



2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué

- 1. The Kimberley Process met 5-8 November in Brussels, Belgium, at its fifth annual plenary and called on Participants to ensure stronger government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing. The plenary also launched an initiative to address the issue of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) was re-admitted to the Kimberley Process.*
2. The plenary endorsed the Brussels Declaration on internal controls of Participants with rough diamond trading and manufacturing which gives guidance on controls for record keeping, spot checks of trading companies, physical inspections of imports and exports and maintenance of verifiable records of rough diamond inventories.
3. The plenary announced the Brussels Initiative on diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire to identify steps to enhance the control and monitoring of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, including the role of neighbouring countries, building on the 2005 Moscow Resolution on Côte d'Ivoire. These efforts will be undertaken in collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire and its neighbours. The Kimberley Process will work to ensure close coordination with the United Nations in these efforts.
4. The plenary took note of the developments in the implementation of the Kimberley Process in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, notably the submission of the statistical and annual reports. The plenary welcomed the progress made by the South American regional sub-group of the Working Group of Artisanal Alluvial Producers and its efforts to strengthen a regional approach to Kimberley Process implementation. Venezuela ratified its continued commitment to the Kimberley Process and extended an invitation to the Kimberley Process Chair to lead a visit during the first quarter of 2008. The terms of reference of this visit will be those in the Administrative Decision on Peer Review.
5. Participants expressed appreciation for Ghana's considerable efforts in 2007 to enhance the credibility of its internal controls by monitoring exports, licensing miners and producing accurate diamond production data, all with assistance from fellow Kimberley Process Participants and the World Diamond Council. Plenary had agreed a package of measures with Ghana in November 2006 in response to concerns about internal controls which could have allowed Ivorian diamonds to transit the country. The plenary agreed to move to a risk-based approach to monitoring future exports of rough diamonds from Ghana, with continued support of fellow Participants and the World Diamond Council.

6. The plenary expressed appreciation to the European Commission for its efforts as Chair to strengthen the international implementation of the Kimberley Process in 2007. The plenary noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Chair to bring greater transparency to the Kimberley Process through the publication of diamond production and trade statistics, the production of a compendium of Kimberley Process rules and decisions and the upgrading of the Kimberley Process website at www.kimberleyprocess.com.

7. India will take over the Chairmanship from the European Community in January 2008. Namibia was selected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2008 and will assume the Chairmanship in 2009.

8. The plenary welcomed Liberia's participation in the Kimberley Process in 2007 and news that the first official diamond exports from Liberia were made in September 2007. Following the positive findings of a team of KP experts which visited Liberia in March, the United Nations Security Council lifted sanctions on Liberian diamonds in April. Liberia joined the Kimberley Process in May. A Friends of Liberia group met to discuss further assistance needs of Liberian Kimberley Process authorities to implement fully the Kimberley Process. The Kimberley Process will work to support Liberia's efforts to ensure that diamonds contribute to its sustainable economic development.

9. Plenary approved the re-admission of the Republic of Congo to the Kimberley Process. In addition to Liberia and the Republic of Congo, Turkey also joined as a new Participant in 2007. This brings to 48 the total number of Participants, including the European Community representing 27 member states. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Mali, Mexico and Tunisia attended Plenary and affirmed their intention to join the Kimberley Process, while Bahrain, Cape Verde, Gabon, Swaziland and Zambia have all expressed their interest in future participation.

10. The Working Group on Monitoring (WGM) reported that the Kimberley Process has completed the first round of peer review visits in 2007 with more than 50 on the ground inspection visits conducted to Participants and applicants since 2003. The second round of review visits was launched in 2007, with a visit to Zimbabwe. Virtually all Participants submitted annual reports on Kimberley Process implementation, which were assessed by the WGM. The plenary welcomed the invitations of Angola, CAR, DRC, EC, Guinea, Israel, Namibia and UAE for second round review visits.

11. The Working Group on Statistics (WGS) reported that in 2006 the Kimberley Process monitored \$35.7 billion in rough diamond exports representing more than 480 million carats. Participants issued 55,000 certificates to accompany those shipments. The Kimberley Process released publicly global statistics for the first time in 2007 and posted them on the Kimberley Process website. The plenary approved the release of more detailed data in 2008. Canada and South Africa hosted, led and financed a training session on statistics and diamond evaluation in South Africa, and Canada led a statistics training session in Belgium, with plans for a further session in India in 2008.

12. The Kimberley Process reviewed progress made on the recommendations endorsed at the Gaborone plenary arising from the 2006 Three-Year Review of Kimberley Process implementation. The 2006 review concluded that the organization remained a necessary conflict prevention initiative. The plenary noted that all recommendations were either completed or well under way, and agreed to continue working in the year ahead on key issues including: funding and resource requirements; statistical data and analysis; government oversight of industry; and the treatment of illegal shipments.

13. The Working Group of Diamond Experts (WGDE) reported on a technical conference on traceability sponsored by the European Commission in October 2007. The group reported on progress to develop “footprints” (size-frequency distribution diagrams) for West African diamond production. Footprints of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana diamond production are now available. The WGDE also reported on its ongoing work on classification issues, valuation methodologies and missing and conflicting definitions.

14. The Working Group of Artisanal Alluvial Producers (WGAAP) reported on inventories of alluvial production conducted in 2007 and on consolidated inventories for West Africa, Central and Southern Africa and South America. The WGAAP presented a matrix of challenges facing artisanal/alluvial producing countries to be used as a tool to improve their internal controls. The plenary approved terms of reference and an action plan for the WGAAP. The plenary also approved a field visit plan for artisanal/alluvial producers and civil society to share experiences to improve internal controls and enhance local community involvement, and encouraged donor countries and institutions to contribute to implementation of this plan.

15. The plenary adopted terms of reference for the Committee on Rules and Procedures to assist the smooth functioning of the Kimberley Process. The plenary approved the Committee’s recommendations regarding the chairmanship and membership of Kimberley Process working groups, endorsing current appointment practices.

16. The Coordinator for Technical Assistance noted that multilateral assistance efforts of government and industry in Liberia and Ghana in 2007 may become a model for future Kimberley Process engagement. Belgian experts from the Royal Institute for International Relations presented a research agenda for a new alluvial diamond-mining project. USAID reported on a property rights pilot project underway in the Central African Republic that will be expanded to Guinea in 2008. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the French Bureau de Recherche Géologique Minière (BRGM) reported on baseline geological studies being conducted in Mali and CAR. Tanzania reported on the Mwadui Community Diamond Partnership (MCDP) on formalisation of small-scale mining undertaken in cooperation with De Beers, and the plenary heard reports on developments in the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) and the Diamonds for Development (D4D) programme in West Africa. Plenary noted views on the importance of a development agenda to complement the work of the Kimberley Process.

17. A record number of civil society organisations were represented at the plenary. The group issued a declaration calling on participant governments to engage with civil society in the implementation of the Kimberley Process in their home countries. The Chairman expressed appreciation for civil society's increased participation. Belgium, the EC KP Secretariat, working group chairs and industry supported a two-day orientation session for civil society representatives held before Plenary.

18. The Chairman reported on continued collaboration with the United Nations Sanctions Committees on Côte d'Ivoire and on Liberia enabling progress in the respective countries. The Chairman also pursued dialogue and cooperation with U.N. Panels of Experts and various diamond organisations while the Coordinator for Technical Assistance initiated discussions with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

8 November 2007