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Agenda item 30

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 March 2020

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/74/39](#) and [A/74/L.39/Add.1](#))]

- 74/268. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts**

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on peace and the safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, and recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by Participants, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process Participants and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,



Acknowledging that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals¹ in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Noting that, while the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources, the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Recognizing that the Kimberley Process promotes legitimate rough diamond trade, and recalling the positive benefits of legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, including its transparency and accountability throughout the diamond industry, and the contribution it has made to the economies of producing, exporting and importing States, and therefore underlining the need for continued international action with regard to the ethical exploitation, sale and trade of rough diamonds,

Welcoming the efforts to enhance regional cooperation on Kimberley Process matters among artisanal and alluvial diamond-producing countries in Central Africa and the Mano River Union facing similar challenges, and further encouraging the sharing of lessons with partners in the region and outside,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played, in the last 17 years, in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the valuable development impact it has had in improving the lives of many people dependent on the trade in diamonds, recognizing the contribution of the Kimberley Process to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and noting that the 2019 plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continuing to ensure that the Kimberley Process remains an effective multilateral tool for conflict prevention in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme² continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Recognizing that regular review and reform of the Kimberley Process will be necessary to keep pace with and aim to address the ongoing threat of instability, conflict and contemporary challenges in the diamond trade, as well as to seize contemporary opportunities,

Welcoming the decision of the 55 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 82 countries, including the 27 States members of the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Kimberley Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Welcoming also the admission of the United Kingdom as a Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Participant, with such participation taking effect from the date on which European Union law ceases to apply to and in the United Kingdom,

¹ See resolution [70/1](#).

² See [A/57/489](#).

Welcoming further the applications of Kyrgyzstan and Qatar to join the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting that the Russian Federation, in its official capacity as the incoming Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2020, has been made aware of the interest expressed by Uzbekistan in joining the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, while recognizing that this interest was expressed after the conclusion of the 2019 plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process,

Recognizing and appreciating the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform with respect to the Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat, a multi-donor fund, strengthening the peer review mechanism and strengthening the scope of the Kimberley Process in the core document and the consolidation of the core document,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to, and welcoming the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, and not to hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards, and encouraging all Participants to work towards overall compliance with the Kimberley Process standards,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by Participants, civil society organizations from across Participant countries, and the diamond industry, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the progress achieved with the World Customs Organization in adopting separate Harmonized System codes on natural and synthetic diamonds within the 2022 version of the Harmonized System,

Taking note of the updated System of Warranties guidelines promulgated by the World Diamond Council in 2018,

1. *Takes note of the outcomes of the 2019 plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in New Delhi by India from 18 to 22 November 2019,³ and reaffirms its strong and continuing support for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme² and the Kimberley Process as a whole;*

2. *Recognizes that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;*

³ See A/74/637.

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, stresses that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Participants to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by participating actively in the Certification Scheme and ensuring compliance with its undertakings and the effective implementation of its measures, underscores the importance of the Civil Society Coalition and its members to the Kimberley Process, and acknowledges the importance of supporting additional applications for membership by civil society organizations;

4. *Commends and appreciates* the work of Kimberley Process working bodies in advancing the objectives of the Kimberley Process;

5. *Recalls* the central place of mining communities in the Kimberley Process and the need to devote particular attention to engaging artisanal miners in governance structures, developing best practices, building upon experiences in other minerals and gold in artisanal and small-scale mining and promoting the rule of law;

6. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance cooperation with and assistance to Participants in Kimberley Process matters, including with a regional dimension, focusing on the implementation of best practices, capacity-building and compliance with Kimberley Process standards, rules and procedures;

7. *Recognizes* the value of engaging with relevant external organizations to support the work of the Kimberley Process and its working bodies, and in this regard welcomes the guidelines adopted by the Kimberley Process, which will facilitate engagement in a spirit of transparency and inclusiveness;

8. *Encourages* further strengthening of the Kimberley Process to enhance its effectiveness in addressing challenges posed to the diamond industry and related communities, including from instability and conflict, and to ensure that the Kimberley Process remains relevant for the future and continues to contribute to international peace and security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the Sustainable Development Goals, and looks forward to further exploring and advancing the ways in which the Kimberley Process contributes to peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

9. *Welcomes* the effort made with a view to strengthening the scope of the Kimberley Process in the core document, including in-depth discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform on how best to capture the evolving nature of rough diamond conflict and actors involved in this conflict, about a definition of conflict diamonds, the importance of capacity-building and mutual support, and the positive contribution of rough diamonds to prosperity and social and economic development, and looks forward to continue this work in the future;

10. *Welcomes* the expressions of interest from Austria, Botswana, China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to host the Kimberley Process Permanent Secretariat, and notes the recommendation of the plenary meeting to create a tripartite Technical Expert Team under the Working Group of Diamond Experts to work on the practicalities of the Permanent Secretariat;

11. *Notes* the acceptance of the principle of implementing a voluntary multi-donor fund in the Kimberley Process and the identification of four areas of focus for the fund, namely capacity-building, technical assistance, the participation of civil society and the participation of the least developed countries;

12. *Welcomes* the progress in consolidating the core document that has enabled provisional closure of several sections, and notes that the work will continue;

13. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the 2019 administrative decision on the peer review mechanism to improve the provisions of peer review, including annual reporting, review visits and review missions;
14. *Notes* the adoption of provisional changes to the operational framework for the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic and the terms of reference for the monitoring team for the Central African Republic, with the objective of increasing legal exports and maintaining safeguards to stop conflict diamonds from entering the legitimate supply chain;
15. *Encourages* efforts to assist the Central African Republic in achieving compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;
16. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that India, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2019, has made towards curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the selection of the Russian Federation as the Chair and Botswana as the Vice-Chair for 2020;
17. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the Kimberley Process;
18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

*60th plenary meeting
3 March 2020*
