



KIMBERLEY PROCESS PLENARY
Brussels, 12-16 November 2018
Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production (WGAAP)

OPENING SPEECH

**Honorable Ministers,
Madam KP Chair,
Madam, KP Vice-chair,
Dear KP family
Distinguished Guest
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to address the Kimberley Process Plenary for the first time, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production.

Allow me, first of all to express my deep appreciation to the European Union for hosting this important event and for the warm welcome.

My sincere gratitude goes to Madam KP Chair for her strong leadership, struggling by all means to remain in contact with KP working bodies Chairs, with a view to ensure better progress of their activities.

I should pay a special tribute to EU, in general and to GIZ, in particular, for the tremendous work done in the implementation of the Regional Approach Action Plan in the MRU countries.

**Dear KP Family,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Artisanal diamond mining is a complex subject. Not only it involves a great number of players, but also it faces a lot of challenges that have barely been addressed over the years.

Artisanal diamond mining touches to the heart of the Kimberley Process, since the inception of the KPCS goes back to the need of addressing the vulnerabilities artisanal diamond mining poses to the entire diamond business.

The vulnerabilities within the artisanal mining sector are known, since many researches have been conducted in the field of ASM, in general. The Mosi-oa-Tunya Declaration on Artisanal and Small -scale Mining, Quarrying and Development, adopted as the outcome of the International Conference on ASM and Quarrying held recently in Livingstone in Lusaka, is an important tool that complements many other such instruments adopted earlier. It emphasizes on a number of issues that need to be addressed in the ASM sector in general.

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The WGAAP held six teleconferences in 2018. The following activities of this working Group were carried in accordance with the Work Program presented in the Chairs' meeting held in New York, in early March 2018:

1. Artisanal Diamond Mining Forum

The first edition of the Artisanal Diamond Mining Forum was held in Livingstone, Zambia, on 14 September 2018, back to back with The International Conference on Artisanal and Small Scale Mining and Quarrying organized by ACP and EU, with the participation of various stakeholders in the ASM, in general

The Artisanal Diamond Forum was organized with strong support of the EU, ensuring funding and logistics for this event, including by sponsoring 30 Artisanal miners from different African Countries as well as the representatives of Civil Society Coalition.

This event was a real success and I would like to acknowledge the participation of the World Diamond Council, the Diamond Development Initiative, US and the PRADD Project, OECD, and GIZ, to name but a few. It

was interesting to hear directly from the Artisanal Miners who are always absent from KP events, and we learnt many lessons, starting from the need to have around the table this significant part of the diamond industry in the main KP events.

2. Regional Cooperation in the MRU Countries

A number of activities were carried out, as part of the planning made by GIZ to implement the MRU RA Action Plan. In this respect, three important workshops were conducted. The first one was related to Border controls to fight smuggling and it took place in April 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia.

The second was related to the work of CSOs in the KPCS implementation within the MRU. It took place in September 2018 in two different locations: the French version in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) for CSOs from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire) and the English version in Sierra Leone, for the CSOs from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The CSOs came out with a work plan that will help them improve their contribution in the KPCS implementation both at domestic and regional levels.

The third workshop that took place some weeks back, in October 2018, was a training delivered to Law Enforcement Agencies representatives from the four MRU countries. Three experts conducted this training on various topics: Mark Van Bockstael, Chair of the WGDE; Winfried Ottoy, representing the WGS, and myself, as Chair of the WGAAP. The team of the trainers was assisted by Mr Djomba, GIZ Consultant.

Again, it was a wonderful experience and many issues were raised by participants and a thorough discussion will be conducted on the same matter during this Plenary.

It is worth noting that DDI has also conducted, in 2018, training on KP awareness in border communities in three of the four countries, under the funding of GIZ.

3. Regional Cooperation in Central Africa

After the meeting that was held in the margin of the Intersessional in June, in Antwerp, the Participants and Observers that had volunteered in the technical Team nominated their representatives. Two teleconferences were held and we have just had a meeting on the same matter to define the priority areas that would be addressed as part of the launching of the activities of this Cooperation on the ground. We do appreciate all the countries involved in this initiative.

4. Improving collection and reporting of artisanal diamond mining data.

This matter is being discussed in tandem with the WGS. During the Intersessional, it was agreed on the principle of disaggregating the industrial and artisanal production data. We will finalize the discussion during this Plenary.

So, for this Plenary, the WGAAP has planned for four sessions, of which three are joint sessions to be held respectively with WGS, WGM and WGDE.

The following topics will be discussed:

1. Joint session with WGS

- **Reporting on artisanal diamond production data:** we will look at ways to create a new section within the KP site to facilitate this operation.

2. Joint session with the WGM

- **Regional Cooperation in the MRU countries:** we will hear from the MRU Secretariat on the progress made on the ground and the next steps.
- **Regional Cooperation in Central Africa:** The Technical Team members and the Focal Points will update the WGs members on the plans made to launch the activities on the ground by next year.

3. Joint session with WGDE:

- **Paper on synthetics:** DDI and WDC have submitted a paper on synthetics, as per the request of the WGAAP. This paper has already been circulated to the all the WGAAP and WGDE

members to inform the discussion that will take place on this matter.

4. Individual session

- **Using the lessons learnt from the Artisanal Diamond Mining Forum:** the report of this event has already been circulated to all the WGAAP members. Options should be explored to improve the work of artisanal diamond miners and work towards their participation in the KP events;
- **Presentations on the mapping of the mine sites:** DRC and CAR will make presentations so as to share practices on this matter, the idea being to take the WGAAP members into this practice.

Having presented the issues that will constitute the basis of our discussions within the WGAAP sessions during this Plenary, I remain convinced that we will have fruitful exchanges and achieve good results for the continuous success of the Kimberley Process.

Thank you.

Maurice MIEMA

WGAAP Chair

