

**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special  
Meeting**

**Natural Resources, Peaceful Societies and Sustainable Development:  
Lessons from the Kimberley Process**

18 March 2022

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President of the Economic and Social Council**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

- 1.** Let me at the outset express my gratitude to you for your participation in this special meeting and for your rich statements and discussions on the nexus between natural resources, peace and sustainable development.
- 2.** From your interventions, it is clear that there is a strong commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources at all levels, be it the UN System, governments, and civil society. This commitment stems from a shared conviction about the good that natural resources can do in fostering economic and social development and promoting peace.
- 3.** This meeting has therefore reaffirmed the important role of natural resources to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the remainder of the Decade of Action.

4. Furthermore, **Excellencies and Distinguished delegates**, we have benefitted from important insights on the lessons learned and experiences of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and its tripartite arrangement.
5. I should also note that the Kimberley Process demonstrates that when there is political will, a multistakeholder and an inclusive approach, we can achieve positive results. The mechanism also provides important lessons on transparency, accountability and continuous improvement of systems and processes to enhance effectiveness.
6. As we have heard from His Excellency the Former President Festus Mogae, we can draw inspiration from the achievements of this mechanism to ensure that, not just diamonds, but all natural resources are sourced ethically and contribute to development.
7. In this connection, I was encouraged to learn that the Kimberley Process has inspired the creation of the Regional Certification Mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).
8. I therefore hope that this meeting has deepened interest of stakeholders across the broad spectrum of natural resources to establish similar mechanisms.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

9. I should reiterate that the sustainable management of natural resources also entails the promotion of value addition and broader economic diversification as well as the empowerment of local communities particularly vulnerable groups that have been left furthest behind. In this context, the sustainable management of natural resources is a key factor in addressing inequalities within and between countries.
10. In conclusion, **Excellencies and Distinguished delegates**, let me reaffirm my commitment to utilizing the ECOSOC platform and its vast network of subsidiary bodies platform to support countries efforts to attain an SDG-driven recovery from the pandemic.

**11.** I look forward to interacting with you at future ECOSOC events particularly the High-Level Political Forum in July where I believe the subject of natural resources will feature.

**I thank you.**