



London Inter-Governmental Meeting on Conflict Diamonds. London, October 2000.

Representatives of 36 governments, representing the world's leading rough diamond exporting, processing and importing states, the European Commission and the World Diamond Council, met in London from 25-26 October 2000.

The objective of the meeting was to build on the momentum of the South Africa-led Kimberley process by sensitising a wider range of key states to the problem of conflict diamonds.

Participants welcomed the Kimberley Joint Ministerial statement of 21 September 2000, in particular the readiness of South Africa and others to co-sponsor a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, and welcomed the readiness of the Government of Namibia to host further expert discussions.

They welcomed the action taken by the United Nations Security Council to address the problem of conflict diamonds, through the adoption of resolutions 1173 (1998) on Angola and 1306 (2000) on Sierra Leone and relevant decisions such as resolution 1304 (2000) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and emphasised the need to ensure their effective implementation. They welcomed the efforts taken so far by the Governments of Angola, Sierra Leone and others.

They emphasised the urgency of curbing the trade in conflict diamonds given the suffering and misery caused by the link to the illegal arms trade. They recognised that whilst conflict diamonds constituted only a small percentage of the whole diamond trade, they were an important factor in prolonging conflict in parts of Africa, and had the potential to damage the legitimate industry on which many livelihoods depend, especially in those developing countries heavily reliant on the diamond industry.

They accepted that the special nature of the diamond trade stemming from the diversity of the product and the structure of the trade made it even more difficult to apply bureaucratic forms of control than elsewhere.

They recognized the tradition of self-regulation existing within the trade and the constructive proposals of the World Diamond Council, set up by the industry to address the problem of conflict diamonds. They also recognized that civil society has played an important role in helping to raise awareness of the issue. They underlined the importance of the continuing involvement of industry and civil society in working together with governments to devise solutions to the problems.

They underlined the need to devise effective and pragmatic measures to address the problem of conflict diamonds, which complied with international law, and which would not impede the legitimate diamond industry or impose undue burden on governments or industry (especially small producers).