

Administrative Decision on the Postponement of Russia's Chairmanship to 2021 and Botswana's Chairmanship to 2022

Noting that in 2020 the world saw the unprecedented spread of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Noting also 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 (KP) and completely excluded the possibility of organizing and participating in the face-to-face KP Intersessional and Plenary meetings in 2020,

Recognizing that holding the Intersessional and Plenary meetings of the KP Working Bodies in a virtual format would not guarantee the attendance of all interested Participants and Observers due to technical reasons and efficient work on the KP agenda,

Welcoming the understandings reached by the Russian Federation, Botswana, the Chairs of the KP Working Bodies and Observers during the teleconference meeting on 22 May 2020 and thanking the Russian Federation and Botswana for their flexibility,

The KP Participants decided as follows:

1. The chairmanships of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Botswana will be postponed to 2021 and 2022 accordingly.

2. Work of the KP in 2020 will be coordinated by the chairs of the KP working bodies within their respective competence in order to ensure the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to extent strictly necessary to permit continued international trade in conflict-free rough diamonds.

3. Since there will be no previous year's KP Chair in 2021 to become the Chair of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship (CPC) in conformity with the Administrative Decision "Dissolution of the Participation and Selection Committees and Formation of the new Committee on Participation and Chairmanship" (2013, Johannesburg) and CPC Terms of Reference, India will continue to act as the Chair of the CPC in 2021.

4. All existing KP Administrative Decisions referencing items for deadline or decision in "2020" will now be read in "2021."

5. The role of the Russian Federation will be limited to a caretaker capacity, namely, if necessary, coordinating the activity of the working bodies in line with paragraph 2 of this Administrative decision, and refraining from any policy initiatives or decisions, including in the context of representation of the KP in the United Nations inclusive of preparing a draft UN General Assembly resolution on the KP, and in other international organizations.

6. This Administrative Decision is approved under written procedure pursuant to the Administrative Decision "Procedures for Preparation and Adoption of Documents/Decisions in the Kimberley Process" (2010, Jerusalem) as supplemented by the Administrative Decision "Clarifications and Recommendations on the Issue of Applying the KP Written Procedure" (2011, Kinshasa).

7. The postponement of the chairmanships will be communicated via the KP official website as soon as this Administrative Decision has been approved.