



PRESS RELEASE

WDC President calls on KP Participants to enhance transparency by listing the countries of mining origin as best practice

Independent certification at the producer country maintained through the KP and digitalization of the KP certificates is critical.



Ferial Zerouki (second from right), President of the World Diamond Council, with fellow keynote speakers at the Opening Session of the 2024 Kimberley Process Intersessional meeting in Dubai on May 13, 2024: (from left) Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chair of the Kimberley Process; HE Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates; and Jaff Bamenjo, Coordinator of the Civil Society Coalition.

DUBAI, UAE: MAY 13, 2024 – With 2024 being declared the “Year of Delivery” by the Chair of the Kimberley Process, World Diamond Council President Ferial Zerouki reminded delegates of the KP Intersessional meeting in Dubai that Participants can choose to apply best practice over and above the minimum requirements of the KP, in this instance, listing the countries of mining origin on the KP certificate when the information is available “and [it] should be highlighted and disclosed to maintain and secure confidence in diamonds.”

“The industry is moving forward with traceability and will complement these efforts by pioneering the technologies we have invested in,” the WDC President remarked during the Opening Session of the Intersessional on May 13.

This Intersessional marked many “firsts.” Notably, for the first time, a wide range of community members from across the global supply chain shared their diverse views with the delegates.

“These insights will not only enrich our discussion on the expansion of the definition of conflict diamonds, but also on critically important issues of development, and will help us appreciate a fuller and more compelling natural diamond story,” she added. “We would like to see more engagements moving forward.”

Another first initiative of the KP Chair will be the holding of an Ad Hoc Plenary session during the Intersessional, departing from the practice of holding such sessions only at the end of the year. “This is significant because, for the first time in the history of the KP, it will be possible to make decisions mid-year and, thereby, push for progress during this important ‘Year of Delivery,’” Ms. Zerouki stated.

Also, after years of collective efforts from KP Participants and Observers, this Intersessional marks the launch of the Kimberley Process Secretariat led by its first Executive Secretary which “serves as recognition that the KP is crucial to advancing global governance and development goals.”

The WDC President finally noted, “So, in a world full of uncertainty, we have unwavering confidence in our ability to navigate through challenges together. One thing is for sure, with increased transparency at the KP, the future of diamonds is bright.”

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About the World Diamond Council

The World Diamond Council (WDC) is an industry organization focused on preventing conflict diamonds from entering the global supply chain and on preserving the value attached to natural diamonds. Formed in 2000, it is the only organization where the diamond trade is represented in full, from producer to retailer, and includes the most influential commercial businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and individual companies in the industry today. The WDC is the voice of the international diamond industry in a tripartite collaboration with governments and civil society known as the Kimberley Process (KP). The KP secures and manages monitoring processes that have virtually eliminated the trade in conflict diamonds to ensure that the world’s supply of diamonds is from sources free of conflict. Visit www.worlddiamondcouncil.org to learn more.