

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General  
7 December 2015

Original: English

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**General Assembly****Seventieth session**

Agenda item 33

**The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict****Note verbale dated 2 December 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On behalf of the Chair of the Kimberley Process, and pursuant to paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 69/136 entitled “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 Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and hereby transmits the 2015 Kimberley Process report and final communiqué (see annex) and requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 2 December 2015 from the  
Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

**Report of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to the  
General Assembly for 2015**

**Submitted by Angola, Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015**

**Introduction**

1. In its resolution 69/136 of 12 December 2014, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Process. The Assembly also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”. In this connection, as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015, Angola submits the following report on the question. The report covers developments since the submission of the report of 28 November 2014 (A/69/622) by China in its capacity as Chair for 2014 and includes the final communiqué of the plenary meeting, held in Luanda from 17 to 20 November 2015.

2. The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative of Governments, the umbrella industry group, the World Diamond Council and the Civil Society Coalition, established to prevent the flow of conflict diamonds into the legitimate international trade. The Process aims to break the link between the trade in diamonds and armed conflict, in particular given its devastating impact on peace and the safety and security of people. The Process is implemented by each participating country through national laws and regulations and the establishment of a system of internal controls designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds from shipments of rough diamonds imported into or exported from its territory. Many countries that had been affected by conflict now have peace and stability. With the elimination of the illegal trade in conflict diamonds, the legitimate trade generates revenue used to finance public programmes, thereby creating favourable conditions for diamond-producing countries to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To date, almost all countries that produce, process and trade diamonds participate in the Process.

3. In its resolution 55/56, adopted in 2000, the General Assembly expressed the need for the creation and implementation of an international scheme for rough diamonds; in its resolution 57/302, adopted in 2003, it welcomed the creation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which had been launched officially at Interlaken, Switzerland, in November 2002. Each year since then, the Assembly has debated the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict and has reaffirmed its support for the Process. In addition, the Security Council, in its resolution 1459 (2003), strongly supported the Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds.

4. Since the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in 2003, there has been a dramatic improvement in the security situation in several diamond-producing countries, owing largely to the effectiveness of the Process.

## Achievements during 2015

5. Under the chairmanship of Angola, two written procedural administrative decisions were adopted: one on the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic, and the other on criteria for the selection of candidates for the vice-chairmanship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for 2016.

6. Under the chairmanship of Angola, the plenary of the Kimberley Process approved the revision to the administrative decision on rules and criteria for selecting Candidates for Vice-Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted by the Committee on Rules and Procedures. The Committee should continue discussions on criteria for selecting candidates for Vice-Chair of the Process.

7. The plenary noted that Angola had been providing technical assistance and logistical support to the Central African Republic and that the United States planned to resume the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme in the Central African Republic with a view to enhancing the country's capacity and assisting it with the implementation of the administrative decision and operational framework for the resumption of exports of rough diamonds. The plenary encouraged other participants and observers to also consider providing similar or other technical assistance.

8. The plenary encouraged the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team to continue working closely together with relevant United Nations actors, notably the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013), the international community and neighbouring countries on Certification Scheme compliance issues with a regional dimension.

9. The plenary thanked Angola, as the Chair of the Kimberley Process, for liaising with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and for providing technical assistance and welcomed the participation of Venezuela's senior delegation in the plenary. Furthermore, the plenary acknowledged Venezuela's positive efforts towards fully participating in the Process. The Process noted the plans to send a review mission no later than the end of the first quarter of 2016.

10. During the course of 2015, seven review visits and one review mission to Kimberley Process members took place to ensure peer-review monitoring and compliance with the minimum requirements of the Process.

## Participation

11. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is open to all countries and to any regional economic integration organization that is willing and able to fulfil the requirements of the Certification Scheme. In June 2013, Mali was admitted to the Process. As at 1 December 2015, 54 Process participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 members of the European Union, were participating in the Process.

12. The plenary noted that Mozambique, as an applicant to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, had made continuous efforts to build its capacity to meet the

minimum requirements of the Process, and also noted its invitation to an expert mission. Angola has provided technical assistance to Mozambique.

