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Agenda item 33

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[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/73/L.75](#) and [A/73/L.75/Add.1](#))]

- 73/283. 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,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played, in the last 16 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 2018 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 28 States members of the European Union 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 Gabon as the fifty-fifth Kimberley Process Participant,

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

¹ See resolution 70/1.

² See A/57/489.

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,

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

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform agreed in principle to the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and that it plans to work further on this matter in 2019,

Taking note of the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 26 July 2018 to grant an extension until 31 December 2024 of a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Takes note of the outcomes of the 2018 plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Brussels by the European Union from 12 to 16 November 2018,³ 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. *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 the work of Kimberley Process working bodies in advancing the objectives of the Kimberley Process;*

³ See A/73/720.

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. *Recalls* the commitment of the Kimberley Process to the reform and review, and notes that the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform will continue discussion and consultations on the areas of consolidation of the core document and strengthening of the peer review mechanism, establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, establishment of the multi-donor fund, and considering how to strengthen the scope of the Kimberley Process;

10. *Also recalls* the critical importance of the peer review mechanism for the credibility of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes progress ongoing towards enhancing its effectiveness;

11. *Notes* initiatives put forward by Participants as well as joint initiatives by industry and by civil society as elements of a strengthened Kimberley Process that illustrate their continuous engagement towards a more effective, responsible and inclusive Kimberley Process, and invites further contributions from other Participants and observers for consideration by the Kimberley Process in 2019;

12. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that the European Union, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2018, has made towards curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the selection of India as the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2019, the Russian Federation as the Vice-Chair for 2019 and the Chair for 2020 and Botswana as the Vice-Chair for 2020 and the Chair for 2021;

13. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the Kimberley Process;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

*69th plenary meeting
1 March 2019*