newmont Mining, have joined together to participate in Yanacocha and how Yanacocha is dependent upon Newmont Peru Limited, Peruvian Branch, or Newmont Peru, to provide management and other expertise to the Yanacocha project. If, however, a partner, a co-venturer or in certain cases another shareholder does not carry out its obligations under the applicable joint venture agreement, joint mining operating agreement, by-laws or shareholders agreement, the value of our investment in the joint mining exploration 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 such agreements. See "Item 4. Information on the Company–Yanacocha" and "Item 4. Information on the Company–The Company–Business Overview–Exploration."

Our investments in international operations are subject to political, economic, social and geographic risks of doing business in foreign countries.

Foreign operations are subject to certain risks inherent in conducting business abroad, including, among others, exposure to foreign currency fluctuations, devaluations or supply restrictions, exchange control regulations, government policies, price and wage controls, taxation, intervention, social instability and other political, economic or diplomatic developments beyond our control. There can be no assurance that our foreign exploration activities will not be adversely affected in the future.

Our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's financial performance is highly dependent on the prices of gold, silver, copper and other metals.

Because our revenues are derived primarily from the sale of ore concentrates containing gold and silver, Yanacocha's revenues are derived primarily from the sale of gold and silver and Cerro Verde's revenues are derived primarily from copper sales, the prices we, Yanacocha and Cerro Verde obtain for gold, silver, copper and ore concentrates containing such metals, and our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's earnings, 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. Due to actions taken in 2007 and early 2008 to release our gold hedge book from specified fixed prices, we are now completely unhedged as to the price at which our gold and silver will be sold. As a result, we are fully exposed to the effects of changes in prevailing market prices of gold and silver. See "Risk Factors—Factors Relating to the Company—Our base metal hedging strategies may not be successful, and any of our unhedged metal prices will continue to be subject to market fluctuations," "Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and Note 29 to the Financial Statements. For information on gold and silver prices for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2010, see "Item 4. Information on the Company—The Company—Business Overview—Sales of Metal Concentrates." On December 31, 2010 and April 28, 2011, the morning fixing price for gold on the London Bullion Market was US\$1,410.25 per ounce and US\$1,531 per ounce, respectively. On December 31, 2010 and April 28, 2011, the afternoon fixing spot price of silver on the London market, or London Spot, was US\$30.63 per ounce and US\$48.70 per ounce, respectively. On December 31, 2010 and April 28, 2011, the London Metal Exchange Settlement price for copper was US\$9,739.50 per metric ton and US\$9,370.50 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 repay our debt and meet our other 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 business.

Our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's activities in Peru depend on mining concessions for exploration, which we refer to as mining concessions, being obtained from the Peruvian Ministry of Energy and Mines, or MEM, in our case, and through the assignment of concessions granted to a related entity by the Peruvian government, in the case of Yanacocha. In addition, our and Yanacocha's activities in Peru depend on provisional permits, obtained from the MEM, for exploration rights of the area of the claim, which we refer to as provisional permits, and together with mining concessions, referred to as mining rights, and/or processing concessions, obtained from the MEM, for treatment of mining ores, or processing concessions, as well as compliance by us and Yanacocha with certain agreements entered into with the Peruvian government. Under Peru's current legal and regulatory regime, our mining rights have an indefinite term and Yanacocha's assigned mining rights have a term of 20 years, contingent upon payment of the annual concession fee for each mining right, with an option to renew for an additional term of 20 years. The mining 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. In addition if, in any year, the concession fee is not paid, payment may be made the following year within the term provided for making such payment. Any payment made will be applied to the prior year if such prior year payment was not paid. Failure to pay such concession fees or fines for two consecutive years could result in the loss of one or more of the mining rights. However, mining and processing concessions will not lapse if the administrative authority failed to issue a resolution declaring the termination of the concession within the first five years following the date on which such payment failure occurred. Our and Yanacocha's processing concessions enjoy the same duration and tenure as the mining rights, subject to payment of a fee based on nominal capacity for the processing plant. Failure to pay such processing fees or fines for two consecutive years could result in the loss of the processing concessions. We are, and Yanacocha has informed us that Yanacocha is, current in the payment of all amounts due in respect to its mining and processing concessions.