13. The plenary noted that Gabon had sent an application letter to the Chair of the Kimberley Process seeking to join the Process, and welcomed Angola as the Chair of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship for 2016. As Chair of the Committee, Angola intends to contact Gabon to offer technical assistance.

### **Monitoring and peer review: a vital Kimberley Process tool**

14. One of the main objectives of the Working Group on Monitoring is to implement the system of peer review visits, which is an important tool for enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process. It ensures that participants identify and remedy compliance issues and facilitates the sharing of best practices. In 2015, review visits were conducted to Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, the Congo, Swaziland, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union. In addition, a review visit was conducted to Côte d'Ivoire pursuant to Security Council resolution 2153 (2014). Furthermore, the plenary requested the respective review visit teams to finalize their reports before the end of the year.

15. The plenary welcomed the expressions of interest in hosting a review visit from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Lesotho, Norway, Panama, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as from Belarus, Brazil, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mauritius. The plenary welcomed the commitment made by those countries to continuously open their certification systems to review and improvements and called upon other participants to continue to invite review visits under the peer review system.

16. The plenary took note of the results of the 2015 annual reporting exercise as the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme by participants, and welcomed the submission of annual reports on the implementation of the Certification Scheme in 2014 by 52 participants representing 79 countries. The plenary noted that the Working Group on Monitoring had requested the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship to deal with the one case of late submission. The plenary reviewed the assessment of annual reports and encouraged participants to continue submitting substantive annual reports on national implementation of the Certification Scheme.

17. The plenary noted the recent steps taken by the countries of the Mano River Union (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to create a new impetus for further regional cooperation towards Certification Scheme compliance, an initiative that had been highlighted by the Security Council in its resolution 2153 (2014), which lifted the embargo on the export of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. The plenary welcomed the continuous support for the countries of the Mano River Union provided by the technical team of the Working Group on Monitoring and the "Friends of the Mano River Union" group, in particular ongoing efforts to formalize the role of the secretariat of the Mano River Union and involve other implementing partners and/or technical assistance providers. The plenary expressed its appreciation to Angola for facilitating the Mano River Union coordination meetings.

18. The plenary took note of a report on the preliminary findings and observations of the review mission conducted to the Central African Republic. The plenary encouraged the Central African Republic to further implement its workplan and road map for strengthening its internal control system and requested the review mission team to finalize its report before the end of the year.

19. The plenary took note of the steps taken by the follow-up committee of the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team, consistent with the terms of reference of the team, to implement the administrative decision on the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic, as approved through written procedure on 17 July 2015. The plenary encouraged Process authorities in the Central African Republic to continue implementing the administrative decision and to share any relevant information and data with the monitoring team. The plenary invited the monitoring team to continue to carry out its responsibilities as outlined in the administrative decision and proceed with the planning of a field mission to diamond-producing areas in the Central African Republic as soon as possible, in order to verify the situation on the ground with a view to validating the country's proposal for determining "compliant zones" from which the export of rough diamonds could resume.

## Statistics

20. The monitoring of statistical data on the production and trading of rough diamonds is an essential aspect of the Certification Scheme and a regular source of information on its implementation. The submission of quarterly, biannual and annual statistics is a minimum requirement of the system.

21. The Working Group on Statistics implemented its first data anomalies questionnaire process for production and trade statistics, which is an effort to improve the quality and accuracy of the Certification Scheme data reported prior to the conduct of the annual statistical analyses.

22. The plenary noted that the Working Group on Statistics had initiated the third iteration of the annual data anomalies questionnaire process, which is used to identify anomalies/discrepancies in reported Kimberley Process statistics. On the basis of data submitted by participants to date, the Working Group has developed, reviewed and analysed the questionnaire tables for Process participants identified as having significant anomalies in their reported data. Those participants should receive in the near future a questionnaire based on the anomalies, in accordance with the 2012 administrative decision on the data anomalies questionnaire process.

23. The plenary noted the completion of 33 participant statistical analyses for 2014, with 13 responses received to date. The Working Group on Statistics awaits the responses of 20 other participants. There are 17 analyses that remain to be completed. The plenary noted that those participants should, within a short period of time, provide statistical data to the Working Group and the website of the Process. The Chair of the Working Group should take necessary measures and work closely with the corresponding countries to acquire the data. However, the Working Group was notified by a representative of Lesotho that the country had reported its missing data to the Kimberley Process rough diamonds statistics website. That information has been verified.

