

Kimberley Process – 2. Meeting in Luanda, 30 October to 1 November 2001

Final Communiqué

The Participants in the Kimberley Process met in Plenary Session in Luanda, Angola from 30 October to 1 November 2001, to give further consideration of a set of detailed proposals for an international certification scheme for rough diamonds. Twenty five countries and the European Community were represented at the meeting. Also participating were representatives of SADC, the World Diamond Council representing the organised diamond industry, and several NGOs. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Angolan Government for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality they had enjoyed.

In keeping with the roadmap agreed to at the Kimberley Process meeting in Windhoek in February 2001, which set out the schedule of meetings for 2001 as well as the issues to be dealt with, the meeting in Luanda aimed to begin the finalisation of a set of detailed proposals for an international certification scheme for rough diamonds.

The meeting considered a Chairman's text of the working document developed during 2001, and considered at Twickenham. All alternatives and bracketed text had been removed from the working document, resulting in rapid progress being made. Consensus was achieved on most of the detailed proposals to be presented to the planned Ministerial meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, on 29 November 2001. Specifically there was agreement on a range of internal controls to give effect to the international certification scheme, as well as on detailed provisions on co-operation and transparency. The precise content of the certificate to accompany shipments of rough diamonds, which lies at the heart of the scheme, was also agreed. In addition, agreement was reached on the Preamble setting out the important context in which the international certification scheme is set. It was also recognised that an international certification scheme must be consistent with international law governing international trade.

The meeting also noted and recognised the national efforts made by countries like Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Guinea to combat conflict diamonds by improving internal controls.

Work will continue on the outstanding issues, sections and Annexes, with a view to making further progress by the time of the planned ministerial meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, on 29 November 2001. The meeting will be preceded by a further Kimberley Process Plenary meeting from 26 to 28 November 2001 at which, in addition to further work on the working document, a report to the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly will be considered.

The meeting also considered proposals from the World Diamond Council for a comprehensive system of warranties and industry self-regulation, and incorporated the essential elements of this into the draft certification scheme. The World Diamond Council was encouraged to present these proposals to its membership and its membership organisations for a formal adoption.

The Participants decided that progress made so far was such that it justified submitting the results to the Ministers for endorsement. Participants also agreed to seek the Ministers' approval to continue the Kimberley Process referred to in UNGA Resolution 55/56 until it is completed and an international certification scheme is put in place.