**Implementing the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy“ Framework: A case in the extractive industries shared through voices from Southern Africa.**

*ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 139 churches and affiliated organisations working together in* [*140 countries*](http://www.actalliance.org/where-we-work) *to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalised people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality in keeping with the highest international codes and standards.*

*This means that every day, ACT Alliance is on the frontlines: addressing systemic poverty; supporting survivors of disasters, wars and conflicts; training rural communities in sustainable agricultural techniques; helping people adapt to environmental change; and influencing governments and other key decision makers to safeguard citizens’ human rights.*

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**Brief description of subject**

**Extractive industries have a huge potential to develop economies and the lives of the ordinary people in the developing world. However this is an industry shrowded in a vicious circle where depressing concerns are being raised by civil society organisations and people of faith in the Southern Africa region. Current issues among others in the Southern Africa region relate to payment of equitable taxes and royalties, tax transfers etc (tax justice), the lack of implementation of international best practice and norms in the extractive industries, weak agreements/contracts which are privy to governments and the multinational cooperations, weak bilateral investment treaties, the capability of the justice system to take remedial actions vis a vis political force and outdated legislation. In some cases there is also lack of environmental impact and social impact assessements.**

**Issues to discuss**

**Is the endowment of natural resource a blessing to the region or a curse? What mining legislation exists and how strong and relevant are those regislations and policy framework?. How far are the extractive industries fairing in implementing the UN guiding principles on business and rights?How does one ensure that the communities are involved in decisions on extractive industries? What protection is availalbe for communities, What political influences exist?. Are there any possibilities for remedy and justice?**

**The ACT Alliance members have experiences of the realities on the extractive industries of in the lives of the ordinary citizens. Though we have not yet decided on the countries of focus for the case studies which will form the basis of the workshop, possibilities are that the experience of ACT members Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique will be shared including experiences with organising “alternative mining indabas“ in Southern Africa.**