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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the outcome of the Plenary Meeting of the Kimberley Process in Johannesburg

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative welcomes the outcome of the Plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process in Johannesburg this week, chaired by South Africa, in the year which marks the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The meeting confirms the progress that has been made on the KP reform agenda this year to strengthen KP implementation.

The High Representative notes in particular the work of the KP to foster the Regional Approach to KP Implementation in the Mano River region, which is supporting the work of West African KP Participants in this region to tackle smuggling, safeguard government revenues, foster law enforcement cooperation and enhance beneficiation of artisanal mining communities.

The High Representative welcomes the progress made by Côte d'Ivoire towards achieving KPCS compliance and the KP Chair's intention to raise this to the attention of the United Nations Security Council in time for the review of measures concerning Côte d'Ivoire in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2101 (2013).

The High Representative notes the KP's decision to continue suspending the Central African Republic, and to closely monitor the situation to ensure that profits from diamonds do not fuel further violence.

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The High Representative congratulates the People's Republic of China as KP Chair for 2014 and looks forward to working closely with China in support of its Chairmanship. The High Representative also welcomes Angola's appointment as Vice Chair and fully aligns itself with Angola's pledge to advocate for respect for fundamental human rights and to improve beneficiation of diamond mining communities.

In the coming years, the EU will continue to count on the KP's commitment to nurture this unique collaboration between governments, industry and civil society. The EU pledges to give its full support to the KP family to help ensure that the KP is well equipped to face the challenges of the future."
