



**REMARKS BY HON FRANS KAPOFI, INTERIM MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES,
MINES AND ENERGY, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE KIMBERLEY
PROCESS MINISTERIAL MEETING ALONGSIDE THE KP PLENARY
MEETING, HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2025 IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES**

**Excellency, Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade,
Excellency Honourable Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Kp Chairperson
Honourable Ministers Present in-person and online,
Chairs of the KP Working Groups and Committees
Esteemed KP Tripartite Family**

Good morning!

Namibia welcomes this timely engagement, which reaffirms our collective commitment to safeguarding the credibility and integrity of the global diamond sector.

Namibia stands here today to reaffirm its unwavering collective commitment to a principle that governs the diamond trade value chain which is the principle of "peace, transparency, and accountability".

As a producing country of many years, Namibia views the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), as a guarantor of the livelihoods of communities, and national development that diamonds support, and the only globally recognized mechanism that ensures that rough diamonds do not fuel conflicts, exploitation, or instability to legitimate governments and its people. Therefore, our focus is on ensuring that the KP continues to protect both the integrity of the supply chain and the developmental aspirations of producer nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Reflecting on why the Kimberley Process was established, the KP was not established as an initiative of convenience but of necessity. In the early 2000s, the world was awakened to the devastating reality that diamonds are supposed to be symbols of love and luxury, were being used to fund brutal civil wars in Africa. The international community responded not with rhetoric, but with resolve. Consequently, the Kimberley Process was established through a United Nations Resolution 55/56, thus uniting diamond producing countries governments, industry leaders, and civil societies under one umbrella with one shared mission – “To eliminate conflict diamonds from the global supply chain”.

And it worked.

Today, over 86 countries participate in the Kimberley Process. It is the only certification node backed by national legislations, enforced through internal controls, and monitored by peer review mechanism of the KP. It is not a brand neither a marketing tool. It is a government-to-government regulatory framework and that distinction matters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We may argue that new technologies and private schemes can replace the Kimberley Process. Blockchain tracing, and lab-based analysis are indeed valuable best practice tools to enhance transparency and consumer confidence. But let us be clear: none of these alternatives address issues of conflict. Nor do they regulate trade. They do not carry the weight of international law.

To abandon or dilute the Kimberley Process, is to risk fragmentation, confusion, and the erosion of consumer trust. It is to open the door once again to illicit trade and human suffering. We must not let that happen.

Instead, the KP leadership, should rather strive to strengthen the Kimberley Process by expanding its scope to include issues like the development of diamond communities, whose development depends on revenue derived from diamonds produced and benefited around them. We must use technologies that enhances traceability and support artisanal miners who are most vulnerable to exploitation by ensuring they participate meaningfully in the diamond value chain.

While the Kimberley Process may not be without imperfections, it is an authentic, credible, and legitimate framework—one that has been collectively cultivated and progressively strengthened by its participants and observers. Adopting a definition of conflict diamond, which is proposed and meets the aspirations of the African diamond producing governments and their citizens represents a pivotal

advancement, reinforcing the foundational principles of the KP, extending its scope, and testifying its relevance and impact. It is the duty of all stakeholders to ensure that each diamond introduced into the market is accompanied not solely by a certificate of origin, but also by a formal attestation of ethical provenance and social accountability.

As we deliberate on strengthening definitions, enhancing compliance mechanisms, and improving data transparency, we must do so in a manner that protects the credibility of the KP while recognising the developmental needs of all participants.

As I conclude, Namibia remains fully committed to constructive dialogue, consensus-driven solutions, and reforms that reinforce the relevance and effectiveness of the Kimberley Process. I respectfully urge all participants to endorse a definition that reflects our shared values and commitment towards enhanced transparency, integrity, cooperation, and the responsible governance of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, that advance stability and responsible stewardship of the diamond sector.

I Thank you.