On June 24, 2004, the Peruvian Congress approved Law No. 28258 - Mining Royalties Law. This law established a mining royalty that owners of mining concessions must pay to the Peruvian government for the exploitation of metallic and non-metallic resources. The mining royalties are calculated on a sliding scale with rates ranging from 1 to 3 percent over the value of mineral concentrates based on international market prices. As provided by Law No. 28969, effective since January 26, 2007, government tax agencies are responsible for the collection of mining royalties. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—The Company—Business Overview—Regulatory Framework—Mining Royalties." We made our first payment of the mining royalty pursuant to Law No. 28258 in 2004. Yanacocha and Cerro Verde were exempt from this payment pursuant to their Mining Law Stabilization Agreements under the General Mining Law with the Peruvian government. There can be no assurance that the Peruvian government will not impose additional mining royalties on us, Yanacocha or Cerro Verde in the future or that such mining royalties will not have an adverse effect on our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's results of operations or financial condition.

In December 2008, Cerro Verde was notified by Peruvian tax authorities of their intent to assess mining royalties related to minerals processed by the Cerro Verde concentrator. In August 2009, Cerro Verde received a formal assessment in the amount of approximately US\$34 million in connection with its alleged obligations for mining royalties and fines for the period from October 2006 to December 2007. In April 2010, SUNAT issued a ruling denying Cerro Verde's protest of the assessment. In May 2010, Cerro Verde appealed this decision to the Peruvian Tax Court (*Tribunal Fiscal*). Cerro Verde has also been assessed approximately US\$41 million in mining royalties and penalties for 2008. In February 2011, *Superintendencia Nacional de Administración Tributaria*, or SUNAT, issued a ruling denying Cerro Verde's protest of the 2008 assessment, and Cerro Verde appealed this decision to the Peruvian Tax Court. Cerro Verde has also received a request for information regarding mining royalties for 2009. SUNAT may continue to assess mining royalties annually until the Peruvian Tax Court resolves this matter. Cerro Verde is challenging these royalties because its stability agreement with the Peruvian government exempts from royalties all minerals extracted from its mining concession, irrespective of the method used for processing those minerals. If Cerro Verde is ultimately responsible for payment of these royalties, it will also be liable for interest, which accrues at rates ranging from 7 to 18 percent based on the year accrued and the currency in which such amounts would be payable. As of December 31, 2010, the aggregate amount of royalties with interest assessed between October 2006 and December 2007 to which Cerro Verde may be subject approximated US\$57 million, and the aggregate assessment with interest for 2008 approximated US\$61 million. These outstanding amounts will continue to accrue interest at varying interest rates.

In addition, during 2006 Peruvian mining companies, represented by the Sociedad Nacional de Minería, Petróleo y Energía, agreed to a mining payment equivalent to 3.75 percent of income after taxes. The payment was negotiated with the Peruvian government and is intended to support government efforts to alleviate poverty. On December 21, 2006, the Peruvian government issued Supreme Decree No. 071-2006-EM, which approved the form of agreement to be entered into by mining companies and the Peruvian government and authorized the Minister of Economy and Finance and the Minister of Energy and Mines to sign such agreements. The form of agreement contains the conditions under which the negotiated payment will be paid by Peruvian mining companies. The payment amounts to 3.75 percent of Peruvian income after income tax, including 2.75 percent to be paid to a local mining fund and 1 percent to be paid to a regional mining fund. This payment was payable from 2006 through 2010, contingent on the price of gold.

