

## World Diamond Council welcomes Australia as the 2017 Kimberley Process Chair and the EU and India as KP Vice-Chairs.

**DUBAI, November 17, 2016** — the further strengthening of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the introduction of new working methods and new ways of organizing processes, were crucial at this year's Kimberley Process Plenary Meeting in Dubai.

The World Diamond Council joined representatives of governments from more than 50 countries and other Observers, discussing mechanisms for greater industry inclusion.

The World Diamond Council (WDC) launched its first KP Observers Forum during the 2016 Kimberley Process Plenary Meeting in Dubai. The Forum was created to give the opportunity to WDC members, industry experts and civil society partners to meet and discuss their common goals and joint efforts to promote further evolution of the KPCS and its continued success and credibility. The KP Observers Forum was attended by WDC, DDI and ADPA.

"The first Observers Forum was a success. Among other topics, we discussed what more the industry, with the knowledge and experience we have, could do for the countries in need of such expertise. We believe very strongly that education is key. The WDC, through its members, will continue to provide accessible training; supporting and educating professionals to work in those diamond areas where this help is needed and recommended by the KP," stated Andrey Polyakov, president of the WDC.

WDC welcomes the initiative of the KP Chair to implement the special forums mechanism on the margins of the KP meetings. These new events allow KP members and Observers to come together to discuss issues that are not directly related to the KPCS, but are still of significant importance to the entire diamond pipeline.

WDC welcomes the readmission of Venezuela with the support of the full membership of the KP. The WDC also congratulates the Central African Republic and is committed to continue its support for its further full reintegration under the agreed framework of the KP. We encourage the ongoing critical dialogue they have created with neighboring countries, and their perseverance to sustain a conflict-free trade in their country.

"On behalf of the WDC and all its members, I would like to congratulate the EU and India as well, with their election as the KP Vice-chairs. We believe a consensus choice of two Vice-Chairs for 2017 and 2018 at one meeting to be an extremely important precedent. It will allow the KP

to look ahead even further, empowering the stability and consistency of the organization,” Polyakov continued.

As the industry’s voice, the WDC will continue its mission to further protect the integrity and reputation of the Kimberly Process. Strengthening supply chain transparency and promoting the KP to stakeholders and the public, are some of the main aspects of the WDC Strategic Plan, adopted in April 2016.

**About the World Diamond Council**

*Established in 2000, the primary objective of the WDC is to represent the diamond industry in the development and implementation of the regulatory and voluntary systems to control the trade in diamonds embargoed by the United Nations or covered by the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. Visit <http://www.worlddiamondcouncil.org> to learn more.*