



**WORLD
DIAMOND
COUNCIL**

Feriel Zerouki, WDC President

Address to Closing of 2024 KP Intersessional Meeting

Dubai, UAE
17 May 2024



Kimberley Process Chair, Mr. Ahmed Sultan Bin Sulayem,
Coordinator of the Civil Society Coalition, Mr Jaff Bamenjo
Minister and Excellencies here present,
Salamou Alaykoum

I want to start by honoring Rory More O’Ferrall who sadly passed away earlier this week. Rory was a visionary leader at De Beers for 36 years, advocating for ethical practices and sustainable development. He played a crucial role in creating the WDC and we will forever be grateful. His dedication to positive change touched the hearts of many around the world. We are honored to carry on his important work as we strive for a diamond industry built on integrity and compassion. May his kind soul rest in peace.

I think I speak for all of us in congratulating the KP Chair, Mr Ahmed Bin Sulayem, and extend a heartfelt thanks to the UAE Team, for their stellar hospitality and excellent arrangements for this Intersessional. It has been a pleasure spending time in this beautiful and inspiring setting.

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Fellow KP Participants and Observers,

This week, we came together with a shared purpose and commitment to continue strengthening the Kimberley Process and made progress on some important agenda items.

At the outset, we are encouraged by the shared resolve to do all that is within our power to go beyond the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process to significantly enhance the transparency of the KP and embrace best practice of proactively listing the countries of mining origin on KP certificates.

And of course, alongside these developments, advancing digitalization will be essential as we move forward.

As industry, we will support and complement these efforts through continued bilateral engagement to uphold and promote these principles.

In addition, this week, by applying principles of mutual respect, cooperation and constructive exchange - a commitment of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Review and Reform - we had productive discussions and recognize the significant progress on many aspects of the KP reform agenda.

We were humbled by the community panel, which added depth to the engagements, but also brought valuable attention to the remaining challenges and opportunities.

These benefited the discussions on the definition of conflict diamonds which also registered important progress, resulting in consensus to move beyond rebel activity, and broad alignment on a comprehensive inclusion of armed groups/or actors in the expanded definition.

We are also excited about the consensus reached on the creation of Co-Chairmanship of the KP, which the WDC proposed because we believe in promoting inclusive representation and equitable access to opportunities for all KP Participants to lead the KP. This is now a possibility!

At this halfway mark, while also acknowledging that there is still a way to go, we do leave this intersessional confident in the solid foundation for our continued efforts to achieve our goals.

We are also pleased that the discussions on the Central African Republic maintained a similar positive tone, including advancing plans for the Review Mission in CAR in the near future. We were indeed honored by the presence and contribution of the high-level delegation of CAR, as well as the input of MINUSCA. As ever, the World Diamond Council looks forward to being an active participant in these efforts.

KP Family,

The diamond industry is known for its innovation and agility. We should be proud of our achievements, and today's special session and the decisions (that will be) taken at this Plenary are a great example of that strength.

In closing, we hear that the natural diamond industry is associated with slave labor, bad working conditions and child labor- it is not!

For the majority, Natural diamonds are a source of development. They have and continue to provide free education, healthcare in nations like Botswana and support the livelihoods for 10 million people around the world.

We also hear that the natural diamond industry is not ready for transparency and traceability. We are!

Even traceability experts involved in other industries have noted how much further ahead and advanced we are.

We hear that the KP refuses to reform. We are not,

Every single participant and observer in this room has given their time and their insights to support the reforms and we have progressed.

It is clear that we have more to do, but we also need to be better at telling the natural diamond story whilst also addressing isolated cases of concern.

In closing ladies and gentleman, the World Diamond Council reiterates our commitment to these goals and to the collective progress of the Kimberley Process. As I said in the opening, together, with enhanced transparency within the KP, we can be certain that the future of natural diamonds is bright.

Thank you. Shoukran. And I wish you all safe travels back home.