In 2007, Cerro Verde negotiated an agreement with the Peruvian government that allowed a credit against contributions to the local mining fund for Cerro Verde's work in constructing water and sewage treatment facilities in the Arequipa region in 2006. As of December 31, 2010, based on the Basic Engineering report on the Feasibility Study of the Water Treatment Plants, Cerro Verde estimates a total cost of approximately US\$177.0 million, an amount that will be incurred in the next two years. Cerro Verde will be responsible for 50 percent of the total cost. The net present value of this obligation as of December 31, 2010 is approximately US\$77.9 million, US\$40.0 million of which was recognized as part of other operating expenses in the income statement for the year ended December 31, 2006, US\$25.8 million of which was recognized in the income statement for the year ended December 31, 2008, US\$7.8 million of which was recognized in the income statement for the year ended December 31, 2009 and US\$4.3 million of which was recognized in the income statement for the year ended December 31, 2010. As part of the obligations assumed by Cerro Verde and as a way to guarantee the construction of the Water Plant, Cerro Verde established a guaranteed deposit in a local bank for an amount of S/.150 million (equivalent to approximately US\$50 million as of the deposit date), which was replaced in April 2009 by a deposit in US dollars. The guaranteed deposit amount was equivalent to US\$19.0 million as of December 31, 2010.

Following a run-off election on June 5, 2011, leftist candidate Ollanta Humala was elected president of Peru. Although we cannot predict the policies that Humala's government will enact once he assumes office on July 28, 2011, Humala has expressed plans to increase royalties on mining companies in order to fund redistributive economic policies, such as increases in the minimum wage and state pension provisions. Specifically, Humala has said that he plans to introduce a tax on mining companies' operating income. While he has stated that he will respect tax stabilization agreements, there can be no guarantee that his government will not attempt to renegotiate Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's existing tax stabilization agreements. In addition, Humala has stated that he may implement a stricter environmental approach to the government's approval of mining projects. He may also grant local indigenous communities increased consulting rights with regard to mining projects on their land. As a result, there can be no assurance that new laws that adversely impact our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's tax and royalty payment obligations and environmental compliance costs will not be enacted in the near future. In addition, no assurance can be given that future legislative or regulatory developments proposed or championed by the Humala government of the type described above, or in similar areas or in any other area will have an adverse effect on our, Yanacocha's or Cerro Verde's business 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 we are substantially in compliance, and Yanacocha and Cerro Verde have advised us that Yanacocha and Cerro Verde 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—The Company—Business Overview—Regulatory Framework—Environmental Matters" and "—Permits" and "Item 4. Information on the Company—Yanacocha—Business Overview—Regulation, Permit and Environmental Matters."

Our base metal hedging strategies may not be successful, and any of our unhedged metal prices will continue to be subject to market fluctuations.

Yanacocha and Cerro Verde have not engaged in, and are currently not engaged in, gold or copper price hedging activities, such as forward sales or option contracts, to minimize their exposure to fluctuations in the price of gold or copper. No assurance can be given, however, that Yanacocha or Cerro Verde will not enter into hedging transactions in the future or that such transactions, if entered into, will have the desired effect.

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. Yanacocha and Cerro Verde used US\$950 per ounce of gold and US\$2.00 per pound of copper to calculate their gold and copper reserves, respectively, as of December 31, 2010; we used a fixed price of US\$950 per ounce of gold and a three-year average historic price of US\$16.00 per ounce of silver to calculate our proven and probable ore reserves as of December 31, 2010.

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, electricity and 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. 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.

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 level of recovery of gold, silver, copper and certain other metals will be realized. Reserve estimates may require revision based on actual production experience. 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-Property, Plants and Equipment-Our Property-Reserves" and "Item 4. Information on the Company-Property, Plants and Equipment-Yanacocha's Properties-Reserves."

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

As we produce gold, silver, zinc and other metals, we deplete our ore reserves for such metals. To maintain production levels, we must replace depleted reserves by exploiting known ore bodies and locating new deposits. Success in exploration for gold, silver and the other metals we produce is very uncertain and there is a risk that our depletion of reserves will not be offset by new discoveries.

