



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WDC Communications
wdc.communications@gmail

South Africa's Minister of Mineral Resources to address 8th Annual Meeting of World Diamond Council in Vicenza

NEW YORK: MARCH 2, 2012 – The Minister of Natural Resource of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Susan Shabangu, will deliver a keynote address to the Plenary Session of the 8th Annual Meeting of the World Diamond Council in Vicenza, Italy, on May 14. The meeting will open on May 13.

Ms. Shabangu will be leading a delegation of high-level officials from South Africa. The country holds the vice chair of the Kimberley Process and is scheduled to become KP chair on January 1, 2013. South Africa was the first chair of the Kimberley Process, and will mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme during its second term next year.

“It will be an honor to host Minister Shanbangu and her delegation in Vicenza,” said Eli Izhakoff, President of the World Diamond Council. “With South Africa playing so key a role in the Kimberley Process during the coming two years, their presence underscores the commitment to the ongoing alliance between government, industry and civil society in defending the integrity of the diamond trade.”

Among the other senior government officials who will be addressing the WDC Annual Meeting Plenary on May 14 are Ambassador Gillian A. Milovanovic of the United States, the Chair of the Kimberley Process; and Tung-Lai Margue, Director, Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission.

To guarantee a place at the 8th Annual Meeting of the World Diamond Council in Vicenza, participants are invited to register via a dedicated website at <http://meeting2012.worlddiamondcouncil.org>.

* * * *

www.worlddiamondcouncil.com
www.diamondfacts.org