### **Technical issues and traceability**

24. The plenary took note of the important work of the scientific subgroup of the Working Group of Diamond Experts concerning the development of a fingerprint for diamonds from the Central African Republic, as requested pursuant to the administrative decision of 2014 on ensuring that diamonds from the Central African Republic are not introduced into the legitimate trade. The plenary welcomed the positive results obtained at the Mintek laboratory in South Africa that hold the promise of yielding an important tool in detecting smuggled diamonds from the Central African Republic in the legitimate diamond trade. The plenary thanked South Africa and Mintek for their endeavours and requested diamond-producing participants that neighbour the Central African Republic and others to make available samples of their own diamond production to establish a comprehensive reference diamond fingerprint database.

25. The plenary welcomed the availability of specialized diamond experts from the Working Group of Diamond Experts who will examine and verify, on behalf of the Kimberley Process monitoring team on the Central African Republic, monthly export shipments from compliant zones in the Central African Republic and, while so doing, fine-tune the production footprint of the compliant zones. The Working Group further informed the plenary about the other ongoing footprinting projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and West Africa.

### **Artisanal/alluvial production and technical assistance**

26. The plenary noted that participants in the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production had been encouraged to address the challenges of artisanal and small-scale mining by implementing the recommendations of the Moscow Declaration of 2005.

27. The plenary also noted that participants in the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production had also been encouraged to implement the recommendations of the Washington Declaration of 2012 in order to enhance the sustainable development of artisanal and small-scale mining. The plenary noted that the Working Group had been briefed on artisanal mining activities in Sierra Leone and the implementation of the standards of the Diamond Development Initiative.

28. In addition, the plenary noted that the Working Group on Monitoring had been updated on the ongoing and planned activities of the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme, co-funded by the United States of America and the European Union, to support two of the countries of the Mano River Union. The plenary encouraged the United States and the European Union, as well as other donors and/or technical assistance providers, to continue that work, and also encouraged other participants and observers to work with the countries of the Mano River Union on the technical assistance needs of those countries.

### **Looking ahead and future challenges**

29. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme has been implemented for 13 years and has played an important role in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds. With rough diamonds being the most tightly controlled commodity in the

world, conflict diamonds are now under effective control. The Process and its Certification Scheme need to be maintained and further improved.

30. The plenary noted that the mandate of the Administrative Support Mechanism, hosted by the World Diamond Council, would expire in 2016, and extended the mandate of the Mechanism for an additional three years after the expiration date, until the plenary of 2019. The annual reports of the Mechanism are to be submitted to the Chair.

31. The plenary agreed to engage with the Financial Action Task Force by inviting the authors of a Task Force report related to the risks associated with the supply chain of rough diamonds to a discussion at the next intersessional meeting. The plenary took note of the actions agreed to by the Working Group on Monitoring and the Working Group of Diamond Experts within the Kimberley Process mandate to address certain issues raised by the Task Force in its report.

32. The plenary welcomed the reactivation of the technical expert team on Internet trading, mandated by the Working Group on Monitoring to conduct research on the issue of cross-border e-commerce involving rough diamonds. The plenary encouraged the team to continue its research and to report on its progress at the next plenary meeting. In that context, the plenary acknowledged the recent contribution made by China.

33. The plenary reaffirmed its commitment to continue dialogue on decision-making and the definition of “conflict diamonds”, in accordance with paragraph 33 of the Johannesburg plenary communiqué of 2013.

34. The plenary welcomed the United Arab Emirates as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2016 and Australia as Vice-Chair for 2016 and Chair for 2017.

