

FORUM: General Assembly

QUESTION OF: The role of diamonds in fueling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

SUBMITTED BY: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

CO-SUBMITTERS: Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Noting that the smuggling of illicit rough diamonds accounts for over 50 percent of the diamond trade and it is estimated by the Government Gold and Diamond Office that the total production of rough illicit diamonds amounts to 100 million USD per year,

Further noting rough diamonds as diamonds that are uncut and unpolished but are used as “conflict or blood diamonds” to finance conflicts to overthrow governments,

Aware that 4% of diamonds produced are classified as “conflict or blood diamonds,” which is enough to purchase weapons to destabilize the entire African continent,

Recognizing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) as an internationally recognized certification system created in 2003 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to establish national import and export standards of rough diamonds,

Further recognizing that the KPCS is lacking a comprehensive system for monitoring where diamonds are mined, how they are mined, what the proceeds are funding and how diamonds are domestically transported, which influences a government’s control over conflicts and can possibly promote illicit diamond trading,

1. Calls for all relevant Member States to sign and ratify the KPCS to promote cooperation and awareness of the illicit diamond trade;
2. Asks for the creation of the Collation for Stopping Conflict Diamonds (CSCD), a United Nations Organization (UNO), which would work with the relevant Member States, as well as the United Nations Verification and Inspection Committee (UNMOVIC), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), African Union (AU), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and World Diamond Council (WDC), enabling the monitoring of the implementation of the KPCS in countries that have already ratified it, in order to stop illicit diamond transportation both domestically and internationally level by:
 - a) ensuring the methods by which the diamonds are bought and mined are legal according to the KPCS’s definition of “clean” diamonds
 - b) sending a member of the CSCD and of the UNMOVIC in the first year following a nation’s ratification of the KPCS, to observe the changes, thus ensuring transparency;
3. Urges that the monitoring system of CSCD and Member States that have signed the KPCS allow and implement a customs checking system in each county including:
 - a) a monitoring system using modern measuring and weighing instruments, in order to:
 - i. check that the amount and quality of “clean” diamonds stated on the certificate is received
 - ii. confiscate any unregistered diamonds and the revenue of the illegal sales which will then be used for the CSCD

- b) the cooperation between the custom checking system, Member States and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), in order to allocate a punishment for offenders who are illegally smuggling diamonds by:
 - i. withholding certificates for international and domestic transportation of the businesses and Member States
 - ii. implementing other penalties suggested by the CSCD and any other relevant body;
4. Suggests the creation of an online database under the UNIDIR with all relevant IGOs and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to monitor the transportation of rough diamonds internationally and domestically through the organization of information collected during the import and export process by:
- a) using serial numbers from KPCS Certificates and other relevant information such as origin, carat weight and grade
 - b) considering mining targets and mining capacities from diamond exporting states
 - c) providing mechanisms for small diamond mining and refining companies to receive low interest loans from local enterprises thereby providing them the with the means to adopt, access, register with, and update the database;
5. Further suggests the creation of an internationally accepted KPCS form, at the next KPCS peer review session, that will be used for domestic transfer of diamonds involving information such as, but not limited to:
- a) any specific details or causes needed to be monitored by that individual nation due to its present state and history of diamond smuggling and trading
 - b) strict monitoring laws where imports and exports must include all of this information and the checking system.