



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Economic and Social Council Special Meeting

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

Overall focus

Achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 is one of the targets for SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Natural resources also have strong interlinkages with the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can contribute to sustainable development outcomes if managed sustainably.

Illicit exploitation or trade in natural resources continue to undermine peace and sustainable development in many countries, in particular conflict-affected regions and countries. For example, according to UNCTAD¹, of the estimated \$40 billion of illicit financial flows derived from extractive commodities in 2015 in Africa, 77 per cent were concentrated in the gold supply chain, followed by diamonds (12 percent) and platinum (6 percent). The proceeds of illicit trade in natural resources have sometimes also been used to finance conflict.

International multistakeholder initiatives, such as the Kimberley Process² initiated by African diamond-producing countries, has for the last 20 years been instrumental in enhancing cooperation to address the challenges in the affected countries and industries and promote transparency and accountability. This Special Meeting of ECOSOC could address lessons learned from the Kimberley process and how such initiatives can unleash the potential of natural resources for peaceful societies and the achievement of the SDGs.

Theme

The meeting could address “*Natural resources, peaceful societies and sustainable development*” with a focus on lessons from the Kimberley process. It could reflect on ways to address illegal exploitation and illicit trade of natural resources and their role in fueling and financing conflicts. The meeting could also focus on the interlinkages between natural resources and other SDGs, and the potential of better natural resource management for peaceful societies and sustainable development. The meeting could further explore the implications for job creation, inclusive economic growth, revenue generation, food security, reducing inequalities, and environmental sustainability.

“Better management of natural resources and ecosystems could pave a path for peace in war-torn societies, helping crisis-affected countries move a step closer to achieving the SDGs.

Not only do natural resources underpin the delivery of many basic services, such as water or electricity, but they can also be used as a platform for trust-building and benefit-sharing between divided groups”.

UN Secretary-General (2020)

“For our people, every diamond purchase represents food on the table, better living conditions, better healthcare, safe drinking water, more roads to connect our remote communities and much more.”

H.E. Dr. Festus Mogae, Former President of Botswana/ June 2006

¹ [Illicit capital robbing Africa and its people of their future: UN trade and development chief | | UN News](#)

² <https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/2021-final-communic%C3%A9-moscow-russian-federation>

Guiding Questions

- What are some of the best practices from the Kimberley process that would help to promote transparency in the trade of natural resources and key strategic minerals?
- What policies can be put in place to promote the use of natural resources to promote peaceful societies and sustainable development?
- How can local manufacturing be supported to deepen economic diversification, promote industrialization and regional trade?
- How can the United Nations and Intergovernmental Bodies such as ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies, assist countries to implement the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources?
- How can partnerships with donors and the private sector be strengthened to promote transparent natural resources management for peaceful societies and sustainable development?

Format: The meeting will be a 3-hr in-person meeting on the afternoon of 18 March 2022 in the General Assembly Hall (TBC). It will include less than 30 minutes virtual interface.

Participants: Member States at the highest possible level with the participation of all stakeholders, including prominent experts on natural resources from international, regional and subregional organizations.