## **Enclosure**

### **2015 Kimberley Process final communiqué**

1. The thirteenth plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process was convened from 16 to 20 November 2015 in Luanda. Delegations from Process participants and observers, along with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mozambique, the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, the Gemological Institute of America and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), attended as guests of the Chair.
2. The Committee on Participation and Chairmanship, the Committee on Rules and Procedures, the Working Group on Monitoring, the Working Group on Statistics, the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production, the Working Group of Diamond Experts and the monitoring team on the Central African Republic held meetings during the plenary.
3. The Minister of Planning and Territorial Development of Angola, Job Graça, in his capacity as representative of the President of Angola, José Eduardo Dos Santos, and the Vice-Governor of Luanda, Njiila de Carvalho, were welcomed by the plenary and delivered speeches at the opening of the plenary. The opening and closing of the plenary were presided over by the Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015, Bernardo Francisco Campos.
4. The plenary accepted the request of the Committee on Rules and Procedures that the Chairs of other working bodies should submit information on how they consult with external organizations in accordance with their mandates and the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and the procedure for establishing such relations, and submit it to the Chair of the Process and to the Committee. The Committee should continue discussions on that issue based on the information received from the Chairs of the other working bodies.
5. The plenary approved the revision to the administrative decision on rules and criteria for selecting candidates for Vice-Chair of the Kimberley Process, submitted by the Committee on Rules and Procedures. The Committee should continue discussions on criteria for selecting candidates for Vice-Chair of the Process.
6. The plenary accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Rules and Procedures that the Administrative Support Mechanism make available, on the Kimberley Process website, an official list of participants, signed by the Chair of the Process.
7. The plenary noted that the participants in the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production had been encouraged to address the challenges of artisanal and small-scale mining by implementing the recommendations of the Moscow Declaration.
8. The plenary noted that the participants in the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production had also been encouraged to implement the recommendations of the Washington Declaration in order to enhance the sustainable development of artisanal and small-scale mining. The plenary noted that the Working Group had been briefed on artisanal mining activities in Sierra Leone and the implementation of the standards of the Diamond Development Initiative.



9. The plenary welcomed the decision of the Working Group on Monitoring to accept Angola, Cameroon and the African Diamond Producers Association as members of the Working Group, in accordance with its revised terms of reference. The plenary also welcomed the decision by the Working Group to accept the Diamond Development Initiative as a provisional member.

10. The plenary took note of the results of the 2015 annual reporting exercise, as the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme by participants, and welcomed the submission of annual reports on Certification Scheme implementation in 2014 by 52 participants representing 79 countries. The plenary noted that the Working Group on Monitoring had requested the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship to deal with the one case of late submission. The plenary reviewed the assessment of annual reports and encouraged participants to continue to submit substantive annual reports on national implementation of the Certification Scheme.

11. Participants and observers expressed their satisfaction with the guidance note on the new template for annual reporting welcomed by the Guangzhou plenary in November 2014, noting that it contained useful suggestions as to the depth and detail of information to be provided and had helped to enhance the assessment mechanism.

12. The plenary took note of the annual reports submitted by the World Diamond Council and the Civil Society Coalition on their respective activities in support of the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, in line with the 2009 administrative decision on the activities of observers.

13. The plenary took note of reports on the review visits conducted to Australia, China, Guinea and South Africa, and invited those four participants to report back on the implementation of the recommendations at the next intersessional meeting, in line with the revised administrative decision on peer reviews. Furthermore, the plenary took note of reports on the preliminary findings and observations of the review visits conducted to Armenia, the Congo, Mexico, Swaziland, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union, and requested the respective review visit teams to finalize their reports before the end of the year.

14. The plenary welcomed the expressions of interest for hosting a review visit from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Lesotho, Norway, Panama, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as from Belarus, Brazil, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mauritius. The plenary welcomed the commitment made by those countries to continuously open their certification systems to review and improvements, and called upon other participants to continue to invite review visits under the Kimberley Process peer review system.

15. The plenary took note of the initial discussion in the Working Group on Monitoring on draft guidelines for the organization and conduct of review visits, as prepared by representatives of participants and observers who had taken part in a study tour hosted by Australia in September 2014. The plenary encouraged participants to provide comments and share examples of best practices that would further inform the discussion on those guidelines.

16. The plenary took note of a report on the preliminary findings and observations of the review visit to Côte d'Ivoire, conducted pursuant to Security Council

resolution 2153 (2014). The plenary encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to further implement its transition strategy and post-United Nations embargo action plan and requested the review visit team to finalize its report before the end of the year.

