



# World Diamond Council

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WORLD DIAMOND COUNCIL 4TH ANNUAL MEETING  
CATANIA ~ FEBRUARY 5 - 8, 2006

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Ian Smillie presented the Diamond Development Initiative, explaining its mission statement, and the work that had been done at several meetings, among them the meeting in Accra, Ghana, in December 2005\*.

The DDI's objectives are to gather and disseminate information on artisanal diamond mining, to promote better understanding of, and possible solutions for government regulation and mining regulation; distribution and marketing channels; organizational aspects of artisanal production; legitimate and transparent distribution channels; organization among artisanal miners, and free and open markets for artisanally mined diamonds. The DDI also seeks to promote wide participation in the process, including governments, donors, industry and development organizations.

However, the DDI is only in its first stages. More resources need to be secured, educational projects initiated and an informative website is direly needed. Among the DDI's first sponsors are the World Bank and the Canadian Foreign Ministry.

A steering committee is being initiated to establish DDI as a charitable organization and to adopt an organizational framework that will allow for complete transparency, to avoid any hints of commercial interests.

For the next 12 months, DDI intends to:

- Get the legal and structural issues settled, set up a board.
- Get two or three initial projects up and running.
- Do some fundraising.
- Make sure DDI is in sync with the Kimberley Process.
- Build support for DDI among donors, NGO's African governments, civil society and diamond industry at large.

\* The DDI report of the meeting held in Accra, Ghana, in October 2005 is attached as a pdf file.

