



**WORLD
DIAMOND
COUNCIL**

Feriel Zerouki
WDC President

Closing Address to KP Intersessional

Victoria Fall, Zimbabwe
May 25, 2023

Your Excellency, the Minister of Mines and Mining Development, and Chair of the Kimberley Process, Winston Chitando,

Kimberley Process Vice Chair, Ahmed Bin Sulayem,

Dr. Michel Yoboué, Coordinator of the Civil Society Coalition,

Chairs of the Kimberley Process Working Bodies,

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Happy Africa Day!

We are wrapping up what I believe can fairly be described a week of intense and constructive discussion. Decisions of the Kimberley Process are taken at Plenary meetings, and so the goal of the Intersessional is to record progress, and we seem to have achieved that on a number of key issues.

First, the definition. We believe that an expansion on the definition of conflict diamonds is essential and the KP has been given the mandate to expand it.

The spirit in which the definition discussions have been conducted to date gives room for encouragement. Kele Mafole, the sub-team lead, proposed that a set of guiding principles be adhered to by all those participating – mutual

respect and honesty; inclusivity and cooperation; continuous dialogue; and lastly, transparency and impartiality. I was heartened that this approach has been embraced by the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform.

And as we've witnessed this week, through open and robust discussions, we have secured the necessary psychological safety to share views and positions in support of the reform.

These fundamentals are paramount if we are to guarantee reform of this important process, and promote the precious mineral resource we are all custodians of – natural diamonds. We have the mandate and I believe that as we listen to understand each other, we are well placed to get there.

Secondly, progress has been reported by the Kimberley Process Secretariat Task Force, chaired by Wim Soons. Consensus was reached on the terms of reference for the Permanent Secretariat, with work yet to be completed in two areas – the status of the legal entity and the host country agreement.

We are also close to an agreement to issue the call for candidates for the position of the Executive Secretary in the coming weeks. We are counting on the constructive collaboration of all KP Participants in finding consensus on a candidate for this role, since we are determined to meet the deadline of the upcoming Plenary. We look forward to celebrating the inauguration of the Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana's thriving capital city.

Thirdly, The Sub-team on Technical Assistance and Development of Communities has agreed on a survey aimed to capture and share important data on the learnings from previous projects completed by KP Participants and Observers that can forge sustainable development of communities. I urge everyone to participate in shaping that future.

We are also encouraged by the meaningful discussions conducted at the Sub-team on the Core Document to decide the best approach to consolidate the Core Document of the Kimberley Process – which is so central to everything that we do.

And finally, the WDC has committed to share further insights on the concept of Co-Chairmanship within the Sub-Team on Compliance and Governance. As you all know, our objective is to create an inclusive approach and create opportunity for more participants to host the KP.

And this is just on the reform agenda. Let me now turn my attention to the KP's ongoing efforts.

The WDC has traditionally invested a great deal and time and effort in the Working Group of Diamond Experts, and this certainly is the case under the

Chairmanship of James Evans Lombe. The working group and its five sub-groups have worked extensively, and are close to finalizing a number of ADs to present at Plenary. We are pleased to hear that progress is occurring at all levels.

Regarding the Central African Republic, the WDC wants nothing more than to see the country in peace and prospering from the value of its mineral resources. This is why we are so committed to the CARMT's work and objectives. This is also why we are concerned about the value being determined on diamonds exported from the CAR, which contradicts the very purpose of the revised operational framework created specifically to support the country's increased revenues to ensure security and stability – which as you know, is one of the core criteria for approving green zones. The WDC supports a Review Visit to CAR but we have serious concerns on the issue of security. Until the safety and security of the Review Team can be assured, we are unable to move forward.

I am pleased to see progress in the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production, which continues to work on developing strategies and recommendations to promote responsible practices and improve the livelihoods of all those involved in the ASM sector. As Industry, we are fully committed, to supporting in the areas where we can.

The same is true for the Working Group on Monitoring as it continues the diligent work of ensuring that Participants are effectively implementing the requirements of the KPCS and adhering to the standards.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the KP Chair and our Zimbabwean hosts for their hard work, organization and hospitality, all of which contributed to the spirit of collaboration that we have experienced over the past several days.

I would also like to thank all of you, and in particular my colleagues from the WDC, for making this, my first major Kimberley Process gathering as President of the World Diamond Council, so memorable.

I look forward to meeting with all of you at the Plenary in November. But for now, keep safe and stay well.

Thank you.