



World Diamond Council

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WDC SUPPORTS UN RECOMMENDATION TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF DIAMOND TRADE AND ALERTS INDUSTRY OF DIAMONDS ORIGINATING FROM GHANA

(New York, NY) – October 12, 2006 – Following this week's report by the United Nations highlighting the possible threat to diamond control systems between the Ivory Coast and Ghana, the World Diamond Council (WDC) is urging all members to be vigilant and to act with the greatest caution with regards to imports of rough diamonds with Kimberley Process certificates originating from Ghana in light of the conclusions by the UN panel of experts.

In addition, the WDC renews its call to the Chair of the Kimberley Process, and all participant nations, "to act swiftly to resolve the serious issue of reports that rough diamonds from the Ivory Coast are being smuggled into Ghana bypassing Kimberley Process procedures."

Although the report found "no evidence of gross violations of the Security Council measures," and the potential volume of rough diamonds passing through this channel is relatively small, it does suggest that rough diamonds from Ivory Coast could be transiting through Ghana before reaching international markets. The WDC is concerned that the risks highlighted by the UN's report are a threat to the legitimate diamond industry and the integrity of the Kimberley Process, and maintain that one diamond traded in this way is one too many.

The WDC supports, and will strictly adhere to, the recommendations made in the report and continue its pledge to assist in any manner to make sure this issue is immediately dealt with. In conclusion, the WDC supports civil society's call for these concerns to be a key agenda point at the forthcoming Kimberley Process Plenary meeting in Botswana next month.