74th Session of the UNGA
The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict - Item 30
Statement by Mr. B.B. Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
United Nations General Assembly 3 March, 2020

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
I have the great pleasure to introduce today draft resolution A/74/L.39, entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts”, on behalf of India, which was entrusted as the Kimberley Process Chair for 2019. The draft resolution welcomes the progress made by the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in severing the links between the illicit diamond trade and armed conflict.

Excellencies,
India is one of the founding members of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and since its inception, has played an active role in the progress and advancement of this unique tripartite structure, recognised by the United Nations. The Kimberley Process continues to be an important and unique instrument for conflict prevention.

Since the inception of Kimberley Process in 2003, this was the 2nd time that India carried out the responsibility of being Kimberley Process Chair. We see it as a testimony to India’s continuing commitment towards the Process. 2019 was a special year as we celebrated 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi – the global icon of non-violence. Mahatma was a great believer in the inherent potential of diverse communities to come together in a positive spirit to foster co-operation for finding solutions for common challenges. The draft resolution recalls this spirit of mutual co-operation and unity in diversity that guided India during the course of 2019 as Chair of the Kimberley Process.

Excellencies,
This draft resolution welcomes India’s commitment towards the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. During its Chairmanship, India worked closely with Kimberley Process Vice Chair - Russian Federation, Chairs of the Kimberley Process Working Groups as well as all KP participants and observers to make the KP stronger in terms of further strengthening the administration and implementation process and making the Process more efficient.

This draft resolution is an important step forward for the Kimberley Process. It contributes to the broader agenda of Kimberley Process of Regional Cooperation. During the year 2019, India continued with its endeavour and the Kimberley Process tradition of supporting the Regional Cooperation in Central Africa. One of the key objectives of supporting the Regional Cooperation was to identify the challenges and opportunities in enhancing KPCS implemen-
tation in Central Africa initially focusing on five countries namely - Angola, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and Cameroon. This draft resolution recalls India’s commitment as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2019. India worked to ensure that the Kimberley Process is relevant to address the emerging challenges encountered by the stakeholders. In July 2019, India introduced an amendment to create a separate 8 Digit code for laboratory-grown rough diamonds, thereby becoming one of the early adopters of distinct HS Codes for both rough and polished synthetic diamonds.

Excellencies,

The draft resolution welcomes the work done by India as a Chair of Kimberley Process in 2019. Under India’s Chairmanship, the Kimberley Process has made commendable progress on several fronts such as finalisation of Terms of Reference for establishing a Permanent Secretariat, adoption of the draft on Administrative Decision on Peer Review Mechanism, development of guidelines document for reconciliation of Kimberley Process statistics and reporting of data for Artisanal Mining production. Significant progress was also made on the proposal for introduction of new independent observers, Consolidation of Core Document and setting up of Multi Donor fund.

While we are proud of what has been achieved so far, we also acknowledge that there are challenges that lie ahead of us. The entire KP fraternity – consisting of the participants and observers - have worked hard to move the Kimberley Process forward. The continued success of the Process remains an important goal and commitment for us.

India will continue to actively participate in the work under various fronts and pursue the collective goals of the Kimberley Process. India, as a participant and as a Chair of CPC for 2020, looks forward to work with all participants and observers to ensure that the Kimberley Process continues to be inclusive and remains capable to face the emerging challenges.

Excellencies,

To conclude, I wish to reiterate our commitment to the Kimberley Process, and we look forward to work closely with Russian Federation - the Kimberley Process Chair for 2020 and with Botswana – the Vice-Chair.

The draft resolution recalls that under the Indian Chairmanship, the Kimberley process has delivered progress on multiple fronts as highlighted above and has contributed to further reinforcing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process. I reckon that the members of the General Assembly would adopt this draft resolution which underlines the progress made under India’s Chairmanship by consensus.

Thank you for your attention.

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