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The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 March 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.65](#) and [A/75/L.65/Add.1](#))]

75/261. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on peace and the safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, and recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by Participants, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process Participants and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as Observers,



Acknowledging that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals¹ in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Noting that, while the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources, the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Recognizing that the Kimberley Process promotes legitimate rough diamond trade, and recalling the positive benefits of legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, including its transparency and accountability throughout the diamond industry, and the contribution it has made to the economies of producing, exporting and importing States, and therefore underlining the need for continued international action with regard to the ethical exploitation, sale and trade of rough diamonds,

Welcoming the efforts to enhance regional cooperation on Kimberley Process matters among artisanal and alluvial diamond-producing countries in Central Africa and the Mano River Union facing similar challenges, and further encouraging the sharing of lessons with partners in the region and outside,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played, in the last 18 years, in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the valuable development impact it has had in improving the lives of many people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and recognizing the contribution of the Kimberley Process to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme² continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Recognizing that regular review and reform of the Kimberley Process will be necessary to keep pace with and aim to address the ongoing threat of instability, conflict and contemporary challenges in the diamond trade, as well as to seize contemporary opportunities,

Welcoming the decision of the 56 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 82 countries, including the 27 States members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Kimberley Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Welcoming also the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the fifty-sixth Kimberley Process Participant,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to, and welcoming the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue

¹ See resolution 70/1.

² See A/57/489.

burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, and not to hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards, and encouraging all Participants to work towards overall compliance with the Kimberley Process standards,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by Participants, civil society organizations from across Participant countries, and the diamond industry, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Taking note of the updated System of Warranties guidelines promulgated by the World Diamond Council in 2018,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Noting the precautionary measures against the disease taken all around the world to minimize the risk of its transmission, including various restrictions on movement of people and on large gatherings, which have drastically affected the daily work of Participants and Observers in the Kimberley Process and completely excluded the possibility of organizing and participating in the face-to-face Kimberley Process intersessional and plenary meetings in 2020,

Welcoming the consensus decision reached by the Participants with no objection from the Observers through the adoption of the Administrative Decision of the Kimberley Process “On the Postponement of Russia’s Chairmanship to 2021 and Botswana’s Chairmanship to 2022” of 21 August 2020 by written procedure, and thanking the Russian Federation and Botswana for their flexibility,

1. *Notes* the postponement of the chairmanships of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Botswana in the Kimberley Process to 2021 and 2022 accordingly;
2. *Acknowledges* the work of the Kimberley Process in 2020 that was coordinated by the chairs of the Kimberley Process working bodies within their respective competence;
3. *Appreciates* the work of the Russian Federation as a caretaker of the Kimberley Process in 2020, ensuring the effective continuity of the Kimberley Process;
4. *Notes* the extension of the role of India as the Chair of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship in 2021;
5. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the

prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, stresses that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Participants to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by participating actively in the Certification Scheme and ensuring compliance with its undertakings and the effective implementation of its measures, underscores the importance of the Civil Society Coalition and its members to the Kimberley Process, and acknowledges the importance of supporting additional applications for membership by civil society organizations;

7. *Recalls* the central place of mining communities in the Kimberley Process and the need to devote particular attention to engaging artisanal miners in governance structures, developing best practices, building upon experiences in other minerals and gold in artisanal and small-scale mining and promoting the rule of law;

8. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance cooperation with and assistance to Participants in Kimberley Process matters, including with a regional dimension, focusing on the implementation of best practices, capacity-building and compliance with Kimberley Process standards, rules and procedures;

9. *Recognizes* the value of engaging with relevant external organizations to support the work of the Kimberley Process and its working bodies, and in this regard welcomes the guidelines adopted by the Kimberley Process, which will facilitate engagement in a spirit of transparency and inclusiveness;

10. *Encourages* further strengthening of the Kimberley Process to enhance its effectiveness in addressing challenges posed to the diamond industry and related communities, including from instability and conflict, and to ensure that the Kimberley Process remains relevant for the future and continues to contribute to international peace and security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ and the Sustainable Development Goals, and looks forward to further exploring and advancing the ways in which the Kimberley Process contributes to peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

11. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the Kimberley Process;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

*56th plenary meeting
3 March 2021*

³ Resolution 70/1.