



Distinguished Members on the dais,  
Honourable Ministers  
Excellencies  
Vice Chair of KP - Russian Federation,  
Chairs of Working Groups and Committees,  
Representatives from Botswana,  
Mr Stephen Fischler, President, World Diamond Council,  
Mr Shamiso Miti, Coordinators of Civil Society Coalition

Dear Kimberley Process Participants and Observers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After 5 days of intense and gruelling discussions, the 2019 Kimberley Process Plenary is now drawing to a conclusion.

At the Brisbane Plenary in 2017, we had, jointly noted the need for reforms in KP and had decided to embark on this current review cycle.

After going through week-long proactive consultations which have stretched till late yesterday evening and this morning, it is evident that KP continues to be a vibrant forum. It remains a unique tripartite process where we collectively agree to disagree with positive consensus and practical resolution of issues.

This is special year for India as we are celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi – the global icon of Ahimsa - i.e. non-violence. He was also a great believer in the inherent potential of diverse communities to come together in a positive spirit to foster co-operation for finding solutions for common challenges. This is the spirit that imbues into every strand of Indian society. For ages, India has been defined by the unique way that it celebrates the rich diversity that permeates it and weaves together the diverse stands seamlessly in all its colourful glory.

As KP Chair, I note that - We, as KP family, consisting of participants and observers from across the globe are also representative of a similar diversity. While diversity brings differences in perspectives on various issues, the KP tradition of fostering extensive deliberations to converge on consensus-based solutions is the best way to ensure that they are acceptable and sustainable.

I note that, since its implementation in 2003, KP has been successful in their mandate of being a conflict prevention tool and to stem the flow of conflict diamonds. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of all the participants and observers who could

work through their divergent positions to build KP as a strong mechanism as it exists today.

Even the strongest processes require continuing reinforcement and it is in this context, that we had embarked on the current review cycle in 2017.

I am happy to note that during course of this entire review cycle and in particular, over the last week, we have made commendable progress in several areas such as finalisation of Terms of Reference for Permanent Secretariat, finalize the draft AD on Peer Review Mechanism, development of guidelines document for reconciliation of KP statistics and reporting of data for Artisanal Mining production, progress on proposal on introduction of new independent observer, more clear directions for MDF and Consolidation of Core Document.

India is and will always be committed to make the KPCS, a stronger process in terms of inclusiveness, better administration, greater transparency and at the same time, remain empathetic towards the living standards of people who are dependent on the production, trade and manufacture of diamonds.

While we should be proud of what has been achieved so far, we should also acknowledge that there is quite a bit of work that lies ahead of us. We all have worked hard to move the Kimberley Process forward and am certain that we would continue in the same spirit under the able Chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

Increased cooperation and coherence among the three pillars of the Kimberley Process tripartite structure and the work done by all of us makes this process work efficiently and deliver its promise.

After going through the proceedings and hearing all of you, I am confident and assured that we, as members of the KP family, can make KP stronger as well as more vibrant and at the same time, more people oriented as livelihood of millions of people across the world is dependent on trade of diamonds - especially those engaged in mining, and cutting & polishing.

KP has always extolled the virtues of conflict prevention, peace, prosperity and rules-based multilateralism. To bring these goals to life, we require vision, commitment, and many practical steps, on a day-to-day basis.

Ever since inception of KPCS, India – as a founding member and an active participant has been actively involved in the Working Groups and Committees like CRP, CPC, WGM, WGDE & WGS and is strongly committed to pragmatic reforms for a stronger, transparent and inclusive KP.

India will continue to actively participate in the work under various fronts and pursue the collective goals of the KP family.

I once again thank you all for coming to India and for your participation in this Plenary.

I hope you could snatch some time from the gruelling schedule to explore Delhi; If you have not done so, I would insist that you do the same before you catch your flight.

This year's Plenary Meeting will be the final one for two of the senior representatives of the World Diamond Council – its President Stephane Fischler , who ends his term in office in May 2020, and its Executive Director, Marie-Chantal Kaninda, who left the organization several months ago, but agreed to join and support the WDC delegation here in India. Both have dedicated tremendous effort in furthering the mission of the Kimberley Process, and have embodied the spirit of collaboration in our tripartite coalition of government, industry and civil society. On behalf of the entire KP family, I thank them for their leadership.

I also take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the Government – Senthil Nathan S as well as Mr. Prashant Pandey. I also convey our deep appreciation to Mr. Pramod Aggarwal, Chairman GJEPC, Mr. Sabyasachi Ray, ED, GJEPC and the entire GJEPC team for their active contribution and efforts in partnering with the Government to organise this Plenary. Have a safe flight home. And see you all in Russia Next year.

Before we conclude I will invite Vice Chair, Russian Federation to take over the KP Chairmanship for 2020.

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