17. The plenary took note of recent steps taken by the countries of the Mano River Union (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to create a new impetus for further regional cooperation towards Kimberley Process Certification Scheme compliance, an initiative that had been highlighted in resolution 2153 (2014), which lifted the embargo on the export of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. The plenary welcomed the continuous support for the countries of the Mano River Union provided by the technical team of the Working Group on Monitoring and the "Friends of the Mano River Union" group, in particular ongoing efforts to formalize the role of the secretariat of the Mano River Union and involve other implementing partners and/or technical assistance providers. The plenary expressed its appreciation to Angola for facilitating the Mano River Union coordination meetings.

18. The plenary noted that the Working Group on Monitoring had been updated on the ongoing and planned activities of the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme, co-funded by the United States of America and the European Union, to support two of the Mano River Union countries. The plenary encouraged the United States and the European Union, as well as other donors and/or technical assistance providers, to continue that work, and also encouraged other participants and observers to work with the countries of the Mano River Union on the technical assistance needs of those countries.

19. The plenary took note of a report on the preliminary findings and observations of the review mission conducted to the Central African Republic. The plenary encouraged the Central African Republic to further implement its workplan and road map for strengthening its internal control system and requested the review mission team to finalize its report before the end of the year.

20. The plenary took note of the steps taken by the follow-up committee of the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team consistent with the terms of reference of the team to implement the administrative decision on the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic, as approved through written procedure on 17 July 2015. The plenary encouraged the Kimberley Process authorities of the Central African Republic to continue implementing the administrative decision and to share any relevant information and data with the monitoring team. The plenary invited the monitoring team to continue to carry out its responsibilities as outlined in the administrative decision and proceed with the planning of a field mission to diamond-producing areas in the Central African Republic as soon as possible in order to verify the situation on the ground with a view to validating the country's proposal for determining "compliant zones" from which the export of rough diamonds could resume.

21. The plenary took note that Angola had been providing technical assistance and logistical support to the Central African Republic and that the United States planned to resume the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme in the Central African Republic with a view to enhancing that country's capacity and assisting it with the implementation of the administrative decision and operational framework for the resumption of exports of rough diamonds. The plenary encouraged other participants and observers to also consider providing similar or other technical assistance.

22. The plenary encouraged the Central African Republic and the Kimberley Process monitoring team to continue working closely together with relevant United Nations actors, notably the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013), the international community and neighbouring countries on Certification Scheme compliance issues with a regional dimension.

23. The plenary agreed to engage with the Financial Action Task Force by inviting the authors of a Task Force report related to the risks associated with the supply chain of rough diamonds to a discussion at the next intersessional meeting. The plenary noted the actions agreed to by the Working Group on Monitoring and the Working Group of Diamond Experts within the Kimberley Process mandate to address certain issues raised by the Task Force in its report.

24. The plenary welcomed the reactivation of the technical expert team on Internet trading, mandated by the Working Group on Monitoring to conduct research on the issue of cross-border e-commerce involving rough diamonds. The plenary encouraged the team to continue its research and to report on its progress at the next plenary meeting. In that context, the plenary acknowledged the recent contribution made by China.

25. The plenary reaffirmed its commitment to continue dialogue on decision-making and the definition of “conflict diamonds” in accordance with paragraph 33 of the Johannesburg plenary communiqué of 2013.

26. The plenary took note of the important work of the scientific subgroup of the Working Group of Diamond Experts concerning the development of a fingerprint for diamonds from the Central African Republic as requested pursuant to the administrative decision of 2014 on ensuring that diamonds from the Central African Republic are not introduced into the legitimate trade. The plenary welcomed the positive results obtained at the Mintek laboratory in South Africa that hold the promise of yielding an important tool in detecting smuggled diamonds from the Central African Republic in the legitimate diamond trade. The plenary thanked South Africa and Mintek for their endeavours and requested diamond-producing participants that neighbour the Central African Republic and others to make available samples of their own diamond production to establish a comprehensive reference diamond fingerprint database.

