



Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver these closing remarks at the conclusion of what has been a week of fruitful debate, deliberations and discussions.

I take this opportunity to especially thank the Chairs of the Working Groups who have led constructive sessions with urgency and dedication. Your leadership and active participation have truly enriched this gathering.

Reflecting on some of the key conversations over the past few days, I am particularly happy that the CAR Monitoring Team has by and large completed its verification and due diligence on the first shipment of the compliant zone of Berberati in the Central African Republic.

The Working Group of Monitoring took good notice of the Team's hard work and we expect to have full clearance in the next few days. This will be a great relief for the people of this country as well as a first step towards the resumption of further exports.

I also wish Venezuela well on its return KP family. The discussions are moving forward and I am confident we will see the country re-admitted to full KP membership within the near future.

I am also pleased to note that the Special Forum on Rough Diamond Valuation took place this week, and I would like to especially thank Tyler Gillard from the OECD for participating in this important session.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks on Tuesday, the KP has previously made attempts to tackle valuation of rough diamonds, where both the Washington Declaration from 2012 and the Moscow Declaration from 2005 provided policy goals and recommendations.

Based on the feedback that I have received from many of you over the past few days, I believe we are now in a position to outline a concrete, actionable plan.

In that context, I am happy to announce that we will host two further workshops on rough diamond valuation during this year. More information about timing and location will be made available in due course.

We will continue to seek guidance and leverage the extensive knowledge of the OECD in this matter, and also include experts from the diamond industry, professional valuers, the large mining corporations, auction and tender houses and representatives from the different leading price lists, with the goal to ultimately establish best practice principles which could be included in the KP framework.

In moving forward with best practices for rough diamond valuation, I want to underline the importance that all key diamond trading countries continue to invest in their KP process, and staff the right talent in-house, including valuers. We recommend an approach that applies for all importing and exporting countries so that fully fledged diamond offices will be a standard for all. Outsourcing part of your KP process to a third party is not a sustainable option, and if any country has a budgetary issue, let's address it and see if we can help.

The UAE KP Chair announced that he has received a letter from the Minister of mineral resources of South Africa, with the intention to Chair Working Group of Monitoring in the year 2017 taking over from the EU. This request is now being handled by the Working Group of Monitoring

We also held a fruitful discussion this week about the KP website. While the current website has served us well over the years, we are now at a time where we need to update our public and internal facing platform. I am delighted that we have agreement to move forward with a plan with the goal to create a website that can help drive broader, and better awareness of the KP to the general public, while at the same time giving us in the KP family a secure platform with enhanced functionality.

We now have a busy six months until we meet for the Plenary.

I will be visiting many of the key diamond centres until we meet again, including Russia, India, CAR, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and China.

We will also continue to build knowledge and engage in conversation around Blockchain, which I believe has the possibility to fundamentally transform KP and our industry.

Tracking a diamond from the mine to the retail store is clearly a tricky process, and with Blockchain we can establish trust, accountability and transparency while streamlining the business process.

Despite the KP family's differences and many constructive, sometimes different ways of approaching the collective challenges we face, I am convinced that we are all here because we believe we can do more in collaboration.

The UAE, like all other countries represented here, has things to work on.

I have no doubt in my mind that the future of the Kimberley Process is bright - given the clarity and informed perspectives that saw their way into the discussions here this week, and that I am convinced will lead to favourable conclusions of our Plenary.

I wish to conclude by thanking all participants for their involvement in this Intersessional and for your enlightened contribution to the future of the Kimberley Process. We trust you have enjoyed our warmth and hospitality.

Those who may be staying longer, we hope you will enjoy the beauty and splendour of our country – not just within the walls of the Atlantis.

For many that come here, the Burj Khalifa is one of the most obvious destinations.

But there is so much more.

I urge you to seek your way out to Jumeirah Lake Towers – not far from Dubai Marina - where you will find our office, the Almas Tower. This is one the tallest buildings in the Middle East – even the world - and home to the world's leading diamond companies. I like to think of it as the world's only vertical diamond district.

What's more interesting about Almas Tower and the surrounding district, is that the upcoming Star Trek movie and anticipated summer blockbuster was filmed there.

In fact a large number of scenes were filmed right in our very own Dubai Diamond Exchange. You can view the trailer for Star Trek Beyond online or on the big screen in the lobby as you leave this room.

Paramount Pictures, who produced the film, came to us because they were looking for a futuristic looking, modern environment.

And I think that you will agree, that if you explore Dubai further, despite a rich history, local culture and traditions, it is definitely a city built for the future and the citizens of the world.

For the future of trade. For its people. For its guests.

Thank you all for coming to visit.

You are always welcome back.