Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, Armenia, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States, which act as a single Participant in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), would like in the first place to commend the Republic of China for its successful Chairmanship of the Kimberley Process, and to welcome the results achieved in so far as they illustrate the important efforts deployed to continue strengthening the Kimberley Process and to confront the challenges of the future.

The KPCS’s credibility as an international process depends on effective implementation and enforcement by its Participants. In that regard, the EU welcomes the endorsement of the Working Group on Monitoring of a Guidance Document on a new templates for annual reporting. We also welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union – Belgium and the People's Republic of China on bilateral electronic exchange of KP Certificates which builds on the data-sharing platform developed between the EU and India as presented at the KP Plenary in Johannesburg in 2013. The EU considers this is a good practice example for all KP Participants, particularly international diamond trading centres, to enhance transparency and information sharing.

As Chair of the KP Working Group on Monitoring, the EU has actively contributed to strengthening the implementation of the KPCS and encourages Participants to continue committing themselves to enhanced scrutiny through KP peer review visits as well as to

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
substantive annual reports. The EU would in particular like to express appreciation to
Australia, Guinea and Guyana for having hosted review visits in 2014 and to the countries
which have invited review visits in 2015-16, noting that the AD on Peer Review calls for all
KP Participants to host a review visit every three years.

We firmly believe that the consistent use of these implementation tools will strengthen the
KP’s ability to tackle illicit trade in conflict diamonds and calls on all Participants to step up
efforts in this respect.

The EU welcomes the fruitful work during the year and notably the commitment of the recent
KP Plenary meeting of to consider relevant recommendations of the Financial Action
Task Force report related to risks in the diamond supply chain and the agreement to
assess those recommendations in the context of ongoing efforts to further strengthen KPCS
implementation.

The EU welcomes the efforts of the KP to assist the authorities of the Central African
Republic in responding to the situation of violence in CAR that risked rough diamonds from
conflict areas entering the diamond supply chain and led to the temporary suspension in trade
in rough diamonds from CAR by the KPCS. The EU welcomes the KP’s efforts to monitor the
situation, and provide technical assistance to CAR and neighbouring countries with a
view to enhancing their capacity to detect conflict diamonds entering legitimate trade.
Furthermore, the EU appreciates the efforts made by the CAR authorities on implementation
of its Work Plan and roadmap for addressing issues of non-compliance with KPCS minimum
standards, and we welcome the fact that the Plenary has determined that a review mission
should go to CAR as soon as possible to verify the situation and see what further support can
and should be provided.

In light of UN Security Council Resolution 2152 (2014), KP engagement with Côte d’Ivoire
has illustrated the positive role that the scheme can play in situations where production and
trade of diamonds might affect peace and security. The EU welcomes the good cooperation
with the authorities of Côte d’Ivoire in meeting the KPCS requirements which led to the
lifting of the UN embargo over trade in rough diamonds in Resolution 2153 and is
determined to further support Côte d’Ivoire’s efforts in its transition strategy and roadmap
towards the resumption in the trade of rough diamonds, enabling the proceeds of Ivorian
diamonds to contribute to recovery and development. In this context, the European Union
through its Instrument for Stability is providing technical assistance for promoting the
formalisation of the artisanal mining sector and to reinforce the country’s chain of custody
through the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamonds for Development (PRADD) programme,
jointly funded together with USAID. The Antwerp World Diamond Centre, with the support
of Belgium, has also provided a capacity-building program on diamond evaluation to the
Ministry of Mines of Côte d’Ivoire.

As regards other countries in West Africa, the EU welcomes the KP’s continued engagement
with Liberia under UN Security Council Resolution 2079 (2012), as regional cooperation
remains key to ensuing stability in the region. In this context, the EU also very much
welcomes the initiative from Participants in the Mano River region to enhance their
cooperation on KPCS implementation and policy harmonisation efforts, in accordance with
UN Security Council resolution 2153 (2014), and the KP’s efforts to support that work by the
establishment of the technical support team which regularly reports to the Working Group on
Monitoring. The EU regrets the fact that the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Sierra
Leone and the Republic of Guinea were not able to send delegates from capitals to Plenary
due to the ongoing Ebola crisis, and welcomes the KP’s ongoing efforts to provide support
and technical assistance in addressing the needs of these countries and all diamond mining communities affected by Ebola.

In 2014, the international community has demonstrated its determination to act collectively and constructively through the Kimberley Process, as a valuable instrument to prevent diamonds from fuelling conflicts and, ultimately contribute to economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. In this context, the EU welcomes the framework for implementation of the Washington Declaration on integrating development and artisanal and small-scale diamond mining in the Kimberley Process, and looks forward to working closely in support of Angola's efforts as future Chair of the KP and Chair Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production in this regard.

In looking forward, the EU welcomes the decision taken at the KP Plenary meeting in Guangzhou to continue dialogue on decision-making and the conflict diamond definition in accordance with paragraph 33 of the Johannesburg Plenary Communique of November 2013.

The EU welcomes the fact that in recent years the KPCS has successfully succeeded in assisting governments in responding to new situations of conflict and violence. We strongly support the efforts of the KPs to evolve and adapt to meet future challenges in the global diamond supply chain and provide assurance for consumers that diamonds are not tainted by violence.

Before I conclude, please allow me to stress that one of the unique features of the KP is its tripartite structure. Both industry and civil society are essential elements of the KP and have contributed much to its establishment and operation. In this respect, the EU calls on all Participants and Observers to recognise the full diversity of opinions within the KP and continue working together to further enhance the Scheme's credibility. In particular, we rely on a close working relationship with all of our partners in the Civil Society Coalition to ensure the KP remains an effective tool for peace building and conflict prevention, to monitor the efficacy of the KP in diamond mining communities across the globe, and to continue to challenge us to do more and do better. We will continue to rely on that relationship to ensure KP remains an effective tool in the future. Last but not least, the EU encourages KP Participants and Observers to uphold the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Mr. President,

The EU would like to express its gratitude to the People's Republic of China for its stewardship of the Process this year. We now warmly welcome Angola as the incoming KP Chair, and welcome Angola's vision as Chair for 2015 to further strengthen the Kimberley Process, by ensuring the trade in rough diamonds is used for the benefit of all people. We welcome and support the commitments Angola has made for its chairmanship, including commitments to strengthen dialogue with civil society and to promote respect for human rights. We look forward to working closely with Angola to bring renewed impetus and strength to the KPCS.

Thank you, Mr. President.