27. The Working Group of Diamond Experts informed the plenary about the developments in improving the footprint of the eastern and western production zones in the Central African Republic, and about the creation of a dedicated space on the Kimberley Process website by the Administrative Support Mechanism. This database contains statistical footprint data and digital pictures that can be used to support and enhance vigilance by participants.

28. The plenary welcomed the availability of specialized diamond experts from the Working Group of Diamond Experts who will examine and verify, on behalf of the Kimberley Process monitoring team on the Central African Republic, monthly export shipments from compliant zones in the Central African Republic and, while so doing, fine-tune the production footprint of the compliant zones. The Working Group further informed the plenary about the other ongoing footprinting projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and West Africa.

29. In line with the mandate obtained at the 2014 Guangzhou plenary meeting, the subgroup on valuation of the Working Group of Diamond Experts met to map current valuation methods across participants when determining the United States dollar value on Kimberley Process certificates. The subgroup on valuation informed the plenary about the midterm results of the valuation survey that was launched at the 2015 intersessional meeting. The plenary noted that, so far, only 22 participants had completed the survey and urged all non-respondent participants to do so before March 2016 in order to complement the mapping of valuation methodologies and to report on progress at the 2016 intersessional meeting.

30. The plenary was informed by the Working Group of Diamond Experts of the results of the survey on procedures related to the forfeiture/confiscation of rough diamonds by participants and took note of the reiteration by the Kimberley Process that no conflict diamonds should, under any circumstances, enter the legitimate diamond trade.

31. The plenary noted the discussion in the Working Group of Diamond Experts and informed the plenary of discussions on the use of technical certificates for research purposes and its possible impact on statistics and monitoring, thereby involving the Working Group on Statistics and the Working Group on Monitoring.

32. The plenary noted the work undertaken by the Working Group of Diamond Experts in assessing the Financial Action Task Force/Egmont report of 2013 in the context of ongoing efforts to further strengthen Certification Scheme implementation.

33. The plenary took note of the acceptance by the Working Group of Diamond Experts of the United Republic of Tanzania as a provisional member, in accordance with the administrative decision on the applications for membership of Kimberley Process participants and the participation of Kimberley Process working bodies of 2013.

34. The plenary noted that the mandate of the Administrative Support Mechanism, hosted by the World Diamond Council, would expire in 2016, and extended the mandate of the Mechanism for an additional three years after the expiration date, until the plenary of 2019. The annual reports of the Mechanism are to be submitted to the Chair.

35. The plenary thanked Angola, as Chair of the Kimberley Process, for liaising with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and for providing technical assistance and welcomed the participation of Venezuela's senior delegation in the plenary. Furthermore, the plenary acknowledged Venezuela's positive efforts towards fully participating in the Process. The Process noted the plans to send a review mission no later than the end of the first quarter of 2016.

36. The plenary noted that Liechtenstein had informed both the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship and the Chair of the Kimberley Process that it had refrained from applying for membership in the Process.

37. The plenary noted that Mozambique, as an applicant to the Certification Scheme, had been making continuous efforts to build its capacity in order to meet Kimberley Process minimum requirements, and also noted its invitation to an expert mission. Angola has provided technical assistance to Mozambique.

38. The plenary noted that Gabon had sent an application letter to the Chair of the Kimberley Process seeking to join the Process, and welcomed Angola as the Chair of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship for 2016. As Chair, Angola intends to contact Gabon to offer technical assistance.

39. The plenary welcomed the United Arab Emirates as the new Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2016 and Australia as Vice-Chair for 2016 and Chair for 2017.

40. The plenary recalled that host countries should facilitate entry formalities for those attending Certification Scheme meetings.

41. The plenary reaffirmed its commitment to the tripartite structure of the Kimberley Process. The plenary took note that the Civil Society Coalition had reservations about the chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates in 2016 and welcomed the offer by the World Diamond Council to mediate between the United Arab Emirates and the Civil Society Coalition in order to find a way forward for future engagements.

42. The plenary noted the completion of 33 participant statistical analyses for 2014, with 13 responses received to date. The Working Group on Statistics awaits the responses of 20 other participants. There are 17 analyses that remain to be completed.

