



Friday, June 21st 2019

Speech KP Chair Closing Session

Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Zimbabwe, Mr. Winston Chitando,
Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Central African Republic, Mr. Leopold Fatran,
Vice Chair of KP, Russian Federation,
Mr. Stephane Fischler, President World Diamond Council,
Mr. Shamiso Mtisi, Coordinator of Civil Society,
Chairs of all Working Groups and Committees,
Kimberley Process Participants and Observers,
Present Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Afternoon!

It has been a fantastic week. We are having mixed feelings. Happiness and feeling sad as we will be parting. As the proverb goes all good things must come to an end. We are now concluding the 16th Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting – the first-ever in Mumbai. This has been quite a significant milestone for India and the key stakeholders of its diamond trade.

Over the past five days here, we have seen a rich exchange of thoughts and ideas, discussions and deliberations, listening & learning, debates, dialogues. These are in the true KP tradition of productive and rich exchange of ideas to forge the way forward for KP.

We are grateful to the global diamond community and the representatives of the civil society coalition for their presence and active participation.

The knowledge, experience and expertise that each one of you brings to the table is phenomenal and collectively, it has the power to guide the world of the diamond business to the next level of evolution. Your commitment and contribution to usher in transformational change has been of the highest order. And, in the true spirit of KP, we could witness the spirit of care, cooperation and collaboration in the last five days.

Friends .. KP has its origins in an era of deep trouble and conflict where rough diamonds were used by rebel groups to fuel conflicts – to wage bloody wars that challenged the stability of legitimate governments. KP was born in the crucible of such troubled times. It was born out of a clarion call from the UN which mandated KP as a tri-partite mechanism to resolve the menace posed by conflict diamonds. That was a decade and half ago. It is to the credit of all us sitting here as one big KP family that we could succeed in this mission to a large extent. Today, almost 99.8% of the world's diamonds come from conflict-free sources. In doing so, the Kimberley Process has contributed towards the larger goals of peace, security and prosperity

for all its stakeholders. Each of us as a part of the KP family should be proud of this achievement which was born out of this collaborative work over all these years.

As we all know, KP is now 16 years old and in a way, is in its adolescence. No wonder, there are questions about the identity that echo around the forum. These are valid and pertinent questions as KP seeks to establish its continued relevance in the emerging world order.

But we must understand that it is a matter of pride and we should be happy to see that now almost all diamonds come from conflict free zones. But our work is not over. We should be ever vigilant. Our processes should ensure that not even one diamond which is not KP compliant should enter international trade.

In this context, the areas like the Central Africa Region are still a challenge for all of us. I had discussions with the CAR Government , Hon'ble Minister , and the Monitoring Team. Both are working together on resolving the issues and challenges in increasing legitimate export of high quality diamonds and making more zones as compliant zones. We should help the CAR government in their efforts for bringing the buying houses back in operation. It is an important region where the KP has to prove it's efficacy. While we should appreciate the sincere efforts made by the CAR MT in bringing the improvement in clearing exports, we need to see that there are positive outcomes of increasing share of legitimate exports in the total production. We need to be watchful. We need to plug the loopholes, wherever possible.

One of the highlights of this intersessional was the special forum on “Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes”. We presented GemFair which leverages Transparency to empower local communities, Common Facility Centres which enables pooling of resources, the chain of custody of Mumbai’s Dabbawalas, Trusted delivery as exemplified by the Angadias, the mapping of workforce through Parichay ID card and taking care of them through Swasthya-Rathna health insurance scheme from GJEPC.

There is an immense potential for socio-economic transformation in such initiatives. We need to explore all these and engineer more such avenues to work on the capacity building and continued support to the artisanal mining community to empower them to become more self-reliant and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Our people are our strength. As an industry, civil society and participating Government entities, we need to come together to learn and implement such indigenous innovative solutions for the betterment of all the stakeholders in the global diamond industry.

Friends.. KP is an example of the highest form of democracy as all the decisions are made on consensus basis. We have many important ongoing discussions on various aspects. The discussion over the last 5 days was necessary for this consensus-based decision making. These efforts are essential for solutions which are sustainable.

During the last 5 days, we observed progress in many areas such as finalisation of Terms of Reference for Permanent Secretariat, progress to finalize the draft AD on Peer Review Mechanism, progress in data reconciliation guidance document and capturing of data for Artisanal Mining production, progress on proposal on introduction of new independent observer, more clear directions for MDTF and Consolidation of Core Document.

Discussions were held on issues of ATA Carnet, Fake KP certificates and digital solutions, HS code classification proposal with WCO at country level, provisions on disposal of confiscated diamonds, UK's membership etc.

As Chair of KP, India is fully committed to make the KPCS stronger in terms of inclusiveness, strengthened administration and implementation. We are also deeply empathetic towards the challenges faced by the people who are dependent on the production, trade and manufacture of diamonds.

I thank each of you for sharing your views and experiences which will pave the way to make the Kimberley Process more efficient and stronger.

We all have put in a lot of hard work over the last week. I trust that the working group members will keep fine tuning and finalising draft ADs in the days and weeks to come through teleconferences and I am confident that there would be positive outcomes in some areas by the time we meet again in New Delhi for Plenary in November 2019.

I would like to thank all those involved in making this intersessional meeting a successful one. And I wish each one of you all the very best with your continued efforts on enhanced compliance in the diamond industry worldwide.

Last but not the least, Mr Louis Perron from Canada who has been the part of KP specially in WGDE since the beginning will be leaving us soon. On behalf of India and all of us, I would like to thank him for his valuable contribution in the KP. We will surely miss him. Thank you Louis.

Have a safe trip and see you at the Plenary in November 2019. Share the good memories of your trip to Mumbai with your family and friends.

Thank you so much

Phir milenge, see you soon.