



**STATEMENT
BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DR MOKGWEETSI E. K. MASISI,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING
THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF ECOSOC
ON
“NATURAL RESOURCES, PEACEFUL SOCIETIES AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE
KIMBERLEY PROCESS”**

NEW YORK

18 MARCH 2022

- **Mr. President,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Let me start by thanking you for convening this Special Meeting on "***Natural Resources, Peaceful Societies and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Kimberley Process.***"
2. It is truly commendable that you saw it fit to have a debate on such an important subject matter that has the potential to bring about socio-economic development to many countries.
3. **Mr. President,** diamonds are the mainstay of Botswana's economy, whose annual production today is by value the highest in the world. The importance of diamonds to Botswana's development agenda is therefore unquestionable; ***For Botswana Diamonds***

are for Development, hence my country's unwavering support for the Kimberly Process.

4. We have for the last two decades attached great importance to the Kimberley Process, not only because it addresses the value of diamonds but also because it symbolizes the international community's resolve to collectively do their part in ensuring that never again shall resources such as diamonds, bring sorrow and suffering to humanity, as it did to many across the globe.
5. Since the establishment of the Kimberley Process in 2001, conflict diamonds have dropped from 15% as a proportion of the global trade in rough diamonds to less than 1%.
6. It was through this auspicious body, led by the United Nations General Assembly, that supported the call by the diamond industry especially African Producing States to launch an international trade regime that

would monitor and regulate the trade in rough diamonds, hence the gradual reduction in conflict diamonds that we are witnessing today.

7. **Mr. President**, the importance of the diamond sector as a catalyst for promoting economic and social development, necessary for poverty reduction has for the last twenty years been visible especially among many diamond producing states.
8. For countries like Botswana, whose diamond revenues have always been used for development purposes, the Kimberley Process has enabled us to protect the integrity and reputation of our most valued commodity, **diamonds**.
9. Proceeds from diamond sales in Botswana contribute to the implementation of our National Development Plans and the National Vision 2036, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

10. Based on her development success story, Botswana stands ready to share lessons, experiences and best practices with other diamond producing and mineral producing countries, especially those emerging from conflict situations.
11. In this regard, we support the African Union's Africa Mining Vision which serves as a common platform for African countries to work together based on a shared vision towards the **"Africa We Want"**.
12. There is no doubt that the Kimberley Process is truly a unique entity. As a multilateral initiative that has brought together key stakeholders such as Governments, the diamond industry and civil society to stem the flow of illicit and conflict diamonds from the legitimate diamond market, the Kimberley Process must be jealously guarded as it represents one of the best examples of a United Nations intergovernmentally established entity.

13. **Mr. President,** beyond enabling socio-economic development to millions of our peoples, the combined efforts of the Kimberley Process and the United Nations have seen the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in several African countries.

14. This is why, Botswana is a great advocate of the Kimberly Process efforts to enhance cooperation and assistance to diamond-producing countries on best practices, capacity-building and compliance with Kimberly Process Certification scheme minimum requirements, standards, rules, procedures and certification.

15. These for Botswana, are crucial as we look into a bright future for the Kimberley Process and its Members. We cannot have expectations on Kimberley Process Members when the entity has not created structure that addresses their shortfalls.

16. Therefore, as a way of strengthening the Kimberley Process, my recommendations are constant training for those in low compliance and this must be part of the core business of the entity, hence Botswana's support for a Kimberly Process Secretariat.

17. **Mr. President**, let me in closing, emphasise that through the prudent management of resources, and adherence to Kimberley Process Certification scheme, socio-economic development is possible.

18. I therefore encourage all the members of the Kimberly Process to adhere to high standards, which include putting in place enabling national legislation, competent institutions as well as stringent internal controls to ensure transparency and the legitimate trade in this jewel we call diamonds.

19. The value and importance of the diamond industry to the people of Botswana and how it has indeed served as a model for transforming our own lives is

unimaginable. Come to Botswana and see for yourselves what diamond production means to an ordinary citizen and how it is possible through "***Natural Resources, to attain Peaceful Societies and Sustainable Development***"

I thank you for your kind attention.