43. The plenary noted that the statistical data of the following Kimberley Process participants had not been reported:

## **2013**

Central African Republic (Q1 Trade and Certificate Count and H1 Production)

## **2014**

Indonesia (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 Trade and Certificate Count)

Liberia (Q3 Trade and Certificate Count)

Togo (H2 Production)

## **2015**

Armenia (Q2 Certificate Count)

Bangladesh (Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

Brazil (Q2 Trade and Certificate Count and H1 Production)

Guinea (H1 Production)

Indonesia (Q1, Q2 Trade and Certificate Count and H1 Production)

Kazakhstan (Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Q1 and Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

Malaysia (Q1, Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

Mali (Q1, Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

Panama (Q2 Certificate Count)

Togo (Q1 Certificate Count and H1 Production)

Ukraine (Q2 Trade and Certificate Count)

The plenary noted that those participants should, within a short time, provide statistical data to the Working Group on Statistics and the website of the Kimberley Process. The Chair of the Working Group should take necessary measures and work

closely with the corresponding countries to acquire the data. However, the Working Group had been notified by a representative of Lesotho that the country had reported its missing data to the Kimberley Process rough diamonds statistics website. That information has been verified.

44. The plenary noted the Working Group on Statistics had initiated the third iteration of the annual data anomalies questionnaire process, which is used to identify anomalies/discrepancies in reported Kimberley Process statistics. On the basis of data submitted by participants to date, the Working Group on Statistics has developed, reviewed and analysed the data anomalies questionnaire tables for Kimberley Process participants identified as having significant anomalies in their reported data. Those participants should receive a questionnaire in the near future based on the anomalies, in accordance with the 2012 administrative decision on the data Anomalies questionnaire process.

45. The plenary noted that the Working Group on Statistics had made minor revisions to the template of charts and tables that would be used by members of the Working Group on Statistics in the preparation of the annual statistical analyses. The automation of that process should reduce the burden on members of the Working Group during their preparation of the annual statistical analyses.

46. In accordance with the 2013 administrative decision relating to the chairmanship of Kimberley Process working bodies, the Working Group on Statistics is soliciting volunteers for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group. The procedures should be as laid down in the terms of the 2013 administrative decision. The United States will facilitate the transfer of the statistical website, including the technical aspects.

47. The plenary noted the continued efforts by the Working Group on Statistics in providing outreach and education to members. In an open forum, the Working Group provided an overview of the tools and options available on the Kimberley Process rough diamonds statistics website and held discussions on the statistical reporting of production, trade and certificate count statistics. The Working Group provided a demonstration on entering Process statistics into the website, review of the statistical tables and feedback on common mistakes made by participants when submitting their data. The Working Group received positive feedback on the session.

48. The plenary noted the efforts of the Working Group on Statistics to enhance the reconciliation of Kimberley Process statistics among participants. The European Union shared its information on the reconciliation exercise undertaken with its trading partners. The Working Group decided to carry out a survey for all participants on data reconciliation practices in order to develop guidelines for best practices.

49. The plenary noted the efforts of the Working Group on Statistics to develop a methodology to address its mandate to monitor and assess the risk of diamonds from the Central African Republic infiltrating the legitimate trade. In that context, Canada demonstrated a statistical tool that it had developed jointly with the United States based upon quarterly data submitted by Kimberley Process participants to the statistical website. The tool is expected to facilitate the identification of irregularities in trade reported by Process participants concerning the Central African Republic, and may also be used in a more general fashion to analyse Process data by all participants.

50. The plenary expressed its appreciation to Angola for hosting the seminars held during the intersessional meeting on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and the seminar on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering related to the trade in rough diamonds.

51. The plenary thanked the Gemological Institute of America for the seminar on rough diamonds offered to the Kimberley Process and its course for members and observers of the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production.

52. The plenary thanked INTERPOL for its presentation encouraging closer cooperation between the law enforcement and customs agencies of participants and on the online training tool of INTERPOL.

53. The plenary noted that the strategic idea of creating the Kimberley Process had been provided in 2000 by the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, to the then Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Robert Fowler, and that the name of the institution was in homage to the city that had hosted the first meeting for the implementation of the strategic idea of the Kimberley Process.

54. The plenary thanked Angola for hosting the plenary meeting and expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended to the delegates.

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