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**Kimberley Process Chair to address WDC Annual Meeting,
to be held May 13 and 14 in Vicenza, Italy**

NEW YORK: March 19, 2012 - Ambassador Gillian A. Milovanovic of the United States, the Chair of the Kimberley Process, will address the 8th Annual Meeting of the World Diamond Council, which will take place in Vicenza, Italy, May 13 and 14. She will join senior government officials from a number of countries who will be attending the event.

“As members of the diamond and jewelry industries we are privileged to host Ambassador Milovanovic in Vicenza,” said Eli Izhakoff, WDC president. “Her participation, as well as that of her colleagues in government, underscores the spirit of the Kimberley Process, which in its essence is a partnership involving government, civil society and the industry.

To ensure their place at the event, WDC is calling on all those planning to attend the 8th Annual Meeting and who have not yet registered to do so online via a dedicated website at <http://meeting2012.worlddiamondcouncil.org>. Members of the press are also invited to register, and will have full access to the WDC Plenary Meeting on May 14.

Participants are requested to fill in the interactive registration form provided online. The dedicated website will also enable them to book hotel accommodation in Abano Terme, a resort town located between Vicenza and Venice which is one of Europe's most popular spa resorts. There is no registration fee for the WDC Annual Meeting, and the official hotels are offering participants a special package, which can be extended both before and after the event. **To guarantee the special rate the hotel needs to be booked no later than April 15.**

The first day of the Annual Meeting, May 13, will include a WDC board meeting and a get-together reception in the evening. The second day, May 14, will include the WDC Plenary session, and it will conclude with a gala dinner.

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