As of December 31, 2010, Yanacocha's proven and probable reserves (excluding Conga's proven and probable reserves) were estimated to be 9.7 million ounces of gold, representing a 7.8 percent decrease over Yanacocha's proven and probable reserves as of December 31, 2009, which were estimated to be 10.5 million ounces of gold. The decrease in reserves of gold was mainly due to a mining depletion of 2.1 million ounces, unit cost increases, updated block models, revised pit designs, leach pad inventory adjustments, stockpile additions and leach pad capacity limitations, which was partially offset by an increase of 1.3 million ounces of gold reserves due to conversions from non-reserve mineralization to reserves in certain projects.

As of December 31, 2010, our proven and probable reserves were estimated to be 2.43 million ounces of gold, which represented a 7 percent increase from an estimated 2.28 million ounces of gold reserves as of December 31, 2009. The increase in reserves of gold was mainly due to the inclusion of reserves from Breapampa project.

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, unusual or unexpected geological conditions, changes in the regulatory environment, environmental hazards and weather and other natural phenomena such as earthquakes. 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. 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.

During the five years prior to April 30, 2007, we did not experience any strikes. Between April 2007 and June 2008, we were affected by five strikes, each lasting three to seven days, at our Uchucchacua, Orcopampa, Ishihuínca and Antapite mines. On October 19, 2009, the National Mining Federation held a two-day strike at our Uchucchacua mine. In 2010, we experienced two simultaneous strikes, each lasting approximately seven days, affecting operations at our Orcopampa, Uchucchacua and Antapite mines. In April 2011, we experienced a 21-day strike, which affected operations at our Uchucchacua mine. In May 2011, we experienced a three-day strike at our Orcopampa mine.

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.

On June 10, 2008, the Sindicato Único de Trabajadores of Sociedad Minera de Cerro Verde S.A.A. commenced an 11-day strike at Cerro Verde. The strike, which was declared illegal by the Peruvian Work Ministry, ended on June 21, 2008 and did not negatively impact Cerro Verde's operations. On November 15, 2008, Cerro Verde and the Sindicato Único de Trabajadores signed a union agreement that is retrospectively applicable from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2011.

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, including community protests at our La Zanja project, a roadblock in protest of drilling activities at Yanacocha's Cerro Quilish mine and a roadblock carried out by members of the Combayo community. In September 2004, due to the incidents at Cerro Quilish, Yanacocha suspended all drilling activities at this mine. In December 2004, Yanacocha removed the Cerro Quilish gold deposit from its proven and probable reserves. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—The Company—Business Overview—Greenfield Exploration Projects—La Zanja" and "Item 4. Information on the Company—Yanacocha—Legal Proceedings." There can be no assurance that these incidents will not continue, or that similar incidents will not occur, or that the continuation or intensification of community protests would not adversely affect our or Yanacocha's exploration and production activities or our or Yanacocha's results of operations or financial condition.

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 U.S. Investment Company Act, applicable restrictions could make it impractical for us to operate as contemplated.

As of December 31, 2010, we owned a 43.65 percent partnership interest in Yanacocha and a 19.26 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.

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.

During the 1980s, government policies restricted our ability, among other things, to repatriate funds and import products from abroad. In addition, currency exchange rates were strictly controlled, and all export sales were required to be deposited in Peru's Banco Central de Reserva, or Central Bank, where they were exchanged from U.S. Dollars to Peruvian currency at less-than-favorable rates of exchange. These policies generally affected our results of operations. Controls on repatriation of funds limited the ability of our shareholders to receive dividends outside of Peru, but did not limit the ability of our shareholders to receive distributions of earnings in Peru. See "Item 10. Additional Information-Exchange Controls."

