



Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen

Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations

Amsterdam, 2 June 2020

Dear Friends,

It is with a mix of gratitude and regret that we announce the departure of SOMO's Managing Director, Ronald Gijsbertsen. We are grateful for all the work he has done for SOMO throughout the past 17 years.

During his years at SOMO, Ronald, together with the SOMO team, strengthened and grew the organisation. The number of staff members increased from 7 to 44 employees, and the body of knowledge on corporate power and the impact on society grew in tandem. This was achieved by using our unique expertise concerning corporate structures, supply chains, economic justice, business and human rights, natural resources and climate. Over the years, SOMO has provided research, advice and support to hundreds of organisations; contributed to numerous campaigns and has hosted five national and international networks with over 300 network members and partners around the globe.

Ronald will leave the organisation on 31 October 2020. This will enable us to undergo a smooth transition of leadership. We will share the job announcement by 3 June 2020 and ask for your help in identifying candidates who could help SOMO continue to have a strong positive impact.

His management style, vision of organisational development and partnership building skills have created a foundational structure that will serve the organisation for years to come. We thank Ronald for the commitment, enthusiasm, empowerment and creativity he has given SOMO during his tenure. He will be greatly missed by the staff, Supervisory Board and partners alike. We look forward to following the next steps in his career and are hopeful and excited about the next chapter for SOMO as we continue to deliver high-quality research as driver for change.

If you have any questions or concerns during this transition process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at rddm@live.nl.

Sincerely,

Ronald Messelink
Chair of the Supervisory Board of SOMO

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Dear Friends,

After 17 years with SOMO, I have decided to leave the organisation by the end of October of this year in order to pursue new challenges. This decision did not come easily, as I am extremely proud of SOMO: the team, the mission, the work and the achievements. But the time has come for something new.

Working at SOMO has been an exciting and fulfilling journey. The impact that a research organisation can have in countering corporate power towards a more just and sustainable society was extremely motivating and working with so many dedicated people has inspired me throughout these years.

I want to express my gratitude to all who have been so supportive of the organisation and of me personally over the years: colleagues, board members, and, of course, our network members, partners and funders. Without you, the organisation would not be as strong and vibrant as it is. I am honoured to have been the managing director of this organisation. I also look forward to continuing to read and follow SOMO's thorough analyses and revealing watchdog reports in the years to come, as true friend and supporter of the organisation.

All the best,

Ronald Gijsbertsen
Managing Director SOMO

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