In July 1990, Alberto Fujimori was elected president of Peru, and his administration implemented a broad-based reform of Peru's political system, economy and social conditions, aimed at stabilizing the economy, restructuring the national government by reducing bureaucracy, privatizing state-owned companies, promoting private investment, developing and strengthening free markets, institutionalizing democratic representation and enacting programs for the strengthening of basic services related to education, health, housing and infrastructure. However, after Fujimori's reelection to his third five-year term of office in 2000, Fujimori resigned from his post amid increasing social pressure. Following two years of political turmoil, Alejandro Toledo became president in 2001, and his government largely retained the economic policies of the previous government, focusing on promoting private investment, privatizing state-owned companies in various sectors including energy, mining and public services.

When no candidate in the 2006 elections garnered the required simple majority of votes, Ollanta Humala from the *Partido Unión por el Peru*, or the UPP, and Alan García Pérez of the *Partido Alianza Popular Revolucionaria*, or APRA, ran against each other in a second-round election. Alan García Pérez was elected, and his government largely continued the economic policies of its predecessor.

During the 1980s and early 1990s the Sendero Luminoso, or SL, and the Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru, or MRTA, terrorist organizations were particularly active in Peru. Although SL and MRTA were almost de-activated in 1992 and 1997 respectively, we cannot guarantee that acts by these or other terrorist organizations will not adversely affect our operations in the future.

Regional elections in Peru took place in October 2010. In addition, the Peruvian general election took place on April 10, 2011. As no presidential candidate received a majority of valid votes, a run-off election between the top two presidential candidates, Keiko Fujimori of Fuerza 2011 and Ollanta Humala of Gana Perú, was held on June 5, 2011. Humala was elected by a narrow margin and will be sworn in on July 28, 2011. During his 2006 presidential campaign, Humala, the leftist candidate, made statements indicating his intention to nationalize the mining sector, renegotiate what he considered unfair mining contracts and impose windfall profit taxes on mining activities, albeit without affecting competitiveness. Although Humala moderated his platform in the 2011 election, he initially expressed during his recent campaign his intention to increase taxes on mining companies. These taxes are expected to be calculated based on operating margin, but there can be no assurance regarding their structure. Moreover, some commentators have speculated that Humala harbors intentions to enact a radical agenda in spite of his newly professed center-left ideology. It is possible that, once Humala assumes office, government policies with respect to mining concessions and environmental regulations could be changed in a manner that is adverse to our, Yanacocha's and Cerro Verde's interests. As a result, although the current government has generally taken positions promoting private investment, we cannot predict future government positions on mining concessions, land tenure, environmental regulation or taxation or assure you that the Humala government will maintain a generally favorable business climate and economic policies.

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

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 1.1 percent in 2006, 3.93 percent in 2007, 6.7 percent in 2008, 0.25 percent in 2009 and 2.08 percent in 2010. 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 6.4 percent in 2006, a revaluation of 7.0 percent in 2007, a devaluation of 5.4 percent in 2008, a revaluation of 7.6 percent in 2009 and a revaluation of 2.08 percent in 2010. 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 American Depositary Shares, or 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, 2010 were US\$44.1 billion as compared to US\$33.1 billion at December 31, 2009. 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—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, or ADRs.

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 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. It is possible that the election of Humala will precipitate increased volatility in the Peruvian stock market in general and in the share price of Peruvian mining companies in particular.

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—Exchange Controls."

Our accounting standards and corporate disclosure may differ from the accounting standards used in and disclosure regularly published by or about issuers of securities in other countries, including the United States.

We prepare our financial statements using Peruvian GAAP, which differs in certain material respects from U.S. GAAP. Thus, the presentation of Peruvian financial statements and reported earnings may not be comparable to those companies whose financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. See Note 32 to the Financial Statements for a description of the significant differences between Peruvian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, as such differences relate to us, and Note 33 for a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP of our net income and shareholders' equity for the period included therein. In addition, as a foreign private issuer in the United States, we are subject to less intensive reporting requirements and information regarding us may not be as readily disseminated into the market.

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 April 30, 2011, was 27.58 percent. 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.

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

Sales of a substantial number of our shares by members of the Benavides Family 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 benefits to it 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 any such registration statement would be filed. 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 would 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.